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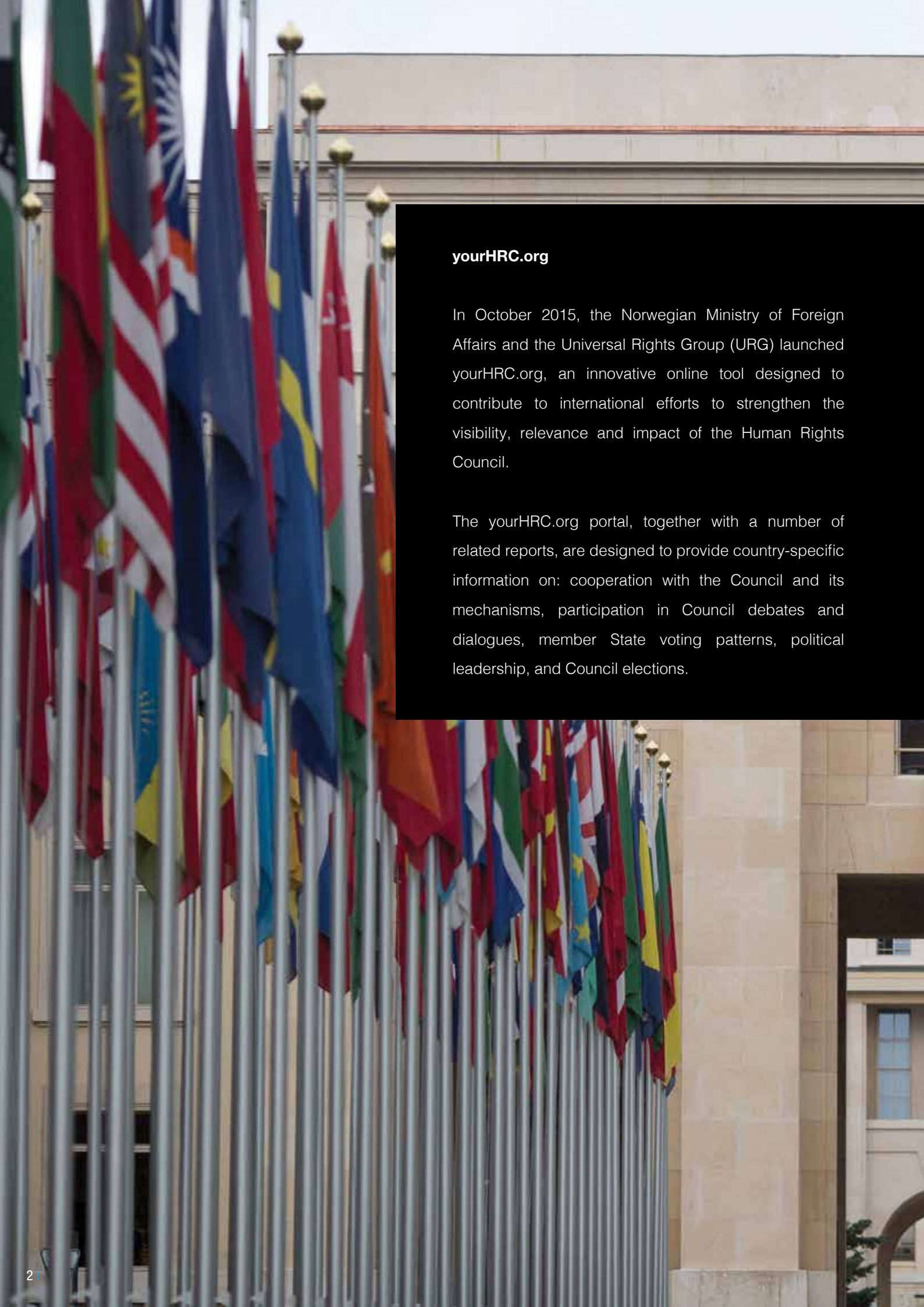
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A window onto cooperation, dialogue, leadership, and  
policymaking at the UN Human Rights Council



THE HUMAN RIGHTS  
COUNCIL IN  
2020

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



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In 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.

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# Introduction

2020 will forever be remembered as the year the COVID-19 pandemic hit the world, causing massive socio-economic dislocation and, in turn, huge challenges for the enjoyment of human rights. To their credit, key parts of the UN human rights system, including the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Human Rights Council (Council) and its mechanisms (especially Special Procedures), and human rights NGOs were quick to draw attention to the human rights dimensions of the crisis, especially based on a twin understanding: first, that ‘the virus may not discriminate but its social impacts most certainly do;’<sup>1</sup> and second, that some States were using the pandemic as an excuse to tighten national restrictions to an excessive degree in order to reign-in opposition, criticism and democratic scrutiny. The quick-footed response of the UN’s human rights system in turn had a telling impact on how the wider UN – and indeed the wider world – perceived of and chose to confront the health crisis, as well as on how the international community should strive to ‘build back better.’ For example, in April UN Secretary-General, António Guterres, launched his ‘We are all in this together’<sup>2</sup> report. With the report, he argued that the COVID-19 pandemic ‘is a public health emergency, but it is also far more - it is an economic crisis, a social crisis, and a human crisis that is fast becoming a human rights crisis.’<sup>3</sup> In February, he noted, he had launched a ‘Call to action for human rights’ designed to put human dignity and the promise of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights at the core of the UN’s work. As reflected in both the call to action and his report on the pandemic: ‘human rights cannot be an afterthought in times of crisis [rather they] can and must

guide COVID-19 response and recovery. The message is clear: people and their rights must be front and centre.’<sup>4</sup>

The Council also outperformed most other parts of the UN (especially intergovernmental parts) in managing to continue to fulfil its mandate during the crisis, notwithstanding the social distancing and hygiene rules put in place by national authorities. Although the conclusion of the February-March session had to be postponed until the summer, by October the UN’s principal body responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights had completed its three annual sessions. For that, enormous credit should be afforded to the 2020 President of the Council, Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger (Austria), her team, and the wider Council bureau. Their achievement sent out two important messages to the wider world: first, that the UN human rights protection system continues to operate; and second, that it is possible for in person multilateral diplomacy to continue during a global pandemic – providing that necessary precautions are taken.

## A call to action

On 24 February, the first day of the 43<sup>rd</sup> session of the Council (HRC43), UN Secretary-General António Guterres launched a new ‘Call to action for human rights.’ Rumours of a ‘major announcement’ from the Secretary-General had been circulating since late last year, and were confirmed by Guterres himself in a keynote speech to the General Assembly on 22 January. In it, he identified four key contemporary challenges facing humanity (he



Elisabeth Tichy-Fisslberger, President of the Human Rights Council, during the 43rd session of the Human Rights Council. 30 June 2020. UN Photo

called them ‘the four horsemen’) – increased geopolitical tensions, the climate crisis, growing mistrust, and the downsides of digital technology – and, intriguingly, appeared to declare that the human rights pillar must be central to the UN’s response.

These developments should be seen against a backdrop of the UN’s historic neglect of its human rights pillar – in both a political and a financial sense. Throughout its history, the UN has consistently emphasised the development and security aspects of its mandate over and above its human rights prerogatives (as defined by the UN Charter). As part of that ‘downgrading’ of human rights, the human rights pillar is not led by a main body of the UN (the Commission on Human Rights and the Council were/are both subsidiary bodies), and only

receives around 3% of the UN’s regular budget. No recent (i.e., the past quarter century) Secretary-General, with the exception of Kofi Annan, has seriously challenged this *status quo ante*; and although URG has been relatively supportive of António Guterres’ efforts to strengthen the delivery of human rights via his development system and security pillar reforms, wider civil society has increasingly taken the view that the current Secretary-General is intent on continuing this pattern of historic neglect.

There was therefore a growing sense of anticipation ahead of Guterres’ opening address to the 43<sup>rd</sup> session; a hope that he would propose meaningful reforms and changes in how the human rights pillar operates and delivers, how it connects with the two other pillars of the UN, and how it is resourced.

1. United Nations. Secretary-General António Guterres. We are all in this Together: Human Rights and COVID-19 Response and Recovery. 23 April 2020. Available at: <https://www.un.org/en/un-coronavirus-communications-team/we-are-all-together-human-rights-and-covid-19-response-and>

2. United Nations. Secretary-General António Guterres. COVID-19 and human rights, we are all in this together. 23 April 2020. Available at: [https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/un\\_policy\\_brief\\_on\\_human\\_rights\\_and\\_covid\\_23\\_april\\_2020.pdf](https://www.un.org/sites/un2.un.org/files/un_policy_brief_on_human_rights_and_covid_23_april_2020.pdf)

3. United Nations. Secretary-General António Guterres. Op.Cit.

4. Ibid.



The ‘Call to action’<sup>5</sup> seeks – according to its own preamble – to reaffirm the UN’s commitment to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and ‘reinvigorate our pursuit of those enduring rights and values in the context of new challenges and opportunities.’<sup>6</sup> The Secretary-General’s goal, he says, ‘is to promote a human rights vision that is transformative, that provides solutions, and that speaks directly to each and every human being.’<sup>7</sup>

The seven key challenges/opportunities or ‘domains’ identified by the Secretary-General are:

- Rights at the core of sustainable development.
- Rights in time of crises.
- Gender equality and equal rights for women.
- Public participation and civic space.
- Rights of future generations, and climate justice.
- Rights at the heart of collective action.
- New frontiers of human rights.

This is perfectly sensible, as far as it goes. Across the seven ‘domains,’ the Secretary-General accurately identifies many of the principal human rights issues and challenges facing the world in 2020. Moreover, his critique of those issues and challenges is, in large part, both insightful and eloquent. For example, under the domain ‘Rights at the core of sustainable development,’ Guterres correctly asserts that ‘the 17 SDGs are underpinned by economic, civil, cultural, political and social rights, as well as the right to development,’ and only when ‘everyone has equal access to opportunity and choice, and can claim their human rights [will] no one [be] left behind.’<sup>8</sup> This analysis in turn allowed the Secretary-General to touch upon one of the most important human rights concerns of modern times: widening socio-economic ‘inequality, in

all its dimensions.’ All of this means, he noted, that human rights obligations, in effect, underpin and underwrite ‘the political commitments made in 2015.’ In another example, under the title ‘Rights in times of crisis,’ Guterres says that ‘human rights considerations’ are central to his prevention agenda. ‘Indeed,’ he says, ‘there is no better guarantee of prevention than for member States to meet their human rights responsibilities [...] There is a well-documented correlation between a society’s enjoyment of and commitment to human rights – including non-discrimination – and its resilience to crisis.’<sup>9</sup> A key goal of the UN human rights system must therefore be to build human rights capacity and resilience, thus ‘preventing human rights violations,’ and – where worrying patterns of violations do occur – to ‘respond promptly and effectively’ to human rights emergencies/crises. The Council and its prevention mandate under paragraph 5f of GA resolution 60/251 must, in other words, be placed at the heart of the UN’s prevention agenda.

## Family matters

As has become a regular occurrence at the Council over the past decade, many of the most passionate arguments in 2020 centred on ‘societal’ issues, reflecting a deep ideological divide between those States (e.g., Russia, Egypt and – outside the Council, the United States (US)) that wish to promote a more conservative interpretation of international human rights law, emphasising the importance of traditional family roles and hierarchies for example, and other States (especially Western and Latin American countries) determined to defend a more progressive interpretation. This division played out regularly across the calendar year, but was especially prevalent at HRC45.

For example, difficult negotiations on a draft resolution on the ‘Rights of the child,’ presented by GRULAC (led by Uruguay) and the EU, focused on the rights of children in the context of a healthy environment, ended with Russia tabling eight ‘hostile’ amendments to the text. Eventually six of these were withdrawn after the lead sponsors committed to make a number of small oral revisions. The remaining two aimed to integrate strong language on the responsibilities and rights of parents ‘or where applicable, the members of the extended family or community as provided for by local custom [...] to provide, in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child, appropriate direction and guidance in the exercise by the child of his or her rights.’ If adopted, these amendments would have made the rights of children to express opinions or participate in decision-making conditional upon the permission/direction of parents and other adults. The core group for the resolution rightly opposed such notions, as being incompatible with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. In the end, the two written amendments

were rejected by the Council (both with 13 in favour, 6 abstentions and 27 against). The unamended draft was then adopted by consensus.

Regarding women’s rights, three draft resolutions were put forward during HRC45, one by South Africa on the ‘Elimination of discrimination against women and girls in sport,’ one by Argentina, Australia, Azerbaijan, Finland, Iraq, Namibia, Spain and Tunisia on ‘Promoting and protecting the human rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000),’ and one by Canada, Fiji, Georgia, Sweden and Uruguay on ‘Promoting, protecting and respecting women’s and girls’ full enjoyment of human rights in humanitarian situations.’

The first of these was eventually withdrawn (the corresponding resolution in March 2019 generated considerable opposition on the part of members of the



Interactive dialogue with the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, 44th session of the Human Rights Council. 9 July 2020. UN Photo

5. United Nations. Secretary-General António Guterres. The Highest Aspiration a Call to Action for Human Rights. February 2020. Available at: [https://www.un.org/sg/sites/www.un.org.sg/files/atoms/files/The\\_Highest\\_Asperation\\_A\\_Call\\_To\\_Action\\_For\\_Human\\_Right\\_English.pdf](https://www.un.org/sg/sites/www.un.org.sg/files/atoms/files/The_Highest_Asperation_A_Call_To_Action_For_Human_Right_English.pdf)

6. Ibid.

7. Ibid.

8. Ibid.

9. Ibid.



OIC, on the grounds that it referred to ‘bodily autonomy’ – which is linked to sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)). The draft resolution on the rights of women and girls in humanitarian situations attracted 15 amendments (tabled by Pakistan on behalf of the OIC except Albania) – all of these were subsequently withdrawn after the main sponsors committed to make oral revisions to the text. The contentious issue with the third resolution on women’s rights – the draft on the twentieth anniversary of UN Security Council resolution 1325 – was related to whether such resolutions (focused on Security Council decisions) are a matter for the Human Rights Council. Notwithstanding these arguments, both tabled resolutions were eventually adopted by consensus.

## From reaction to prevention

In March, pursuant to Council resolution 38/18, a group of three experts presented their report (with recommendations) to the 43rd session of the Council on how the body might strengthen its contribution to the prevention of human rights violations and emergencies. Based on the recommendations in the report, in September (HRC45), Norway, Sierra Leone, Switzerland and Uruguay tabled a further resolution, designed to finally operationalise the Council’s prevention mandate. The draft resolution was both enormously important and enormously ambitious, designed, in short, to move the Council from a predominantly reactive mindset and approach to crises, to a preventative one. The resolution was eventually adopted by vote, with 32 in favour, 11 abstentions and 3 against (Bahrain, Cameroon and Venezuela).

The resolution covers all aspects of the Council’s hitherto unused prevention mandate, as provided by GA resolution 60/251 (and specifically paragraph 5f thereof), covering both primary (or ‘upstream’) prevention, and secondary prevention (early warning and early engagement). The resolution also strengthens the Council’s ability to connect with the other pillars of the UN (the development, and security pillars) by calling on the Secretary-General to share relevant Council reports relevant to prevention in specific contexts with other UN bodies (e.g. the Security Council), and by inviting the head of the Peacebuilding Commission to brief the Council on an annual basis.

## ‘Black Lives Matter’ protests, Belarus elections

The Council is often criticised for the detachment between its agenda and the main events and geopolitical currents occurring in the ‘real world.’ It has also been criticised, in the past, for addressing human rights violations in small-to-medium sized African, Asian and Latin American countries, while remaining silent about worrying trends in more powerful UN member States; and for being quick to criticise or condemn, but far slower to extend a hand to those countries, especially countries in transition, that request international support. In 2020, the Council responded to such critiques by debating, and taking concrete steps to respond to, important human rights developments in the US, Belarus and Sudan.

On 17 June, in the context of the resumed 43rd session of the Council, an urgent debate was convened (at the request of the African Group) on the ‘current racially inspired human rights violations, systematic racism, police brutality against people of African descent and



44th session of the Human Rights Council. 30 June 2020. UN Photo

violence against peaceful protests.’ The debate was especially aimed at racially-aggravated police brutality in the US.

Ms Amina Mohammed, Deputy Secretary-General of the UN, opened the debate by noting that although the current ‘**Black Lives Matter**’ protests in the US and elsewhere had been triggered by the extrajudicial killing of George Floyd, such violence ‘spans history and borders alike.’ Just as the UN fought apartheid many years ago, so too must it fight the hatred, oppression and humiliation of people of African descent today. Widespread racism against Africans and people of African descent were inextricably linked, she said, with generational cycles of inequality and poverty, unfair obstacles to the right to development, and a widespread failure to atone for the most appalling manifestation of human brutality: the slave trade. Turning to her own experience of discrimination in the United Kingdom (UK) and her resulting ‘numbness’ to

it, she conveyed her dream, like that of Martin Luther King Jr. that one day her granddaughter, Maya, might grow up in a world ‘where she will not be judged by the colour of her skin, but by the strength of her character.’ Concluding that ‘enough is enough’, she stressed that ‘lasting peace, and sustainable development can only be built on the equality, human rights and dignity of everyone’<sup>10</sup> and assured that the UN was fully mobilised to wage a ‘sacred battle’ to end the scourge of racism.

At the end of the session, member States adopted resolution 43/1 by consensus. With the resolution, the Council ‘strongly condemn[ed] the continuing racially discriminatory and violent practices perpetrated by law enforcement agencies against Africans and people of African descent, in particular which led to the death of George Floyd on 25 May 2020 in Minnesota,’ and further ‘deplore[d] the recent incidents of excessive use of force and other human rights violations by law enforcement

<sup>10</sup> United Nations. Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohammed. Remarks to the Human Rights Council [as prepared for delivery]. 17 June 2020. Available at: <https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/dsg/statement/2020-06-17/deputy-secretary-generals-remarks-the-human-rights-council-prepared-for-delivery>

officers against peaceful demonstrators defending the rights of Africans and of people of African descent.’<sup>11</sup>

In August, peaceful protests erupted throughout **Belarus** in response to widespread fraud in the country’s presidential election. The European Union rejected the results of the election, saying it was ‘neither free nor fair.’ President Alexander Lukashenko responded to the protests with a violent crackdown, leading to arrests, disappearances, torture, extrajudicial killings, and the forced exile of opposition politicians. The country’s Internet was also shut down.

On 18 September 2020, during HRC45, an urgent debate was convened, at the request of the EU, in response to the serious human rights violations taking place in Belarus. After the debate, at the end of the session, the Council moved to adopt resolution 45/1 by a vote, with 23 in favour, 2 against and 22 abstentions (after 17 ‘hostile amendments’ had been defeated). With the resolution, the Council expressed ‘deep concern about the overall situation of human rights in Belarus’ and its recent deterioration, and regretted that the ‘Government of Belarus has not fulfilled its obligations regarding the electoral process’.<sup>12</sup> The Council furthermore expressed serious concern ‘at credible allegations that human rights violations were committed in Belarus in the run-up to the 2020 presidential election and in its aftermath,’ as well as ‘at the credible allegations of numerous acts of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment by law enforcement and prison officers.’<sup>13</sup>

HRC45 saw member and observer States continue their important work to extend technical assistance and capacity-building support to Sudan, as it continues on

its path towards a strengthening of democracy, human rights and rule of law. In a welcome move, States agreed to discontinue the Independent Expert mandate on Sudan, and to instead focus the resolution on mobilising international support to assist the country with the actual implementation of UN human rights recommendations. The resolution also recognised the important progress made by Sudan over the past year, and praised the High Commissioner for Human Rights for her rapid move to establish a strong OHCHR presence across the country.

## Human rights in Sudan: the new test case for the Human Rights Council

In December 2018, a series of demonstrations broke out in several Sudanese cities, due in part to rising costs of living and deteriorating economic conditions at all levels of society. The protests quickly turned from demands for urgent economic reforms into demands for President Omar al-Bashir to step down. In late February 2019, al-Bashir declared a state of emergency and dissolved the national and regional governments, replacing the latter with military and intelligence service officers. On the weekend of 6–7 April, there were massive protests for the first time since the declaration of the state of emergency, and during the protests soldiers were seen shielding protesters from security forces. On 11 April, the military removed al-Bashir from power in a *coup d’état*.

Following long and difficult negotiations, brokered by the African Union and the Prime Minister of Ethiopia, military and civilian leaders eventually reached a power-sharing agreement on 17 July. The Political Agreement was complemented by the Constitutional Declaration,

which paves the way for a transition to an elected civilian government by 2022.

Significantly, the Constitutional Declaration contains a Rights and Freedoms Charter, including provisions on the right to equality before the law, women’s rights, freedom of expression and of the press, freedom of assembly and organisation, and freedom of religious belief and worship. By overturning repressive laws and making bold commitments to human rights, the transitional Government has regularly demonstrated its determination to keep equal citizenship at the forefront of the political transition.

In the framework of its reform and national reconciliation process, and in line with its Constitutional Declaration, the Government has abolished apostasy as a criminal offence, abolished the death penalty for children, made amendments to male guardianship laws, introduced a new policy on press freedom, and criminalised female genital

mutilation. In November 2019, the Government also repealed the Public Order Law, which had been used by the former regime to target women and restrict individual freedoms. Moreover, the Government established a Legal Reform Commission to review all national laws in accordance with human rights obligations. These changes respond to recommendations made in Council Resolution 42/35, particularly with regard to women’s rights, women’s participation in the peace process, and freedom of religion or belief.

The new Sudanese Government has regularly demonstrated its eagerness to cooperate with international actors in guiding and supporting the country’s transition to democracy, including by strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights. For instance, it is significant to note that the new Constitutional Declaration called on State agencies to facilitate the establishment of an OHCHR mission in Sudan during the transitional period.



The representative of Sudan speaks during the 43rd session Human Rights Council Urgent Debate on Police Brutality, Racism, People of African Descent. 17 June 2020. UN Photo

<sup>11</sup> United Nations. Human Rights Council. Resolution 43/1. 30 June 2020

<sup>12</sup> United Nations. Human Rights Council. Resolution 45/1. 12 September 2020

<sup>13</sup> Ibid.

This paved the way, in September 2019, for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, to sign an agreement with the Government of Sudan to open a UN Human Rights Office in Khartoum, as well as field offices in Darfur, Blue Nile, Southern Kordofan and East Sudan. Bachelet and Sudan's newly appointed Minister of Foreign Affairs, Asma Mohamed Abdalla, signed the agreement in the presence of Prime Minister Abdalla Hamdok in New York, where they are attending the UN General Assembly.

For its part, the Council was largely absent from the historic developments in Sudan.

Notwithstanding, it is vital for the future of Sudan, and for the credibility of the Council, that it does not remain on the side-lines as a new country emerges from decades of misrule. On the contrary, the Council must work hand-in-hand with the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and – most importantly – with Sudan itself, to help build a strong, democratic, inclusive and resilient Sudan, built upon the foundations of human rights and sustainable development while ‘leaving no one behind.’

So, will the Council seize this historic opportunity and play its part?

At the moment, there are both reasons for concern and reasons for cautious optimism. On the negative side of the ledger, the Council's track record in transitioning from an approach premised on criticising and condemning States to one premised on recognising progress and helping them move forward, is lamentable. Where it has done anything at all, the Council's usual strategy is to

appoint an ‘Independent Expert’ (a Special Procedures mandate focused on capacity-building) with a mandate to assess a country's technical assistance and capacity-building needs. Unfortunately, such mechanisms usually produce broad and unimplementable recommendations, mainly to the State itself rather than the international community, and rarely lead to the provision of useful technical assistance or capacity-building support.

Unfortunately, all these problems have been evident in the conduct and work of the Independent Expert on Sudan, who presented his most recent report at HRC45. The report offered 23 recommendations, 17 of which are directed towards the State (only five are addressed to the international community). Moreover, most of the recommendations were so broad as to lack any utility – a point raised by the Sudanese delegation to the Council.

Based on the Independent Expert's report and recommendations, and the comments of Sudan, on 6 October 2020 the Council adopted a resolution on ‘Technical assistance and capacity-building to further improve human rights in the Sudan.’<sup>14</sup> Fortunately, the resolution represents a marked departure from the Council's usual ‘item 10’ (capacity-building) resolutions. Most importantly, as well as recognising the important progress achieved by Sudan since the revolution, the resolution recognises that in order to improve further, international ‘technical assistance and capacity-building will nevertheless continue to be needed.’<sup>15</sup> Importantly, in order to secure those improvements, the resolution carefully balances calls for accountability for past violations with international support for long-term efforts to build the human rights capacity and resilience

of Sudan, including through the implementation of recommendations received from the UN human rights mechanisms (e.g., UPR). Regarding the delivery of international support, the resolution ‘urges Member States, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, relevant United Nations agencies and other stakeholders to continue to support the efforts of the Government of the Sudan to further improve the situation of human rights in the country, including by responding to the Government's requests for technical assistance and capacity-building,’ and ‘requests the Secretary-General to provide all the resources necessary to enable the country office of the Office of the High Commissioner in the Sudan and its field presences to fulfil their mandates.’ Finally, and perhaps unsurprisingly, with the resolution the Council decided to ‘end the mandate of the Independent Expert.’<sup>16</sup>

These assertions and decisions by the Council, together with the High Commissioner's rapid response to the situation in Sudan, especially her decision to establish a strong, country-wide presence, suggest that the UN's human rights pillar may have learnt the lessons of its past mistakes, and be ready to rise to the challenge posed by this important new test of its effectiveness and delivery.

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<sup>14</sup> United Nations. Human Rights Council. Resolution 45/25. 14 October 2020.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.





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

Members of the Human Rights Council (Council) hold the main responsibility for pursuing and fulfilling the body's important mandate and thereby 'promoting universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all' (GA resolution 60/251).

When establishing the Council, the UN General Assembly (GA) decided that it would consist of 47 member States, elected by a majority of its members. 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 aims to promote transparency around the degree to which the Council and its members are delivering on this 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.





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PART I

# 2020

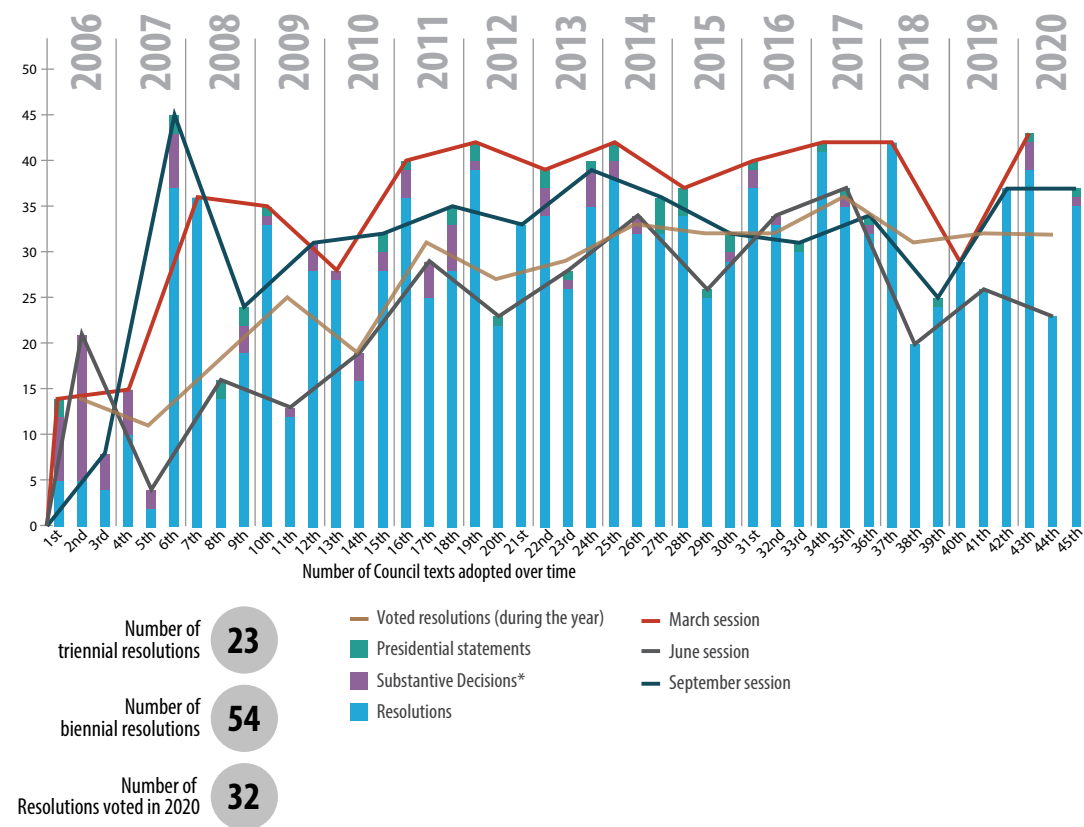
**THE WORK, OUTPUT AND  
PERFORMANCE OF THE COUNCIL  
AND ITS MECHANISMS**

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# THE COUNCIL'S FOCUS AND OUTPUT: RESOLUTIONS AND MECHANISMS

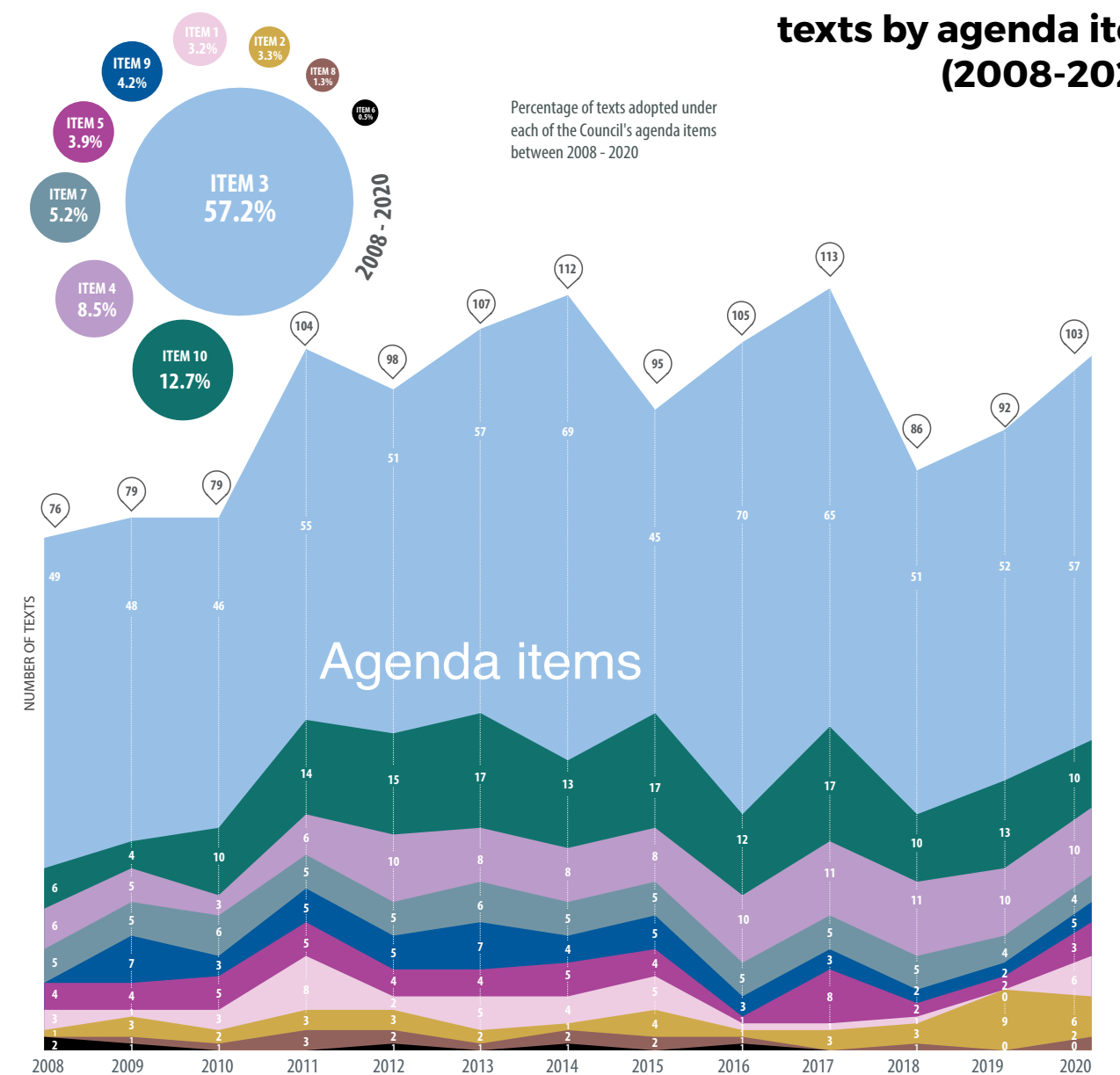
## The focus of the Council's texts by agenda item (2008-2020)

Number of Council texts adopted over time



Data source: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights ('OHCHR') website / URG Resolutions Portal.

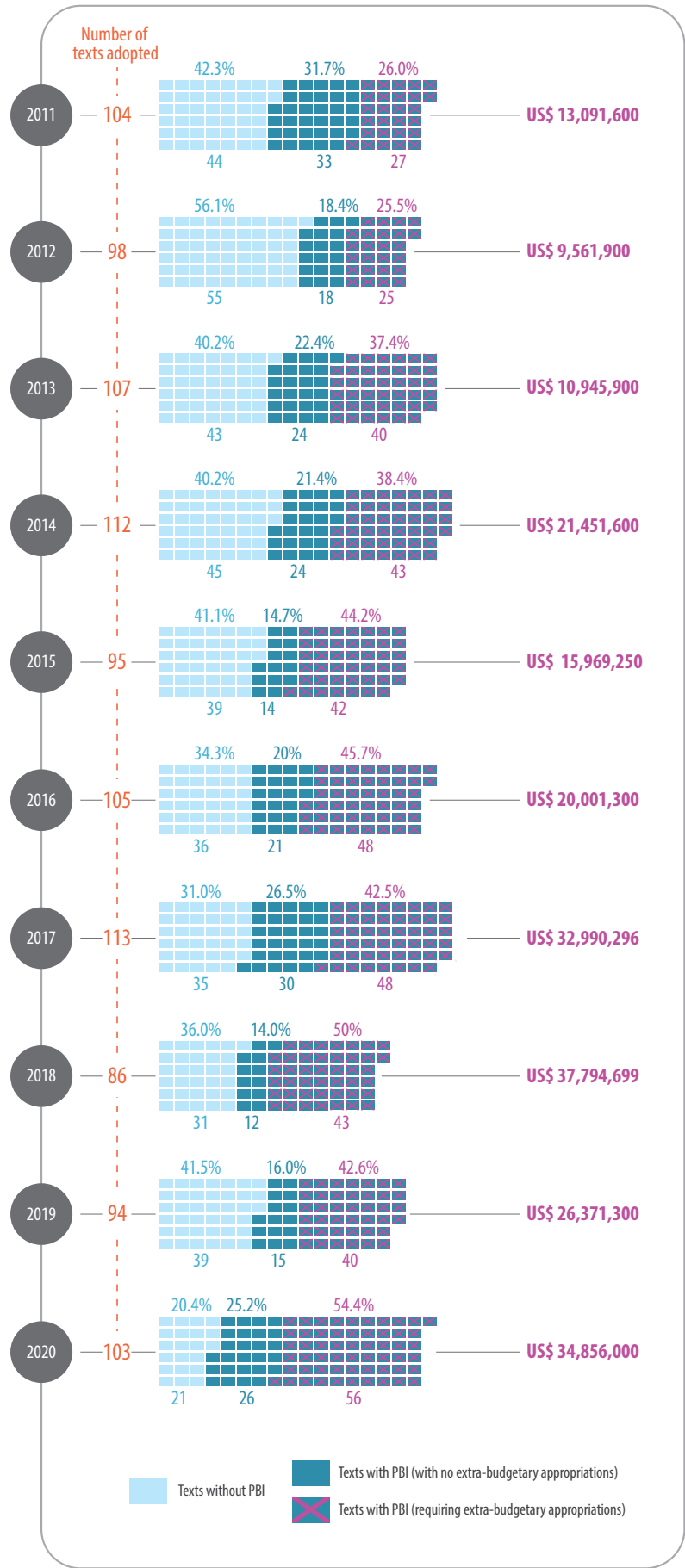
- 2020 saw the highest number of texts (43) adopted during a March session since the creation of the Council in 2006.
- The overall number of texts adopted in the calendar year (103), a number that had been decreasing over the past two years, began to rise again in 2020. This represents a setback for efforts to improve the Council's efficiency.
- 2020 saw the highest number of Council decisions (4) adopted since 2014. Three of these decisions were approved during the March session and were related to procedural changes necessary to keep the Council operating during the COVID-19 health pandemic.



- As in every other year since the Council's creation, the majority of resolutions (57 out of 103) generated by the Council in 2020 were thematic texts adopted under agenda item 3 (the 'Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, including the right to development').
- The number of resolutions (6) adopted under agenda item 1 ('organisational and procedural matters'), was the second highest in the history of the Council (after 2011 when 8 of such texts were adopted) – mainly reflecting the impacts of COVID-19. Four of these were purely procedural, one addressed a country-specific situation (the situation in Belarus in the run-up to the 2020 presidential election and in its aftermath) and one addressed a theme (the rights of Africans and of people of African descent in the context of police brutality).
- The number of resolutions (5) adopted under agenda item 9 (racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia) was the second highest in six years, after 2017 when 8 were adopted.

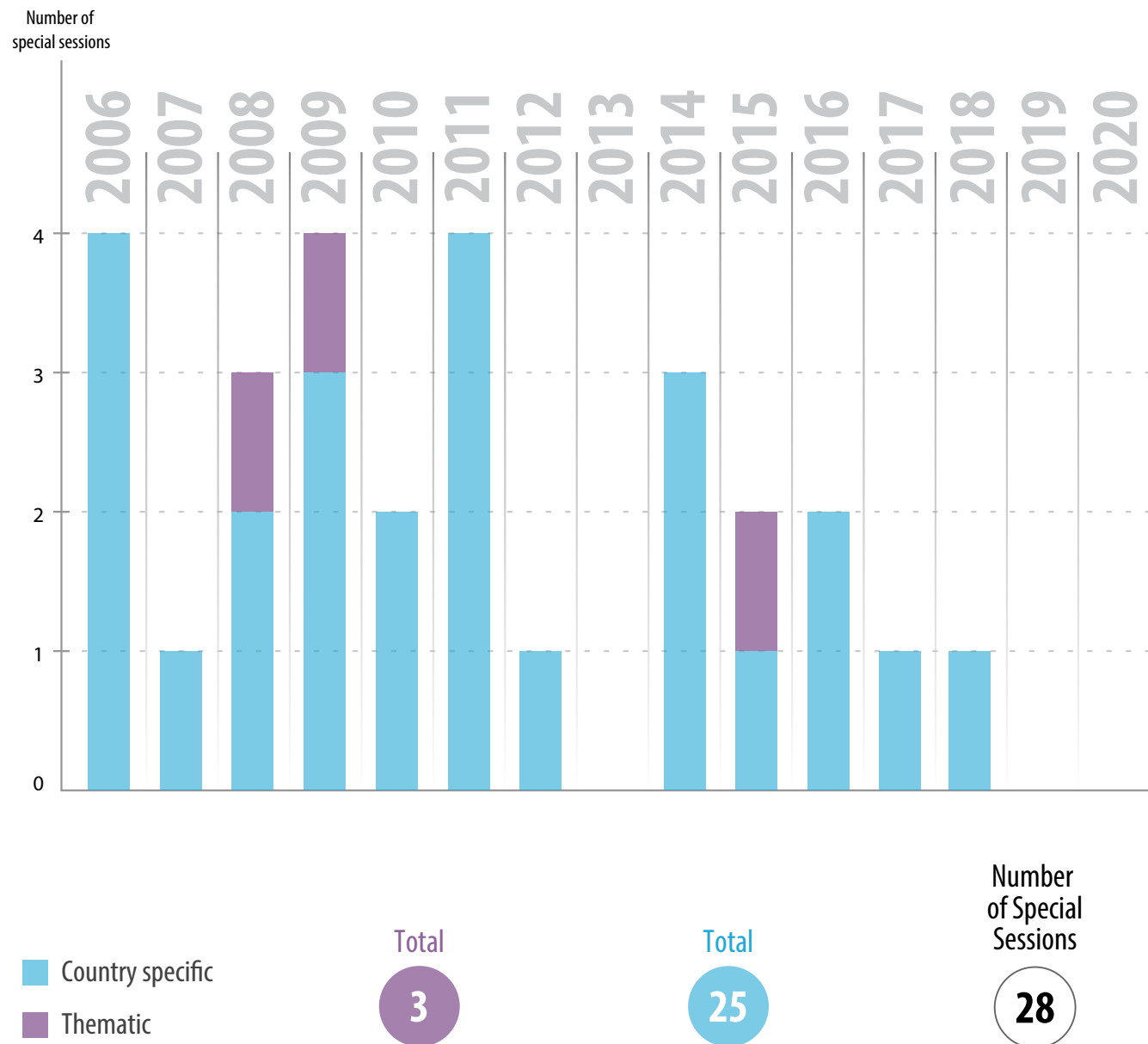


# Financial implications of Council resolutions (2011-2020)

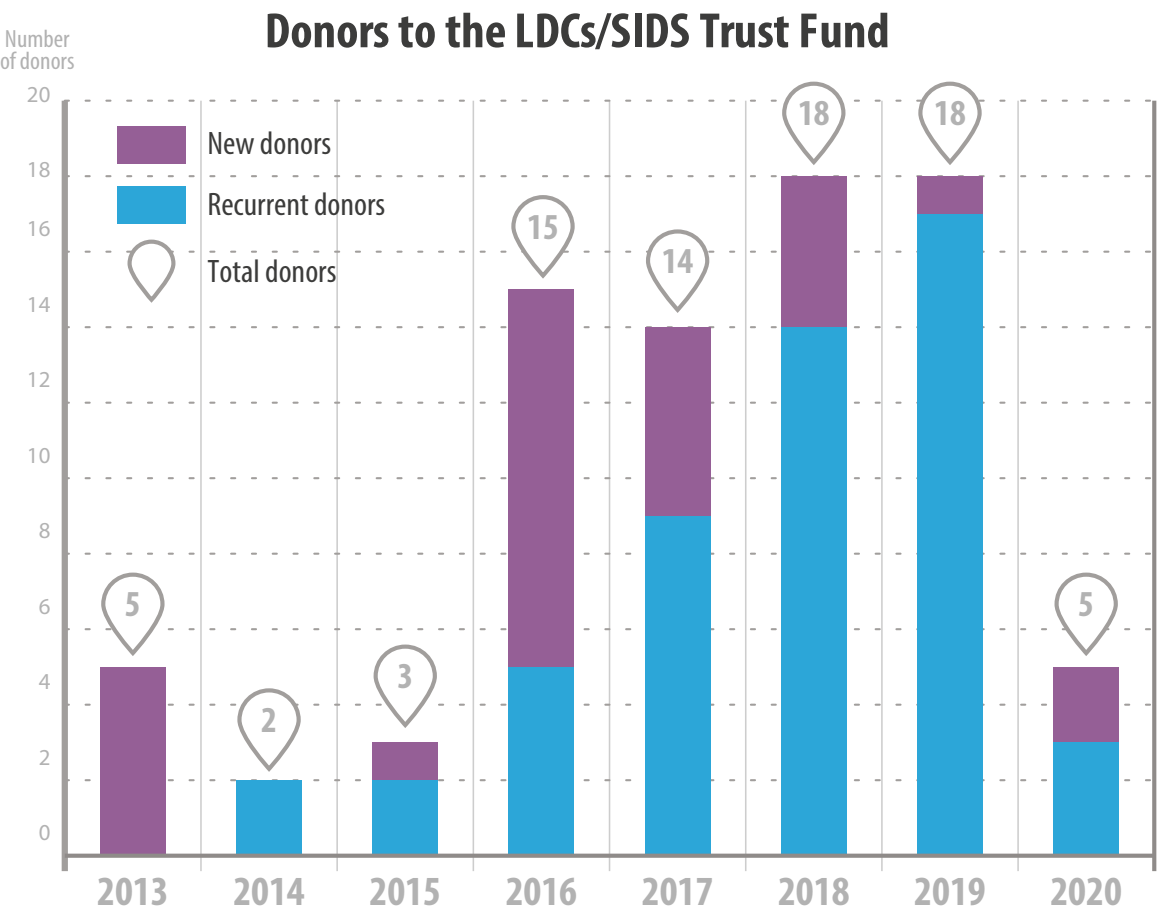


Data Source: Programme Budget Implications (PBIs) arising from each resolution (2012-2020) available on the OHCHR extranet and via the URG Resolutions Portal.

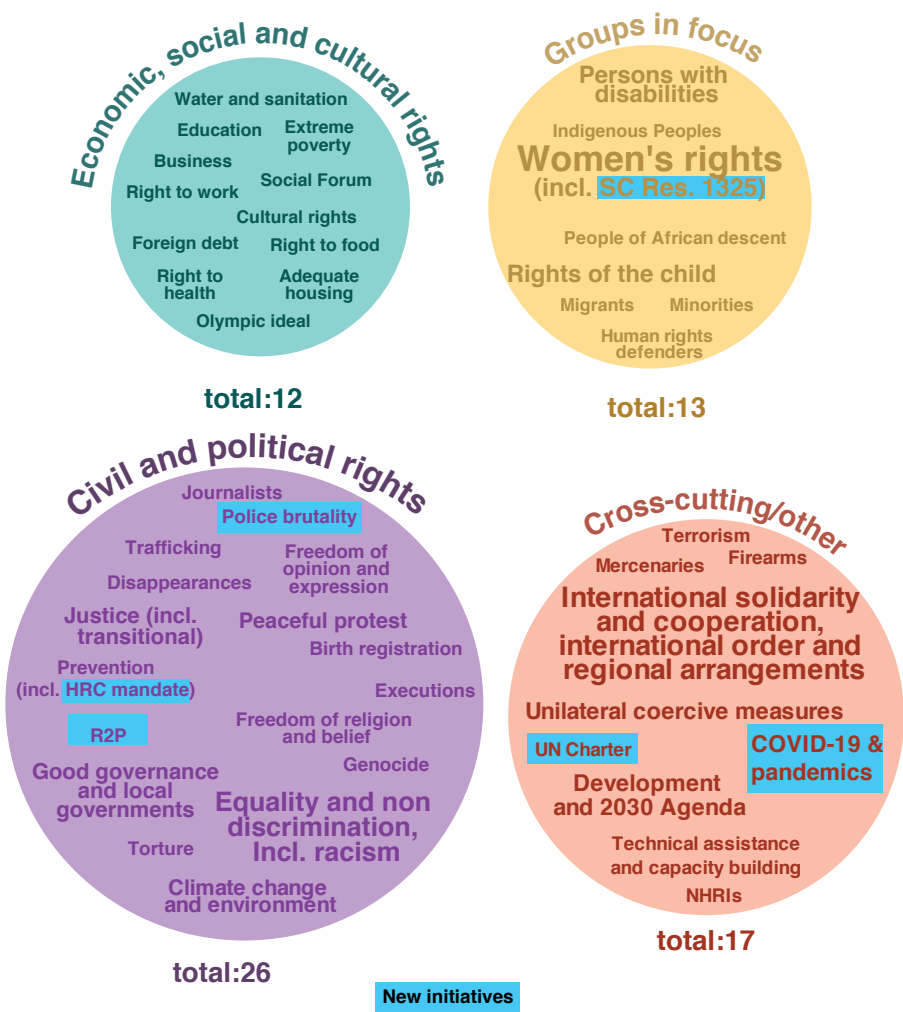
# Evolution of Council Special Sessions since 2006



# Donors of the Voluntary Trust Fund to support the participation of LDCs and SIDS in the Council 2020



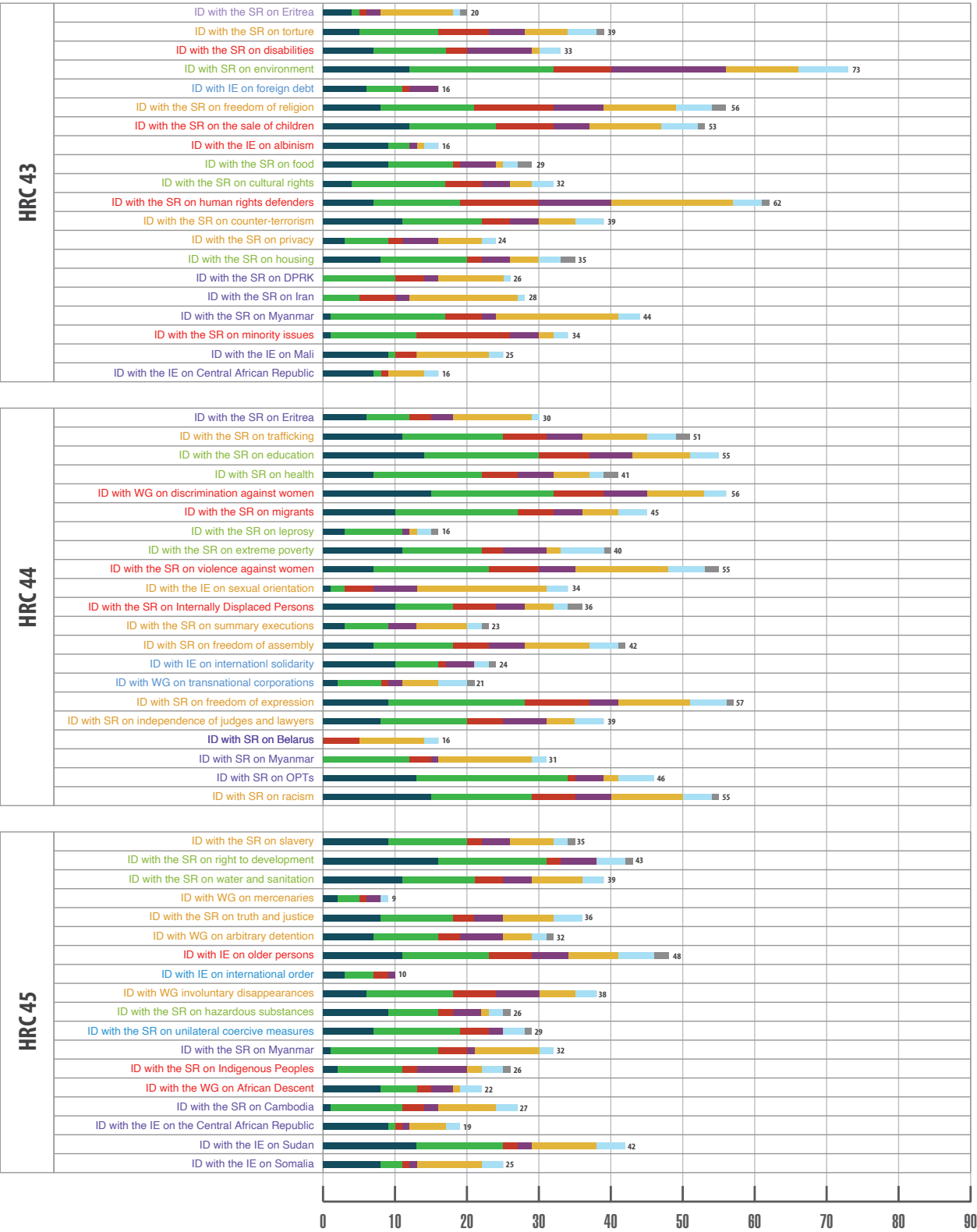
# Top themes in 2020: focus of thematic resolutions



The size of each bubble and word/phrase within the bubble relates to the number of resolutions adopted with that focus/theme in 2020.  
Data source: Council resolutions available on the OHCHR extranet and via the URG Resolutions Portal.

- 2020 saw more than twice as many on civil and political rights (CPR) texts as there were economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) concerns – for the first time since the body’s establishment in 2006. Almost all of these were adopted by consensus.
- For CPR resolutions, the most popular theme was equality and non-discrimination. Within this theme, racism was the most prevalent subtopic.
- Turning to groups in focus, Council resolutions once again displayed a strong focus on women’s and girls’ rights.
- Another notable trend was the continued emergence of initiatives designed to ‘bridge’ the Geneva-New York divide. For example, three new resolutions were tabled on: promoting and protecting the human rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000); the fifteenth anniversary of the responsibility to protect populations from genocide, war crimes, ethnic cleansing and crimes against humanity, as enshrined in the World Summit Outcome of 2005; and the contribution of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms to achieving the purposes and upholding the principles of the Charter of the United Nations.

State participation in Interactive Dialogues of the Special Procedures in 2020

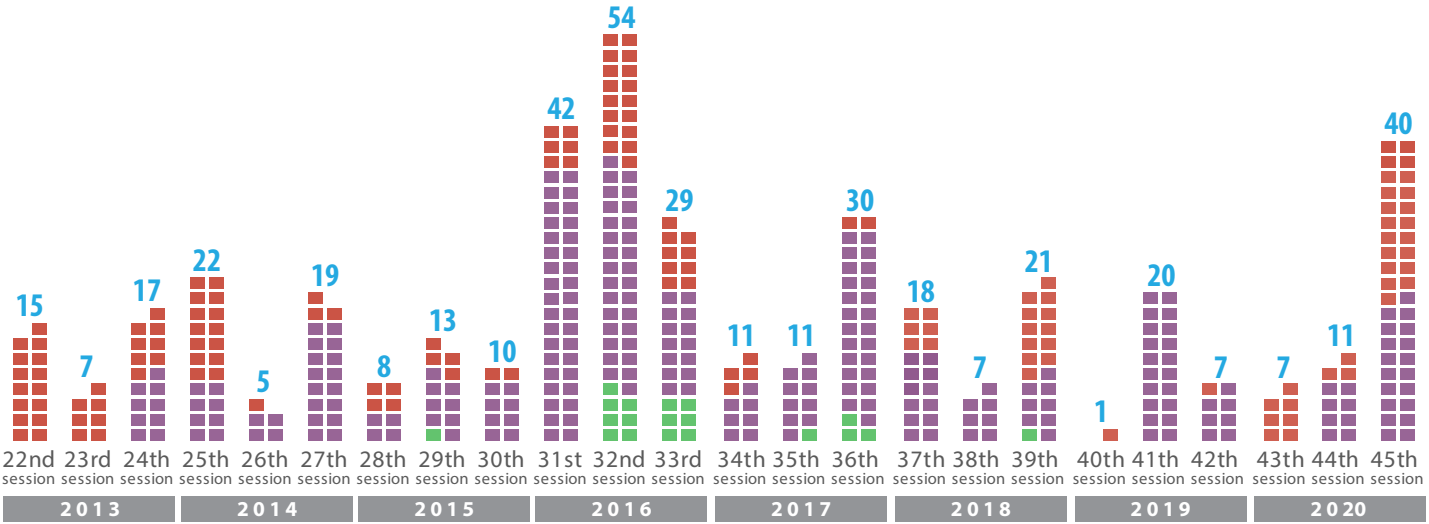


Data source: OHCHR extranet.  
Note: For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology, please see endnote.

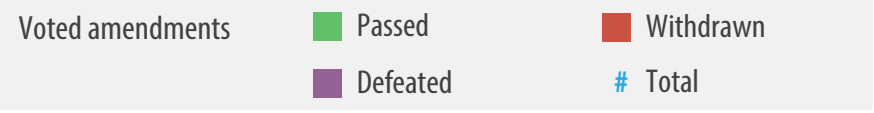
Evolution of amendments to Council resolutions



Session of the Human Rights Council



Session of the Human Rights Council

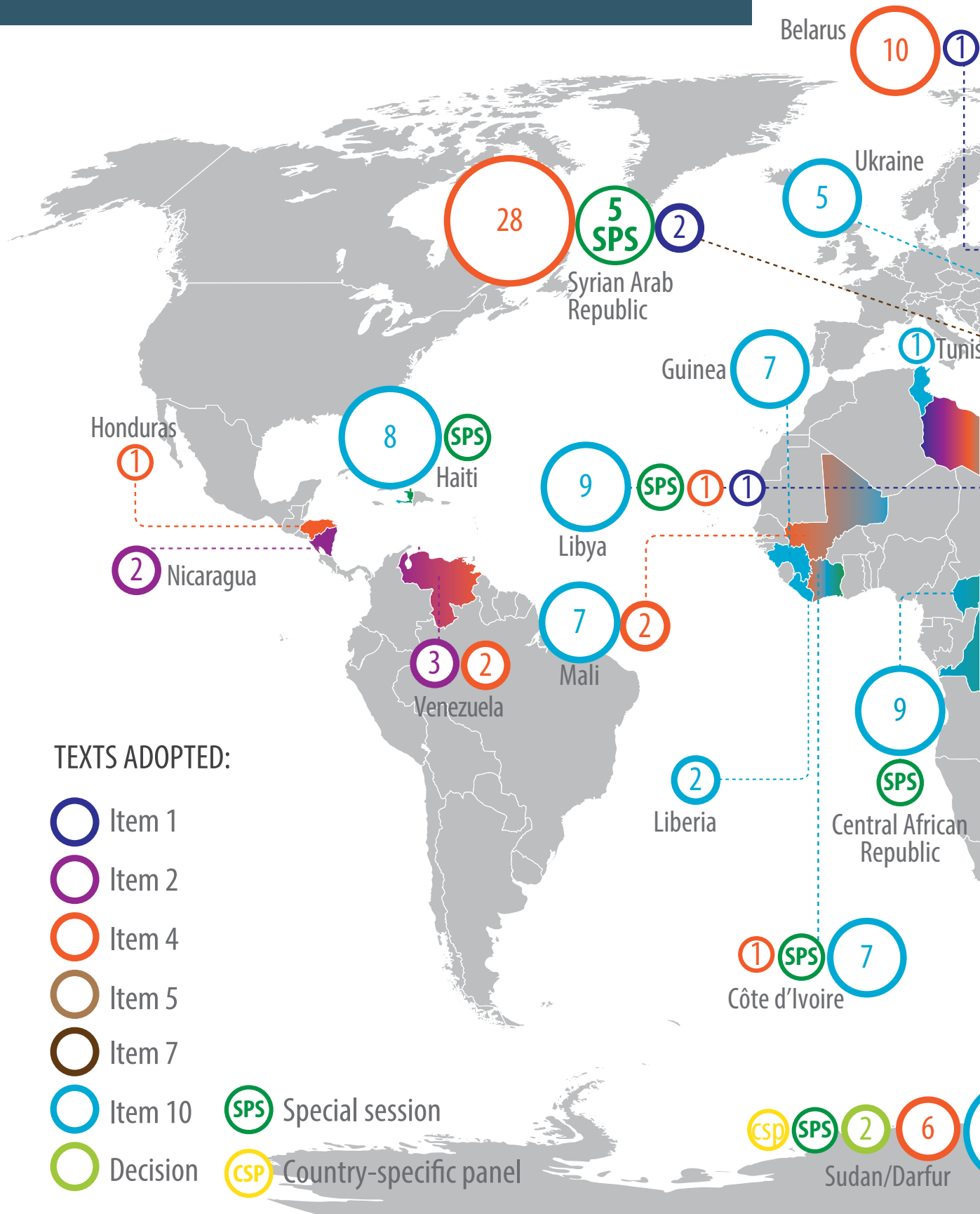


Data source: OHCHR extranet.  
Note: For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology, please see endnote.

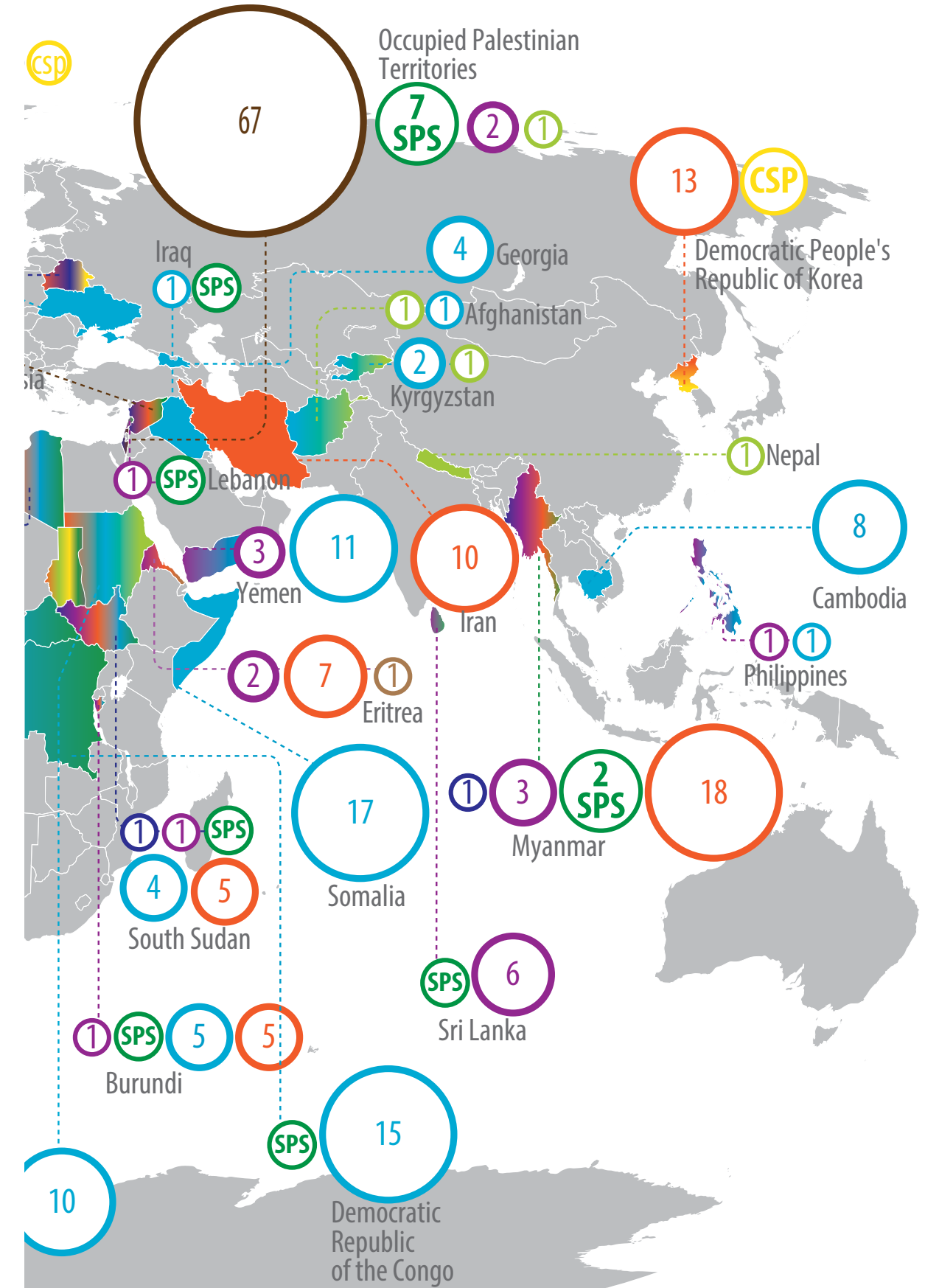


GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS OF THE COUNCIL

GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS OF COUNCIL TEXTS, SPECIAL SESSIONS,  
AND PANELS (2006-2020)

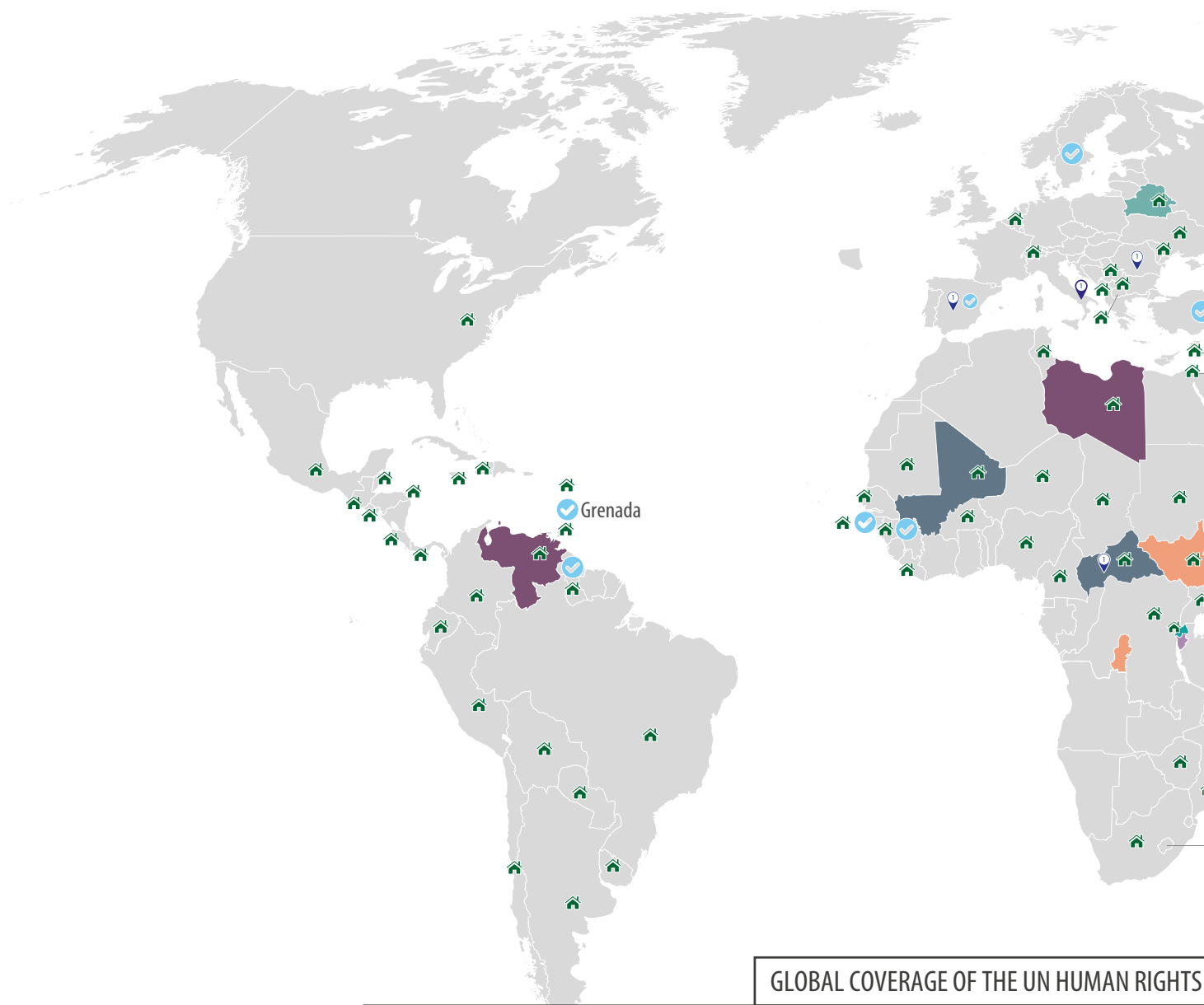


Data source: Council texts (resolutions, decisions, or presidential statements) 2006-2020, available on the OHCHR extranet and via the URG Resolutions Portal.

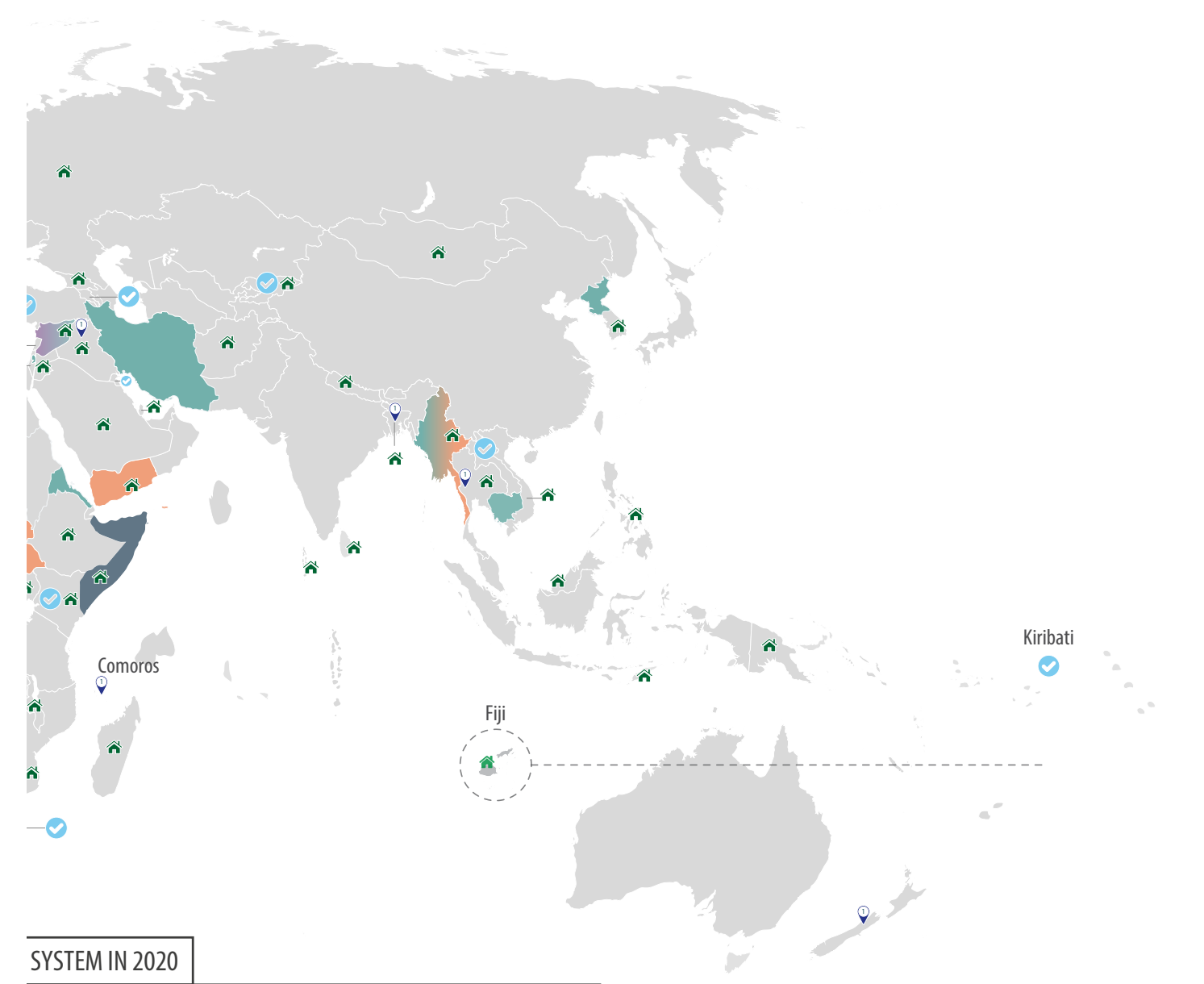


Note: For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology, please see endnote.

# Global coverage of the UN human rights system in 2020



GLOBAL COVERAGE OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS		
SPECIAL PROCEDURES VISITS	COUNTRY-SPECIFIC SPECIAL PROCEDURES	
	Special Rapporteur	Independent Expert
Number of visits by thematic experts	Commissions of Inquiry	Fact-Finding Mission



SYSTEM IN 2020		
REGIONS	UPR	OHCHR PRESENCE
Other	UPR review completed 2020	OHCHR field presence during 2020

Data source: Council texts (resolutions, decisions, or presidential statements) 2006-2020, available on the OHCHR extranet and via the URG Resolutions Portal.

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



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PART II

2020

**COUNCIL MEMBER STATES:  
ENGAGEMENT, PRINCIPAL  
SPONSORSHIP AND  
COOPERATION**

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## MEMBERSHIP OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL IN 2020

Data source: OHCHR website. Note: For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology please see endnote.

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

## Secretary-General's report

In September 2020, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Ms Ilze Brands Kehris, presented an eleventh annual report (pursuant to Council resolution 12/2) on: 'Cooperation with the UN its representatives, and mechanisms in the field of human rights.'

With resolution 12/2, the Council had 'expressed concern over continued reports of intimidation and reprisals against individuals and groups seeking to cooperate or having cooperated with the UN,'<sup>17</sup> its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights, and had condemned all acts of intimidation and reprisal.

The 2020 report explains that 'forms of reprisal, retaliation for ongoing or past cooperation, and

intimidation, designed to discourage future participation or cooperation, have continued in relation to cooperation with a wide range of United Nations organizations at Headquarters and in the field, perpetrated by both State and non-State actors. During the reporting period, incidents or trends were addressed within the United Nations system in the Secretariat, its field offices and peace operations, and by specialized agencies such as the International Labour Organization (ILO).'<sup>18</sup>

Specific to the 2020 world context, the report explains how the COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on civil society cooperation with the UN, mostly because activities have had to be cancelled or transformed in order to comply with biosecurity measures. In this regard, the report

recalls that the High-Commissioner for Human Rights urged States to adopt flexible and virtual channels to safeguard civil society participation. Notwithstanding the changes introduced in response to the pandemic, the report notes that reprisals and intimidation have continued and remain a serious cause for concern.

The Secretary-General's report also outlines steps taken by the UN and its mechanisms to address reprisals and intimidation, including relevant Council and GA resolutions,<sup>19</sup> and responses on the part of Council Presidents, Special Procedures mandate-holders, and Treaty Bodies.<sup>20</sup> The report also mentions a February 2020 Security Council 'Aria formula' meeting on reprisals,<sup>21</sup> and OHCHR's discussion organised on

the margins of the General Assembly to analyse the trends and risks faced by people cooperating with the UN, with a focus on women, indigenous and environmental human rights defenders.<sup>22</sup>

Importantly, the Secretary-General's report identifies a number of groups as being at particular risks of reprisals, namely: women, LGBTI persons, individuals working on and defending sex- and gender-rights, persons delivering statements before the Security Council, youth activists, minority groups, and indigenous peoples.

17. United Nations, Secretary-General. Annual report of the United Nations Secretary-General. Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights. September 2020, UN Symbol: A/HRC/45/36.

18. United Nations, Secretary-General. Annual report of the United Nations Secretary-General. Cooperation with the United

Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights. September 2020, UN Symbol: A/HRC/45/36.

19. General Assembly resolution 74/146, 74/156 and 74/246; and Council resolutions 41/2 (Philippines); 42/25 (Venezuela); 42/26 (Burundi); and 43/2 (Nicaragua); and 42/28 and 45/42.

20. See: United Nations, thirty-second meeting of Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies. UN symbol: HRI/mc/2020/2/Rev.1

21. United Nations. Reprisals against women who engage with the Security Council. Available at: <http://webtv.un.org/search/reprisals-against-women-human-rights-defenders-and-women-peacebuilders-who-engage-with-the-security-coun->

[cil-and-its-subsiary-bodies-security-council-aria-formula-meeting/6134721356001/?term=aria&sort=date](http://webtv.un.org/search/reprisals-against-women-human-rights-defenders-and-women-peacebuilders-who-engage-with-the-security-council-and-its-subsiary-bodies-security-council-aria-formula-meeting/6134721356001/?term=aria&sort=date).

22. Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Events on reprisals. [www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Reprisals/Pages/GAEvents.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Reprisals/Pages/GAEvents.aspx).

Additionally, as with each annual report on reprisals, the report summarises and provides information on reported allegations of intimidation and reprisals in different UN member States. In 2020, the Secretary-General presents information on cases in the following countries:

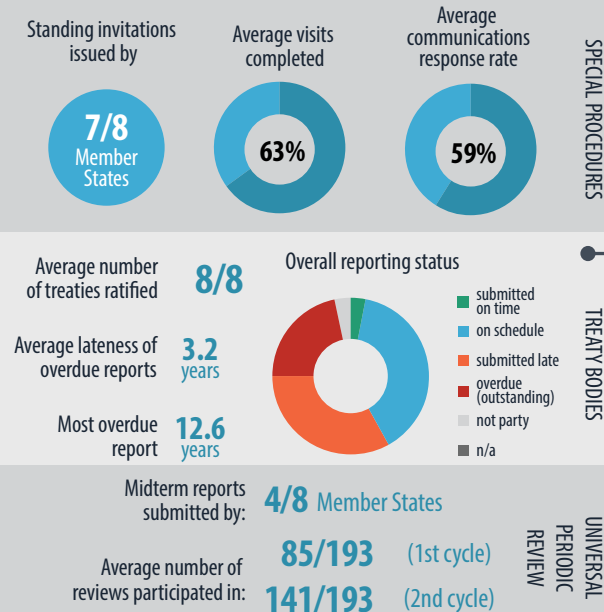
Algeria	Libya
Andorra	Mali
Bahrain	Mexico
Bangladesh	Morocco
Burundi	Myanmar
Cambodia	Nicaragua
Cameroon	Pakistan
China	Philippines
Colombia	Poland
Comoros	Russian Federation
Cuba	Saudi Arabia
Democratic Republic of the Congo	South Sudan
Egypt	Sri Lanka
Equatorial Guinea	Thailand
Honduras	Turkey
India	Uzbekistan
Israel	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Kazakhstan	Viet Nam
Kuwait	Yemen
Lao People's Democratic Republic	State of Palestine

Finally, and again in line with previous annual reports the document summarises responses it has received from States to the allegations made in previous reports. In 2020, the Secretary-General reports having received responses from the following countries:

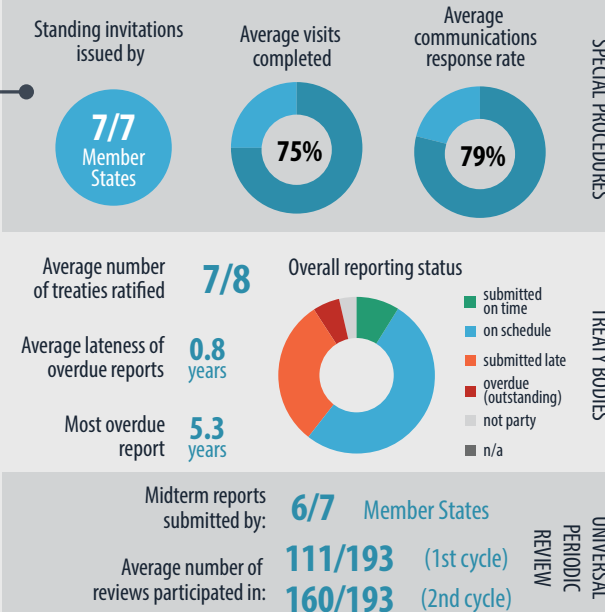
Algeria	Libya
Andorra	Mali
Bahrain	Mexico
Bangladesh	Morocco
Burundi	Myanmar
Cambodia	Nicaragua
Cameroon	Pakistan
China	Philippines
Colombia	Poland
Comoros	Russian Federation
Cuba	Saudi Arabia
Democratic Republic of the Congo	South Sudan
Egypt	Sri Lanka
Equatorial Guinea	Thailand
Honduras	Turkey
India	Uzbekistan
Israel	Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)
Kazakhstan	Viet Nam
Kuwait	Yemen
Lao People's Democratic Republic	State of Palestine



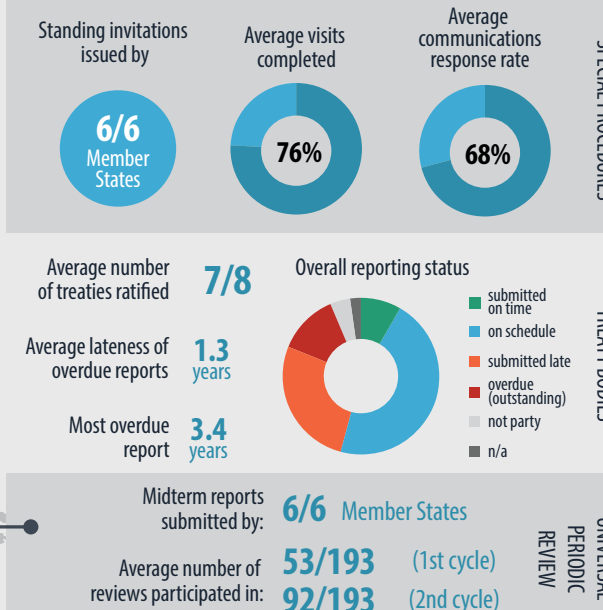
## Latin America and Caribbean Group



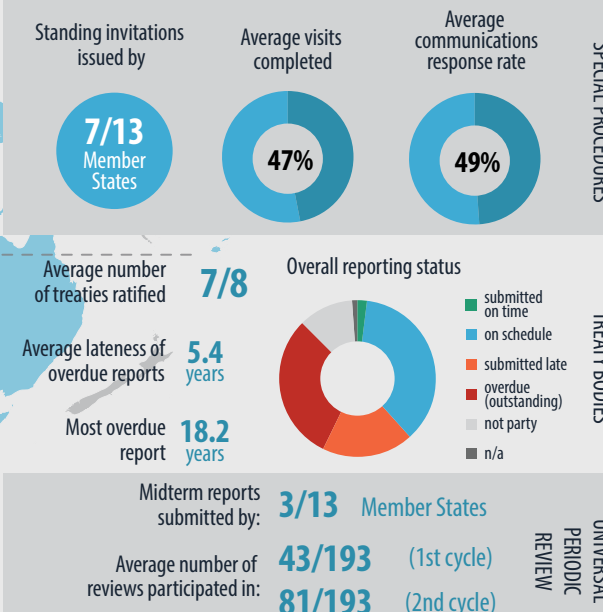
## Western Europe and Others Group



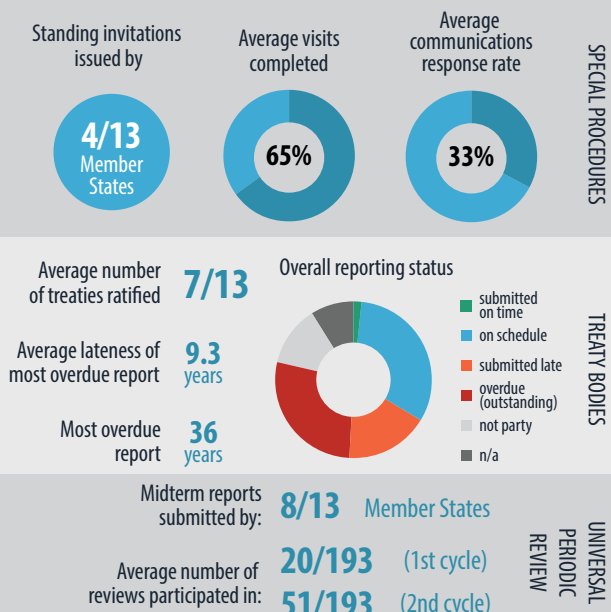
## Eastern European Group



## Asia Pacific Group



## African Group










































# GLOBAL OVERVIEW OF COOPERATION

- Standing invitation issued
- UPR midterm report submitted

# African Group (AG)

## Overview of Members

		Voluntary contribution to OHCHR - 2019	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR - 2020	NHRI accreditation status	Membership terms to date
Angola				—	3
Burkina Faso				Lapsed accreditation	3
Cameroon				A	3
Democratic Republic of the Congo				A	1
Eritrea				X	1
Libya				B	2
Mauritania				A	2
Namibia				A	2
Nigeria				A	4
Senegal				B	3
Somalia				X	1
Sudan				X	1
Togo				B	2

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

## Principal sponsorship

During 2020, African members of the Council led (as main sponsors/part of a core group) on a number of important resolutions, covering both thematic and country-specific issues.

At a thematic level, members of the African Group (AG) led, *inter alia*, on the following issues:

**Namibia:** rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000); responding to pandemics; freedom of opinion and expression; and adequate housing.

**Senegal:** extreme poverty; and regional arrangements.

**Togo:** contribution of human rights to achieving the purposes of the UN Charter.

At country-specific level, in 2020, African members led, *inter alia*, on the following situations:

**Somalia:** assistance to Somalia.

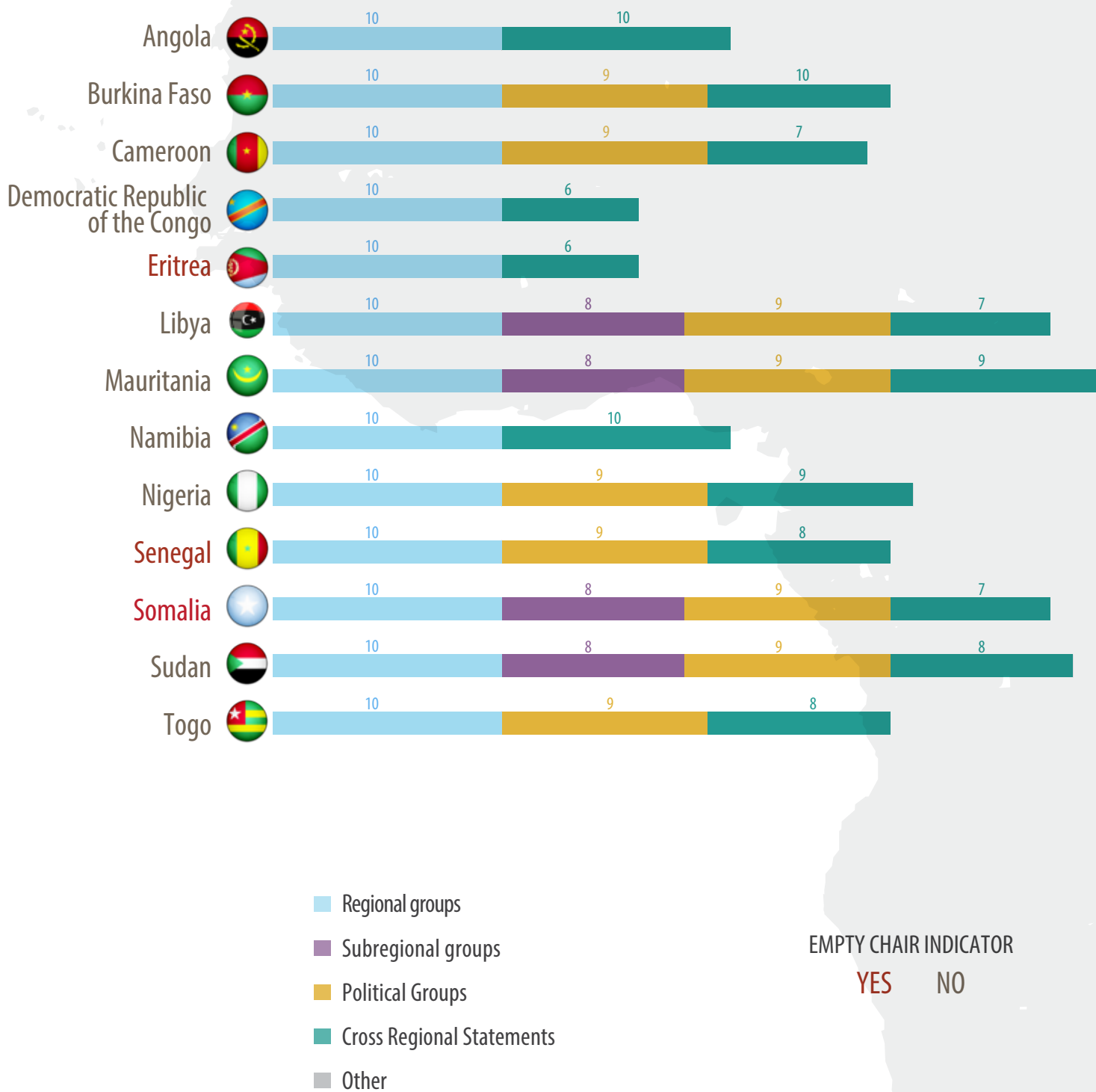
**Sudan:** technical assistance and capacity-building for Yemen.

Notwithstanding such individual leadership, it is important to note that African States often work through their regional group. In 2020, the **African Group** led on, *inter alia*, the following resolutions: Working Group on the activities of private military and security companies; hazardous

waste; 20th anniversary of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action; Working Group on African Descent; female genital mutilation; protecting the rights of Africans and of people of African descent against excessive use of force by law enforcement officers; Working Group to implement the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action; and Special Rapporteur on racism.

The African Group also led on Council initiatives aimed at the delivery of technical assistance to strengthen the enjoyment of human rights in certain States, including in Mali, Libya, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Central African Republic, and Sudan.

Contribution to Council debates, panel discussions and dialogues in 2020



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. The empty chair symbol indicates whether, overall, the country, as a Council member, participated (individual statements) in more than 10% of panel discussions, general debates, and interactive dialogues. For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology, please see endnote.

Voting analysis

With regard to the only country-specific resolution tabled under agenda item 1 (organisational and procedural matters) during 2020, namely, a text on the situation of human rights in Belarus in the run-up to the 2020 presidential election and in its aftermath, all African members of the Council abstained, with the exception of Eritrea (which voted against).

Turning to country-specific resolutions tabled under agenda item 2 (report of the High Commissioner), when a vote was called during 2020, AG members of the Council tended to abstain or vote against resolutions on the situation of human rights in Eritrea, promotion and protection of human rights in Nicaragua and on the situation of human rights in Yemen, and to vote in favour of the item 2 resolution on ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory -OPT, including East Jerusalem. The exceptions regarding the latter (the resolution on the OPT) were Cameroon and the Democratic Republic of Congo (both abstained), and Togo (voted against). Regarding an item 2 resolution on strengthening cooperation and technical assistance in the field of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, AG members were divided: Angola, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Eritrea, Namibia and Sudan voted in favour; while DRC, Libya, Mauritania, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia and Togo abstained.

Concerning the resolutions tabled under agenda item 4 (human rights situations that require the Council's attention), in the absence of consensus, members of the AG tended to abstain or vote against. Nonetheless, there were some exceptions, including, *inter alia*: African States voted in favour of the resolution on Myanmar (with the exceptions of Angola, Cameroon, DRC and Senegal, which abstained); Togo, Somalia and Libya voted in favour of three separate resolutions on the situation in Syria; and

Libya voted in favour of a text on the situation on Belarus.

During voting on item 7 resolutions (Occupied Palestinian Territories), African States tended to vote in favour of all texts. The exceptions were Cameroon and DRC (both abstained on all item 7 texts), and Togo (voted against once and abstained twice).

Most AG members abstained during voting on the only item 10 (technical assistance and capacity-building) text on which a vote was called in 2020, namely a resolution on cooperation with Georgia. The exceptions were Cameroon (voted against), Libya and Somalia (both voted in favour).

For item 3 resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, and cross-cutting issues, African States either joined consensus on, or voted in favour of, nearly all adopted texts. Exceptions include the following abstentions: Libya during voting on resolutions on the mandate of the Independent Expert on democratic and equitable international order, the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on human rights, and mutually beneficial cooperation; DRC during voting on texts on the mandate of the Independent Expert on democratic and equitable international order, and mutually beneficial cooperation; and Mauritania during voting on a text on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on human rights.

For item 3 resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, AG members abstained during voting on the one resolution on which a vote was called in 2020, namely the text on the responsibility to protect; except Togo, Somalia, Senegal, Libya and Nigeria, which voted in favour.

Turning to item 5 (human rights bodies and mechanisms), AG members were divided during the voting on the

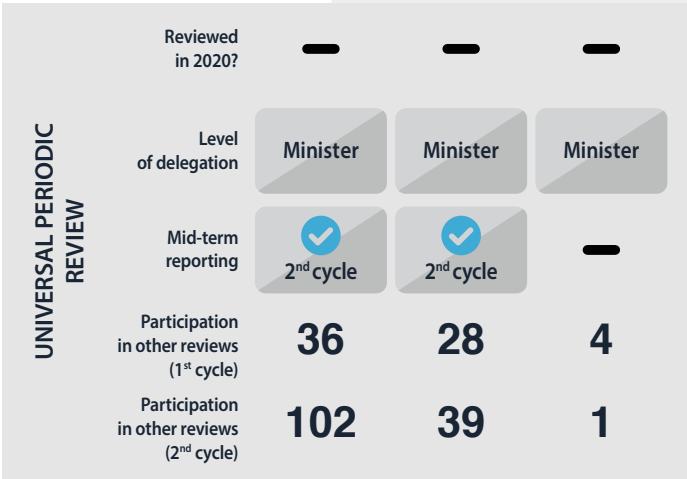
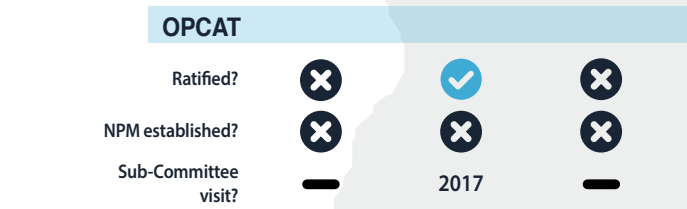
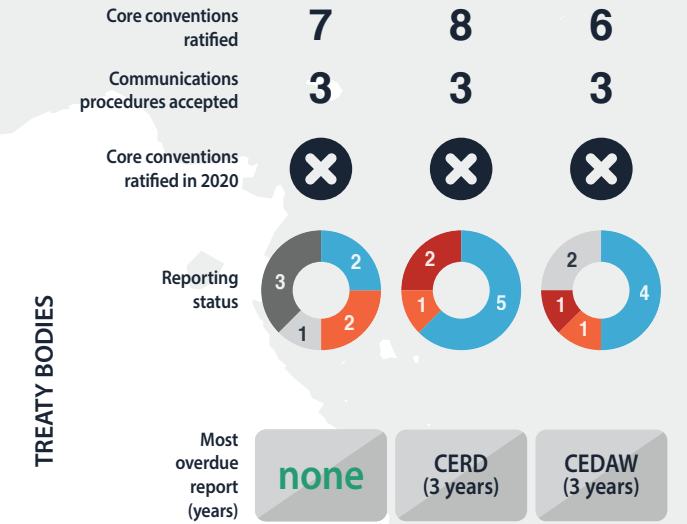
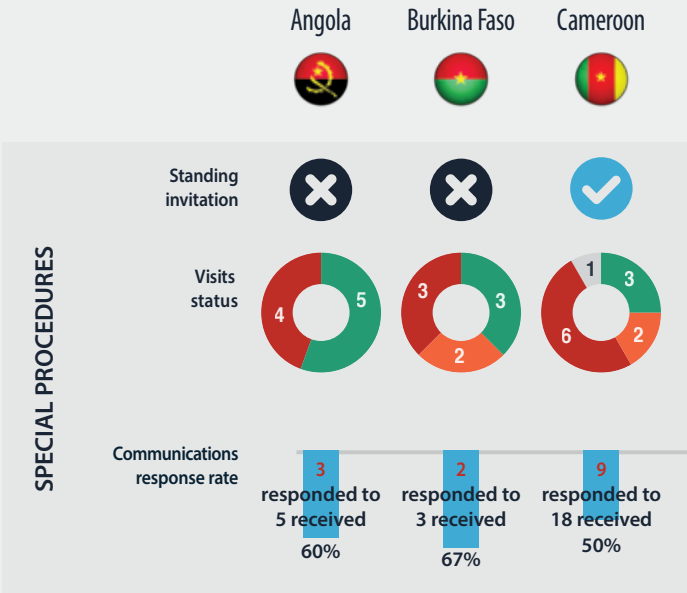


resolution on the contribution of the Council to the prevention of human rights violations: Angola, Burkina Faso, DRC, Togo, Somalia and Senegal voted in favour; Nigeria, Sudan, Eritrea, Mauritania, Namibia abstained; Libya did not vote; and Cameroon voted against.

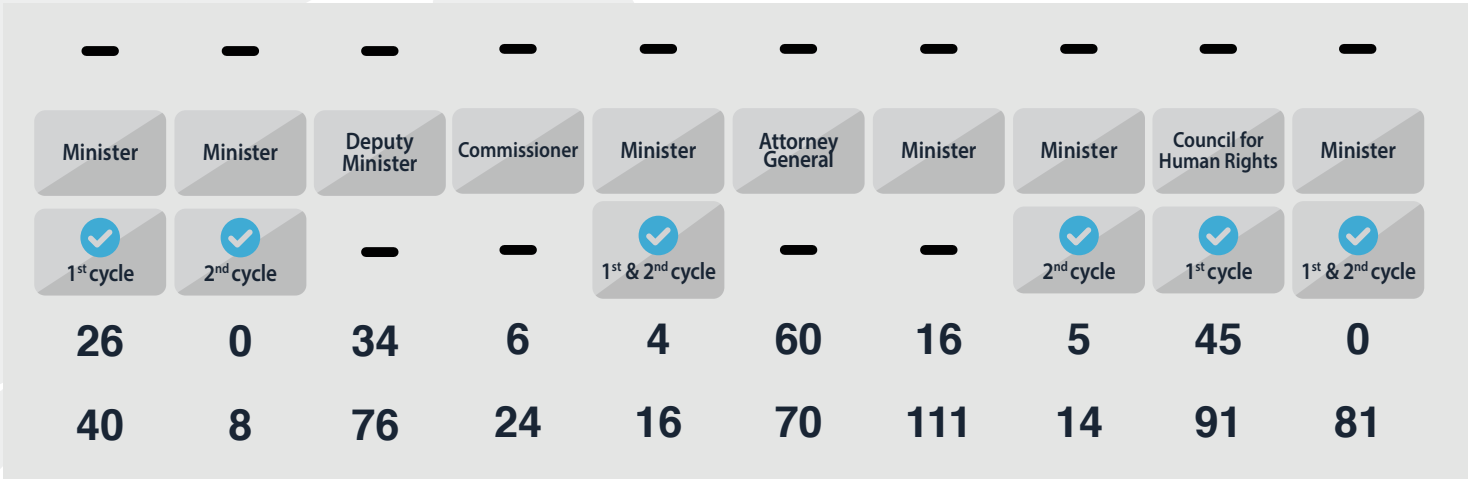
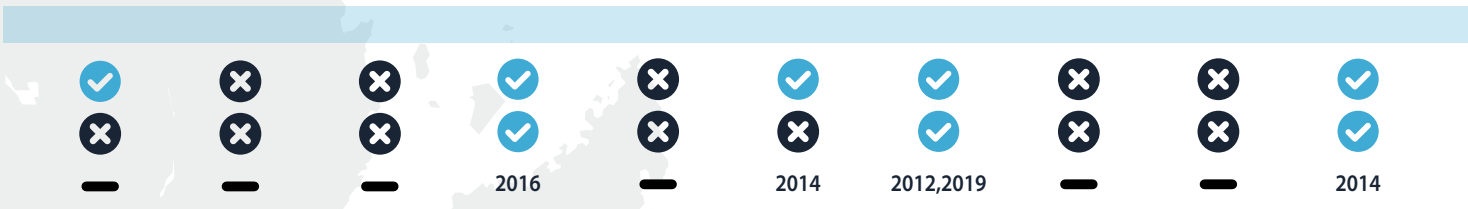
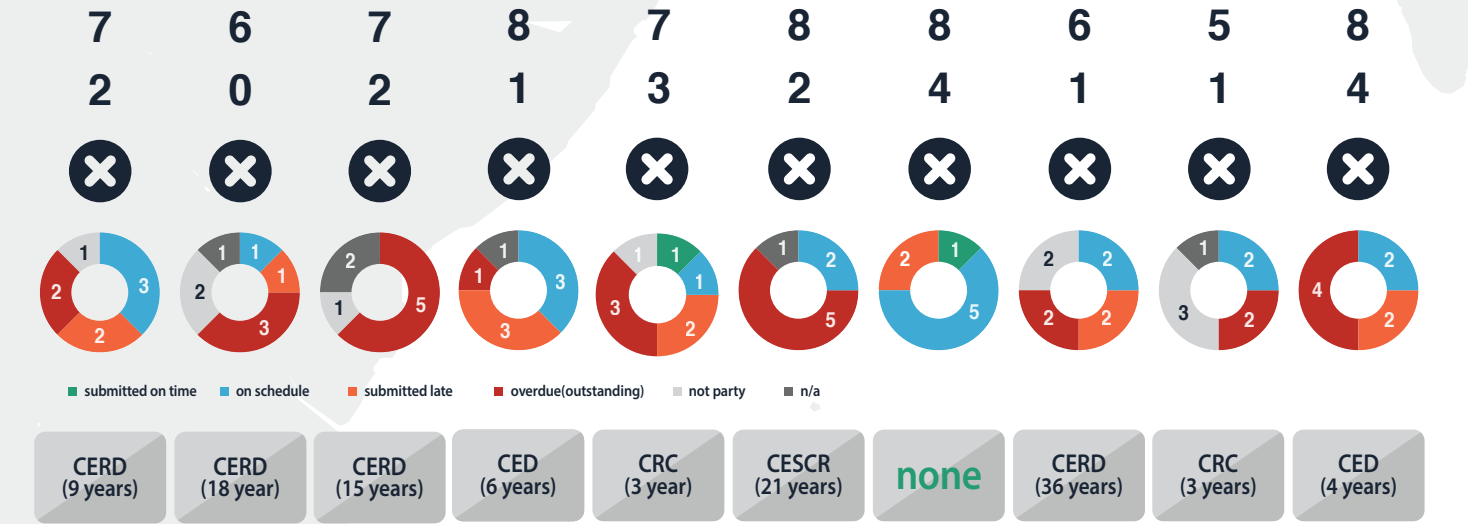
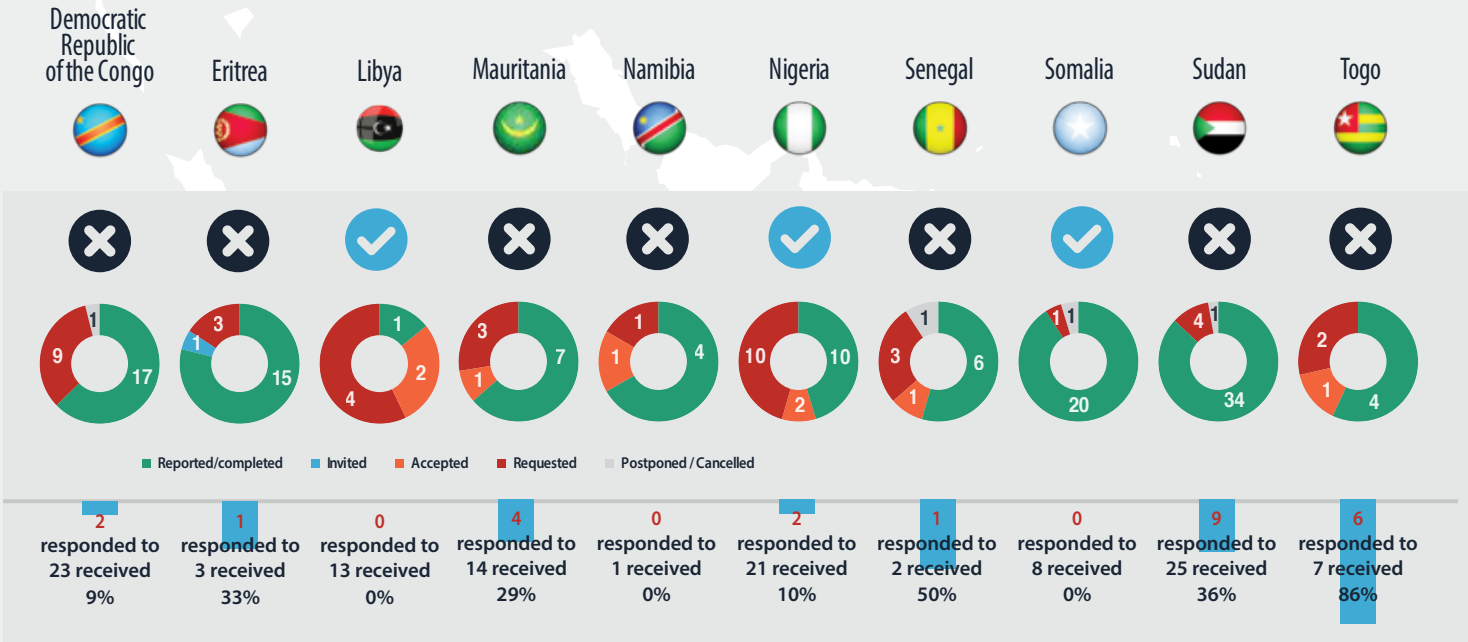
Finally, during the voting on the one item 8 (follow-up and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action) resolution on which a vote was called, namely, the text on the contribution of human rights to achieving the purposes of the UN Charter, almost all AG members voted in favour, except Eritrea, Mauritania, Namibia and Cameroon, which abstained.

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

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







Cooperation with human rights mechanisms



# Asia-Pacific Group (APG)

## Overview of Members

		Voluntary contribution to OHCHR - 2019	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR - 2020	NHRI accreditation status	Membership terms to date
Afghanistan				A	1
Bahrain				B	3
Bangladesh				B	4
Fiji				Suspended	1
India				A	5
Indonesia				A	5
Japan					5
Marshall Islands					1
Nepal				A	1
Pakistan					4
Philippines				A	5
Qatar				A	4
Republic of Korea				A	5

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

## Principal sponsorship

During 2020, Asia-Pacific Group (APG) members of the Council led (as main sponsors/part of a core group) on a number of important resolutions, covering both thematic and country-specific issues.

At a thematic level, APG members led, *inter alia*, on the following issues:

**Bangladesh:** climate change.

**Fiji:** women’s and girls’ rights in humanitarian situations; discrimination against persons affected by leprosy; freedom of opinion and expression; contribution of human rights to achieving the purposes of the Charter of the United Nations; and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**India:** discrimination against persons affected by leprosy.

**Indonesia:** technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights; and the right to work.

**Japan:** enforced or involuntary disappearances; discrimination against persons affected by leprosy; and the Olympic ideal.

**Nepal:** eliminating inequality within and among States.

**Pakistan:** eliminating inequality within and among States; and responding to pandemics.

**Philippines:** trafficking in persons; climate change; and extreme poverty.

**Qatar:** technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights; safety of journalists; and responsibility to protect.

At a country-specific level, in 2020, APG members led, *inter alia*, on the following resolutions:

**Bahrain:** technical assistance and capacity-building for Yemen.

**Philippines:** technical cooperation and capacity building in the Philippines.

**Qatar:** situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic (three texts).

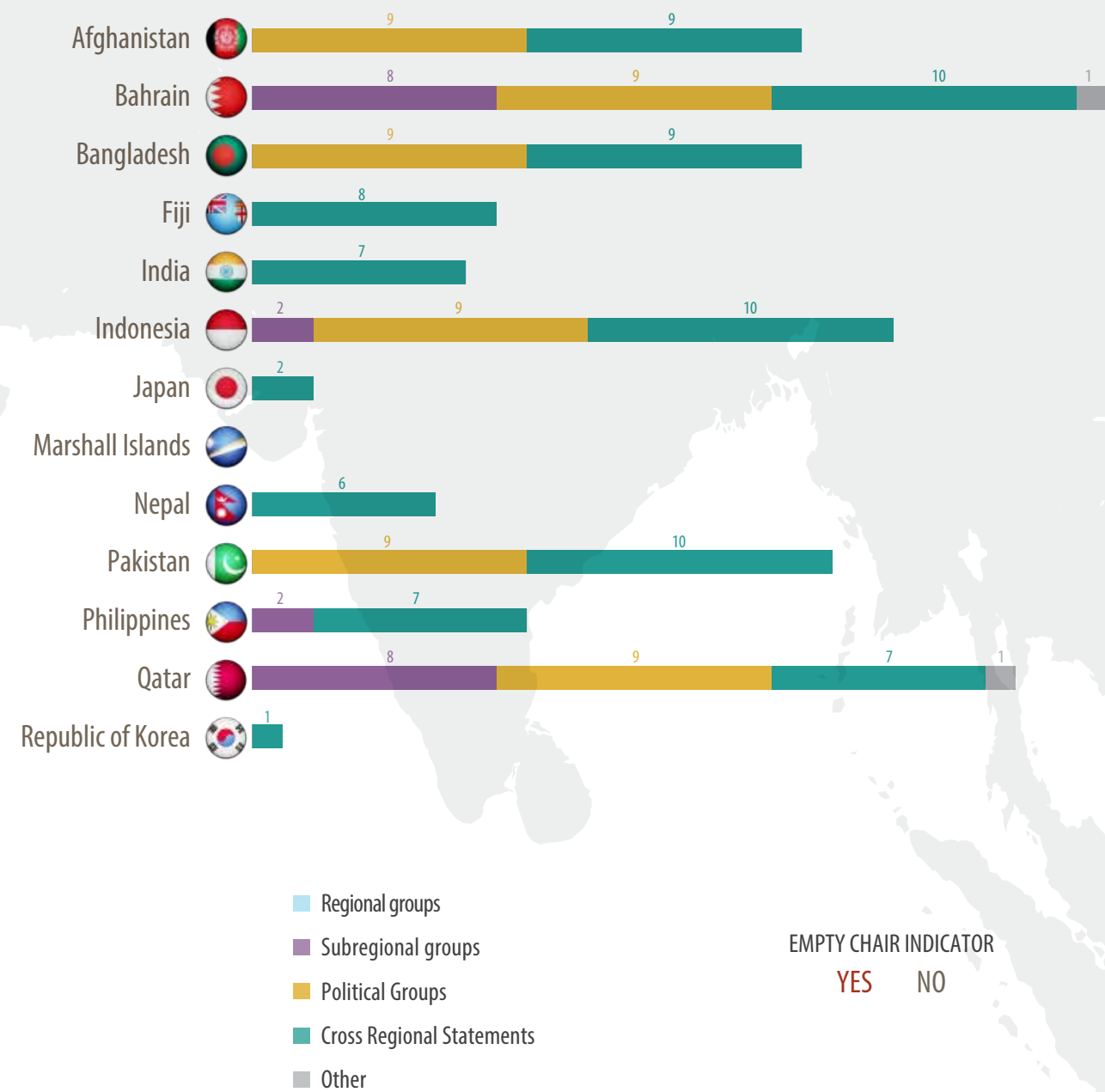
**Republic of Korea:** local government, good governance and the Olympic ideal.

Notwithstanding such individual leadership, it is important to note that some APG States regularly work through political groups, especially the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and the Arab Group. During 2020, the **OIC**, at thematic level, led on a resolution on combating intolerance and violence based on religion or belief.

At country-specific level, the **OIC** lead on the following resolutions: human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan; Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan; the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem; ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem; and right of the Palestinian people to self-determination.

In 2020, the **Arab Group** led on a resolution on technical assistance and capacity-building for Yemen.

# Contribution to Council debates, panel discussions, and dialogues in 2020



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. The empty chair symbol indicates whether, overall, the country, as a Council member, participated (individual statements) in more than 10% of panel discussions, general debates, and interactive dialogues. For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology, please see endnote.

## Voting analysis

With regard to the only country-specific resolution tabled under item 1 (organisational and procedural matters) on which a vote was called in 2020, namely, a text on the situation in Belarus in the run-up to the 2020 presidential election and in its aftermath, APG member States were divided: Afghanistan, Fiji, Japan, Marshall Islands and the Republic of Korea voted in favour, while Bahrain, Bangladesh, Indonesia, India, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines and Qatar abstained.

With regard to country-specific resolutions tabled under agenda item 2 (annual report of the High Commissioner), when a vote was called in 2020:

- Regarding resolutions on the situation of human rights in Yemen, situation of human rights in Eritrea and promotion and protection of human rights in Nicaragua, APG members tended to abstain or vote against. Notable exceptions included: Fiji, Republic of Korea and Marshall Islands (each voted in favour of the three resolutions); Afghanistan and Japan (both voted in favour of the texts on Eritrea and Nicaragua); and Qatar (voted in favour of the resolution on the situation of human rights in Yemen).

- Regarding a text on strengthening cooperation and technical assistance in the field of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, APG members of the Council were divided: Marshall Islands voted against, Republic of Korea, Japan, Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, and India abstained; and Fiji, Qatar, Nepal, Indonesia, Philippines and Pakistan voted in favour.

- Regarding an item 2 resolution on ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem: Republic of Korea, Marshall Islands, Japan, India, Nepal, and Philippines abstained; Fiji voted against; and Afghanistan, Qatar, Indonesia, Pakistan, Bahrain, and

Bangladesh voted in favour.

With regard to item 4 texts (situations that require the Council's attention), when a vote was called in 2020:

- Fiji, Republic of Korea, Marshall Islands and Japan voted in favour of most texts, though Japan abstained during voting on a resolution on Myanmar.

- Afghanistan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Nepal, Pakistan and Philippines tended to abstain or vote against, although Afghanistan voted in favour of a text on Syria and Myanmar; Bahrain voted in favour of resolutions on Iran and Myanmar; and Bangladesh and Pakistan voted in favour of a text on Myanmar.

- Qatar voted in favour of a resolution on Myanmar and three texts on Syria, and abstained during voting on all other item 4 resolutions.

During voting on item 7 resolutions (Occupied Palestinian Territories), Asia-Pacific members of the Council nearly always voted in favour. Exceptions included: Fiji (abstained once), Japan (voted against once), Marshall Islands (voted against all texts), Republic of Korea (against once), and Philippines (abstained once).

Regarding the one item 10 resolution (technical assistance and capacity-building) on which a vote was called in 2020, namely on cooperation with Georgia, APG members abstained, except for Fiji, Japan and Marshall Islands (all voted in favour).

For thematic resolutions, where a vote was called in 2020, APG members usually voted in favour. Notable exceptions include:

- Japan voted against all item 3 cross-cutting and ESCR resolutions during 2020; and with some exceptions so did



the Republic of Korea (abstained twice) and Marshall Islands (abstained three times and voted in favour of the resolution on the enhancement of international cooperation).

During voting on a resolution on promoting mutually beneficial cooperation, India voted against and Fiji and Afghanistan abstained.

Afghanistan abstained during voting on item 3 texts on responsibility to protect, the mandate of the Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, human rights and unilateral coercive measures, the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on human rights, mandate of the independent expert of foreign debt, and promoting mutually beneficial cooperation.

Indonesia, Pakistan, Bahrain, India, Nepal and Philippines abstained during voting on the only civil and political rights item 3 resolution on which a vote was called in 2020, namely, on the responsibility to protect.

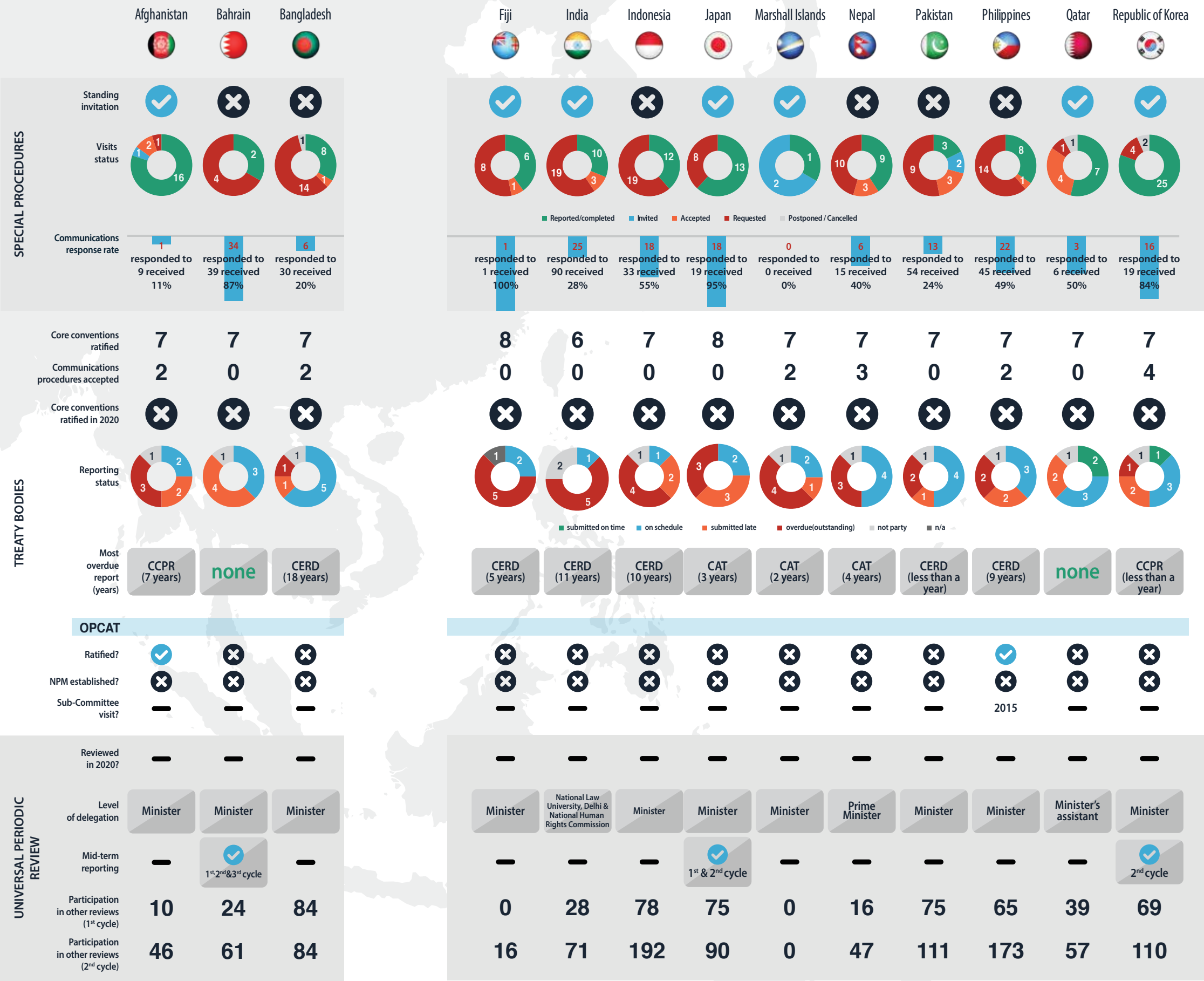
Turning to agenda item 5 (human rights bodies and mechanisms), APG members were divided during the voting on the resolution on the contribution of the Council to the prevention of human rights violations: Afghanistan, Fiji, Qatar, Japan, Marshall Islands, Nepal and Republic of Korea voted in favour, Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Philippines and Pakistan abstained, and Bahrain voted against.

Finally, all APG members voted in favour of the only item 8 (follow-up and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action) thematic resolution on which a vote was called, namely, the text on the contribution of human rights to achieving the purposes of the UN Charter, except Pakistan, which abstained.

\* Ratification and Reporting is recorded for eight 'core UN human rights conventions' which include: the ICCPR, the ICESCR, 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.

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms



# Eastern European Group (EEG)

## Overview of Members

		Voluntary contribution to OHCHR - 2019	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR - 2020	NHRI accreditation status	Membership terms to date
Armenia					
Bulgaria					
Czech Republic					
Poland					
Slovakia					
Ukraine					

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

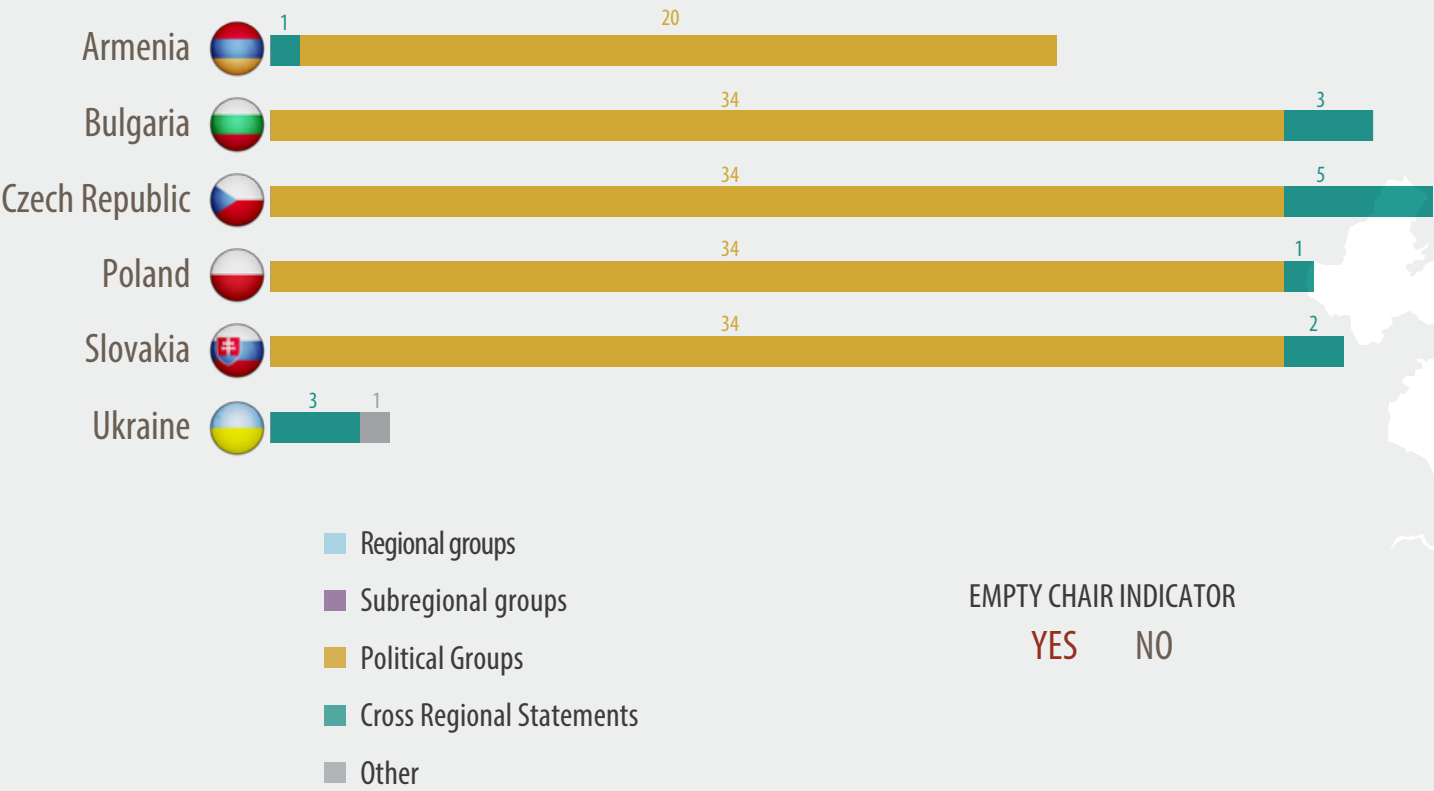
## Principal sponsorship

During 2020, Eastern European Group (EEG) members of the Council led (as main sponsors/part of a core group) on a number of important resolutions, covering both thematic and country-specific issues.

At a thematic level, in 2020 EEG States led, *inter alia*, on the following issues:

- Armenia:** regional arrangements; and prevention of genocide.
- Bulgaria:** contribution of human rights to achieving the purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.
- Poland:** good governance.

## Contribution to Council debates, panel discussions and dialogues in 2020



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. The empty chair symbol indicates whether, overall, the country, as a Council member, participated (individual statements) in more than 10% of panel discussions, general debates, and interactive dialogues. For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology, please see endnote.

## Voting analysis

All EEG members of the Council - except Armenia (abstained) - voted in favour of the only item 1 (procedural matters) country-specific resolution tabled in 2020, namely the text on the situation of human rights in Belarus in the run-up to the 2020 presidential election and in its aftermath.

When a vote was called on country-specific item 2 texts (reports of the High Commissioner), EEG members: abstained or voted against the texts on strengthening cooperation and technical assistance in the field of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem (except Armenia, which voted in favour of the latter); and voted in favour of resolutions on the situation of human rights in Eritrea, promotion and protection of human rights in Nicaragua and the situation of human rights in Yemen (except Armenia, which abstained during voting on Nicaragua and Yemen; and Ukraine, which did not vote during the voting on the text in Yemen).

Concerning item 4 (human rights situations that require the Council's attention) resolutions, EEG members either joined consensus on, or voted in favour of, all texts adopted during 2020. The only exception was Armenia, which abstained during voting on three texts on Syria and the text on the situation of human rights in Venezuela, and voted against resolutions on Belarus and Iran.

During voting on item 7 resolutions (Occupied Palestinian Territories), where a vote was called in 2020, EEG members of the Council tended to: vote in favour of texts on human rights situation in the OPT and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, to abstain during the voting on the text on Israeli settlements (except Armenia and Poland – both voted in favour), and to vote against the text on the occupied Syrian Golan (except Armenia, which voted in favour).

For item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), in 2020 EEG members joined consensus on all texts and, when a vote was called, all of them voted in favour, with the exception of Armenia, which did not vote.

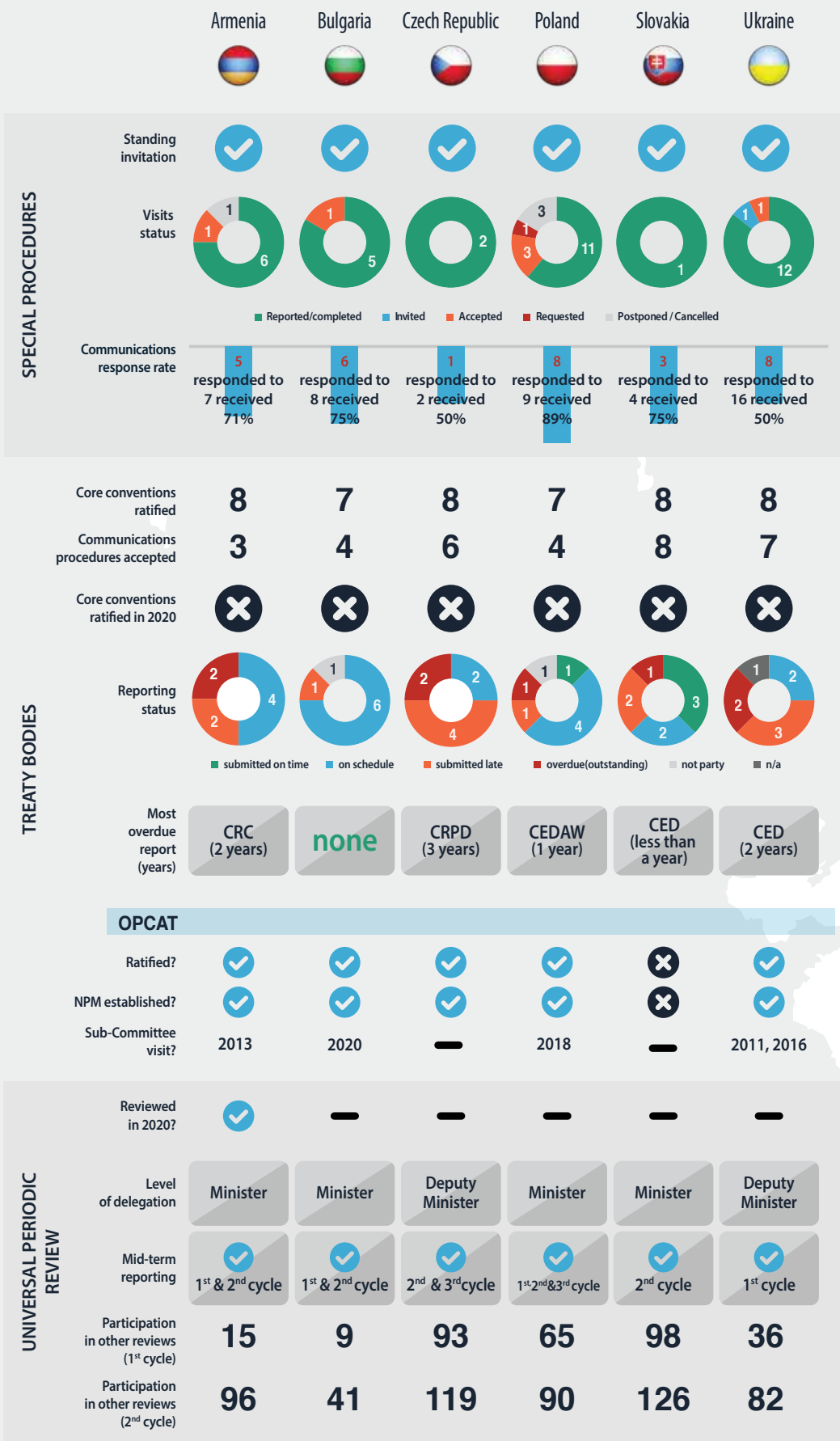
For thematic resolutions, EEG members joined consensus on the vast majority of texts adopted in 2020. Where a vote was called in 2020 (e.g. responsibility to protect, mandate of the independent expert on democratic and equitable international order, human rights and unilateral coercive measures, right to development, mandate of the independent expert on international solidarity, international cooperation, the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures, mutually beneficial cooperation, eliminating inequality, and mandate of the independent expert of foreign debt), EEG members usually voted against. Notable exceptions included:

- Where there was a vote, Armenia abstained on resolutions, mandate of the independent expert on democratic and equitable international order, human rights and unilateral coercive measures, right to development, mutually beneficial cooperation, eliminating inequality, and mandate of the independent expert of foreign debt, and voted in favour of texts on the mandate of the Independent Expert on international solidarity, and on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on human rights.

- All EEG members voted in favour of the only item 5 thematic resolution on which a vote was called in 2020 (human rights bodies and mechanisms), namely, the resolution on the contribution of the Council to the prevention of human rights violations.

- All EEG members voted in favour of the item 8 (follow-up and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action) thematic resolution on which a vote was called in 2020, namely, the text on the contribution of human rights to achieving the purposes of the UN Charter.

## Cooperation with human rights mechanisms











































\* Ratification and Reporting is recorded for eight 'core UN human rights conventions' which include: the ICCPR, the ICESCR, 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.



# Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)

## Overview of Members

		Voluntary contribution to OHCHR - 2019	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR - 2020	NHRI accreditation status	Membership terms to date
Argentina					
Bahamas					
Brazil					
Chile					
Mexico					
Peru					
Uruguay					
Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)					

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

## Principal sponsorship

During 2020, Latin America and the Caribbean Group (GRULAC) members of the Council led (as main sponsors/ part of a core group) on a number of important resolutions, covering both thematic and country-specific issues.

At a thematic level, in 2020 GRULAC members of the Council led, *inter alia*, on the following issues:

**Argentina:** enforced or involuntary disappearances; Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence; rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000); trafficking in persons; and Working Group on transnational corporations.

**Brazil:** technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights; safety of journalists; discrimination against persons affected by leprosy; freedom of opinion and expression; mental health and human rights; adequate housing; the Olympic ideal; and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Chile:** local government; good governance; extreme poverty; and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**Mexico:** terrorism and human rights; indigenous peoples; Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers; independence of the judiciary; Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities; discrimination against women and girls; contribution of human rights to achieving the purposes of the Charter of the United Nations; birth registration; Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants; right to work; mandate of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues; regional arrangements; and awareness raising on the rights of persons with disabilities.

**Peru:** firearms; extreme poverty; and the responsibility to protect.

**Uruguay:** the Council’s contribution to the prevention of human rights violations; women’s and girls’ rights in humanitarian situations; rights of the child and a healthy environment; implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and Special Rapporteur on the sale of children.

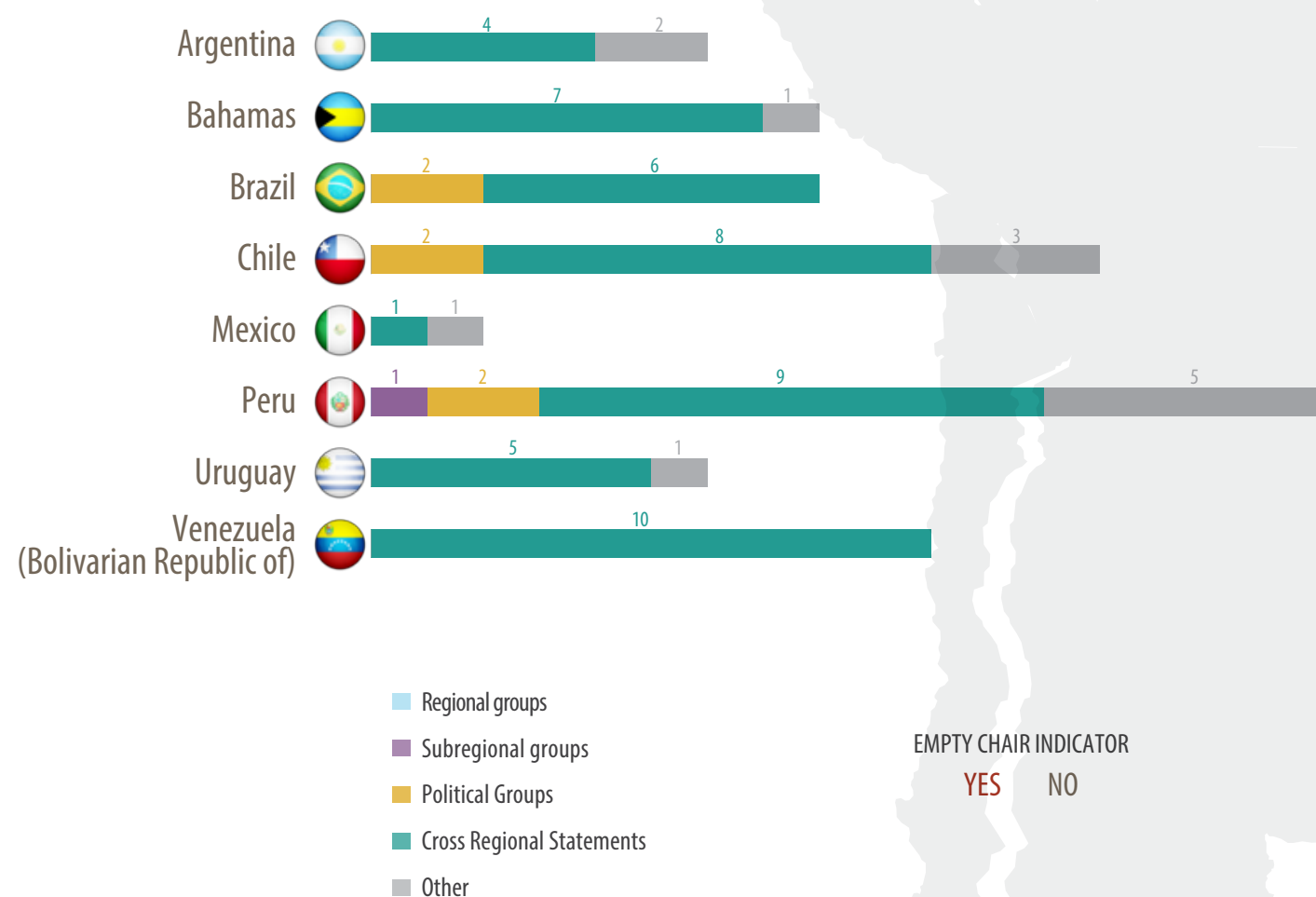
At the country-specific level, GRULAC members of the Council led, *inter alia*, on the following resolutions:

**Brazil:** situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; and promotion and protection of human rights in Nicaragua.

**Chile:** situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; and promotion and protection of human rights in Nicaragua.

**Peru:** situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela; and promotion and protection of human rights in Nicaragua.

## Contribution to Council debates, panel discussions and dialogues in 2020



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. The empty chair symbol indicates whether, overall, the country, as a Council member, participated (individual statements) in more than 10% of panel discussions, general debates, and interactive dialogues. For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology, please see endnote.

## Voting analysis

Concerning the one item 1 country-specific resolution on which a vote was called during 2020, namely, the text on the human rights in Belarus in the run-up to the 2020 presidential election and in its aftermath, GRULAC members of the Council voted in favour, except for Bahamas (abstained), and Venezuela (voted against).

Regarding their voting records on item 2 (annual report of the High Commissioner) texts, when a vote was called in 2020, GRULAC members:

- Tended to vote in favour of resolutions on the situation of human rights in Eritrea, promotion and protection of human rights in Nicaragua and situation of human rights in Yemen. The exceptions to this rule were Venezuela (voted against the three texts) and Bahamas (abstained during voting on Eritrea).

- Tended to vote against or abstain on strengthening cooperation and technical assistance in the field of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. The exceptions to this rule were Mexico and Venezuela (both voted in favour).

- Tended to vote in favour of the one item 2 text on ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem. The exceptions were Uruguay and Bahamas which abstained, and Brazil which voted against.

During voting on item 4 resolutions, GRULAC members of the Council tended to vote in favour of all texts. The exceptions were Venezuela which consistently voted against item 4 during 2020; Bahamas, which abstained during voting on a resolution on Belarus; Brazil, which abstained during voting on a text on Iran; and Uruguay, which abstained during voting on texts on Belarus and Iran.

Regarding item 7 resolutions (human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories), Latin America and Caribbean members of the Council nearly always voted in favour during 2020. The exceptions were a Brazilian abstention during voting on a resolution on Israeli settlements, and a Brazilian vote against a text on human rights in the Syrian Golan.

Regarding the one item 10 resolution (technical assistance and capacity-building) on which a vote was called in 2020, namely the resolution on cooperation with Georgia, GRULAC members of the Council were divided: Bahamas, Peru and Mexico voted in favour; Argentina, Brazil, Chile and Uruguay abstained; and Venezuela voted against.

For item 3 resolutions, where a vote was called in 2020, GRULAC member States displayed markedly different voting records:

On the one hand, Argentina, Bahamas and Venezuela tended to vote in favour of most thematic resolutions (when a vote was called), including civil and political, as well as economic, social and cultural rights, and cross-cutting issues. The exceptions were Argentina's abstention during voting on eliminating inequality within and among States, and Bahamas' abstentions during voting on mutually beneficial cooperation, and on the mandate of the Independent Expert on foreign debt.

Along the same lines, Uruguay supported most texts but abstained during voting on eliminating inequality within and among States, the Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order, the right to development and human rights and unilateral coercive measures.

On the other hand, Brazil, Mexico and Peru tended to abstain or vote against most thematic texts (when a

vote was called). Notwithstanding, Peru voted in favour of resolutions on the right to development, the Independent Expert on international solidarity, human rights and unilateral coercive measures, and international cooperation; Mexico supported a text on mutually beneficial cooperation; and Brazil also voted in favour of the text on mutually beneficial cooperation as well as the one on the Independent Expert on international solidarity.

Finally, Chile voted in favour of five item 3 texts, namely, on: the responsibility to protect; human rights and unilateral coercive measures; Independent Expert on international solidarity; Independent Expert on foreign debt; and international cooperation; and abstained during voting of five others, namely, eliminating inequality, Independent Expert on equitable international order, right to development, negative impact of unilateral coercive measures, and mutually beneficial cooperation.

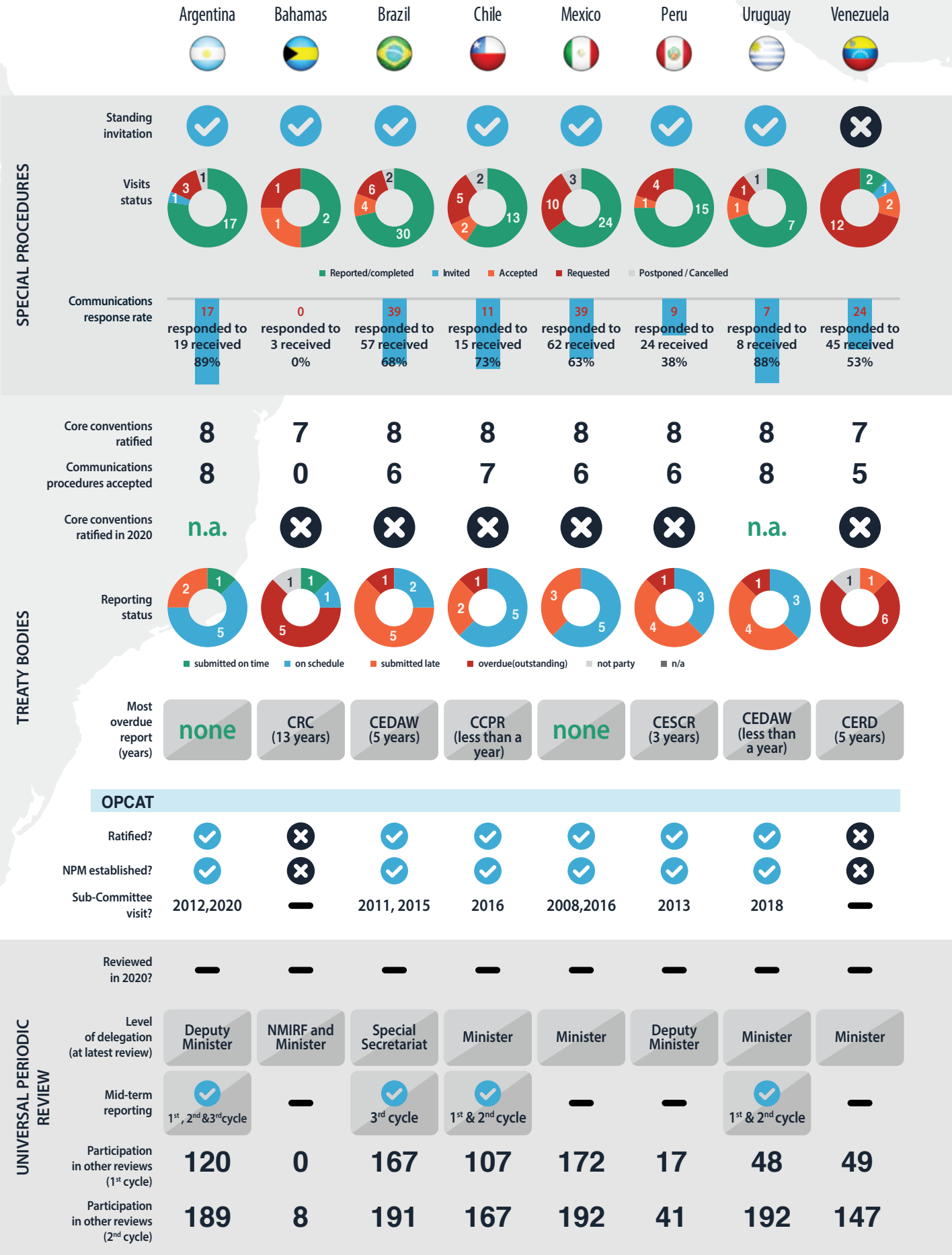
Turning to agenda item 5 (human rights bodies and mechanisms), all GRULAC members voted in favour of the resolution on the contribution of the Council to the prevention of human rights violations, except Venezuela (which voted against).

Finally, all GRULAC members, except Venezuela (which abstained) voted in favour of the only item 8 (follow-up and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action) thematic resolution on which a vote was called during 2020, namely, the text on the contribution of human rights to achieving the purposes of the UN Charter.

\* Ratification and Reporting is recorded for eight “core human rights conventions” which include: the ICCPR, the ICESCR, 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.

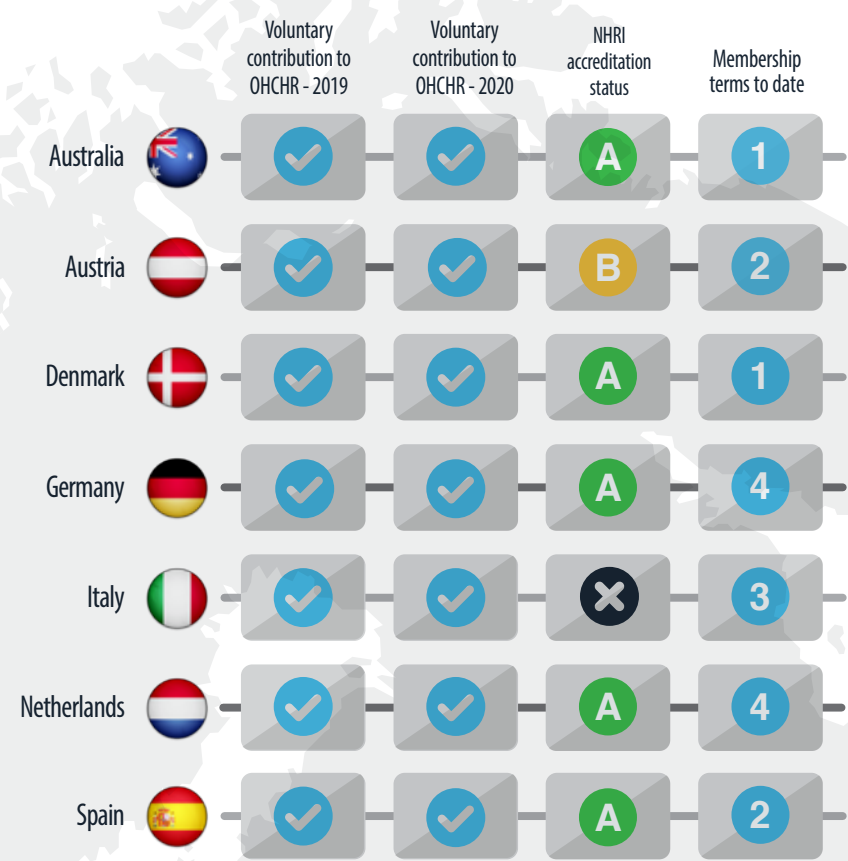
Cooperation with human rights mechanisms





# Western European and Others Group (WEOG)

## Overview of Members



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

## Principal sponsorship

During 2020, the Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG) members of the Council led (as main sponsors/ part of a core group) on a number of important resolutions, covering both thematic and country-specific issues.

At thematic level, in 2020 WEOG members of the Council led, *inter alia*, on the following issues:

**Australia:** national human rights institutions; good governance; rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000); the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges

and lawyers; independence of the judiciary; and the contribution of human rights to achieving the purposes of the Charter of the United Nations.

**Austria:** safety of journalists; and the Special Rapporteur on minority issues.

**Denmark:** the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on torture.

**Germany:** water and sanitation; trafficking in persons; and adequate housing.

**Netherlands:** freedom of opinion and expression; and the Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression.

**Spain:** rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000); and water and sanitation.

At country-specific level, in 2020 WEOG members of the Council led, *inter alia*, on the following resolutions:

**Australia:** situation of human rights in Eritrea.

**Austria:** situation of human rights in Eritrea.

**Germany:** situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic (three texts); and situation of human rights in Eritrea.

**Italy:** situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic (three texts).

**Netherlands:** situation of human rights in Eritrea, situation of human rights in Yemen; and situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic (three texts).

Notwithstanding such individual leadership, it is important to note that some WEOG Council members regularly work through the **European Union (EU)**. In 2020, at thematic level, the EU led resolutions on: the rights of the child and a healthy environment; freedom of religion or belief; and mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children. At country-specific level, the EU led on the following resolutions: situation of human rights in Belarus in the run-up to the 2020 presidential election and in its aftermath; situation of human rights in Belarus (general); situation of human rights in Burundi; situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; and situation of human rights in Myanmar.

## Contribution to debates, panel discussions and dialogues in 2020



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. The empty chair symbol indicates whether, overall, the country, as a Council member, participated (individual statements) in more than 10% of panel discussions, general debates, and interactive dialogues. For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology, please see endnote.

Voting analysis

All WEOG members voted in favour of the only item 1 country-specific resolution on which a vote was called during 2020, namely on the situation of human rights in Belarus in the run-up to the 2020 presidential election and in its aftermath.

When a vote was called on agenda item 2 (reports of the High Commissioner) country-specific resolutions, WEOG members consistently voted in favour of texts on situation of human rights in Yemen, Eritrea and Nicaragua, and abstained during voting on resolutions on strengthening cooperation and technical assistance in the field of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (except for Australia, which voted against) and the text on ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem (except for Australia and Austria, which both voted against).

Turning to texts tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council’s attention), WEOG members either joined consensus on, or voted in favour of, all resolutions on which a vote was called during 2020. This included resolutions on the human rights situations in the Syrian Arab Republic, situation of human rights in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, Iran, Myanmar, Burundi and Belarus.

Concerning votes on item 7 resolutions (Occupied Palestinian Territories), WEOG members voted against a text on ‘human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan,’ but in favour of all other texts. The exceptions to this rule were Australia, which voted against all texts, and Austria, which abstained during voting on the text on Israeli settlements.

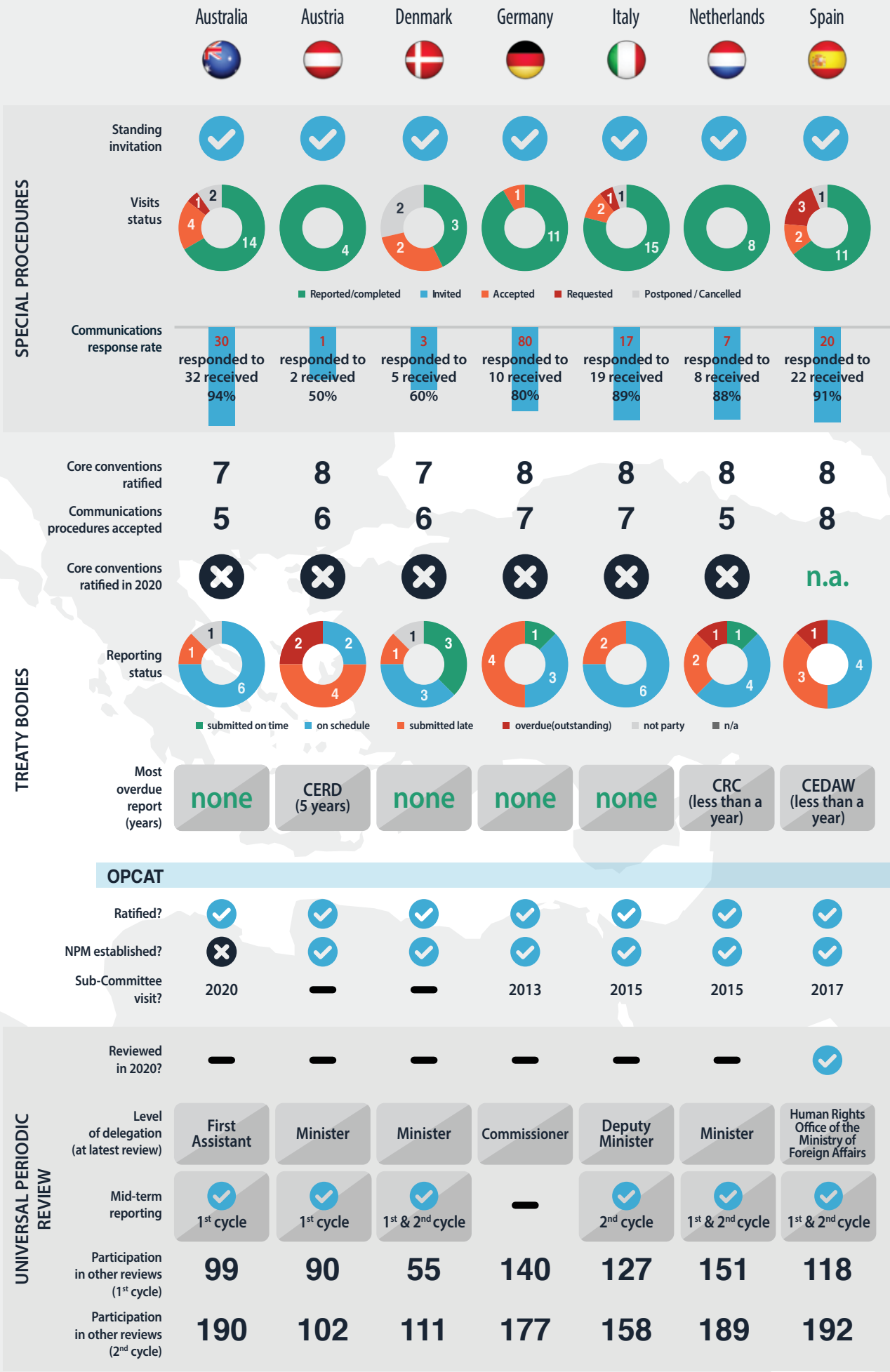
All WEOG members voted in favour of the only item 10 (technical assistance and capacity building) resolution on which a vote was called during 2020, namely, cooperation with Georgia.

For thematic resolutions, WEOG members joined consensus on most resolutions. Where votes were called during 2020, WEOG members tended to vote against item 3 resolutions on the right to development, democratic and equitable international order, responsibility to protect, international cooperation, unilateral coercive measures, mutually beneficial cooperation, foreign debt and eliminating inequality (except Austria, Germany, Italy and Spain, which abstained during the voting on the latter); and voted in favour of the item 5 resolution on contribution of the Council to the prevention of human rights violations and of the item 8 text on the contribution of human rights to achieving the purposes of the UN Charter.

\* Ratification and Reporting is recorded for eight “core human rights conventions” which include: the ICCPR, the ICESCR, 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.

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms



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

Section I

The Council's focus and output: Resolution and mechanisms

Source: OHCHR website. OHCHR extranet.

Timeframe: 2006-2020.

Data as of: 19 October 2020

The focus of Council texts by agenda item (2008-2020)

Source: Individual resolutions, decisions, and presidential statements. OHCHR extranet.

Timeframe: 2008-2020

Data as of: 19 October 2020

Financial Implications of Council resolutions (2011-2020)

Source: Individual PBIs. OHCHR extranet.

Timeframe: 2011-2020

Data as of: 19 October 2020

Top themes in 2020: focus of thematic resolutions

Source: Individual resolutions, decisions, and presidential statements. OHCHR extranet.

Timeframe: 2020

Data as of: 19 October 2020

Geographic focus of the Council texts, special sessions, and panels (2006-2020)

Source: Council texts: Individual resolutions, decisions, and presidential statements. OHCHR extranet; Special Sessions: OHCHR website; Panels: OHCHR website.

Timeframe: 2006 - 2020

Data as of: 19 October 2020

Global coverage of the UN human rights system in 2020

Source: OHCHR website. UN Human Rights Appeal 2020.

Timeframe: 2020

Data as of: 19 October 2020

State participation on Interactive Dialogues of Special Procedures in 2020

Source: HRC Extranet

Data as of: 19 October 2020

Note: The level of participation in Interactive Dialogues with Special Procedures was calculated based on the individual statements listed on the OHCHR Extranet during the 2020 sessions (i.e. during the Council's

sessions 31-33). Joint statements on behalf of a group of States that were not individually listed were not counted. Nevertheless, of course, States do also participate in this broader manner.

Section II

Overview of membership, members of the Bureau, of the Consultative Group, and the Working Group on Situations

Source: OHCHR website – Human Rights Council.

Data as of: 19 October 2020.

Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2019 and 2020)

Source: OHCHR website.

Most recent information published by the OHCHR, data as of 19 October 2020.

NHRI Accreditation Status

Source: Chart of the Status of National Institutions, accredited by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI); <http://www.ganhri.org/>

Most recent information published by the OHCHR, data as of 19 October 2020.

Previous membership terms

Source: OHCHR website.

Data as of: 19 October 2020.

Contribution to Council debates, panels, and dialogues

Source: HRC Extranet.

Data as of: 19 October 2020.

Note: The participation of the members of the Council in group statements was calculated based on all joint statements listed on the HRC Extranet from March 2016 until September 2020 (i.e. during HRC sessions 31-39). Figures include statements not delivered due to lack of time.

The Empty Chair indicator was calculated based on the individual statements and joint statements other than political, regional or otherwise 'fixed' groups. A 'YES' shows that, during its current and last most recent membership terms (where applicable), the corresponding State participated in less than 10% of the total number of debates, interactive dialogues, and panel discussions.

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

Special Procedures

Standing invitation

Source: OHCHR website.

Data as of: 19 October 2020.

Visits Completed & longest outstanding visit

Source: OHCHR website.

Data as of: 19 October 2020.

Note: The number of visits undertaken 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) or with the earliest request date published, when the initial request date is not available. Visits with incomplete information (i.e., dates and status), invitations, and visits postponed/cancelled have been excluded from the analysis. Visits by Special Representatives of the Secretary-General, or visits to regional institutions/organisations are not included in this analysis.

Communications response rate

Source: OHCHR – Communication report and search database.

Data as of: 19 October 2020.



## Treaty Bodies

### Status of Ratification and Reporting

Source: OHCHR website.

Data as of: 19 October 2020.

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

Treaty Body reporting dates relate to the State’s current reporting cycle, as listed on the OHCHR website.

### Explanation of Options:

- **SUBMITTED ON TIME:** The State Party Report submitted the report before or on the due date;
- **ON SCHEDULE:** the current cycle due date is in the future;
- **SUBMITTED LATE:** The State Party Report has been submitted for the current cycle, but was submitted late, i.e. after the due date;
- **OUTSTANDING (OVERDUE):** The current cycle report has not yet been submitted, and it is overdue;
- **NOT PARTY:** The State has not ratified the respective Treaty;
- **N/A:** No deadline has been set or data is not available.

The ‘most overdue’ report time is for the outstanding report with the earliest due date.

Reporting and ratification scores were calculated with the information published on the OHCHR website on the 19 October 2020

### Communications procedures accepted

Source: OHCHR website.

Data as of: 19 October 2020.

Note: This figure relates to the acceptance of individual complaints procedures under each of the abovementioned core conventions.

### OP-CAT

Source: OHCHR website.

Data as of: 19 October 2020.

Note: An ‘NPM’ is a ‘National Preventative Mechanism’.

## Universal Periodic Review

### Universal Periodic Review

#### Level of delegation

Source: The Head of a State’s delegation (for its last UPR) was determined using the report submitted by the corresponding State during its last UPR. Where the rank of the representative was not clear, the URG followed up with the relevant missions as far as possible.

Data as of: 19 October 2020.

#### Mid-term reporting

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

Data as of: 19 October 2020.

Note: The ‘mid-term reporting’ score relates to whether the State has submitted a mid-term report for the first and/or the second cycles of UPR.

#### Participation in other reviews

Source: UPR Info - ‘Statistics of UPR Recommendations.’

Data as of: 19 October 2020.

Note: Participation in other reviews relates to the number of other States’ reviews (out of 193) during which the corresponding State made (1 or more) recommendations.

**Note:** For updated information on all current and former Council Members, visit [yourHRC.org](https://www.unhcr.org/yourHRC.org).

#### Photo credits:

Palais des Nations, Geneva. The flags of the 193 member states are back after the renovation of the “Allée des Drapeaux” at the Palais des Nations.

7 February 2014. UN Photo / Jean-Marc Ferré. Photo ID: 579261:

UN Geneva. 41st Session of the Human Rights Council. A Voting during 41st Session of the Human Rights Council. 12 July 2020. UN Photo/ Jean Marc Ferré.

UN Geneva. 41st Session of the Human Rights Council. A general view of participants during 41st Session of the Human Rights Council. 1er July. 2020. UN Photo/ Jean Marc Ferré

UN Geneva. 42nds session of the Human Rights Council. Interpreters in Spanish language during 42nds session of the Human Rights Council. 9 September 2020. UN Photo/ Jean Marc Ferré

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# 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 100 States that have stood for and won election to the Council. An interactive world map provides information on the Council’s membership in any given year, and on the number of membership terms held by each country. Country-specific pages then provide up-to-date information on: the voting record of the State; its leadership on important Council initiatives; its level of participation in Council debates, interactive dialogues and panels; its engagement and cooperation with the Council’s mechanisms (UPR and Special Procedures) and with the Treaty Bodies; and the degree to which it fulfilled the voluntary pledges and commitments made before its previous membership term.

2

An annual ‘**yourHRC.org Election Guide**,’ providing at-a-glance information (including comparative information) on candidatures for upcoming Council elections.

3

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

4

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

The present document is the third annual ‘yourHRC.org end-of-year report,’ offering an assessment of the Council’s work, output, achievements and shortfalls in 2020, and analysing the contributions of member States to the work of the Council and the enjoyment of human rights around the wor

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

