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



GUIDE TO THE  
2019  
UN HUMAN RIGHTS  
COUNCIL ELECTIONS



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 Council).

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

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

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

The Council seeks to influence the on-the-ground enjoyment of human rights in a number of ways including, *inter alia*, by:

- **Serving as a forum for dialogue on human rights** - General Assembly (GA) resolution 60/251 recognises that in order to promote and protect human rights, the Council's work should be based on the principles of cooperation and genuine dialogue, and aimed at strengthening the capacity of States to comply with their human rights obligations.
- **Adopting resolutions** – at the end of every session, Council members adopt a series of resolutions or decisions expressing the will of the international community on a given human rights situation or issue.
- **Elaborating universal human rights norms** – the Council is responsible for making recommendations to the GA for the further development of international law in the field of human rights.
- **Promoting State cooperation with the human rights mechanisms** – the Council has created a number of mechanisms 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 the violation of those rights.



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

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

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

## Membership of the Council

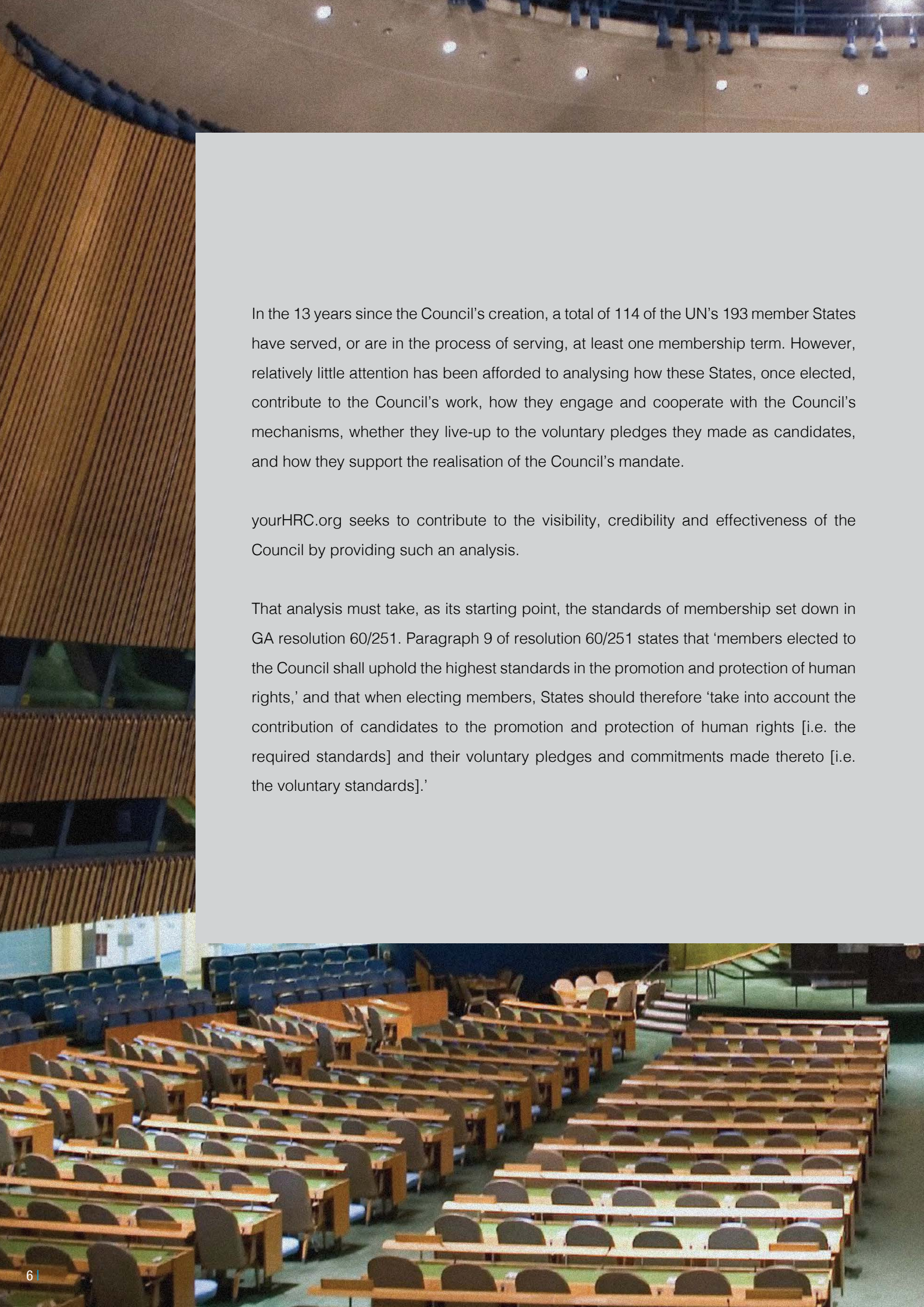
GA resolution 60/251, which officially created the Council, made five critical changes to the body's system of membership as compared with its predecessor, the Commission on Human Rights:

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

When the GA adopted resolution 60/251 on 15 March 2006, these new membership procedures and requirements were the most commonly discussed issue in States' explanations of their votes. Many States complained that the membership criteria were not strong enough. Others emphasised the need to ensure that elected members were fully deserving of their position.







In the 13 years since the Council's creation, a total of 114 of the UN's 193 member States have served, or are in the process of serving, at least one membership term. However, relatively little attention has been afforded to analysing how these States, once elected, contribute to the Council's work, how they engage and cooperate with the Council's mechanisms, whether they live-up to the voluntary pledges they made as candidates, and how they support the realisation of the Council's mandate.

yourHRC.org seeks to contribute to the visibility, credibility and effectiveness of the Council by providing such an analysis.

That analysis must take, as its starting point, the standards of membership set down in GA resolution 60/251. Paragraph 9 of resolution 60/251 states that 'members elected to the Council shall uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights,' and that when electing members, States should therefore 'take into account the contribution of candidates to the promotion and protection of human rights [i.e. the required standards] and their voluntary pledges and commitments made thereto [i.e. the voluntary standards].'

## Guide to the 2019 UN Human Rights Council Elections

The present document is the fifth annual 'yourHRC.org Election Guide.' It provides general information on the 2019 Human Rights Council elections (tentatively scheduled for 16 October at the GA in New York), when States will compete to win seats for new three-year terms (2020-2022).

The Guide is divided into six parts. The first part presents an overview of the 2019 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 2019 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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2019 HUMAN RIGHTS  
COUNCIL ELECTIONS

16 October 2019 (tentative),  
UN General Assembly, New York

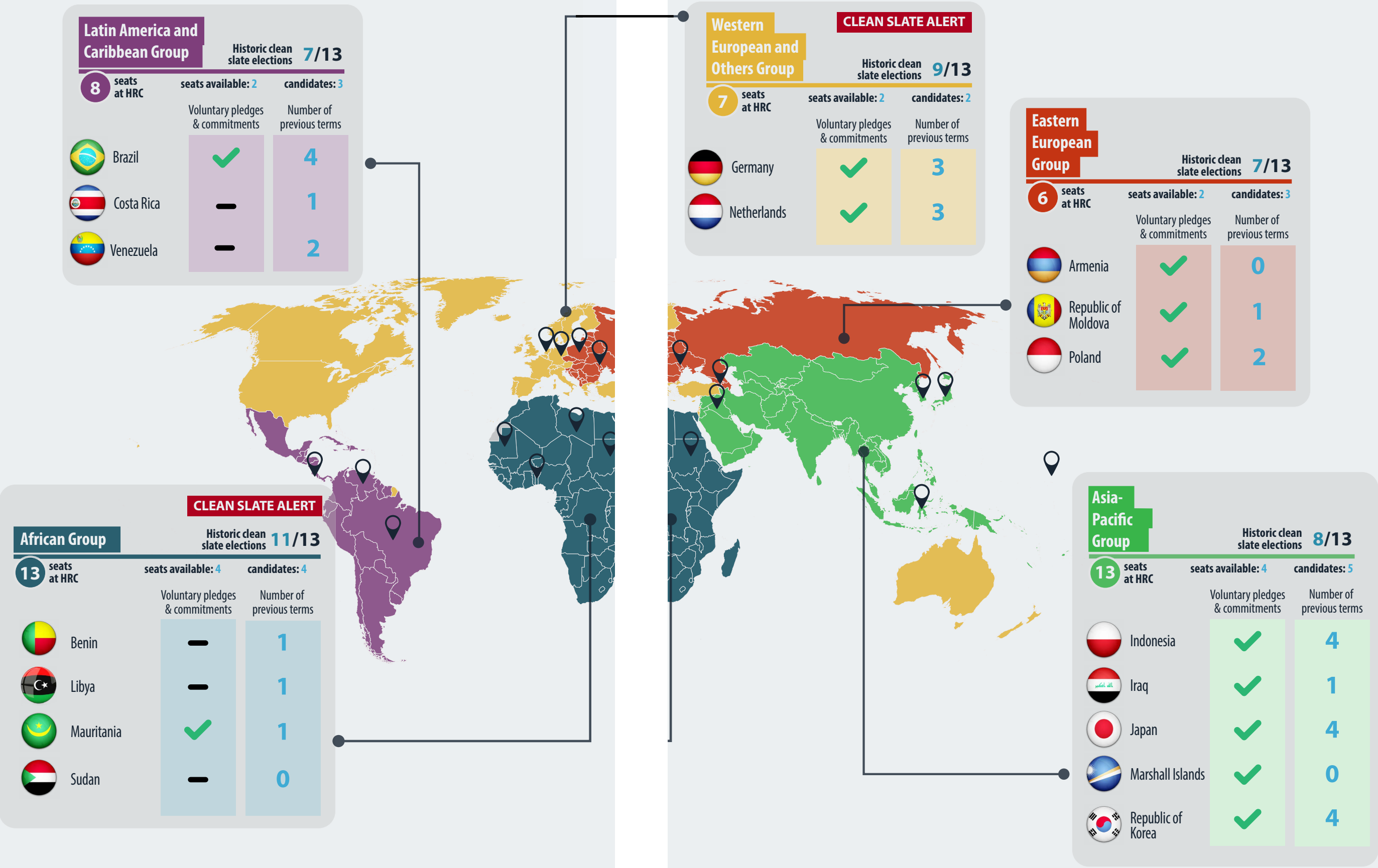
FOR MEMBERSHIP TERM 2020-2022

**CANDIDATE ANALYSIS BY  
REGIONAL GROUP**

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2019 elections (for membership period 2020-2022): the candidates





# African Group (AG)

## Overview of candidates

		Membership of HRC bureau	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2018)	NHRI accreditation status	Previous membership terms	OHCHR presence
Benin		—	✗	C	1	—
Libya		—	✗	B	1	Human rights component of peace mission
Mauritania		Vice-President (2013)	✗	B	1	Country office and G5 Sahel Project
Sudan		—	✗	—	0	Human rights component of peace mission

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

## Fulfillment of previous voluntary pledges and commitments

**Benin** tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2011-2014 on 13 May 2011.

At the national level, Benin made commitments, *inter alia*, to: establish a national torture-prevention mechanism (NPM); implement measures to improve living conditions and promote policies on health, food, clothing and education; and combat violence against women.

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

An analysis of steps taken by Benin in fulfilment of its pledges made at international level shows that Benin has indeed ratified the CED (2017), CRPD (2012) and the second OP to the ICCPR (2012). However, Benin has not yet notified the designation of a NPM to the Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture. Benin joined consensus during voting on GA resolutions concerning the international year of human rights learning.

**Libya** tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2010-2013 on 28 April 2010. In the document, Libya did not include any specific, verifiable and measurable

pledges. It did however commit to: work through regional human rights mechanisms; realise the right to development as a fundamental human right; support UN programmes; cooperate with UN member States; and strengthen cooperation with civil society organisations and NGOs at national, regional and international levels.

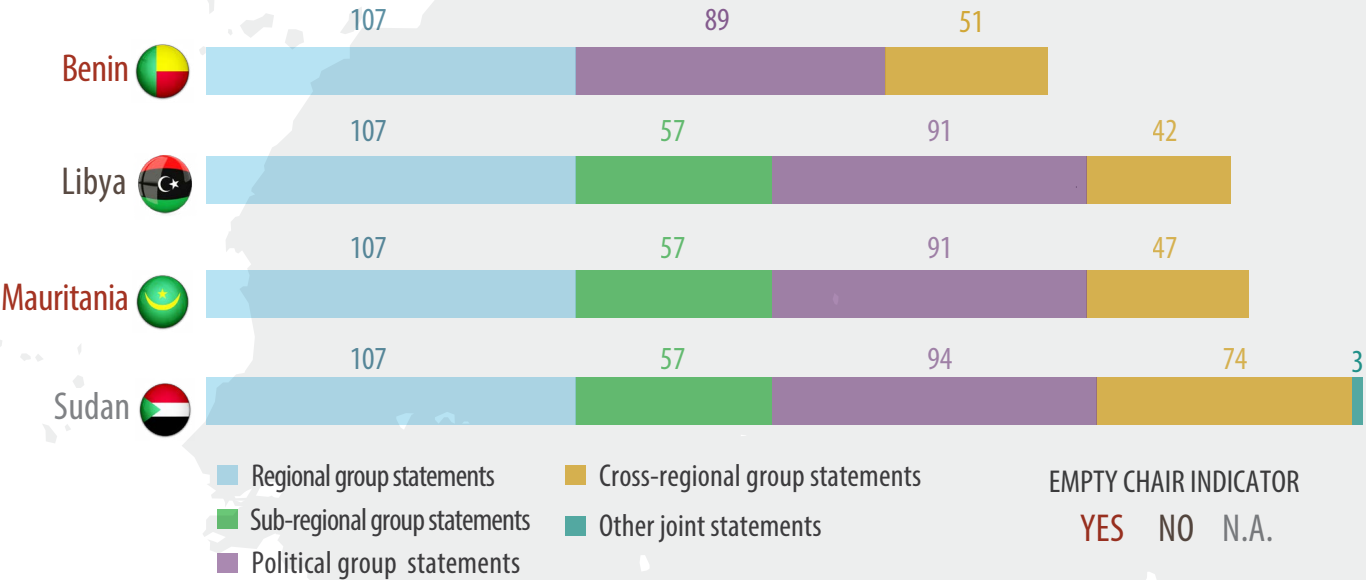
**Mauritania** tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2010-2013 on 6 April 2010.

The majority of the document presents the accomplishments of Mauritania in the field of human rights. The number of pledges and future commitments is very small and only one of them is ‘specific, measurable and verifiable,’ namely a pledge to support the OHCHR. Other commitments made by Mauritania include: ‘strengthen international cooperation;’ and ‘anchor a culture of human rights.’

**Sudan** has not previously held a seat on the Council.



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



Note: This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State has joined during Council general debates, panel discussions, and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures during the last seven sessions of the Council (March 2017 - June 2019). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology please see endnote.

Key pledges and commitments for 2019 election

**Benin, Libya and Sudan's** voluntary pledges and commitments in support of their candidatures for membership of the Council for the period 2020-2022 were unavailable at the time the yourHRC.org 2019 Election Guide went to press.

**Mauritania** presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2020-2022 on September 2019. In the document, Mauritania pledges to, *inter alia*:

At international level:

- ☑ Promote greater efficiency and effectiveness of the UN, particularly the Council.
- ☑ Continue to engage with UN human rights bodies, member States and other stakeholders to further promote and protect human rights.

- ☑ Strengthen its efforts to ensure that all human rights (civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, and the right to development) are considered equally important in the work of the Council and OHCHR.
- ☑ Support the efforts of the OIC to promote and protect human rights across its member States.

At regional and bilateral levels:

- ☑ Continue to promote bilateral, regional and international cooperation to strengthen the capacity of member States to fulfil their human rights obligations, bearing in mind the particularities of each.
- ☑ Further cooperate with and strengthen the work of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Arab Commission on Human Rights.

At national level:

- ☑ Strengthen its NHRI.

- ☑ Make further progress in implementing human rights laws and regulations, including by improving the level of coordination and synergy across relevant government authorities, and by mainstreaming human rights into policymaking at all levels.
- ☑ Enhance partnerships with various stakeholders, including NHRIs and civil society groups.

Voting history during previous membership terms

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2011, **Benin** has either joined consensus on or voted in favour of nearly all resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), and country-specific resolutions under item 2. The exceptions are two item 4 resolutions on the situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran (Benin abstained). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Benin consistently votes in favour. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Benin has joined consensus on all resolutions except one that was voted on during the period of its membership: on cooperation with Ukraine (Benin voted in favour).

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

**Principal sponsor:** The question of the death penalty.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2010, **Libya** has voted (in the absence of consensus) in favour of item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention) resolutions on the situations in the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic; but against a resolution on the situation in Sudan. It abstained during a number of votes on the situations in Belarus, the Islamic Republic of Iran and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Libya voted in favour of item 2 resolutions on the situation in Sri Lanka. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Libya has always voted in favour. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Libya has joined consensus on all resolutions.

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Libya has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, Libya has tended to vote in favour. Notwithstanding, it abstained during a vote on a 2013 resolution on the question of the death penalty. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, Libya has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, nearly all adopted texts.

Libya did not participate during the voting on resolutions adopted in 2011, because its rights of membership in the Council were suspended.

**Principal sponsor:** 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 for Libya in the field of human rights; and the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2010, **Mauritania** has voted (in the absence of consensus) in favour of item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention) resolutions on the situations in the Islamic

Republic of Iran and the Syrian Arab Republic; against a 2010 resolution on the situation in Sudan and a 2011 resolution on the situation in Iran; and abstained during a number of votes on the situations in Belarus and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Mauritania voted against the item 2 country-specific resolutions that were voted on during its time as member: the 2012 and 2013-texts on the situation in Sri Lanka. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Mauritania has consistently voted in favour. Mauritania has joined consensus on all item 10 (capacity-building) resolutions.

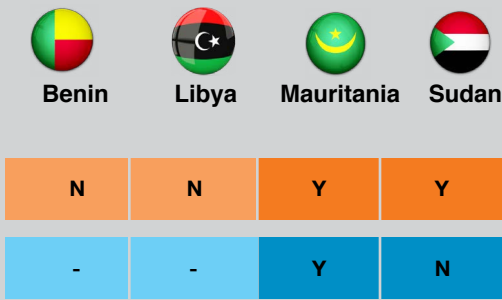
For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Mauritania has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, Mauritania has generally voted in favour. Notwithstanding, it voted against a 2011 resolution on sexual orientation and gender identity, and abstained during votes on texts dealing with arms transfers and the question of the death penalty. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, Mauritania has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, nearly all adopted texts. The only exception is the 2011 vote on a resolution on international solidarity (it abstained).

**Principal sponsor:** Mauritania is a principal sponsor of three Council resolutions on protection of the family, namely: contribution of the family to the realization of the right to an adequate standard of living for its members, particularly through its role in poverty eradication and achieving sustainable development; the role of the family in supporting the protection and promotion of human rights of persons with disabilities; and the role of the family in supporting the protection and promotion of human rights of older persons.

**Sudan** has not been a member of the Council before.

**Principal sponsor:** The situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar.

Cited in the Secretary-General's reports on 'alleged reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights' (covering the years 2014-2018)?



Cited in the report 2014-2018?      Response provided to allegations?

Note: See endnote for full details of methodology. The '2019 report by the Secretary-General on alleged reprisals for cooperation with the UN' was not available at the time the yourHRC.org 2019 Election Guide went to press.

Inclusivity / Access

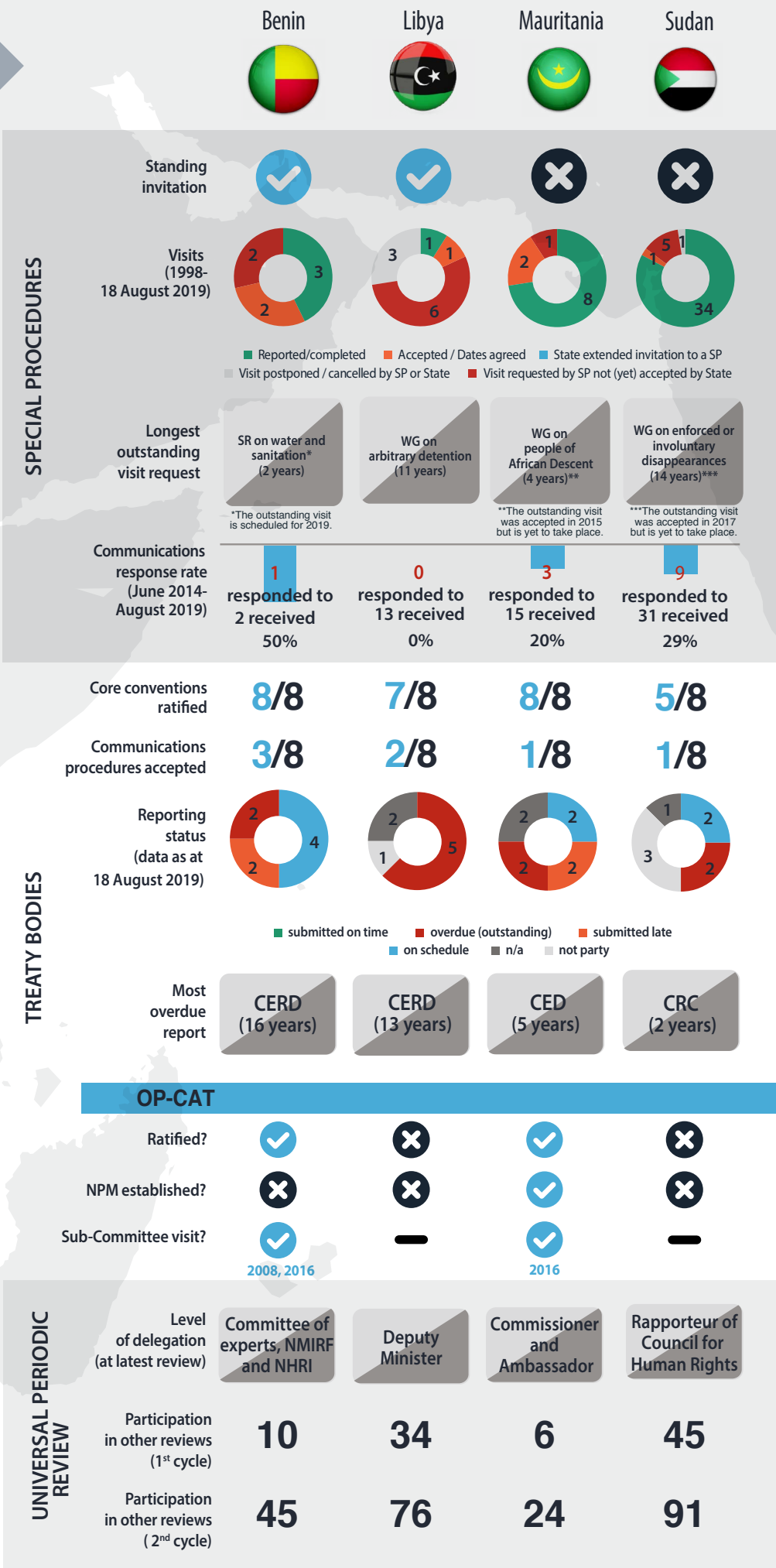
Percentage of Regional Group members that have held a seat on the Council

63%

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

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


























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





# Asia-Pacific Group (APG)

## Overview of candidates

		Membership of HRC bureau	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2018)	NHRI accreditation status	Previous membership terms	OHCHR presence
Indonesia		Vice-President (2009-2010)				
Iraq		Vice-President (2017)				Human rights component of peace mission
Japan						
Marshall Islands						
Republic of Korea		President (2016)				Field-based structure

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

## Fulfilment of previous voluntary pledges and commitments

**Indonesia** tabled ‘voluntary pledges and commitments’ in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2015-2017 on 2 July 2014. The document presented national, regional and international level pledges.

At national level, Indonesia pledged to: continue to implement its national plan of action on human rights; strengthen coordination across government in order to improve implementation; and strengthen engagement with national civil society and NHRIs.

At regional level, Indonesia made commitments to: support the work of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights; continue regional human rights/democracy dialogues and cooperation; support the advancement of human rights through the OIC; and strengthen and broaden the scope of bilateral human rights cooperation.

At international-level, Indonesia pledged to: move towards ratifying the human rights treaties to which it is not Party; cooperate with the UN human rights mechanisms; work to ensure that the Council’s work gives equal emphasis to civil and political rights, and economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development; promote interfaith dialogue and cooperation at international and multilateral levels; promote the mainstreaming of human rights across the work of the UN; and continue and strengthen its meaningful cooperation with OHCHR.

An analysis of steps taken by Indonesia in fulfilment of its international pledges shows that, although it is party

to most core conventions (seven), Indonesia has not ratified any international human rights treaty since it became a member of the Council in 2015. Indonesia is yet to submit its periodic reports under five core human rights conventions. Regarding cooperation with Special Procedures, Indonesia does not maintain a standing invitation, has fulfilled less than half of all visit requests, and has responded to around a third of communications. Regarding the UPR, Indonesia was represented at its most recent Working Group review by its Foreign Minister, but did not present a mid-term report on implementation. Indonesia is a main sponsor of initiatives covering both civil and political rights, and economic, social and cultural rights.

**Iraq’s** ‘voluntary pledges and commitments’ that should normally have been presented in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2017-2019 are not available.

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

Key pledges included: implement the obligations contained in the international instruments to which Japan is Party; continue to bring situations of concern (i.e., Cambodia) and important thematic issues (e.g., leprosy and human rights) to the Council’s attention; continue to offer its full cooperation to OHCHR; continue to cooperate fully with Special Procedures; actively contribute to the activities of the Council, including the UPR; present a UPR midterm report in 2016; contribute to on-going discussions on improving the methods of work of the Council, to maximise its efficiency and effectiveness; continue to promote human rights at the GA, exercising leadership in areas such as human security, women’s

empowerment and disaster risk reduction; continue to hold bilateral dialogues on human rights; and help promote human rights overseas through development cooperation, especially focused on the right to health, women's rights, education, disaster risk reduction, and the rights of persons with disabilities.

An analysis of steps taken by Japan in fulfilment of its international level pledges shows that Japan has not yet accepted the individual communication procedure under the CRPD. Japan has continued to make significant contributions to the UN's regular budget. Regarding Japan's cooperation with Special Procedures, since 2011 it has maintained a standing invitation, but is yet to accept 42% of visit requests. Japan continues to respond positively to Special Procedures communications. As pledged, Japan did submit an UPR mid-term report.

**Marshall Islands** has not been a member of the Council before.

The **Republic of Korea** presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support for its candidature for membership for the period 2016-2018 in May 2015.

Key pledges included: cooperate with the international community to address human rights violations around the world; cooperate with other States on the implementation of their obligations through technical assistance; incorporate human rights perspectives into development cooperation; help make the Council more effective and efficient, so that it can respond to urgent situations in a prompt manner; cooperate fully with the Special Procedures, UPR and Treaty Bodies; support the work of OHCHR; implement the provisions of the international human rights instruments at national level; consider withdrawing the reservations made to article 25e of the CRPD, and to article 21a of the CRC; consider ratifying the CED, OP-CAT, the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children (The Palermo Protocol); strengthen the implementation of the 'Second National Action Plan for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights' for 2012-2016; and enhance cooperation and partnership with civil society.

An analysis of steps taken by the Republic of Korea in fulfilment of its international level pledges shows that it has supported the work of the OHCHR, *inter alia*, by making voluntary financial contributions. The Republic of Korea indeed ratified the OP-CAT, although it is yet to ratify

the CED. Regarding the Republic of Korea's pledge to withdraw its reservations to CRPD, in September 2014 the country informed the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities of its intention to withdraw its reservation to article 25e. The country also withdrew its reservation to article 21 of the CRC in 2018. The Republic of Korea also ratified the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and the Palermo Protocol in 2015.

The country has a strong record of cooperation with Special Procedures. It maintains a standing invitation to visit, has facilitated over 75% of all visit requests, and has responded to 89% of communications received.

Key pledges and commitments for 2019 election

**Indonesia** presented a *note verbale* in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2020-2022 on 15 July 2019. In the document, Indonesia pledges to, *inter alia*:

At international level:

- ✓ Advance international cooperation to ensure that the UN human rights pillar contributes to peace and stability, as well as development.
- ✓ Promote greater efficiency and effectiveness on the part of the human rights mechanisms.
- ✓ Continue to engage with the human rights mechanisms to further promote and protect human rights, and play a more active role in promoting dialogue and interfaith cooperation.
- ✓ Ensure that all human rights (civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, as well as the right to development) are given equal emphasis in the work of the Council and OHCHR.
- ✓ Support the efforts of the OIC to promote and protect human rights across its member States.

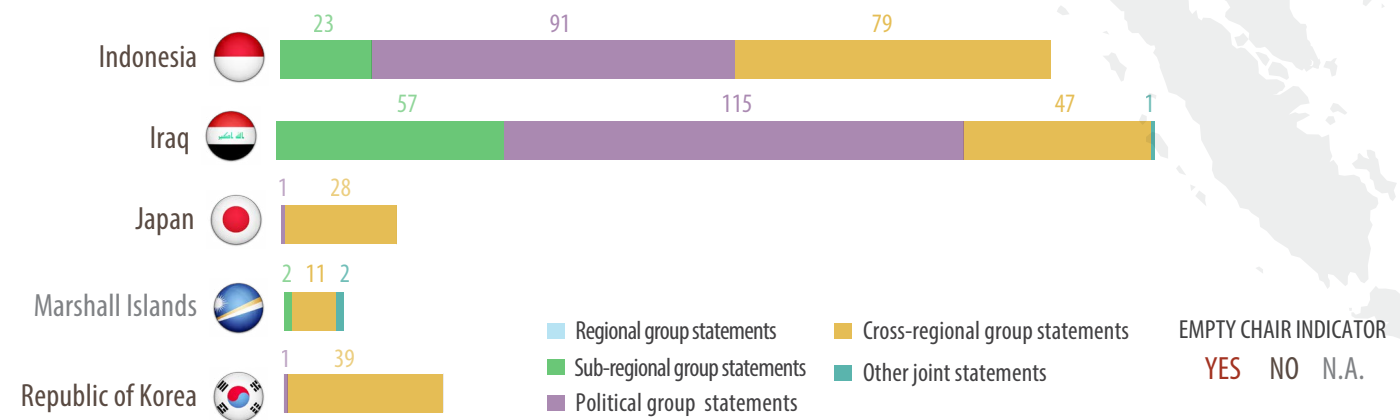
- At regional and bilateral levels:
- ✓ Help enhance States' capacity to fulfil their human rights obligations, bearing in mind the particularities of each.
  - ✓ Strengthen the human rights work of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and other human rights thematic commissions (i.e., the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women).
  - ✓ Promote democratic ideals and bridge gaps of political development in Asia by advancing dialogue and cooperation, especially through the Bali Democracy Forum.
  - ✓ Continue to strengthen and broaden the scope of bilateral human rights cooperation, dialogue and consultation.

At national level:

- ✓ Improve the work of the national human rights institution (NHRI).
- ✓ Further strengthen the human rights machinery at national, provincial, district and municipal levels.
- ✓ Make further progress in implementing human rights laws and regulations, including by improving the level of coordination and synergy between the government authorities, and by mainstreaming human rights into policymaking at all levels.
- ✓ Enhance partnerships with various stakeholders, including NHRIs and civil society groups.

**Iraq** presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2020-2022 on 12 June 2019. In the document Iraq mainly presents a series of declarations and statements. However, it does offer some pledges and commitments.

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



EMPTY CHAIR INDICATOR  
YES NO N.A.

Note: This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State has joined during Council general debates, panel discussions and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures, during the last seven sessions of the Council (March 2016 - June 2019). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology please see endnote.



At international level, Iraq pledges to, *inter alia*:

- ✔ Continue to support the UPR mechanism and OHCHR.
- ✔ Support efforts towards ending hate speech.
- ✔ End all forms of discrimination, violence and persecution, including discrimination against persons with disabilities, women, the elderly and the poor.
- ✔ Continue to respect civil society space at the Council.
- ✔ Implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by, *inter alia*, building resilience.
- ✔ Work constructively, in cooperation with all members of the Council, to provide capacity-building assistance to help States fulfil their international human rights obligations.

At the national level, Iraq presents a number of statements related with its human rights efforts. Its only specific pledge is to provide full support to Iraq's national human rights institution.

**Japan** presented commitments and pledges in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2020-2022 early in 2019. Japan pledges, *inter alia*, to:

- ✔ Continue to support and strengthen the Council, and to cooperate with the Special Procedures and the UPR mechanism.
- ✔ Continue to hold human rights dialogues with States based on mutual understanding and respect, with a view to contributing to each country's efforts to promote human rights.
- ✔ Continue to defend and enhance civil society space and engagement, at international and domestic levels.
- ✔ Implement Japan's obligations and commitments under the international human rights instruments,

including via recommendations received from the Treaty Bodies.

- ✔ Continue to protect human rights through its work at the Council and the GA, especially in the following thematic areas: women's empowerment and gender equality, the rights of the child, health and disaster risk reduction, sport and human rights, and business and human rights.

**Marshall Islands** presented an *Aide Memoire* in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2020-2022 in August 2019. In the document, the Marshall Islands present an impressive number of pledges, including *inter alia*:

At international level:

- ✔ Work to build space at the Council for meaningful dialogue and cooperation.
- ✔ Consider ratifying the CED; the communications procedures under the CAT, CED, CERD, ICCPR, ICESCR, CRPD, and the OP2-ICCPR; the Hague Convention on the Protection of Children; and the Trafficking in Persons Protocol.
- ✔ Enhance cooperation with and support for OHCHR, including by working to strengthen the Trust Fund for the participation of SIDS and LDCs in the work of the Council; join the Contact Group on Council membership; and focus on thematic areas that are priority for SIDS and LDCs – i.e., human rights and the environment, and human rights and climate change.
- ✔ Cosponsor Council and GA resolutions on human rights defenders, civil society space, reprisals, and the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders.
- ✔ Join the Group of Friends on national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up (NMIRFs).

- ✔ Continue to cooperate with the Treaty Bodies *inter alia*, by submitting timely reports and joining efforts to look at Treaty Body reform.
- ✔ Support the Council's bodies and mechanisms, including the Special Procedures and UPR, by reporting on follow-up measures and the implementation of recommendations.
- ✔ Support meaningful engagement by NGOs and civil society in the work of the Council and the UN, including by working to prevent reprisals.
- ✔ Improve the Council's capacity to deliver technical cooperation and capacity building support, under its agenda item 10.

At national level:

- ✔ Strengthen Marshall Islands' NHRI so that it can gain a GANHRI 'A' status classification.
- ✔ Build/strengthen an NMIRF in the Marshall Islands.
- ✔ Pursue national reforms to amend national legislation on gender issues and disabilities.
- ✔ Present a plan of action to implement the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on hazardous waste following his 2012 visit.
- ✔ Facilitate visits by the Special Procedures mandate holders on water and sanitation, the right to education, the right to a healthy environment, and violence against women.
- ✔ Work to protect against and prevent discrimination in all forms - in law and in practice.
- ✔ Defend and expand civil society space.
- ✔ Strengthen efforts towards greater implementation of the following thematic initiatives: ending trafficking in persons and illegal international adoptions; improving prison conditions; and a rights-based approach to climate change.

The **Republic of Korea** presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2020-2022 on July 2019. In the document, the Republic of Korea pledges, *inter alia*, to:

- ✔ Continue its work to promote and consolidate democracy by playing an active role in the Community of Democracies, as a member of its Governing Council and Executive Board, and by supporting the United Nations Democracy Fund as a member of its Advisory Board.
- ✔ Seek a more active role for local governments in the promotion and protection of human rights, including by presenting resolutions on the subject at the Council.
- ✔ Examine the possibility of ratifying or acceding to the CED and OP-CAT.
- ✔ Withdraw its reservations to Article 16(g) of the CEDAW and Article 25(e) of the CRPD.
- ✔ Continue to engage and cooperate with the Treaty Bodies through the timely submission of reports, and by fully complying with the international human rights conventions it has ratified.
- ✔ Continue to cooperate with the Special Procedures, including by facilitating country visits.
- ✔ Continue to support the UPR and OHCHR.
- ✔ Continue to advocate gender equality, child protection, democracy, good governance, and the rule of law, and work to respond to the needs of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations.

# Voting history during previous membership terms

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **Indonesia** has (in the absence of consensus) voted in favour of nearly all item 4 resolutions (situations that require the Council's attention) on the situation in the Syrian Arab republic, but has tended to abstain on other item 4 resolutions. Regarding votes on the situation in Iran, Indonesia abstained in 2012 and 2013, and since then has voted against. Concerning the situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Indonesia voted against in 2008, 2009 and 2010, before abstaining during more recent votes. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Indonesia has consistently voted in favour. Indonesia has joined consensus on all item 10 (capacity-building) resolutions, except for the following texts that were voted on during the period of its membership: cooperation with Ukraine (Indonesia abstained four times), the 2017 resolution on Georgia (Indonesia abstained), and the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Indonesia twice voted in favour).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Indonesia has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has usually voted in favour. Notwithstanding, Indonesia has voted against resolutions on the question of the death penalty and on sexual orientation. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, Indonesia has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts.

**Principal sponsor:** The negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights; right to work; equal participation in political and public affairs; enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights; access to medicines in the context of the

right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; high-level panel discussion to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action; regional cooperation for the promotion and protection of human rights in the Asia-Pacific Region; and the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2017, **Iraq** has, in absence of consensus, voted against a number of item 4 resolutions (situations that require the Council's attention) on the situations in the Syrian Arab Republic and the Islamic Republic of Iran; and abstained during the vote on an item 4 resolutions on the situation in Belarus. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories) Iraq has always voted in favour. Regarding item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Iraq has always joined consensus or voted in favour, with the exception of the resolutions on cooperation with Georgia and Ukraine (Iraq abstained).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Iraq has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote it has voted in favour, namely on Egypt's resolution on the effect of terrorism on human rights, and Cuba's resolution on right to peace. For thematic resolutions focusing on economic, social and cultural rights, Iraq has joined consensus on the majority of texts. In absence of consensus, it has voted in favour of such texts, including those dealing with: the effects of foreign debt, unilateral coercive measures, the contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights, protection of the family, and international cooperation.

**Principal sponsor:** Cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage; human rights and preventing violent

extremism; and the human rights situation in Iraq in light of abuses committed by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and associated groups.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **Japan** has (in the absence of consensus) voted in favour of all resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention). Where there has been a vote on item 2 country-specific resolutions, Japan has tended to abstain, but voted in favour of the resolutions on Eritrea, Nicaragua and Venezuela. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Japan tends to either abstain or vote in favour. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Japan has joined consensus on all resolutions except for four that were voted on during the period of its membership: on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Japan abstained in 2009 and voted in favour in 2017) and on cooperation with Georgia and Ukraine (Japan voted in favour).

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

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, Japan has generally joined consensus.

Where there has been a vote, it has tended to vote in favour of resolutions on the right to development (though it twice abstained). Japan has voted against texts on: the effects of economic reform policies; the effects of foreign debt; globalisation and its impact on human rights;

international solidarity; non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin; and unilateral coercive measures.

**Principal sponsor:** Elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members; situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; civil society space; promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal; advisory services and technical assistance for Cambodia; and enforced or involuntary disappearances.

**Marshall Islands** has not been a member of the Council before.

**Principal sponsor:** Marshall Islands has not yet been a principal sponsor of a Council resolution.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, the **Republic of Korea** has voted (in the absence of consensus) in favour of nearly all resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention) and country-specific resolutions under item 2 (except for a 2017 text on Burundi – it voted against). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), the Republic of Korea has tended to either vote in favour or abstain (almost equally). It has never voted against an item 7 text. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), the Republic of Korea has joined consensus on all resolutions except for the following texts that were voted on during its time as member: on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (twice abstained), on cooperation with Georgia (twice abstained) and on cooperation with Ukraine (four times voted in favour).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, the Republic of Korea has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has voted in favour of resolutions on: sexual orientation; torture; implementation of the Durban Declaration; arms transfers;



peaceful protests; and human rights, democracy and rule of law. The Republic of Korea has voted against resolutions on, *inter alia*: defamation of religions; drones; a global call for concrete action against racism; complementary standards to CERD; right to peace; and the effects of terrorism.

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, it has, in the absence of consensus, tended to vote against or (somewhat less frequently) abstain on draft texts. The Republic of Korea has voted

against resolutions on, *inter alia*: foreign debt; the impacts of globalisation; international solidarity; and unilateralcoercive measures. The Republic of Korea tends to abstain or (somewhat less Nrequently) vote in favour during votes on resolutions on the right to development.

**Principal sponsor:** High-level panel on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Council; human rights, democracy and the rule of law; local government and human rights; promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal; regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights; the role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights; and new and emerging digital technologies and human rights.

**Cited in the Secretary General’s reports on ‘alleged reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights’ (2014-2018)?**

Indonesia	Iraq	Japan	Marshall Islands	Republic of Korea
N	Y	Y	N	N
-	N	Y	-	-

Cited in the report 2014-2018? Response provided to allegations?

Note: See endnote for full details of methodology. The 2019 report by the Secretary-General on alleged reprisals for cooperation with the UN’ was not available at the time the yourHRC.org 2019 Election Guide went to press.

\*\* The Secretary-General’s reports are entitled: ‘Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights.’ In his most recent such report, the Secretary-General notes that it has been ‘submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 12/2, in which the Council invited the Secretary-General to submit an annual report to the Council on alleged reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights’ (A/HRC/27/38, para 1). See endnote for full details of methodology. The ‘2017 report by the Secretary General on alleged reprisals for cooperation with the UN’ was not available at the time the yourHRC.org 2017 Election Guide went to press.

**Cooperation with human rights mechanisms**

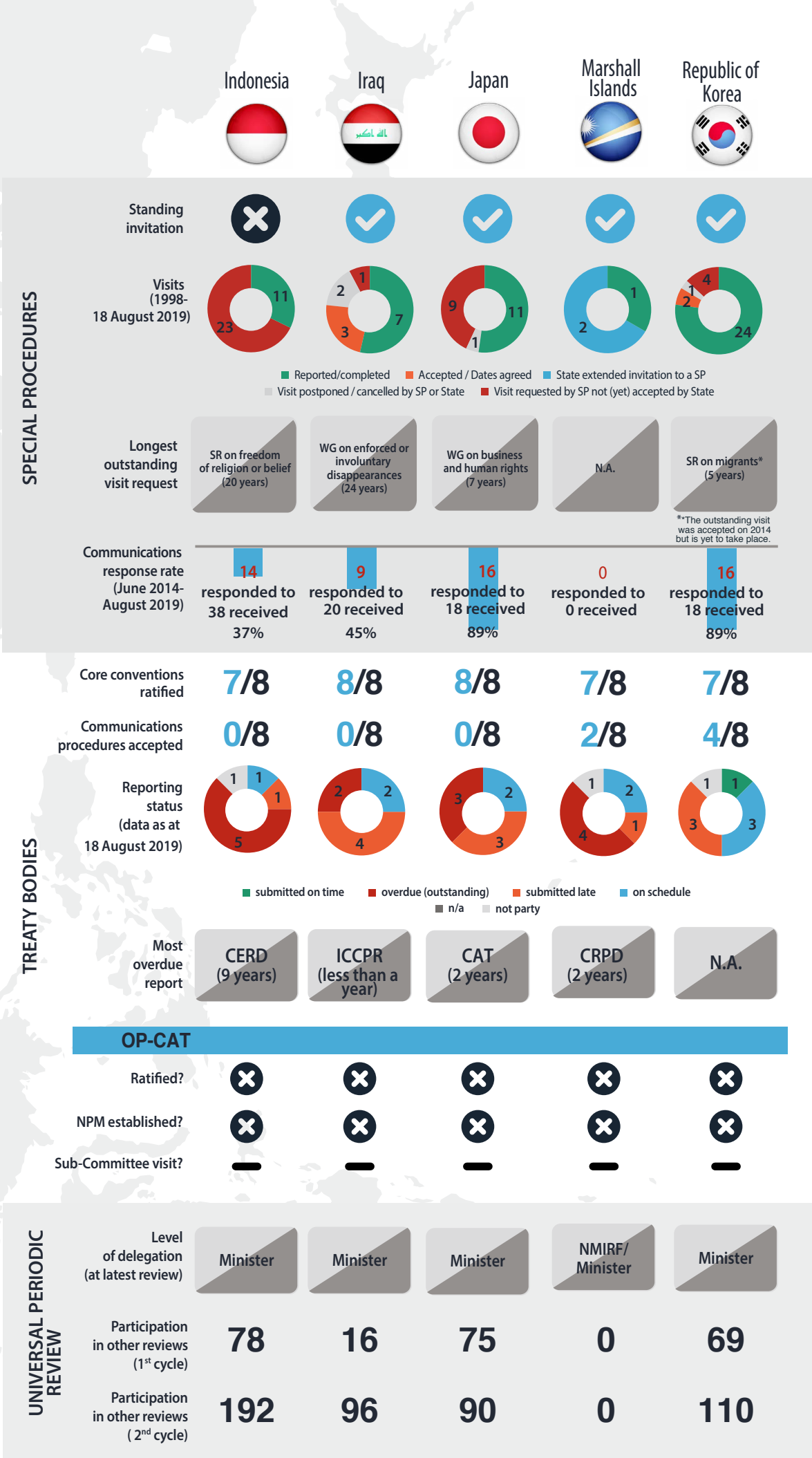
\* Ratification and reporting are recorded for the eight ‘core human rights conventions,’ namely the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the CAT, the CED, the CEDAW, the CRC, the CERD, and the CRPD.

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

**Inclusivity / Access**

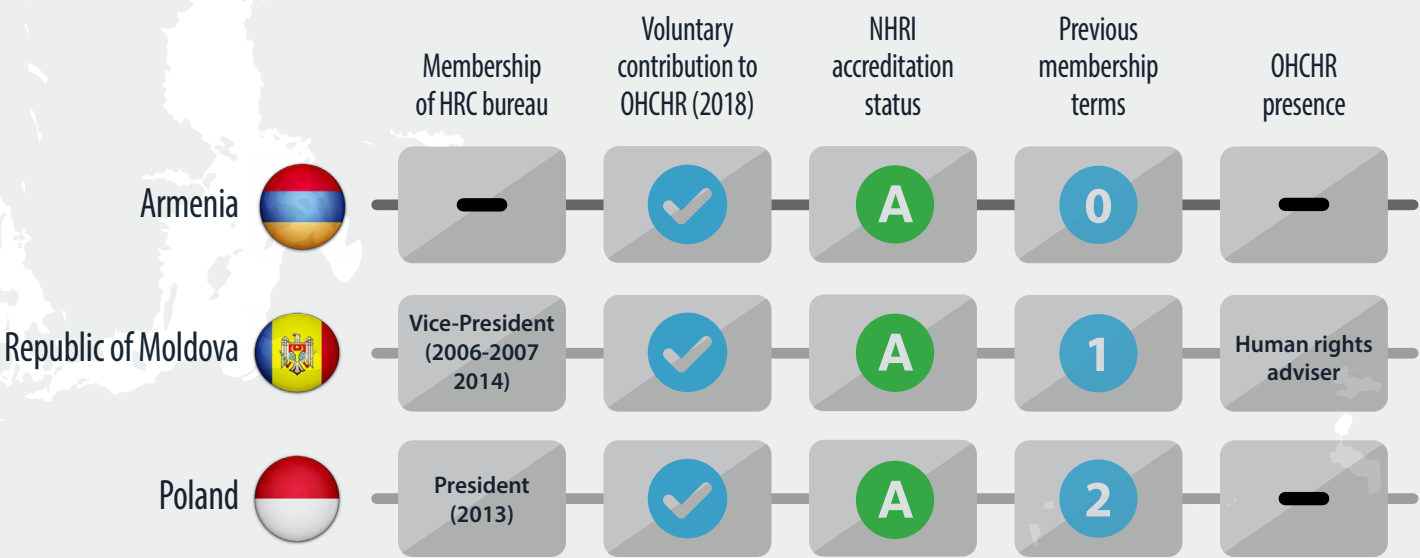
Percentage of Regional Group members that have held a seat on the Council

48%



# Eastern European Group (EEG)

## Overview of candidates



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

presented a mid-term UPR report and has participated in less than 30% of other States' reviews. Moldova ratified the CRPD in 2010. Since it became a member of the Council, Moldova has facilitated an OP-CAT Subcommittee visit (2013) and four Special Procedures visits: health (2015), disability (2016), minority issues (2016) and human rights defenders (2018).

At national level, Poland pledged to: improve the situation of women and persons with disabilities; implement a national programme against racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; ensure equal access to education; develop a support network for the victims of crime; and campaign against domestic violence.

**Poland** tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2010-2013 on 9 March 2010.

An analysis of steps taken by Poland in fulfilment of the international pledges shows that in 2012 Poland did ratify the CPRD. In terms of cooperation with Treaty Bodies, Poland is Party to nearly all the core conventions. It is on schedule for the submission of four reports, and overdue on one (CEDAW), while one was submitted late (CERD) and one on time (CRPD). Poland continues to make voluntary contributions to the OHCHR and has responded to 78% of Special Procedures communications.

Internationally, Poland committed to: to ratify the CRPD; promote human rights through regional organisations and through Polish development assistance; cooperate with the UN human rights bodies to implement recommendations and respond to individual communications; and make voluntary contributions to OHCHR.

## Fulfilment of previous voluntary pledges and commitments

**Armenia** has not been a member of the Council before.

The **Republic of Moldova** tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2010-2013 on 10 March 2010.

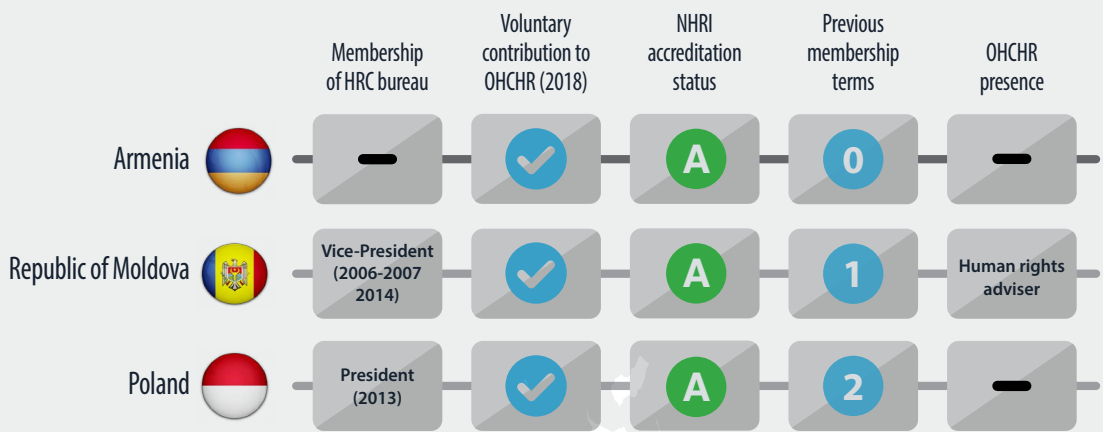
At international level, the Republic of Moldova pledged to: ratify the CRPD; extend a standing invitation to all Special Procedures; support and cooperate with the Council and its mechanisms; cooperate constructively within the UPR mechanism and submit a midterm evaluation; support OHCHR's activities; promote the involvement of

NGOs at all levels; and extend an invitation to all regional and international human rights bodies, structures and mechanisms to visit the country.

Nationally, the Republic of Moldova made commitments to: combat discrimination; introduce a compulsory course in civic education; draft strategies on social inclusion of persons with disabilities; prevent trafficking; protect minorities; and promote human rights education.

An analysis of steps taken by the Republic of Moldova in fulfilment of its international pledges shows that, in terms of contributing to the work of the Council, the Republic of Moldova participated in around 20% of all panel discussions, general debates and interactive dialogues. Regarding cooperation with Special Procedures, the Republic of Moldova extended a standing invitation in June 2010, and has accepted 7 out of 8 visit requests. Regarding UPR, the Republic of Moldova has not

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



Note: This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State has joined during Council general debates, panel discussions, and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures during the last seven sessions of the Council (March 2017 - June 2019). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology please see endnote.



## Key pledges and commitments for 2019 election

**Armenia** presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2020-2022 on 10 May 2019. Key pledges include, *inter alia*:

- ✔ Promote the 'joined up' implementation of human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda) through comprehensive internal reforms.
- ✔ Scale up human rights education.
- ✔ Adopt a national human rights action plan and an action plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security.
- ✔ Strengthen dialogue and cooperation with civil society, especially in the context of fulfilling the country's international human rights obligations.
- ✔ Establish a national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up (NMIRF).
- ✔ Enhance and promote women's empowerment and the participation of women and girls in community-building and decision-making processes.
- ✔ Strengthen refugee protection and social inclusion mechanisms.
- ✔ Ratify the CMW, the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence.
- ✔ Continue to engage with the UPR and submit midterm reports.
- ✔ Continue to contribute to the protection of religious and ethnic minorities in the Middle East, promote cultural diversity, and combat hate speech and hate crimes.
- ✔ Promote genocide education as an awareness-raising tool and promote the right to truth.
- ✔ Foster cooperation aimed at the prevention of

genocide and other mass atrocities, and the further development of national and international early warning.

- ✔ Continue supporting the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the prevention of genocide, including through annual financial contributions.

The **Republic of Moldova** presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2020-2022 on 5 June 2019. Key pledges include, *inter alia*:

At international level:

- ✔ Continue advocating for a Council that acts as the main global forum for the protection and promotion of human rights, including by promoting the Council's effective, objective and prompt response to gross and systematic violations of human rights.
- ✔ Support the prevention mandate of the Council by working towards building trust, dialogue and cooperation, and allowing the Council's early action, including by addressing early warning signs of human rights violations.
- ✔ Continue to support OHCHR and other human rights bodies and mechanisms, including the UPR, Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures by, *inter alia*, facilitating the visits of the latter.
- ✔ Continue to defend civil society space and speak up against individual acts of reprisal or harassment.
- ✔ Promote a human rights-based approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and support initiatives regarding the identification of synergies between the 2030 Agenda and the UN human rights mechanisms.
- ✔ Actively promote the establishment/development of NMIRFs.
- ✔ Support efforts at the regional and global levels directed at protecting human rights in the context

of new and emerging challenges, such as the use of new information and communications technologies, climate change and rising inequalities.

- ✔ Be active in supporting and promoting initiatives on: the abolition of the death penalty; the prohibition of torture; ending domestic and gender-based violence; eliminating human trafficking; ending discrimination in all its forms; gender equality; the rights to freedom of expression, freedom of association, health and wellbeing, among others; and the rights of children, youth, people in conflict zones, and human rights defenders.
- ✔ Continue cooperating with international and regional organisations such as the Council of Europe, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe, and the International Francophone Organisation.

At national level:

- ✔ Uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights.
- ✔ Maintain the country's standing invitation to all Special Procedures mandate-holders, and engage in a constructive dialogue to continuously improve human rights protection systems in the country.
- ✔ Consolidate the functional capacities of NHRIs to ensure that they can effectively and independently discharge their mandates, and ensure the effective functioning of the newly-created National Human Rights Council and the permanent Human Rights Secretariat.
- ✔ Defend and expand civil society space, and work in partnership with civil society organisations in the formulation and implementation of domestic human rights policies and in the preparation of national periodic reports to the Treaty Bodies and to the UPR Working Group.
- ✔ Ensure the effective implementation of the country's national human rights action plan.

- ✔ Continue taking active measures to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of people living in the Transnistrian region.
- ✔ Provide human rights training for law enforcement and other professionals working with vulnerable groups, including children and women victims of domestic violence or human trafficking, in cooperation with international mechanisms and civil society organisations, including by requesting technical assistance.
- ✔ Continue implementing policies directed at combating and eliminating all forms of discrimination.
- ✔ Develop a set of national human rights indicators to improve domestic implementation of human rights and the SDGs.

**Poland** presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2020-2022 on 9 May 2019. In the document, Poland pledges, *inter alia*, to:

- ✔ Continue to participate in the Council's debates and dialogues.
- ✔ Continue to support the work of OHCHR through voluntary financial contributions.
- ✔ Provide further financial support to international humanitarian organisations, including the Red Cross and UNAIDS.
- ✔ Protect human rights defenders against acts of reprisal and advocate for their rights.
- ✔ Further work to protect the rights of groups in vulnerable situations, including children, religious minorities and persons with disabilities.
- ✔ Strengthen its national human rights protection system, including by implementing the National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights, and on Women, Peace and Security.

# Voting history during previous membership terms

Armenia has not been a member of the Council before.

**Principal sponsor:** Prevention of genocide; regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights; and cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2010, the **Republic of Moldova** has voted in favour of or has joined consensus on nearly all resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), and country-specific resolutions under item 2. The exceptions are item 4 texts on the situation in Belarus, on which the Republic of Moldova abstained. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), the Republic of Moldova generally either abstains or votes in favour. The Republic of Moldova always joined consensus during voting on item 10 (technical assistance and capacity building) texts.

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, the Republic of Moldova has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has tended to vote in favour of resolutions on: arms transfers; human rights, democracy and rule of law; the question of the death penalty; and education as a tool to prevent racism. It voted against a resolution on the right to peace, and a resolution on sexual orientation. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, the Republic of Moldova has joined consensus on a majority of texts. Resolutions that it has consistently voted against include those on: the effects of foreign debt, coercive measures, and international solidarity. The Republic of

Moldova has voted in favour of all texts on the right to development.




**Principal sponsor:** Youth and human rights; the question of the death penalty; and the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **Poland** has voted in favour of or has joined consensus on all resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention) and country-specific resolutions under item 2. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Poland has either voted in favour or abstained. It has never voted against an item 7 resolution. On item 10 texts (capacity-building), Poland has joined consensus on all resolutions.

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Poland has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has voted in favour of resolutions on: human rights, democracy and rule of law; the question of the death penalty; sexual orientation; arms transfers; and education as a tool to prevent racism. It has abstained on various resolutions on racism. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, Poland has joined consensus on a majority of texts. Resolutions that it has voted against include those on: the effects of foreign debt, unilateral coercive measures, international solidarity, the impacts of globalisation, and economic reform policies.

**Principal sponsor:** The role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights; the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights; high-level panel on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Council; cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage; conscientious objection to military service; and child, early and forced marriage.

## Cited in the Secretary General's reports on 'alleged reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights' (2014-2018)?

Armenia	Poland	Republic of Moldova
		
N	N	N
-	-	-

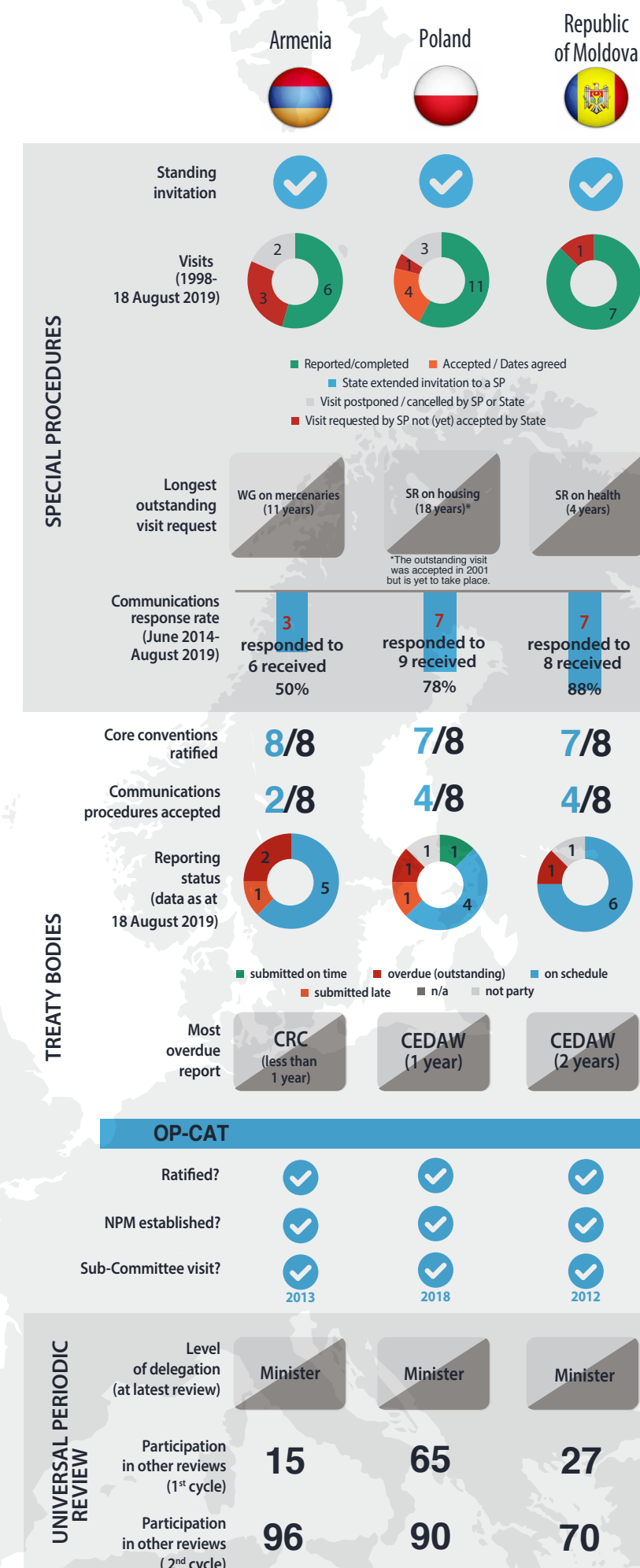
 **Cited in the report 20142-2018?**  **Response provided to allegations?**

Note: See endnote for full details of methodology. The 2019 report by the Secretary-General on alleged reprisals for cooperation with the UN was not available at the time the yourHRC.org 2019 Election Guide went to press.

## Inclusivity / Access

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

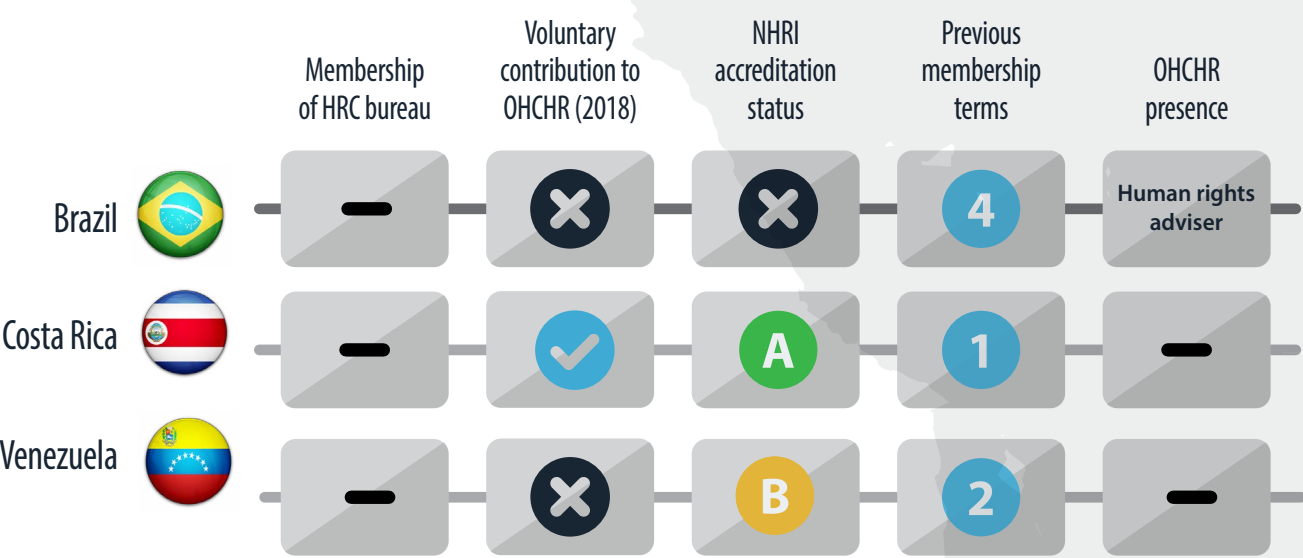
83%





# 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

**Brazil** presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2017-2019 on 4 April 2016. Key pledges include:

Actively participate in the work of the Council and cooperate with its mechanisms; participate in institutional debates on the efficiency and effectiveness of the Council, and on possible future reforms; work through the Council to help States bridge the ‘implementation gap’ and build national capacity for change; work to implement Brazil’s own recommendations accepted under the UPR;

work cross-regionally to reduce politicization and identify solutions; place dialogue, cooperation and engagement as keystones of the Council’s work; contribute to debate on further strengthening of the UPR ahead of the third cycle; promote cooperation and the exchange of national experience in implementing UPR recommendations; maintain a standing invitation to Special Procedures and facilitate country visits; strengthen the Council’s capacity to prevent violations through dialogue and cooperation (as per resolution 60/251); engage States and NGOs in a debate on how to build an effective prevention strategy; support improvements to the Council’s delivery of capacity-building and technical support, especially to facilitate the implementation of recommendations; continue to support the OHCHR, including so that it can strengthen its technical assistance programmes; promote a rights-based approach to the realisation of the 2030 Agenda;

remain engaged in debates on freedom of expression on the Internet, and continue to support the body’s work on privacy; and continue to work on the completion of a new legal instrument on the rights of older persons.

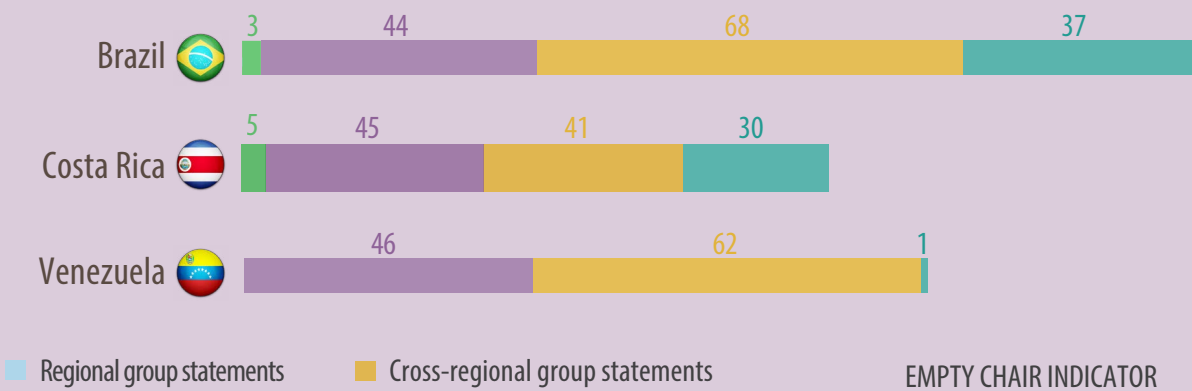
An analysis of steps taken by Brazil in fulfilment of international level pledges shows that, regarding cooperation with Special Procedures, Brazil maintains a Standing Invitation and has facilitated 65% of the visit requests and has responded to 68% of the communications received. Brazil is host to an OHCHR-human rights adviser. Brazil is an active member of the Council, participating, individually, in around 40% of all Council’s debates, dialogues and panel discussions.

**Costa Rica** tabled its commitments and voluntary pledges in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2011-2014 on 11 April 2011.

At domestic level, Costa Rica pledged to: promote vigorous public policies regarding gender equality and the participatory rights of vulnerable groups; establish an inter-institutional committee on human rights to work on national reports to Treaty Bodies and the UPR mechanism; and to follow-up on accepted UPR recommendations.

At international level, Costa Rica committed to: continue the process of signing and ratifying the OP-ICESCR; achieve legislative approval for the ratification of the CED; promote initiatives on important topics, including education and

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



Note: This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State has joined during Council general debates, panel discussions, and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures during the last seven sessions of the Council (March 2017 - June 2019). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology please see endnote.

environmental conservation; stand against no-action motions on draft resolutions; promote the independence of and cooperate with Special Procedures; and contribute financial resources to the promotion of human rights.

An analysis of steps taken by Costa Rica in fulfilment of its pledges made at international level shows that it continues to make voluntary contributions to OHCHR. Regarding cooperation with Special Procedures, Costa Rica maintains a Standing Invitation and accepted and facilitated 60% of the visit requests it received (6). It has yet to respond to four of five communications (petitions) received from Special Procedures. In 2012, Costa Rica ratified the CED and in 2014 the OP-ICESCR.

Regarding the promotion of important topics at the Council, Costa Rica has sponsored initiatives on human rights education, and human rights and the environment. Costa Rica was coordinator of the GRULAC in 2010-2011 and member of the Council's Working Group on situations in 2013.

Costa Rica has established an NMIRF - the inter-institutional commission on human rights - to report to the international human rights mechanisms and follow-up on its human rights recommendations.

**Venezuela** presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2016-2018 in September 2015.

Key pledges included: implement accepted UPR recommendations; submit a first periodic report

under the CRPD; present all periodic reports under the human rights treaties in a systematic and timely manner; support the transformation of the regional human rights system; continue to strengthen the National Council for Human Rights; adopt a National Plan for Human Rights, after a public referendum, to help realise human rights at a national level; continue its project to develop a national system of human rights indicators in cooperation with UNDP; and incorporate human rights education into school curricula.

An analysis of steps taken by Venezuela in fulfilment of its international level pledges shows that it did submit a first report under the CRPD, although it was late in doing so. Venezuela still has four overdue periodic reports (CEDAW, CERD, ICCPR and CAT) .

### Key pledges and commitments for 2019 election

**Brazil** presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2020-2022 on 26 June 2019. Key pledges include, *inter alia*:

At national level:

- ✔ Strengthen the Ministry of human rights.
- ✔ Defend the right to life and security of person and promote the rights of women, including by combating violence against women; as well as the rights of children, persons with disabilities, older persons and indigenous peoples.

- ✔ Take effective action to ensure appropriate education and healthcare for all Brazilians without distinction.
- ✔ Strengthen efforts to guarantee freedom of expression and religion and to combat racism and racial discrimination, as well as violence and discrimination against vulnerable groups.
- ✔ Continue to hold discussions and consultations with local and state authorities, as well as with NGOs and civil society, in the design and implementation of human rights policies.

At international level:

- ✔ Continue to support and engage with the Council and its mechanisms, including by taking part in discussions about the status of the Council in the UN system.
- ✔ Remain active in discussing the main substantive issues on the Council's agenda, including *inter alia* the right to privacy in the digital age and the full enjoyment of human rights on the Internet.
- ✔ Remain a member of the core groups for resolutions where it is traditionally a main sponsor including, *inter alia*, those on the safety of journalists, sports and the Olympic ideal, the fight against corruption, and human rights technical cooperation.
- ✔ Support, both nationally and internationally, programmes and initiatives aimed at preventing, punishing and eradicating discrimination and violence against women and girls.
- ✔ Ensure the full protection of the rights of children and adolescents in law and in practice; and support initiatives on family protection,

freedom of religion, human rights and the Internet, freedom of expression, right to privacy, older persons, human rights defenders, social inclusion, the right to health, and the fight against corruption.

**Costa Rica's** voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2020-2022 were unavailable at the time yourHRC.Org 2019 Election Guide went to press.

**Venezuela's** voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2020-2022 were unavailable at the time yourHRC.org 2019 Election Guide went to press.

### Voting history during previous membership terms

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **Brazil** has either voted in favour of or has joined consensus on most resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention) and country-specific resolutions under item 2. The exceptions include, *inter alia*: a 2009 resolution on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (abstained); resolutions on the situation on the Islamic Republic of Iran (abstained); a 2015 resolution on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic (abstained); a 2019 resolution on the situation in the Philippines (abstained); and a 2019 resolution on ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of



international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem (voted against). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Brazil tends to vote in favour. The exceptions are two 2019 resolutions: Brazil abstained during the voting on 'Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan' and voted against the resolution on 'human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan'. Regarding item 10 (capacity-building) resolutions, in the absence of consensus, Brazil abstained during the voting on the resolutions on cooperation with Ukraine and Georgia, and voted in favour of the resolutions on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights and cross-cutting issues, Brazil has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, Brazil has nearly always voted in favour. The exception to this rule is Brazil's abstention during votes on: defamation of religion; the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures (2019); democratic and equitable international order (2018 and 2019); rights of peasants (2019); unilateral coercive measures (2018); protection of the family (2014, 2015 and 2017); and a legally-binding instrument on transnational corporations with respect to human rights (2014). For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, Brazil has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts.

**Principal sponsor:** The implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; addressing

and countering the world drug problem with regard to human rights; promoting international cooperation to support national human rights follow-up systems, processes and related mechanisms; World Programme for Human Rights Education; the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; human rights in cities and other human settlements; the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights; draft declaration on the promotion and full respect of human rights of people of African descent; the right to privacy in the digital age; human rights on the Internet; adequate housing; safety of journalists; rights of the child; human rights of older persons; enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building; protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal; battling racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; the incompatibility between democracy and racism; effects of foreign debt on the full enjoyment of all human rights; freedom of opinion and expression in women's empowerment; Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to support the participation of LDCs and SIDS in the work of the Council; trafficking in persons, especially women and children; support to the recovery process in Haiti after the earthquake of 12 January 2010; promotion and protection of human rights in Nicaragua; the protection of human rights in the context of human immunodeficiency virus (HIV) and acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (AIDS); elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members; and new and emerging digital technologies and human rights.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2011, **Costa Rica** has either voted in favour of or has joined consensus on all resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), and country-specific resolutions under item 2. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Costa Rica has generally voted in favour (although on two occasions it abstained – in 2012). On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Costa Rica has joined consensus on all resolutions except for one that was voted on during the period of its membership: on cooperation with Ukraine (Costa Rica voted in favour).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights and cross-cutting issues, Costa Rica has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, Costa Rica has always voted in favour. The exceptions to this pattern are Costa Rica's abstentions to the resolutions on a democratic and equitable international order, unilateral coercive measures, and a 2014 resolution on the elaboration of an international legally-binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights.

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, Costa Rica has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, nearly all adopted texts. The exceptions are the 2014 resolutions on unilateral coercive measures and protection of the family (Costa Rica abstained), and a 2012 resolution on the effects of foreign debt (Costa Rica abstained).

**Principal sponsor:** World Programme for Human Rights Education; Promotion and protection of human rights in Nicaragua; Promotion and protection of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; Rights of the child; Consideration of the elaboration of a draft declaration on the promotion and full respect of human rights of people of African descent; Human rights and the environment; Human rights education and training; The promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests; The question of the death penalty; Conscientious objection to military service; Impact of arms transfers on human rights in armed conflicts; Protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; and Mandate of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2013, **Venezuela** has (in the absence of consensus) voted against all resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), and country-specific resolutions under item 2 (the only exception is a 2017 resolution on Burundi - Venezuela voted in favour). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Venezuela has consistently voted in favour. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Venezuela has joined consensus on all resolutions except for those on cooperation with Ukraine and Georgia (Venezuela voted against) and on the situation on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Venezuela voted in favour).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights Venezuela has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has nearly always voted in favour. Notwithstanding, it abstained in a 2015 vote on human rights, democracy and rule of law, and a 2016 vote on human rights and transitional justice; and voted against resolutions on peaceful protests, civil society space, 'the world drug problem,' and the protection of human rights while countering terrorism.

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, Venezuela has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts; except a 2016 resolution on 'Protecting human rights defenders, whether individuals, groups or organs of society, addressing economic, social and cultural rights' (Venezuela voted against).

**Principal sponsor:** The right to development; human rights and unilateral coercive measures; effects of foreign debt on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights: the activities of vulture funds; integrity of the judicial system; renewal of the mandate of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of private military and security companies; and the incompatibility between democracy and racism.

## Inclusivity / Access

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

52%

**Cited in the Secretary General's reports on 'alleged reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights' (2014-2018)?**

Brazil	Costa Rica	Venezuela (BR)
		
N	N	Y
N/A	N/A	N

 Cited in the report 2014-2018?

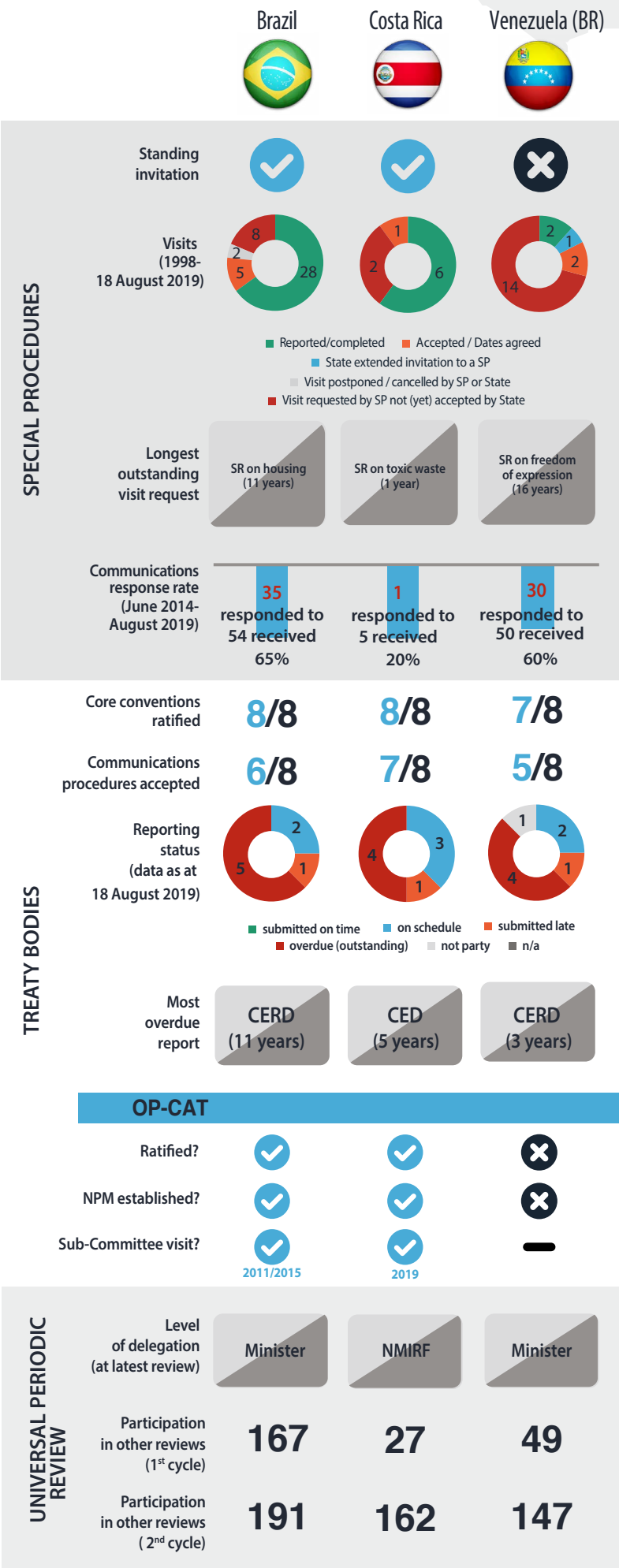
 Response provided to allegations?

Note: See endnote for full details of methodology. The 2018 report by the Secretary-General on alleged reprisals for cooperation with the UN was not available at the time the yourHRC.org 2018 Election Guide went to press.

## Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

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











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





# Western European and Others Group (WEOG)

## Overview of candidates

		Membership of HRC bureau	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2018)	NHRI accreditation status	Previous membership terms	OHCHR presence
Germany		President (2015) Vice-President (2018)				
Netherlands		Vice-President (2007-2008)				

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

## Fulfilment of previous voluntary pledges and commitments

**Germany** presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2016-2018 in July 2015.

Key pledges includes: continue to implement Germany's obligations under the core human rights conventions; cooperate with the Treaty Bodies, including by fulfilling reporting obligations and by following-up on

implementation; continue the country's close cooperation with, and continue to provide support for, OHCHR; promote the participation of NHRIs and civil society in the work of the Council; maintain a standing invitation to Special Procedures and engage fully with the UPR; implement the National Action Plan to realise the provisions of CRPD; develop a national action plan on business and human rights; and fully implement the Federal Government's Plan of Action for Human Rights 2014-2016.

An analysis of steps taken by Germany in fulfilment of its international level pledges shows that it continues to make substantial voluntary contributions to OHCHR (of around US\$5 million per year). Germany has ratified all

core human rights conventions. In terms of its periodic reports, Germany has three overdue period reports (under CERD, CRC and CRPD) – although each is overdue by less than a year. In terms of cooperation with Special Procedures, Germany maintains a standing invitation, has facilitated over 90% of all visit requests, and has responded to 86% of communications. In terms of support for the work of the Council, Germany (individually) participates in around 40% of the Council's panel discussions, interactive dialogues and general debates.

The **Netherlands** tabled 'voluntary pledges and commitments' in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2015-2017 on 25 March 2014. The document presented the country's international- and national-level commitments and pledges for its membership term.

At the international level, the Netherlands pledged to: use its membership to respond effectively and rapidly to urgent human rights situations; initiate discussions in the Council on pressing country situations; continue to support the Council's Trust Fund on the participation of LDC and SIDS; maintain its standing invitation to Special Procedures; cooperate fully with Treaty Bodies and submit reports on time; ratify the CRPD no later than 2015; engage with the UPR; introduce and support Council initiatives on gender-based violence; support and cooperate with OHCHR; continue to work on initiatives to eliminate child labour; use its network of embassies to promote the UN Guiding Principles on business and human rights; use development assistance to promote the right to water and sanitation; provide capacity-building support to eliminate discrimination; take further steps to promote women's rights worldwide, including by organising international conferences; promote freedom of religion and freedom of expression

(online and offline); and support the work of human rights defenders.

At national level, the Netherlands made a commitment to implement its recently-adopted national action plan on human rights, which covers *inter alia*: strengthening the national human rights infrastructure; tackling discrimination; protecting privacy and personal data; protecting the rights of persons in detention; and combatting domestic violence, child abuse and trafficking.

An analysis of steps taken by the Netherlands in fulfilment of its international pledges shows that it has continued to lead on Council initiatives on early and forced marriage, on the participation of LDCs and SIDS in the Council's work, and on human rights in Yemen. As pledged, the Netherlands has supported (joined consensus or voted in favour of) all resolutions aimed at eliminating gender-based violence. The Netherlands maintains a standing invitation and has a strong record of responding to Special Procedures visit requests (5 out of 6). The Netherlands ratified the CRPD in 2016 and is party to nearly all core conventions, though it sometimes reports late. The Netherlands shows a strong commitment to the UPR, sending high-level delegations to Geneva, submitting mid-term reports, and participating in the UPR reviews of other States - 151 in the first cycle and 189 the second cycle. Since 2015, the Netherlands has made yearly financial voluntary contributions to OHCHR.

Finally, regarding the Netherlands' pledge to promote freedom of religion and freedom of expression (online and offline), in the summer of 2019 the Netherlands announced its intention to host the 7<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Istanbul Process on the implementation of Council resolution 16/18 on combatting intolerance, stigmatisation, discrimination, incitement to hatred and violence, and violence, on the basis of religion or belief.

Key pledges and commitments for 2019 election

Germany presented its voluntary pledges for election to the Council for the term 2020-2022 on 30 May 2019. In the document, Germany pledges to:

- Continue to strengthen the multilateral human rights system, including by engaging in dialogue and cooperation with all member States and with civil society.
- Take advantage of its position as member of the Human Rights Council and the Security Council to connect peace and security and human rights, thereby strengthening links between Geneva and New York.
- Support and strengthen the Council as the main UN forum for human rights, and actively participate in discussions regarding its efficiency and status.
- Continue to support OHCHR, including by providing political and financial support.
- Continue to cooperate with the Council's mechanisms, including by maintaining a standing invitation to Special Procedures mandate-holders, and by participating in the UPR.
- Support the Treaty Bodies, including via the Treaty Body strengthening process.
- Promote the role of civil society in the work of the Council and support human rights defenders worldwide.
- Continue to implement the SDGs and promote a rights-based approach to the 2030 Agenda.
- Continue to support and promote women's equal participation, as well as efforts to stop violence and discrimination against SOGI persons. Support the work of the Independent Expert on SOGI rights.

- Continue to adopt and implement relevant national action plans, including *inter alia*, the plan to stop violence against women and girls and further implement Security Council's resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security.
- Continue to promote and advocate for freedom of expression and freedom of the press, freedom of religion, freedom from hate speech, and the rights of children - particularly those affected by armed conflict.
- Continue the country's full engagement on the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.
- Actively engage in current debates on future human rights challenges, including climate change, environmental disasters and artificial intelligence.

The Netherlands presented its voluntary pledges for election for the term 2020-2022 on 19 March 2019. In short, the Netherlands pledges to, *inter alia*:

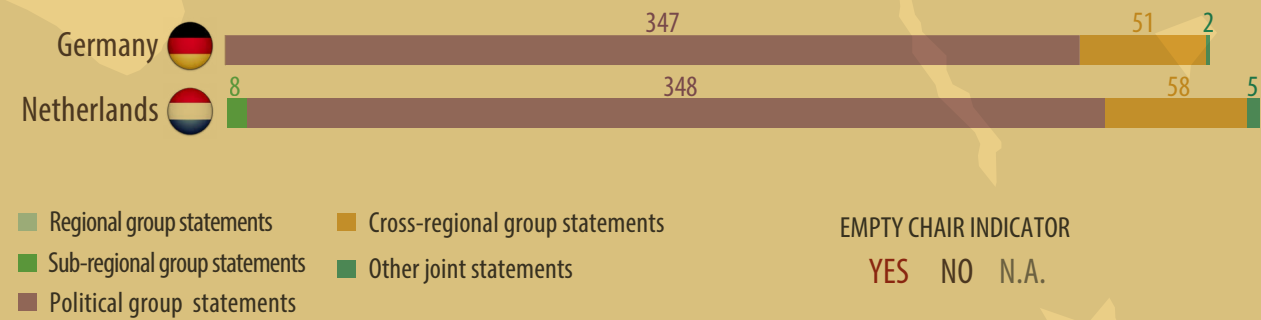
- Respect all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural, and protect, promote and ensure their full enjoyment at the national level.
- Continue to engage with the international human rights system, to ensure the full implementation of the international human rights conventions.
- Promote universal participation and diversity at the Council.
- Cooperate with OHCHR, the Council and its mechanisms; including by making voluntary financial contributions to OHCHR, by maintaining its standing invitations to Special Procedures mandate-holders and facilitating visits by these experts, and by making at least two measurable and implementable recommendations to each State-under-review during the UPR.

- Cooperate with the Treaty Bodies and work towards improving their efficiency and effectiveness.
- Reflect received and accepted UPR and Treaty Bodies recommendations in the upcoming National Action Plan on human rights.
- Defend and expand civil society space, and ensure the full and active involvement of civil society organisations including human rights defenders and religious leaders in the work of the Council. Promote the involvement the private sector representatives.
- Work to achieve the SDGs by 2030 and adapt/promote a rights-based approach to the 2030 Agenda.
- Support and promote the Human Rights Up Front initiative.
- Continue to pursue bilateral development and human rights policies emphasising dialogue, partnership and technical cooperation.
- Strengthen the Council's ability to respond to human rights violations at the national and local levels.
- Remind the Council of its mandate to address human rights violations, including gross and systematic violations. The Netherlands will

seek to apply objective and human rights-based criteria to identify situations that merit the Council's attention, and will take a leadership role in initiating action on situations that meet those criteria.

- Actively engage in the Council efforts to prevent human rights violations and crises, and initiate or encourage early action by the Council.
- Proactively reflect on the Council's working methods, efficiency and ability to implement meaningful reforms. Strengthen international accountability mechanisms and enhance access to remedy and justice for victims. In that regard, support independent criminal proceedings, promote international tribunals, promote the authority and universality of the International Criminal Court, and continue to call upon the Security Council to refer cases to the Court as appropriate.
- Uphold the principles of equality and non-discrimination for all; and advance and promote freedom of expression, press freedom, freedom of religion and belief, SOGI rights (including by supporting the work of the Independent Expert on SOGI rights) and civil society space.

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



Note: This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State has joined during Council general debates, panel discussions, and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures during the last seven sessions of the Council (March 2017 - June 2019). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology please see endnote. For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology, please see endnote.



## Voting history during previous membership terms

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **Germany** has either voted in favour of or has joined consensus on every resolution tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), as well as country-specific resolutions under item 2 (except for a 2017 resolution on Burundi, which Germany voted against). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Germany generally either votes in favour or abstains, though it voted against 2008 and 2009 texts on human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and a 2018 text on the Occupied Syrian Golan. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Germany has joined consensus on all resolutions except for the texts dealing with cooperation with Ukraine and Georgia (with Germany voting in favour), and the texts dealing with technical cooperation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Germany abstained once and voted in favour once).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Germany usually joins consensus or, where a vote is called, votes in favour. Resolutions that it has voted against include those on: defamation of religion, the right to peace, complementary standards to ICERD, and the effects of terrorism on human rights. Germany abstained during voting on resolutions on the integrity of the judicial system, and on drones.

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, Germany has joined consensus on a majority of texts. Where there have been votes, Germany has voted in favour of resolutions on the right to development, and against texts on international solidarity, unilateral coercive measures, globalisation and its impact on human right, and the effects of economic reform policies and foreign debt. Germany has abstained on a number of resolutions including on the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin, and on access to medicine.

**Principal sponsor:** Adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living; high-level panel on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Council; human rights and access to safe drinking water and sanitation; human rights and the environment; human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic; the right to privacy in the digital age; trafficking in persons, especially women and children; situation of human rights in Eritrea; equal pay; promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka; moratorium on the use of the death penalty; national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights; mandate of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children; and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, the **Netherlands** has either voted in favour of or has joined consensus on every resolution tabled under item

4 (situations that require the Council's attention), and country-specific resolutions under item 2 (except a 2017 resolution on Burundi, which the Netherlands voted against). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), the Netherlands normally votes in favour or abstains (almost equally). It has, though, voted against four item 7 resolutions.

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, where a vote is called the Netherlands has tended to vote against (e.g., on resolutions on the effects of terrorism on human rights, the right to peace, defamation of religions, and certain resolutions on racism). It has voted in favour of resolutions dealing with: the regulation of firearms; democracy and rule of law; torture; discrimination based on religion or belief; and elimination of religious and racial intolerance.

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, the Netherlands has joined consensus on a majority of texts. Where there have been votes, the Netherlands has tended to vote against resolutions on: the effects of foreign debt, globalisation and its impact on human rights, international solidarity, and unilateral coercive measures. When a vote has been called on resolutions on the right to development, the Netherlands has abstained.

**Principal sponsor:** Child, early and forced marriage; equal participation in political and public affairs; promoting the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust

Fund to support the participation of LDCs and SIDS in the work of the Council; technical assistance and capacity-building for Yemen in the field of human rights; situation of human rights in Eritrea; the human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic; and the right to freedom of expression (from 2019).

Cited in the Secretary General's reports on 'alleged reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights' (2014-2018)



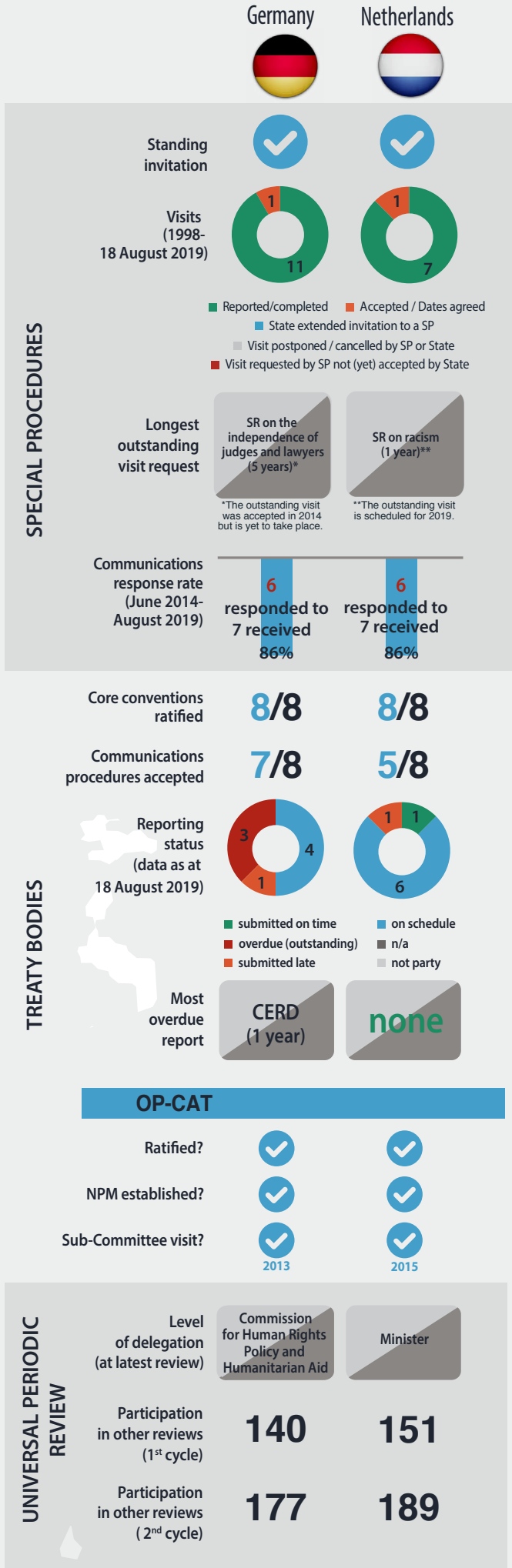
Cited in the report 2014-2018? Response provided to allegations?

Note: See endnote for full details of methodology. The 2019 report by the Secretary-General on alleged reprisals for cooperation with the UN' was not available at the time the yourHRC.org 2019 Election Guide went to press.

# Inclusivity / Access

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

62%



## Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

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

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



Methodology Notes

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

Overview of membership

Membership of Council Bureau

**Source:** OHCHR website. Presidency and bureau.  
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/Presidency.aspx>  
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/Bureau.aspx>  
**Data as at:** 18 August 2019.

Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2018)

**Source:** OHCHR website. Our donors. Voluntary contributions to OHCHR in 2018.  
<https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/AboutUs/FundingBudget/VoluntaryContributions2018.pdf>  
**Data as at:** 18 August 2019.

NHRI Accreditation Status

**Source:** Chart of the Status of National Institutions, accredited by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI);  
<http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/Documents/Status%20Accreditation%20Chart%20%2826%20May%202017.pdf>  
**Data as at:** 8 August 2017.

Previous membership terms

**Source:** OHCHR website. Membership of the Human Rights Council.  
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/Bureau.aspx>  
**Data as at:** 18 August 2019.

OHCHR Presence

**Source:** OHCHR website. Human Rights Report 2018.  
<https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/OHCHRreport2018.pdf>  
**Data as at:** 18 August 2019.

Fulfilment of previous voluntary pledges and commitments

**Source:** UN General Assembly website; OHCHR website.  
**Data as at:** 18 August 2019.  
**Note:** yourHRC.org summarises the specific, forward-looking pledges made by States when presenting their candidatures for membership of the Human Rights Council. GA resolution 60/251 establishing the Human Rights Council stipulates that, when electing members of the Council, States shall take into account: the contribution of candidates to the promotion and protection of human rights; and their voluntary pledges and commitments made thereto. Beyond this provision, the GA provided no further guidance and established no particular framework for the form and content of electoral pledges, commitments, and statements. Notwithstanding, OHCHR has published a helpful document on ‘suggested elements for voluntary pledges and commitments by candidates for election to the Human Rights Council’ which states that voluntary pledges and commitments should be ‘specific, measurable, and verifiable.’ The paper then provides a general framework for assessing pledges and commitments against this benchmark. yourHRC.org uses this framework to identify the number of specific pledges presented by candidates. yourHRC.org also presents a short analysis of the degree to which members of the Council have fulfilled the international-level pledges they made when running for their current or last term of membership. This analysis aims to be independent and objective, without value judgements. The analysis is mainly based on data in the yourHRC.org analysis of member State engagement with the UN human rights system.

Contribution to Council debates and dialogues

**Source:** Council Extranet.  
**Data as at:** 23 August 2019.  
**Note:** The participation of the members of the Council in group statements was calculated based on all joint statements listed on the HRC Extranet from June 2016 until June 2019 (i.e. during HRC sessions 32-41). Figures include statements not delivered due to lack of time. Figures include statements not delivered due to lack of time. Statements not listed on the Extranet were not counted, nor were we able to count joint statements on behalf of a group of States that were not individually listed.

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

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

	<p>Committee on Victim Assistance of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention</p> <p>Community of Portuguese Language Countries</p> <p>Core-group on National policies and human rights</p> <p>Core-Group on the right to Privacy</p> <p>Geneva Support Group Western Sahara</p> <p>Group of Friends of the International Criminal Court in Geneva</p> <p>Group of Friends of the Responsibility to Protect</p> <p>Group of Friends on Children and Armed Conflict</p> <p>Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking</p> <p>Groupe Francophone</p> <p>Like-Minded Group</p> <p>MIKTA</p> <p>Non-Aligned Movement</p> <p>Platform for Human Rights Education and Training</p> <p>Safe Schools Declaration</p> <p>Territorial integrity of Kingdom of Morocco</p> <p>The Group of Friends of Economic Social and Cultural Rights</p> <p>Others</p>	<p><b>Key pledges and commitments for 2019 election</b></p> <p><b>Source:</b> Document submitted by the candidates either formally, or informally to the URG.</p> <p><b>Data as at:</b> 2 September 2019.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> 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.</p> <p><b>Voting history during previous membership terms</b></p> <p><b>Source:</b> URG HRC Voting Portal (<a href="http://www.universal-rights.org/country-voting-history-portal/">http://www.universal-rights.org/country-voting-history-portal/</a>) which in turn is updated with the information published on the HRC Extranet.</p> <p><b>Data as at:</b> 18 August 2019.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> 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).</p>	<p><b>Cited in the Secretary General's reports on 'alleged reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights' (2014-2018)</b></p> <p><b>Source:</b> Last five Secretary-General's 'Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives, and mechanisms in the field of human rights' reports.</p> <p><b>Data as at:</b> August 2019.</p> <p><b>Inclusivity/Access</b></p> <p><b>Source:</b> OHCHR website. Membership of the Human Rights Council.</p> <p><a href="http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/PastMembers.aspx">http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/PastMembers.aspx</a></p> <p><b>Data as at:</b> 18 August 2019.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> Self-calculated figures based on the past and current members, as reported by the OHCHR.</p> <p><b>Cooperation with human rights mechanisms</b></p> <p><b>Special Procedures</b></p> <p><b>Standing invitation</b></p> <p><b>Source:</b> OHCHR website. Special Procedures: Standing invitations.</p> <p><a href="http://spinternet.ohchr.org/_Layouts/SpecialProceduresInternet/StandingInvitations.aspx">http://spinternet.ohchr.org/_Layouts/SpecialProceduresInternet/StandingInvitations.aspx</a></p> <p><b>Data as at:</b> 18 August 2019.</p> <p><b>Visits Completed and longest outstanding visit</b></p> <p><b>Source:</b> OHCHR website. Special Procedures: Country and other visits. Country visits since 1998.</p> <p><a href="http://spinternet.ohchr.org/_Layouts/SpecialProceduresInternet/ViewCountryVisits.aspx?Lang=en">http://spinternet.ohchr.org/_Layouts/SpecialProceduresInternet/ViewCountryVisits.aspx?Lang=en</a></p>	<p><b>Data as at:</b> 18 August 2019.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> The number of visits completed includes only visits that have actually taken place, as listed on the OHCHR website (i.e., visits reported as completed or with report forthcoming). The dates for the most overdue visit are calculated according to the initial request date of the corresponding visit (regardless of subsequent reminders, when initial request date is not available, the date taken to calculate the time a visit is overdue was the earliest reminder published in the OHCHR website); only visits requested by the Special Procedures that have not yet been accepted by the State are considered in this calculation.</p> <p><b>Communications response rate</b></p> <p><b>Source:</b> Special Procedures communications report and search data base, OHCHR.</p> <p><b>Data as at:</b> 15 July 2019. More recent information is not yet available.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> The response rate to Special Procedures communications (i.e., to letters of allegations and urgent appeals) is calculated for the last five years.</p> <p><b>Treaty Bodies</b></p> <p><b>Status of Ratification and Reporting</b></p> <p><b>Source:</b> OHCHR website. Country Pages. Ratification Status.</p> <p><b>Data as at:</b> 18 August 2019.</p> <p><b>Note:</b> 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);</p>
Other	Any statement delivered by two or more countries of the same regional group (but not the whole regional group)			
Empty chair indicator: Shows whether the relevant State delivered individual statements in less than 11% of all Panel Discussions, General Debates, and Interactive Dialogues (combined) during its two last (most recent) membership terms.				



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

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

Explanation of Options:

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

The “most overdue” report time is for the outstanding report that is the most overdue.

OP-CAT

**Source:** OHCHR website. Country pages. Ratification Status.  
**Data as at:** 18 August 2019.

NPM Established:

**Source:** OHCHR website. National Preventive Mechanisms  
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/OPCAT/Pages/NationalPreventiveMechanisms.aspx>  
**Data as at:** 18 August 2019.  
**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:** 18 August 2019.  
**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:** 18 August 2019.

Mid-term reporting

**Source:** OHCHR Website

<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRImplementation.aspx>  
**Data as at:** 18 August 2019.  
**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:** 18 August 2019.  
**Note:** Participation in other reviews relates to the number of other 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</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 114 States that have stood for and won election to the Council, and of the candidates for the 2019 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 UN Human Rights Council



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Permanent Mission of Norway  
to the United Nations