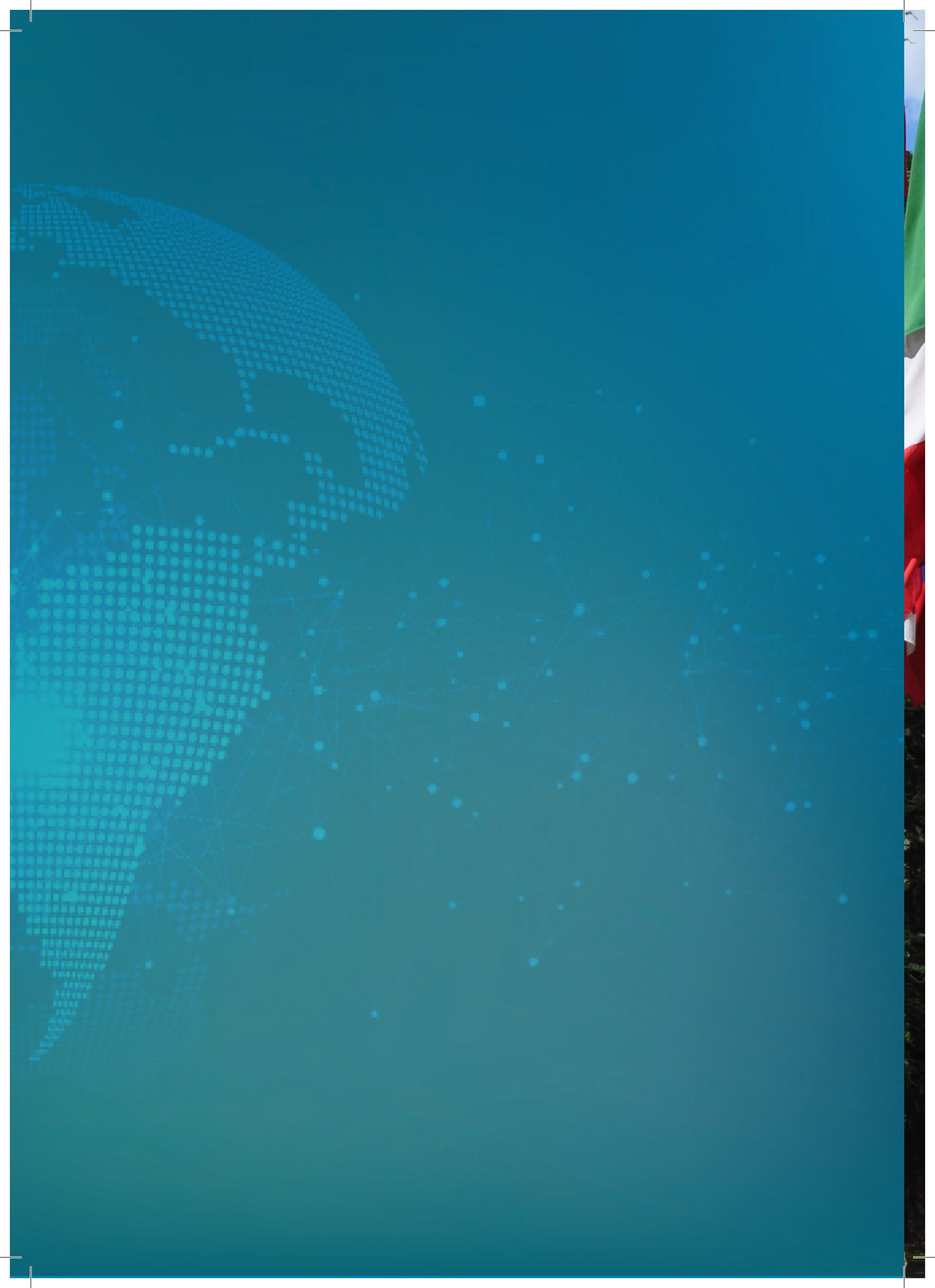
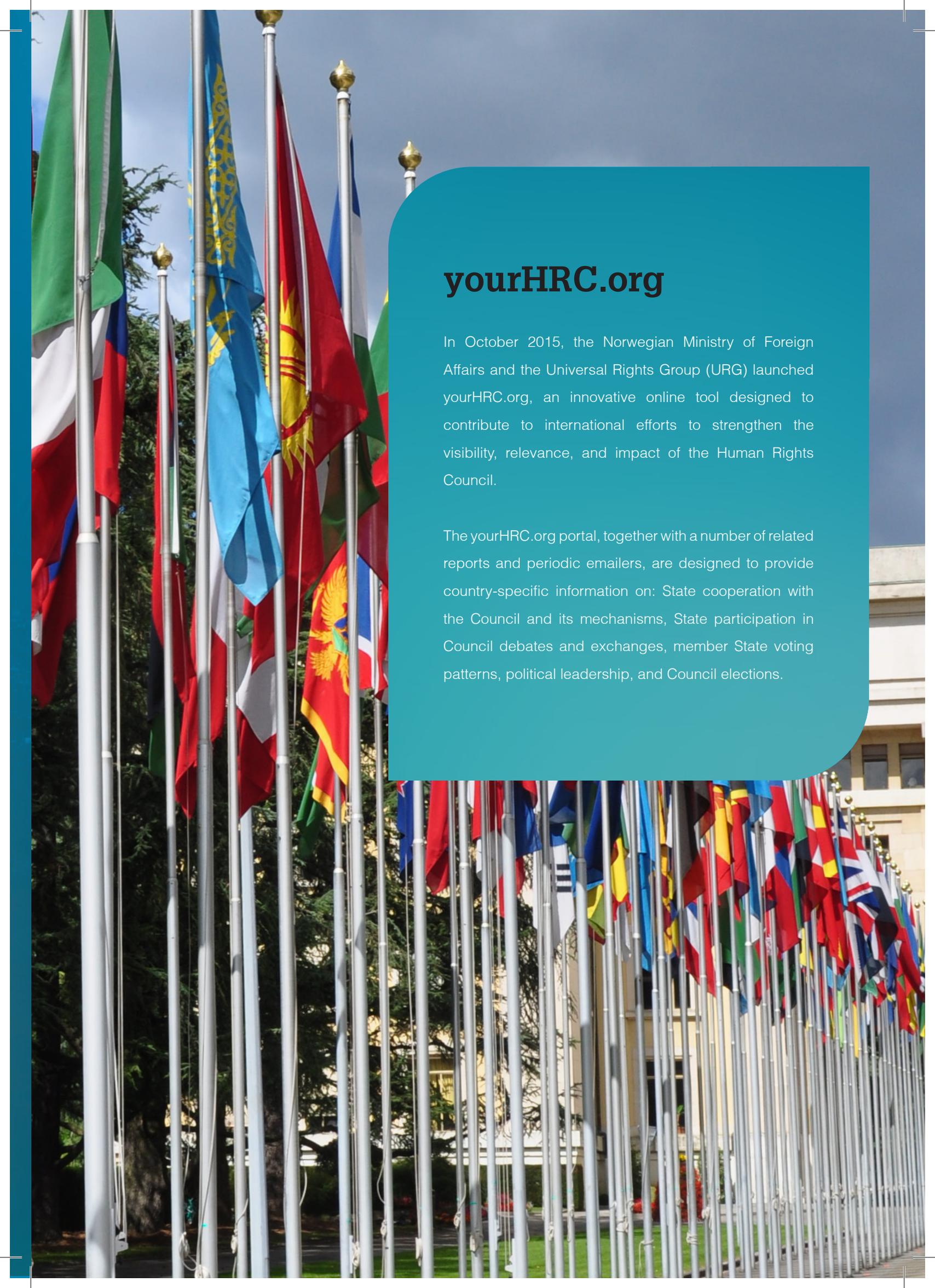

yourHRC.org

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

GUIDE TO THE
2023
UN HUMAN RIGHTS
COUNCIL ELECTIONS





yourHRC.org

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.

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

Acronyms

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

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

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

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

- **Serving as a forum for dialogue on human rights** – General Assembly (GA) resolution 60/251 recognises that in order to promote and protect human rights, the Council's work should be based on the principles of cooperation and genuine dialogue, and aimed at strengthening the capacity of States to comply with their human rights obligations.
- **Adopting resolutions** – at the end of every session Council members adopt a series of resolutions or decisions expressing the will of the international community on a given human rights situation or issue.
- **Elaborating universal human rights norms** – the Council is responsible for making recommendations to the GA for the further development of international law in the field of human rights.
- **Promoting State cooperation with the human rights mechanisms** – the Council has a number of mechanisms at its disposal (e.g., Special Procedures, UPR) to promote the full implementation of the human rights obligations undertaken by States, and/or to respond to violations of those rights.
- **Protecting human rights** by addressing situations of human rights violations, including gross and systematic violations, and preventing human rights abuses and crises.
- **Delivering capacity-building and technical assistance** to support States with the implementation of the recommendations they receive from the Council's mechanisms and the Treaty Bodies.

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

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

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



Membership of the Council

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

- 1 The total number of members was reduced from 53 to 47.
- 2 Council members would be elected by the entirety of the GA, rather than the 54 members of ECOSOC, with successful candidates needing at least 97 votes in support.
- 3 In voting for Council members, States would be required to 'take into account the contribution of candidates to the promotion and protection of human rights and their voluntary pledges and commitments made thereto.'
- 4 Council members would be ineligible for immediate re-election after serving two consecutive terms.
- 5 Council members could have their membership rights suspended by the GA in the event that they committed gross and systematic violations of human rights.

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

In the 17 years since the Council's creation, a total of **122** of the UN's 193 member States have served, or are in the process of serving, at least one membership term. However, relatively little attention has been afforded to analysing how these States, once elected, contribute to the Council's work; how they engage and cooperate with the Council's mechanisms; whether they live up to the voluntary pledges they made as candidates; and how they support the realisation of the Council's mandate.



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

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



The present document is the eighth annual **'yourHRC.org Election Guide.'** It provides general information on the 2023 Human Rights Council elections (scheduled for 10th October at the GA in New York), when States will compete to win seats for new three-year terms (2024-2026).

The Guide is divided into six parts. The first part presents an overview of the 2023 elections, the number of seats available, and the candidates in each UN regional group vying for those seats. The next five parts of the report then present more detailed comparative information on the candidates for each of the five UN regional groups. This includes objective information on each candidate's historic engagement and cooperation with the Council and the wider UN human rights system, its voting record (where the State concerned has previously been a Council member), an analysis of its new voluntary pledges and commitments (for the 2023 elections), and an analysis of the extent to which it has fulfilled its previous voluntary pledges and commitments (again, where the country concerned has previously been a member).



**2023 HUMAN RIGHTS
COUNCIL ELECTIONS**

10TH OCTOBER 2023

UN GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
NEW YORK

FOR MEMBERSHIP TERM 2024-2026

**CANDIDATE ANALYSIS
BY REGIONAL GROUP**

2023 ELECTIONS (FOR MEMBERSHIP PERIOD 2024-2026): THE CANDIDATES

Latin America and Caribbean Group

Historic clean slate elections **9/16**

8 seats at HRC **55%** inclusivity

3 seats available **4** candidates

	Voluntary pledges & commitments	Number of previous terms
Brazil	✓	5
Cuba	✓	5
Dominican Republic	✓	New
Peru	✓	3

African Group

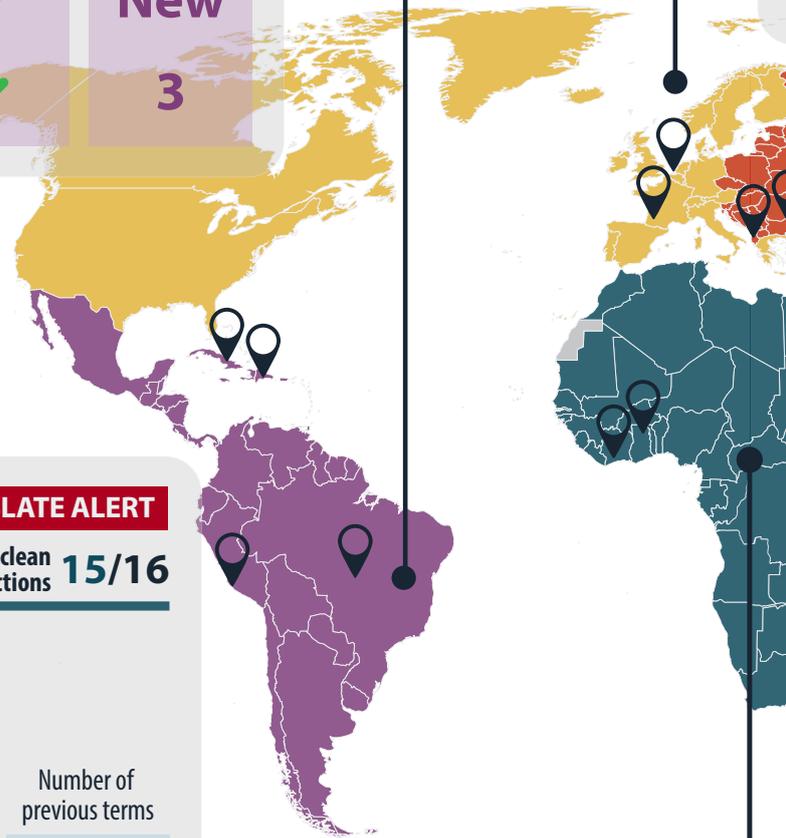
CLEAN SLATE ALERT

Historic clean slate elections **15/16**

13 seats at HRC **69%** inclusivity

4 seats available **4** candidates

	Voluntary pledges & commitments	Number of previous terms
Burundi	—	1
Côte d'Ivoire	✓	3
Ghana	✓	3
Malawi	✓	1



state standing f

Western European and Others Group

CLEAN SLATE ALERT

Historic clean slate elections **13/16**

7 seats at HRC 66% inclusivity

2 seats available 2 candidates



France



4



Netherlands



4

Voluntary pledges & commitments

Number of previous terms

Eastern European Group

Historic clean slate elections **10/16**

6 seats at HRC 87% inclusivity

2 seats available 3 candidates



Albania



1



Bulgaria



2



Russian Federation



4

Voluntary pledges & commitments

Number of previous terms

Asia-Pacific Group

CLEAN SLATE ALERT

Historic clean slate elections **9/16**

13 seats at HRC 52% inclusivity

4 seats available 4 candidates



China



5



Indonesia



5



Japan



5



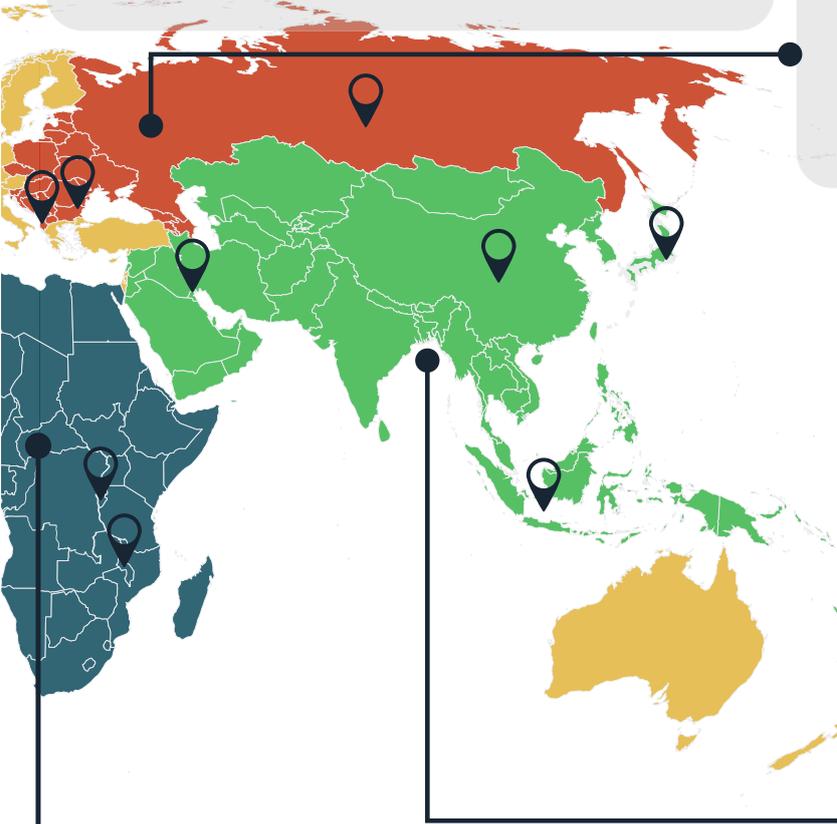
Kuwait



1

Voluntary pledges & commitments

Number of previous terms



...ding for election

AFRICAN GROUP (AG)

OVERVIEW OF CANDIDATES

		Membership of HRC bureau	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2022)	NHRI accreditation status	Previous membership terms	OHCHR presence
Burundi		—	✗	A	1	Human Rights Advisers
Côte d'Ivoire		—	✗	B	3	—
Ghana		—	✗	A	3	—
Malawi		—	✗	A	1	Human Rights Advisers

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

FULFILLMENT OF PREVIOUS VOLUNTARY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS

Burundi's voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for its previous membership term (2016-2018) were unavailable at the time of the election.

Côte d'Ivoire presented an *aide-mémoire* in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2021-2023 in July 2020. In the document, *Côte d'Ivoire* pledged, among

other things, to continue submitting its periodic reports to the Treaty Bodies; consult with the Parliament on the ratification of the CED, CMW, and OP-ICESCR; share its experience in managing human rights in a crisis context with the international community; and maintain human rights as one of the Government's main priorities.

An analysis of the steps taken by *Côte d'Ivoire* to fulfil these pledges shows that it has yet to submit most of its periodic reports (five are overdue). *Côte d'Ivoire* has not yet ratified the CED, the CMW or the OP-ICESCR. Nonetheless, it has facilitated almost 65% Special Procedures visits and has responded to almost 70% of the communications received from mandate holders.

Ghana tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2015-2017 on 8 August 2014. At the international level, Ghana pledged to participate actively in the work of the Council; strengthen policies for the advancement of women; protect children's rights; maintain a standing invitation to all Special Procedures mandate holders; fully cooperate with UN human rights Treaty Bodies and submit periodic reports promptly; and become a party to all core human rights instruments while implementing its treaty obligations.

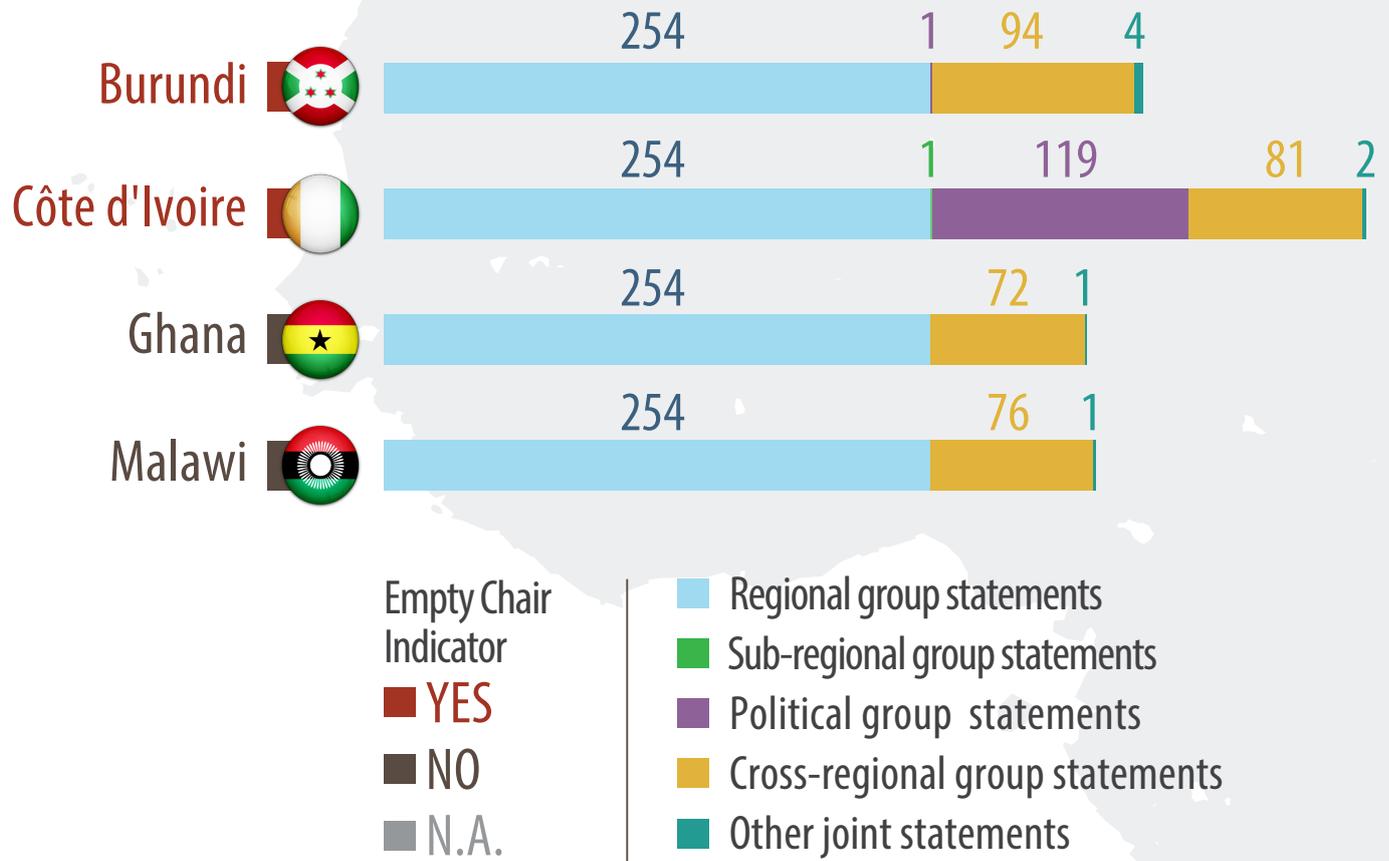
An analysis of the steps taken by Ghana to fulfil its international pledges shows that Ghana has cooperated with Special Procedures by maintaining a standing invitation and fulfilling 9 out of 15 visit requests; however, it has responded to only one out of the six communications received. Concerning cooperation with Treaty Bodies, Ghana has several overdue reports, with the ICESCR

report overdue by around 20 years. Ghana has actively engaged in the UPR, participating in the reviews of and making recommendations to around 100 States during both the second and third cycles. Ghana is yet to ratify the CED or to accept the communications procedures under three of the treaties it has thus-far ratified (CERD, CRC, and ICESCR).

Malawi presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for the period 2021-2023 on 28 August 2020. At the international level, the Government of Malawi pledged, among other things, to continue participating in key human rights institutions, including the Council; enhance cooperation with the UN Special Procedures; submit outstanding reports and improve engagement with UN Treaty Bodies; advocate for the strengthening of international institutions as a means of sustaining global peace; and continue supporting the work of OHCHR.

An analysis of the steps taken by Malawi to fulfil its international-level pledges shows that the country indeed actively participates in Council debates and dialogues, delivering individual statements in almost 35% of meetings. Malawi maintains a standing invitation to Special Procedures and facilitated 40% of requested visits. However, it only responded to 36% of communications received. Regarding engagement with Treaty Bodies, Malawi has only accepted one individual communications procedure (under the ICCPR) and has four overdue periodic reports, one of which, under the CERD, was due 26 years ago. Malawi hosts an OHCHR Human Rights Adviser.

PARTICIPATION IN JOINT STATEMENTS DURING COUNCIL DEBATES, PANEL DISCUSSIONS AND INTERACTIVE DIALOGUES



This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State has joined during Council general debates, panel discussions, and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures during the last four years (June 2019 - June 2022). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology please see the endnote.

KEY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS FOR 2023 ELECTION

Burundi's voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership of the Council for the period 2024-2026 were unavailable at the time the yourHRC.org 2023 Election Guide was published.

Côte d'Ivoire presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership of the Council for the period 2024-2026 on 25 April 2023. In the document, Côte d'Ivoire pledges, *inter alia*, to:

At the national level:

- Strengthen the capacity of public and private, governmental, and non-governmental institutions working in the field of human rights, including the relevant government ministry.
- Provide human rights training for members of the justice system and security forces, as well as local elected officials and parliamentarians responsible for drafting laws.

- Support and strengthen human rights education and awareness-raising activities, including within the education system.

At the international level:

- Submit periodic reports to the Treaty Bodies and ensure the implementation of resulting recommendations.
- Implement the recommendations received during the UPR.
- Continue its consultations with Parliament on the ratification of the CMW, ICESCR-OP, the International Convention against the Recruitment, Use, Financing and Training of Mercenaries, and the Organisation of African Unity Convention for the Elimination of Mercenarism in Africa.

Ghana presented an *aide-mémoire* in support of its candidature for membership of the Council for the period 2024-2026 on 18 January 2023. In the document, Ghana does not make concrete pledges. Rather, the country highlights its work and steps taken that demonstrate its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights across various areas, including freedom of expression, the right to participate in political life, the right to life, freedom from discrimination, the right to access justice, and the rights to education, health and work, as well as the rights of children, women and girls, LGBT persons, migrants and internally displaced persons, and persons with disabilities.

Malawi presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership of the Council for the period 2024-2026 on September 2023. In the document, Malawi pledges, *inter alia*, to:

At the domestic level:

- Implement the recommendations and concluding observations from the UN and African Union Treaty Bodies and the UPR.
- Continue to equip human rights institutions with the necessary human and financial resources to ensure they carry out their work effectively without fear or interference.
- Continue to improve Parliament's oversight over human rights policies and their implementation.
- Preserve and protect the enjoyment of freedoms of the media, access to information, assembly, expression or opinion, religion or belief; continue to counter hate speech, as well as access to health and legal assistance.
- Work closely with civil society organizations and ensure the protection of civic space.
- Continue to provide parliamentarians, law enforcement officials, judges, public prosecutors, lawyers, civil servants, and the media with human rights capacity-building, training, and education.
- Continue to revise national law and policy frameworks to ensure consistency with international human rights obligations, including frameworks on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and the elimination of sexual and gender-based violence.
- Take steps to create jobs and ensure the rights of workers.
- Take steps to ensure the 60:40 ratio of men to women in public appointments and public service.
- Develop policies and programmes in line with the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, Agenda 2063, and Africa's Agenda for Children 2040.

VOTING HISTORY DURING PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP TERMS

- Complete and launch the National Human Rights Action Plan and the UPR Implementation Plan.
- Enhance the implementation of measures to address climate change and disaster risk management and response plans.
- Continue to take concrete measures to ensure the full protection of vulnerable groups, such as persons with albinism and the elderly.

At the international level:

- Continue to participate in the work of the Council.
- Improve engagement with the Treaty Bodies, including by submitting outstanding reports and following up on the implementation of concluding observations and recommendations.
- Enhance cooperation with the Special Procedures through its standing invitation.
- Actively contribute to various international initiatives for the promotion and protection of human rights.
- Openly and constructively engage in the UPR and submit relevant reports in a timely manner.
- Advocate for the practical equality of nations in international affairs and the strengthening of international institutions as a means of sustaining global peace.
- Actively participate in global and regional agendas, such as Agenda 2030, Agenda 2040, and Agenda 2063.
- Continue to support the work of OHCHR.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2016, **Burundi** has, in the absence of consensus, voted against all resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), with the exception of the resolutions on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic (Burundi abstained twice in 2016). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Burundi has always voted in favour. Regarding item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Burundi has joined consensus on all resolutions except four that Burundi voted against during the period of its membership: on cooperation and assistance to Ukraine (2016, 2017) and on cooperation with Georgia (2017, 2018). For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Burundi has generally joined consensus. When there has been a vote, Burundi has usually voted in favour of such texts. Nevertheless, Burundi voted against resolutions on protecting human rights defenders (2016), peaceful protests (2016), sexual orientation and gender identity (2016), protection of human rights while countering terrorism (2016), the question of the death penalty (2017), and countering the world drug problem (2018). It also abstained during votes in 2016 on resolutions dealing with civil society space and transitional justice. For thematic resolutions focusing on economic, social, and cultural rights, Burundi has either joined consensus on or has voted in favour of all adopted texts.

Principal sponsorship (2019-2023):

Burundi has not been a principal sponsor of any Council resolution during the period under review.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2013, **Cote d'Ivoire** has either voted in favour of or has joined consensus on most resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), as well as all country-specific resolutions under item 2 (e.g., the situation in Sri Lanka). Nevertheless, Cote d'Ivoire abstained during item 2 votes on the situation of human rights in Venezuela (2018), Nicaragua (2021, 2023), and Eritrea (2021, 2023). It also voted against a 2021 item 4 resolution on South Sudan and a 2021 item 2 Resolution on the Tigray region of Ethiopia. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories - OPT), Cote d'Ivoire has usually voted in favour (except for one abstention in 2016). Cote d'Ivoire voted in favour of all item 10 (technical assistance and capacity building) resolutions, except the 2017, 2021, and 2023 texts on cooperation with Georgia and the 2021 resolution on Ukraine. For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Cote d'Ivoire has generally joined consensus. When there has been a vote, it has tended to vote in favour. However, Cote d'Ivoire voted against the 2014 and 2016 resolutions on sexual orientation and gender identity and abstained on the resolutions on drones, integrity of the judicial system, and countering the world drug problem. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, Cote d'Ivoire has either joined consensus on or has voted in favour of all adopted texts.

Principal sponsorship (2019-2023):

Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights; Business and human rights: Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises and improving accountability and access to remedy.

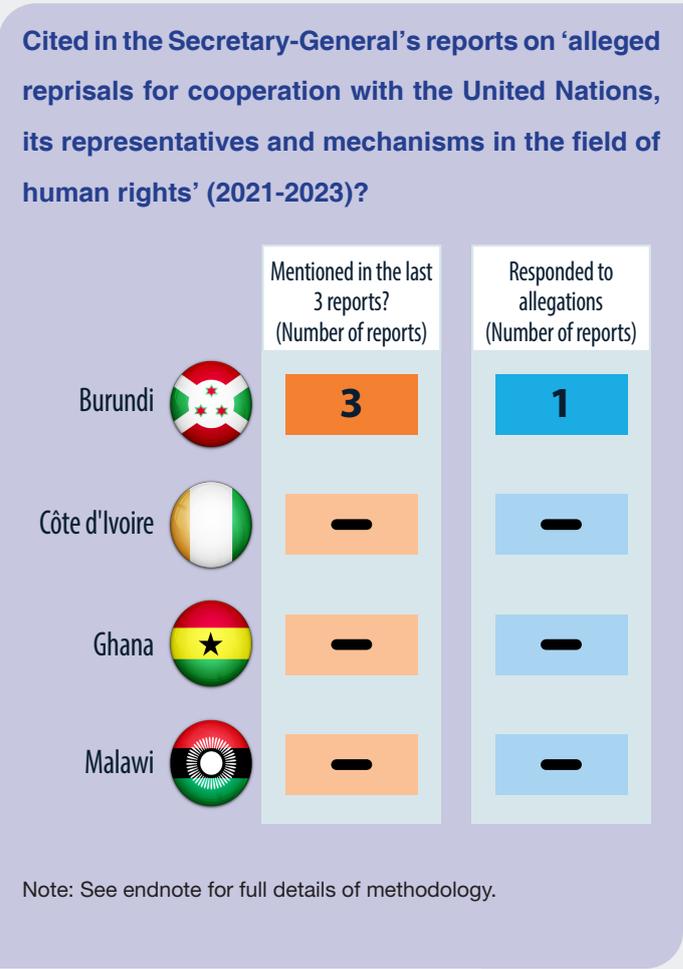
Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **Ghana** has voted (in the absence of consensus) in favour of some item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention) resolutions (e.g., on the situations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and the Syrian Arab Republic), but has tended to vote against or abstain on others (e.g., texts dealing with the situations in Belarus, Iran and Sudan). Regarding the situation in Burundi, Ghana voted in favour in 2016 but against in 2017. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Ghana has normally voted in favour (though it abstained five times in 2015 and 2016). On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Ghana has typically joined consensus. When a vote has been called, Ghana has always voted in favour: on cooperation with Ukraine (voted in favour in 2015, 2016, and 2017), the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (voted in favour in 2009 and 2017), and cooperation with Georgia (in favour, 2017). For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Ghana has generally joined consensus. When there has been a vote, Ghana has generally voted in favour. Notable exceptions include resolutions on the question of the death penalty, use of mercenaries, sexual orientation, the effects of terrorism, defamation of religion, and torture (Ghana abstained). For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, Ghana has either joined consensus on or has voted in favour of all adopted texts.

Principal sponsorship (2019-2023):

Youth and human rights; Protection of the family; Human rights and the environment; Human rights implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on young people.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2021, **Malawi** has voted in favour of most item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention) resolutions, including resolutions on the Syrian Arab Republic, Iran, and Ukraine, and a 2021 text on Belarus. However, Malawi voted against the 2021 text on the situation in Burundi, and abstained during voting on the 2020 resolutions on Belarus and the situation in South Sudan. On agenda item 2, Malawi has mostly voted against or abstained; however, it voted in favour of three country-specific item 2 resolutions: those pertaining to Nicaragua, Afghanistan, and Sri Lanka. Turning to item 7 resolutions, Malawi has tended to abstain or vote against, except during voting on a 2023 text on the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. Malawi has joined consensus or voted in favour of all item 10 resolutions (capacity-building) voted during the time it was a member. Turning to thematic resolutions, Malawi has tended to vote in favour although it abstained during voting on 2021 texts on the question of the death penalty, and on promoting mutually beneficial cooperation in the field of human rights.

Principal sponsorship (2019-2023):
Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka.



Inclusivity/Access

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

69%

COOPERATION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

* Ratification and reporting are recorded for the eight 'core human rights conventions,' meaning: the ICCPR; ICESCR; CAT; CED; CEDAW; CRC; CERD; and the CRPD.

Burundi



Côte d'Ivoire



Ghana



Malawi

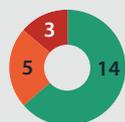
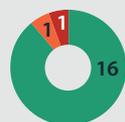


SPECIAL PROCEDURES

Standing invitation



Visits



Completed Invited Accepted Requested Postponed Declined

Longest outstanding visit

WG on disappearances (2009)

SR on migrants (2013)

SR on sale of children (2015)

IE on international solidarity (2017)

Communications response rate

3 responded to 7 received

4 responded to 6 received

1 responded to 6 received

5 responded to 14 received

Ratified

7

7

7

8

Communications procedures

2

2

4

1

Reporting status



submitted on time overdue on schedule not party submitted late n/a

Most overdue Time overdue in years

CERD (25 years)

CESCR (29 years)

CESCR (20 years)

CERD (26 years)

OP-CAT

Ratified?



NPM established?



Received Sub-Committee visit?



2019



UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

Level of delegation

Inter-ministerial

Inter-ministerial

Inter-ministerial

Inter-ministerial

Participation in 1st cycle

5

17

65

0

Participation in 2nd cycle

44

63

101

0

Participation in 3rd cycle

40

87

92

0

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

ASIA-PACIFIC GROUP (APG)

OVERVIEW OF CANDIDATES

		Membership of HRC bureau	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2022)	NHRI accreditation status	Previous membership terms	OHCHR presence
China		—			5	—
Indonesia		Vice-President (2009-2010)		A	5	—
Japan		—			5	—
Kuwait		—			1	—

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

FULFILMENT OF PREVIOUS VOLUNTARY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS

China presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the term 2021-2023 on 4 June 2020. In the document, China pledged to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; advance law-based governance; strengthen the legal protection of human rights; promote judicial justice; protect the rights of ethnic minorities; fulfil its obligations under the international human rights treaties; fully participate in the work of the UN human rights mechanisms; and encourage the Council and other

mechanisms to attach equal importance to economic, social, and cultural rights as to civil and political rights, and to function in an impartial, objective, and non-selective manner. China also pledged to implement the commitments made during its third UPR, to continue holding human rights dialogues and consultations with relevant countries and regional organisations, and to conduct human rights technical cooperation with relevant countries.

An analysis of the steps taken by China to fulfil its international-level pledges shows that, regarding engagement with the Council, it has participated in almost half of all Council debates, panels, and dialogues. Regarding cooperation with the mechanisms, it has responded to over 80% of all communications received from Special Procedures. However, China does not maintain a standing invitation to Special Procedures mandate-holders and has only facilitated 41% of the visit requests. China is yet to ratify the ICCPR or the CED, and has thus far not accepted any individual complaint procedure. Under the treaties it has ratified, China has two overdue reports (CAT, CERD). Regarding the UPR, China participated in its most recent UPR review at ministerial level. Additionally, China participated in the reviews of 173 and 135 other States during the second and third cycles of the UPR, respectively.

Indonesia presented a note verbale in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2020-2022 on 15 July 2019. In the note, Indonesia pledged, at the international level, to *inter alia*: advance international cooperation to ensure that the UN human rights pillar contributes to peace and stability, as well as development; continue to engage with the human rights mechanisms to further promote and protect human rights, and play a more active role in promoting dialogue and interfaith cooperation; ensure that all human rights (civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, as well as the right to development) are given equal emphasis in the work of the Council and OHCHR; and support the efforts of the OIC to promote and protect human rights across its member States.

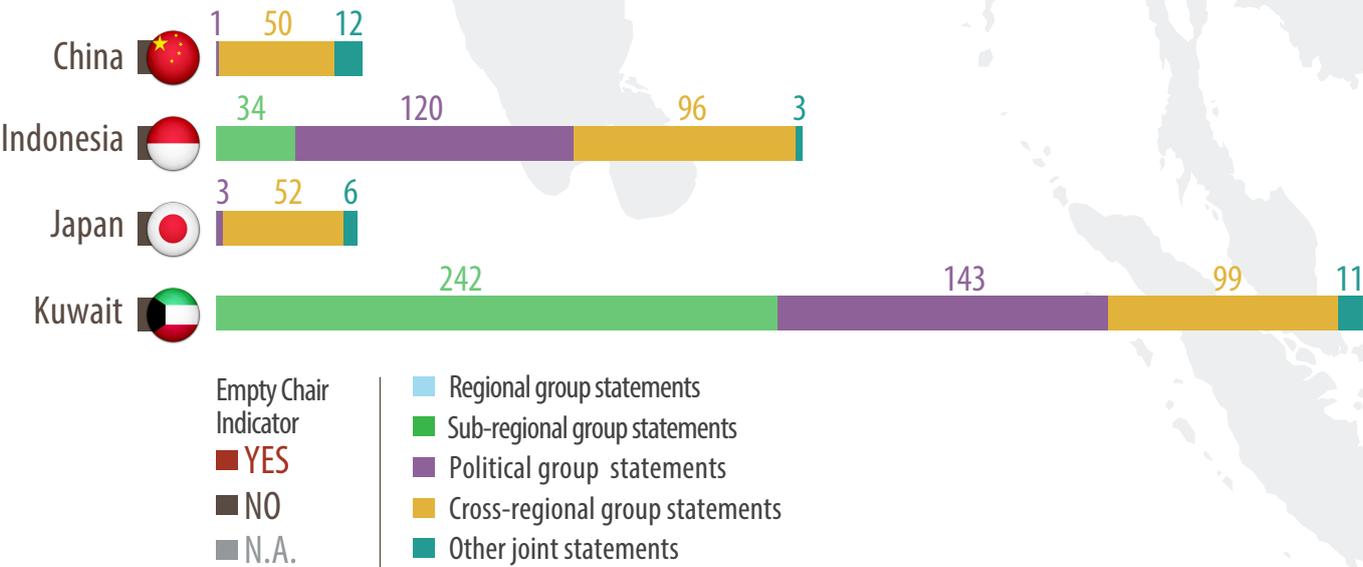
An analysis of the steps taken by Indonesia to fulfil its pledges shows that it contributed to the work of the Council as a member of the Working Group on Situations in 2020 and 2022. Indonesia participated through individual statements in 40% of all Council dialogues, debates, and panels. Regarding cooperation with the mechanisms, Indonesia has responded to over 90% of all recommendations received from Special Procedures, but does not maintain a standing invitation and has only facilitated 39% of visit requests. Indonesia has ratified 7 treaties but no individual complaints procedures. It was two overdue periodic reports (CAT and CERD) and tends to submit its reports late.

Japan presented commitments and pledges in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2020-2022 early in 2019. Japan pledged, *inter alia*, to continue to support and strengthen the Council and to cooperate with the Special Procedures and the UPR; to continue to hold human rights dialogues with States based on mutual understanding and respect; to continue to defend and enhance civil society space and engagement, at international and domestic levels; to implement Japan's obligations and commitments under the international human rights instruments, including via recommendations received from the Treaty Bodies; and to continue to promote human rights through its work at the Council and the GA, especially in the following thematic areas: women's empowerment and gender equality, the rights of the child, health and disaster risk reduction, sport and human rights, and business and human rights.

An analysis of the steps taken by Japan to fulfil its pledges shows that, regarding participation at the Council, it has taken part (individually) in almost 30% of all Council dialogues, panels, and debates. Regarding cooperation with the mechanisms, Japan has responded to 90% of all communications received from Special Procedures, maintains a standing invitation, and has facilitated 67% of all visit requests. Japan has ratified all core human rights treaties but is yet to accept all individual complaints procedures. Japan has 3 overdue treaty periodic reports. Japan has supported and sponsored texts under all the thematic areas mentioned in its 2019 pledges, but voted against a 2014 resolution on the elaboration of an international legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights.

Kuwait tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2011-2014 on 11 May 2011. Most of the document provides a restatement of existing commitments. Only one pledge for future action is included, namely, to deliver aid through bilateral mechanisms and non-partisan agencies.

PARTICIPATION IN JOINT STATEMENTS DURING COUNCIL DEBATES, PANEL DISCUSSIONS AND INTERACTIVE DIALOGUES



Note: This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State has joined during Council general debates, panel discussions and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures, during the last four years (June 2019 - June 2023). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology please see endnote.

KEY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS FOR 2023 ELECTION

China's voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership of the Council for the period 2024-2026 were unavailable at the time the yourHRC.org 2023 Election Guide was published.

Indonesia presented an aide-mémoire in support of its candidature for membership of the Council for the period 2024-2026 early in 2023. In the document, Indonesia pledges to:

At international level:

- Strengthen multilateralism by promoting democracy and human rights.
- Contribute to increasing the capacity of countries, and reduce inequalities between countries in their capacity to promote and protect human rights, mainly through technical cooperation and capacity-building.
- Support the work of the Council and other UN human rights mechanisms based on constructive dialogue and a non-selectivity approach.
- Actively promote the role of the UPR in supporting the promotion and protection of human rights.
- Strengthen the capacity of the Council to provide technical assistance and capacity building support.
- Continue supporting the work of OHCHR, including through voluntary contributions.
- Continue constructive engagement with the Special Procedures.
- Continue to assess the possibility of ratifying additional international human rights instruments.

- Continue to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.
- Continue to take an active role in various human rights fora and forging international cooperation on human rights, including through the OIC's Independent Permanent Human Rights Commissions, and through effective use of its bilateral human rights dialogues.

At regional level:

- Enhance capacity-building and technical assistance, especially for participants in the Asia-Pacific region, helping to ensure that the Council's work reaches and benefits the region.
- Take an active role in the promotion and protection of human rights in Southeast Asia through strengthening the mandate of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children (ACWC), as well as institutionalising the ASEAN Human Rights Dialogue.
- Strengthen cooperation with UN agencies and the regional office of OHCHR to promote technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the region, especially regarding the rights of the child, women, and persons with disabilities.
- Strengthen cooperation with countries in the region and relevant international and regional organisations to address regional concerns related to human trafficking, people smuggling, online child exploitation, and online labour exploitation.

Japan tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2024-2026 on 16 February 2023. Most of the document provides a restatement of existing commitments and includes relatively few pledges for future action. Concrete pledges for the upcoming period include: continue to follow-up on the recommendations provided by and to engage with the Treaty Bodies; continue to hold dialogues with civil society, including NGOs, to promote and protect human rights, including the rights of young persons and older persons, women and men, persons with disabilities, and children; and prevent and eliminate trafficking in persons.

Kuwait's voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership of the Council for the period 2024-2026 were unavailable at the time the yourHRC.org 2023 Election Guide was published.

VOTING HISTORY DURING PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP TERMS

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **China** has (in the absence of consensus) voted against all resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention). China has also voted against most country-specific resolutions under item 2 (reports by the High Commissioner), although it voted in favour of the item 2 resolution on strengthening cooperation in Venezuela (2019), Occupied Palestinian Territories (2019, 2021, 2023), and Burundi (2017). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), China tends to vote in favour or join consensus, although in 2009 it voted against two texts, on the Occupied Syrian Golan and on Israeli Settlements. Regarding item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), China has nearly always joined

consensus. Where a vote has been called, China has voted against item 10 texts on Georgia and Ukraine, but in favour of texts on the Democratic Republic of Congo in 2009 and 2017. For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, in the absence of consensus, China has tended to abstain or vote against. The exceptions to this rule are China's votes on Council texts on: the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion or expression, right to peace, integrity of the judicial system, firearms, arms transfers, effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights, use of drones, arbitrary detention, mercenaries, and universal coercive measures (China tends to vote in favour of these initiatives). For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, China has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts.

Principal sponsorship (2019-2023):

The contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights; Promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights within the context of addressing inequalities in the recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic - access to medicines; Promoting mutually beneficial cooperation; Negative impact of the legacies of colonialism; Promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal; marking the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **Indonesia** has (in the absence of consensus) voted in favour of nearly all item 4 resolutions (situations that require the Council's attention) on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, but has tended to abstain or vote against all other item 4 texts. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Indonesia has mostly voted in favour, except in 2009 when it voted against two item 7 texts. Indonesia usually joins consensus

on item 10 (capacity-building) resolutions. When a vote has been called, Indonesia has tended to abstain (e.g. on resolutions on Ukraine and Georgia). The exceptions are 2009 and 2017 resolutions on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Indonesia voted in favour). For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Indonesia has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has usually voted in favour. Notwithstanding, during voting on the texts on the question of the death penalty, Indonesia twice voted against (2014 and 2015) and twice abstained (2017 and 2021). It also voted against the 2014 and 2016 texts on sexual orientation and abstained during voting on two resolutions on discrimination based on religion (2007 and 2009), and one on transitional justice (2016). For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, Indonesia has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts.

Principal sponsorship (2019-2023):

Access to medicines; Right to work; Enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building; Negative impact of corruption; Equal participation in political and public affairs; Strengthening documentation within the Council; Freedom of peaceful assembly and of association.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **Japan** has (in the absence of consensus) voted in favour of most resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention): Where there has been a vote, it has tended to vote against, but has voted in favour of some texts on the rights to development (2010, 2011, 2013), food (2017, 2018), human rights in the context of HIV and AIDS (2021), and WASH (2018). Where there has been a vote on item 2 country-specific resolutions,

Japan has tended to abstain during voting on the texts on Burundi, Myanmar, ensuring accountability for human rights violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, Philippines, Sri Lanka, strengthening cooperation in Venezuela and human rights situation in Yemen, but voted in favour of the resolutions on Afghanistan, Eritrea, Tigray region in Ethiopia, Nicaragua, and the situation of human rights in Venezuela. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Japan has mostly voted in favour. However, it has voted against or abstained during voting on a number of the resolutions on ensuring accountability for all violations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan, and human rights violations emanating from Israeli military attacks. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), when a vote has been called, Japan has voted in favour (e.g., the resolutions on Georgia and Ukraine). The exception is a 2009 vote on a resolution on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (when Japan abstained). For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Japan has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, Japan has voted in favour of resolutions on torture, sexual orientation, education as a tool to prevent racism, arms transfers, peaceful protests, and democracy and rule of law. Japan has voted against resolutions on, inter alia, defamation of religion, a global call for concrete action against racism, right to peace, complementary standards to CERD, drones, question of the death penalty, and the effects of terrorism on human rights. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, Japan has generally joined consensus. The exceptions were its abstentions on two texts on Myanmar (in 2018 and 2020). Japan has voted against texts on the effects of economic reform policies, the effects of foreign debt, globalisation and its impact on human rights, international solidarity, non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin, and unilateral coercive measures.

Principal sponsorship (2019-2023):

Civil society space; Discrimination against persons with leprosy; The role of States in countering the negative impact of disinformation; Advisory services and technical assistance for Cambodia; Enforced or involuntary disappearances; Promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2011, **Kuwait** has mostly (in the absence of consensus) voted in favour of item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention) resolutions, though it has abstained from votes concerning the situation of three States: Belarus (2022, 2013, 2014), DPRK (2014), and Iran (2012, 2013, 2014). During votes on item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Kuwait has consistently voted in favour. Regarding item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Kuwait has joined consensus on all resolutions except for one that was voted on during the period of its membership: on cooperation with Ukraine (Kuwait abstained). For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Kuwait has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has usually voted in favour. Notwithstanding, it voted against resolutions on the question of the death penalty, and a 2014 resolution on sexual orientation. It has abstained on resolutions on peaceful protests, arms transfers, and an international legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, Kuwait has either joined consensus on or has voted in favour of all adopted texts.

Principal sponsorship (2019-2023):

Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic.

Cited in the Secretary-General's reports on 'alleged reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights' (2021-2023)?

	Mentioned in the last 3 reports? (Number of reports)	Responded to allegations (Number of reports)
China 	3	3
Indonesia 	3	3
Japan 	—	—
Kuwait 	0	0

Note: See endnote for full details of methodology.

Inclusivity/Access

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

52%

COOPERATION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

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

China



Indonesia



Japan



Kuwait

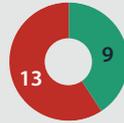


SPECIAL PROCEDURES

Standing invitation



Visits



Completed Invited Accepted Requested Postponed Declined

Longest outstanding visit

SR on freedom of religion (2003)

WG on disappearances (2006)

SR on toxics and human rights (2015)

SR on slavery (2015)

Communications response rate

68 responded to 83 received

30 responded to 33 received

18 responded to 20 received

5 responded to 6 received

Ratified

6

7

8

7

Communications procedures

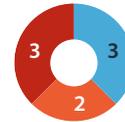
0

0

0

0

Reporting status



submitted on time on schedule submitted late overdue not party n/a

Most overdue Time overdue in years

CAT (4 years)

CERD (13 years)

CAT (6 years)

—

TREATY BODIES

OP-CAT

Ratified?



NPM established?



Received Sub-Committee visit?



UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

Level of delegation

Inter-ministerial

Inter-ministerial

Minister

Ministry

Participation in 1st cycle

57

78

75

27

Participation in 2nd cycle

173

192

90

73

Participation in 3rd cycle

135

141

75

46

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

EASTERN EUROPEAN GROUP (EEG)

OVERVIEW OF CANDIDATES

	Membership of HRC bureau	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2022)	NHRI accreditation status	Previous membership terms	OHCHR presence
Albania 	Vice-President (2015)				
Bulgaria 	Vice-President (2021)				
Russian Federation 					

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

FULFILMENT OF PREVIOUS VOLUNTARY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS

Albania tabled ‘voluntary pledges and commitments’ in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2015-2017 on 19 March 2014. The document presents Albania’s international-level and national-level commitments and pledges for its membership term. Internationally, Albania pledged to: cooperate with the Council during the second cycle of the UPR; work with Special Procedures mandate-holders to implement and disseminate their recommendations; combat intolerance

and discrimination; strengthen the UN human rights system’s infrastructure; promote gender equality and the rights of vulnerable groups; and work towards a human rights perspective in the post-2015 development agenda.

An analysis of steps taken by Albania in fulfilment of its international pledges shows that, during the second cycle of the UPR, it only participated in/contributed to 23% of other States’ reviews. Albania submitted a UPR

mid-term report during the second UPR cycle. Regarding Special Procedures, Albania completed almost 90% of visit requests, but has only responded to one of the three communications received from mandate holders. Albania has supported resolutions on sexual orientation and gender identity, and the rights of women, but has voted against resolutions on a global call for concrete action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance.

Bulgaria presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2019-2021 on 6 June 2018. International level pledges included in the document include: continue to support the work of OHCHR and the UN human rights mechanisms; support initiatives aimed at strengthening the efficiency of the Council, improving its working methods, and promoting universal participation; support efforts aimed at strengthening the Treaty Bodies, Special Procedures, and UPR; support efforts to bring grave country-specific situations to the attention of the UN; help strengthen the CRPD; work on and support initiatives in important thematic areas such as civil society participation, human rights defenders, rights of the child - particularly inclusive education and early childhood development, gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, elimination of all forms of discrimination and violence, and human trafficking.

An analysis of the steps taken by Bulgaria to fulfil its international pledges shows that it has indeed supported OHCHR through voluntary contributions. It also maintains a standing invitation to Special Procedures, has facilitated all visit requests, and has responded to almost 90% of communications. Regarding cooperation with the Treaty Bodies, Bulgaria has ratified seven core conventions (it is yet to ratify the CED) and has submitted or is on schedule to submit all its periodic reports. Notwithstanding, in terms of engagement with the UPR, Bulgaria participated in 41

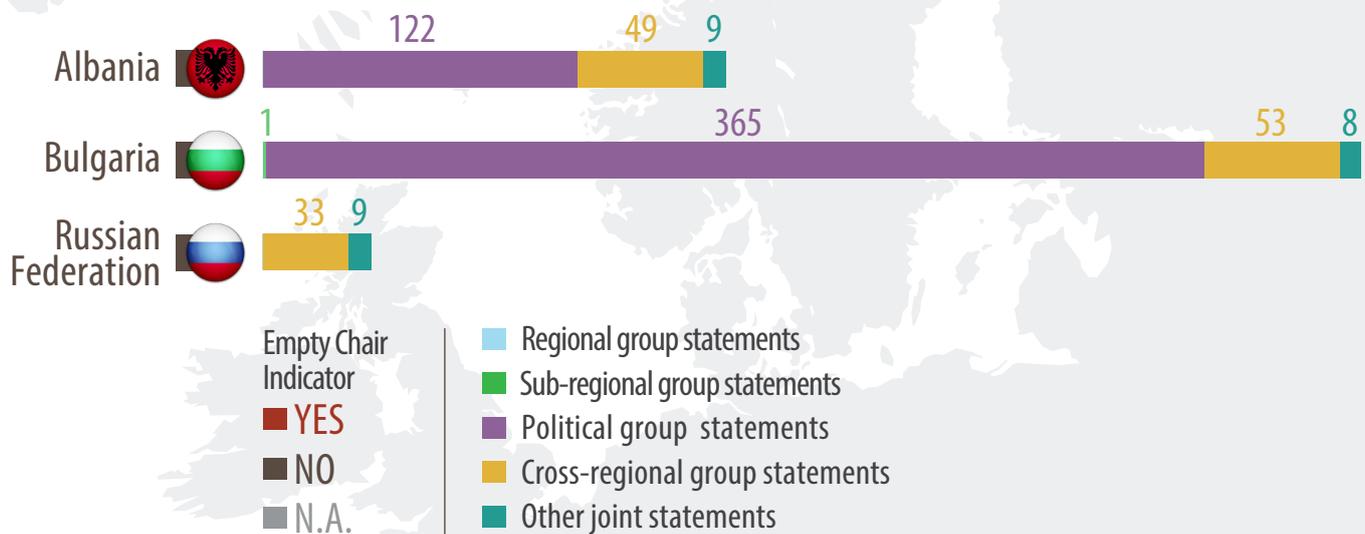
and 88 other States' reviews during the UPR's second and third cycles respectively. It further submitted midterm reports during the first and second cycles. Bulgaria has supported all the thematic initiatives it pledged to contribute to, although it abstained during voting on the 2021 resolution on a global call for concrete action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

The **Russian Federation** presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2021-2023 on 29 January 2020. In the document, the Russian Federation pledged to, *inter alia*: ensure respect for human rights and freedoms throughout the world; counter attempts to use human rights concepts as an instrument of political pressure and interference in the internal affairs of States; promote State compliance with their international human rights obligations; develop cultural and humanitarian ties between peoples at the inter-State level; oppose any manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, neo-Nazism, aggressive nationalism, anti-Semitism, and religious and ethnic intolerance; engage with civil society institutions on international human rights issues; promote international cooperation in order to achieve mutual understanding and respect among peoples, with a special focus on inter-religious dialogue; enhance cooperation with international and non-governmental human rights organisations; focus on individual responsibility for human rights violations, especially those related to religion-based discrimination; strengthen the integration of moral principles in human rights discourse and eradicate double standards; and transform the Council into an efficient and effective tool for promoting and protecting human rights throughout the world, based on the principles of universality, non-selectivity, objectivity, equal treatment of all, and respect for cultural and civilizational diversity.

An analysis of the steps taken by the Russian Federation to fulfil its international pledges shows that it engages frequently in Council debates and dialogues, participating in 71% meetings individually. However, it joined only 38 joint statements during its last membership term. Regarding engagement with the Council’s mechanisms, Russia has responded to almost 75% of the communications received from Special Procedures and facilitated 52%

of all visit requests. Russia has submitted most of its periodic reports to the Treaty Bodies on time. On 7 April 2022, the General Assembly adopted a resolution suspending the Russian Federation from the Council for gross and systematic violations of human rights (the Russian Federation resigned from its position as a Council member on the same day).

PARTICIPATION IN JOINT STATEMENTS DURING COUNCIL DEBATES, PANEL DISCUSSIONS, AND INTERACTIVE DIALOGUES



Note: This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State has joined during Council general debates, panel discussions, and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures during the last four years (June 2019 - June 2023). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology please see endnote.

KEY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS FOR 2023 ELECTION

Albania's voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership of the Council for the period 2024-2026 were unavailable at the time the yourHRC.org 2023 Election Guide was published.

Bulgaria presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for the membership term 2024-2026 on 25 April 2023. In the document, Bulgaria pledged to, *inter alia*:

At the international level:

- Support efforts to sustain and promote a culture of peace, tolerance, understanding, and respect for diversity.
- Engage in all Council activities to enhance genuine dialogue and interaction among its members.
- Support initiatives aimed at further strengthening the efficiency of the Council, improving its methods of work, and ensuring its effectiveness and transparency, and support work on the voluntary rationalization of initiatives.
- Promote civil society participation in the Council.
- Engage with and support all efforts aimed at strengthening the independence, accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness of the Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures.
- Support the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights.
- Strengthen the UPR.
- Continue to work on important thematic initiatives such as those on the elimination of all forms of discrimination, freedom of expression, both online and offline, the independence of the media and the safety of journalists, tackling the negative impacts of disinformation and hate speech, achieving full equality between women and men, promoting the realisation of the rights of women and girls and their empowerment; promoting the rights of young people and their participation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, mitigating the effect of climate change on the rights of the child, eliminate bullying among children, promote the rights of persons with disabilities, support the global fight against corruption; encourage a UN-led approach in addressing the root causes of trafficking in human beings; and address the impacts of new and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, on human rights.
- Foster multilateral cooperation in the field of sustainable development and participate in joint efforts to address the impacts of environmental degradation and climate change on human rights.
- Contribute to efforts aimed at the fulfilment of the rights to safe and clean drinking water and sanitation and to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

At the national level:

- Uphold international standards in the field of human rights and the rule of law.

- 
- Pursue a human rights-based approach to planning and implementing national policies.
 - Promote the independence of the judiciary.
 - Strengthen and ensure the independence of the country's national human rights institutions.
 - Promote intercultural and interreligious dialogue, strengthen the protection of freedom of religion or belief, and fight all forms of discrimination, racism, xenophobia, antisemitism, and hate speech.
 - Implement the national strategy for equality, inclusion, and participation of the Roma.
 - Introduce and implement measures to defend freedom of expression, including the safety of journalists, and closely monitor the protection of media freedom through effective implementation of national legislation.
 - Implement its national action plan on women and peace and security 2020–2025, strengthen the role of women in peace and security, and fully implement Security Council resolution 1325 (2000).
 - Ensure the fulfilment of the rights of all children and persons with disabilities.
 - Intensify its efforts to combat trafficking in human beings.
 - Involve civil society representatives and organisations, social partners, and other stakeholders in all human rights-related policymaking and decision-making processes at all levels.

The **Russian Federation's** voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership of the Council for the period 2024-2026 were unavailable at the time the yourHRC.org 2023 Election Guide was published.

VOTING HISTORY DURING PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP TERMS

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2015, **Albania** has consistently voted in favour of resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention). It voted against the only country-specific item 2 resolution that was voted upon during its membership period. In relation to item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Albania has consistently voted in favour of the texts on the human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian Territory and the rights of Palestinian People to self-determination. However, it has abstained during voting on most resolutions related to ensuring accountability and justice for violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, the occupied Syrian Golan, and Israeli settlements in the occupied Palestinian Territory. Albania has supported all item 10 texts voted on during its membership period. Regarding thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Albania has generally joined consensus or voted in favour. Nevertheless, it has consistently voted against texts on the effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights, and has abstained during voting on texts regarding drones, arms transfers, and the right to peace. Regarding thematic resolutions dealing with cross-cutting matters and economic, social, and cultural rights, Albania has predominantly joined consensus on adopted texts. However, it has voted against resolutions related to a democratic and equitable international order, mercenaries, international coercive measures, protection of the family, the effects of foreign debt, and international solidarity. It has also abstained during voting on resolutions concerning the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin, and the right to development.

Principal sponsorship (2019-2023):

Extreme poverty; the Human rights implications of drug policies; Advancing human rights in South Sudan.

During the time it was a member, **Bulgaria** generally tended to vote in favour of country-specific item 2 texts (reports of the High Commissioner), with a few exceptions. It abstained during voting on a 2019 text on strengthening cooperation with Venezuela and voted against a 2019 resolution on the Occupied Palestinian Territories. Regarding item 4 resolutions (human rights situations that require the Council's attention), Bulgaria joined consensus or voted in favour of all texts. During voting on item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Bulgaria's voting pattern varied. It voted against texts on human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan, and abstained during voting on resolutions on Israeli settlements, yet voted in favour of all other texts. For item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Bulgaria either joined consensus or voted in favour of all texts. For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, where a vote was called, Bulgaria mostly voted in favour. For item 3 resolutions dealing with cross-cutting matters and economic, social, and cultural rights, when a vote was called, Bulgaria tended to vote against. The exceptions were its votes in favour of resolutions on human rights in the context of HIV and AIDS, new and emerging technologies, climate change, and the environment.

Principal sponsorship (2019-2023):

Situation of human rights in the Russian Federation;
Contribution of human rights to achieving the purposes of the UN Charter.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, the **Russian Federation** has consistently (in the absence of consensus) voted against all resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), as well as

country-specific resolutions tabled under item 2 (reports of the High Commissioner), with the exception being a 2021 text on the human rights situation in the OPT, for which it voted in favour. When votes have been called on item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), the Russian Federation has predominantly voted in favour. However, there was an exception in 2009 when it voted against two resolutions concerning the occupied Syrian Golan and Israeli settlements. When votes have been called on texts tabled under item 10 (technical assistance and capacity building), the Russian Federation has almost always voted against. The exception is a 2009 resolution on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which Russia supported. Concerning thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, the Russian Federation has generally joined consensus or voted in favour. Nevertheless, it has voted against texts on peaceful protests, sexual orientation and gender identity, civil society space, violent extremism, and human rights defenders. Additionally, the Russian Federation has abstained during voting on texts related to the question of the death penalty, democracy, the rule of law, and transitional justice. For thematic resolutions focusing on economic, social, and cultural rights, Russia has mostly chosen to either join consensus or vote in favour of resolutions, though it has abstained during voting on texts concerning the right to water and sanitation, climate change, the right to a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment, and human rights in the context of HIV and AIDS.

Cited in the Secretary-General’s reports on ‘alleged reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights’ (2021-2023)?

	Mentioned in the last 3 reports? (Number of reports)	Responded to allegations (Number of reports)
Albania 	—	—
Bulgaria 	—	—
Russian Federation 	2	0

Note: See endnote for full details of methodology.

Inclusivity/Access

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

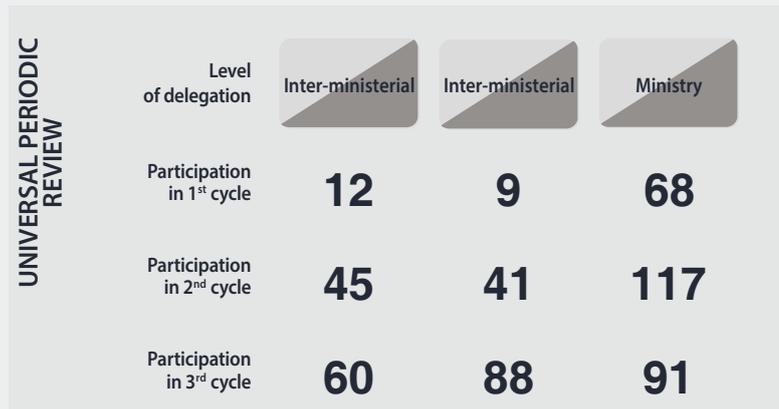
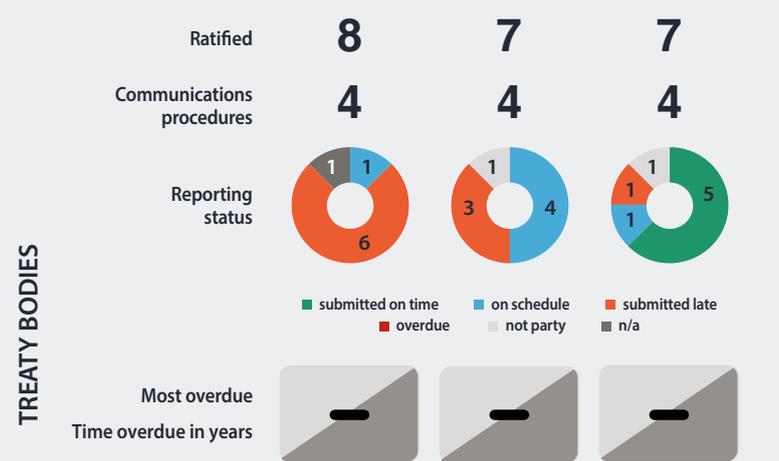
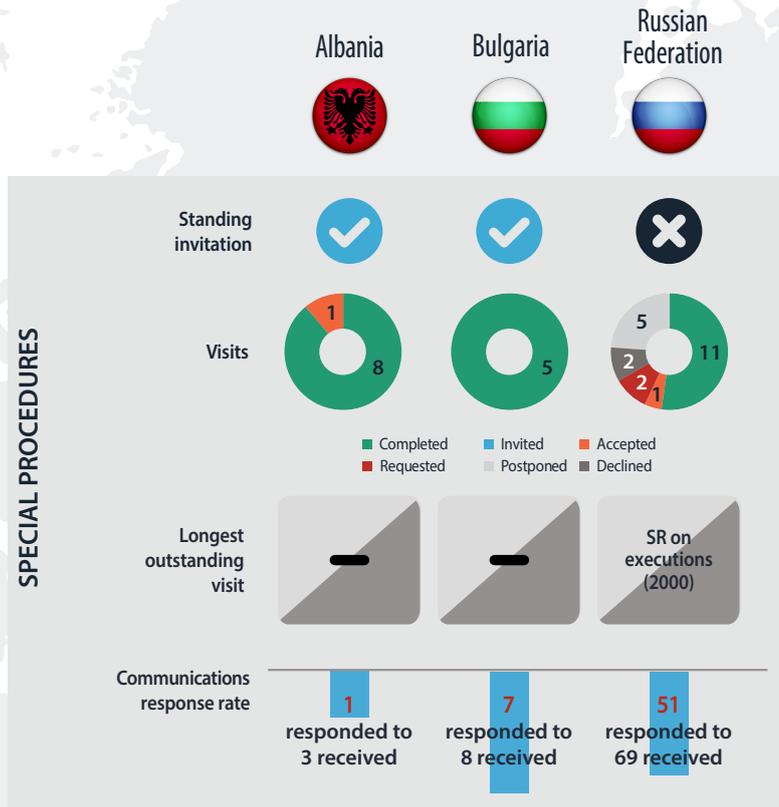
87%

Principal sponsorship (2019-2023):

Business and human rights, promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal, Methods of work of the Consultative Group of the Human Rights Council, and Strengthening cooperation in Venezuela.

COOPERATION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

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



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

LATIN AMERICAN AND CARIBBEAN GROUP (GRULAC)

OVERVIEW OF CANDIDATES

		Membership of HRC bureau	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2022)	NHRI accreditation status	Previous membership terms	OHCHR presence
Brazil		—			5	Human Rights Advisers
Cuba		Vice-President (2010-2011)			5	—
Dominican Republic		—			NEW	Human Rights Advisers
Peru		—		A	3	Field presence

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

FULFILMENT OF PREVIOUS VOLUNTARY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS

Brazil presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2020-2022 on 26 June 2019. International level pledges presented by Brazil included, *inter alia*: continuing to support and engage with the Council and its mechanisms, including taking part in discussions about the Council's status in the UN system; remaining active in discussing the main substantive issues on the Council's agenda, including the right to privacy in the digital age and the full enjoyment of human rights on the Internet;

remaining a member of the core groups for resolutions where it is traditionally a main sponsor, including those on the safety of journalists, sports and the Olympic ideal, the fight against corruption, and human rights technical cooperation; supporting programmes and initiatives aimed at preventing, punishing, and eradicating discrimination and violence against women and girls; ensuring the full protection of the rights of children and adolescents in law and in practice; and supporting initiatives on family protection, freedom of religion, human rights and the Internet, freedom of expression, the right to privacy, older

persons, human rights defenders, social inclusion, the right to health, and the fight against corruption.

An analysis of Brazil's efforts in fulfilling its previous international pledges reveals that it has engaged in approximately 31% of all Council dialogues, panels, and debates, while also actively participating in numerous cross-regional joint statements (88 in total, slightly above the average of 84 for all countries). Brazil has facilitated nearly 70% of visit requests submitted by Special Procedures mandate holders, and has responded to around 75% of communications received. The country has consistently submitted its periodic reports to the Treaty Bodies, and has participated in 191 and 137 UPR reviews of other States during the second and third cycles, respectively. Brazil has shown strong support for the initiatives outlined in its pledges by sponsoring or backing resolutions related to these areas.

Cuba presented voluntary pledges and commitments on 14 February 2020. In the document, Cuba pledged, *inter alia*, to: continue to promote an approach based on cooperation and constructive dialogue in the work of the Council and the human rights mechanisms, continue to promote its traditional initiatives on the right to food and the promotion of cultural rights, and continue to work on the progressive development of third-generation rights, in particular of international solidarity.

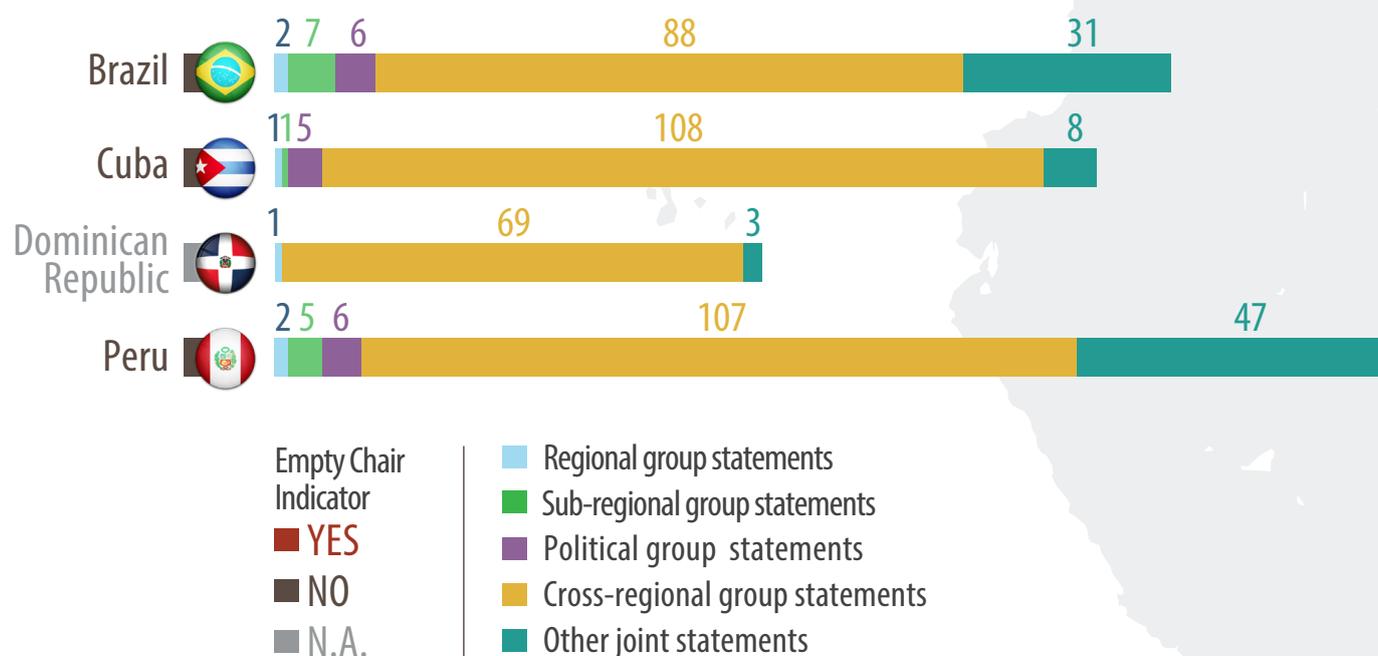
An analysis of steps taken by Cuba in fulfilment of its international pledges shows that it has indeed contributed to dialogues and debates at the Council, having participated individually in over 53% of all dialogues, debates, and panels, as well as joining a significant number of cross-regional joint statements (108, above the average of 84 for all States). Cuba has also promoted/ supported the initiatives mentioned in its 2020 pledges.

The **Dominican Republic** has not been a member of the Council before.

Peru presented its voluntary pledges for election to the Council for the term 2018-2020 on 24 August 2017. In the document, Peru pledged, *inter alia*, to: continue to participate constructively in the UPR and take due account of recommendations received; support the strengthening of Special Procedures of the Council and encourage more States to extend standing invitations; continue to present or sponsor resolutions it has traditionally promoted; continue to support OHCHR; strengthen cooperation with the Treaty Bodies, including by submitting periodic reports in a timely manner and by following up on implementation; promote cooperation and exchange of information between the UN human rights system and regional systems; and foster international cooperation among States to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

An analysis of steps taken by Peru in fulfilment of its international pledges shows that it has only participated in around 20% and 40% of other States' reviews during the UPR second and third cycles, respectively, and has not submitted mid-term reports. Regarding the Special Procedures, Peru maintains a standing invitation for mandate-holders to visit and has facilitated 73% of visit requests, but has so far only responded to 47% of communications received. Peru has ratified all the core human rights conventions and 6 individual communications procedures (it is yet to ratify the CED and ICESCR). It has three overdue periodic reports (CAT, CERD, and CRC), although all for less than a year. Peru has indeed continued to support the initiatives it pledged to, such as equal participation, firearms, and extreme poverty.

PARTICIPATION IN JOINT STATEMENTS DURING COUNCIL DEBATES, PANEL DISCUSSIONS, AND INTERACTIVE DIALOGUES



Note: This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State has joined during Council general debates, panel discussions, and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures during the last four years (June 2019 - June 2023). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology please see endnote.

KEY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS FOR 2023 ELECTION

Brazil presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2024-2026 on 3 May 2023. In the document, Brazil presents a series of concrete pledges and commitments including to, *inter alia*:

At the international level:

- Strengthen the international human rights system and the Council.
- Engage in discussions to promote greater efficiency and effectiveness in the work of the Council, including negotiations on the possible elevation of the status of the organ.

- Prioritise a preventive and cooperative approach in the Council, through dialogue, international cooperation, technical assistance, and capacity building.
 - Support OHCHR, and the UPR, Special Procedures and Treaty Body mechanisms, including by submitting relevant reports and participating at a high level.
 - Advance the ratification process of the ICESCR-OP, CMW, and ILO conventions; the Inter-American Convention on the Protection of the Human Rights of Older Persons; the Inter-American Convention against all Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance, and the Regional Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation, and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean (Escazú Agreement).
 - Combat fake news, hate speech and extremism, and human rights violations perpetrated through robots and artificial intelligence tools.
 - Regarding civil and political rights, continue to present, support and co-sponsor draft resolutions on the right to privacy in the digital age, human rights on the Internet, and respect for freedom of expression and opinion and the protection of journalists. Promote initiatives that encourage greater participation by groups in situations of vulnerability due to race, sex, gender, and ethnicity, and work to realise the rights to freedom of expression and of religion or belief, and the rights to participation and justice.
 - Regarding groups in focus, work to realise the rights of women and girls, indigenous peoples, children and youth, the elderly, people with disabilities, LGBTQIA+, migrants, refugees, stateless people and human rights defenders, and promote racial equality.
 - Regarding economic social and cultural rights, and the right to development, promote the realisation of social justice, combat poverty, prevent child and forced labour, and promote the rights to work, food, health, sports, and a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment.
- Cuba** presented an aide-mémoire in support of its candidature for membership of the Council for the period 2024-2026 early in September 2023. In the document, Cuba makes only three concrete pledges, namely to:
- Continue to support Global South-led initiatives particularly, on issues such as the right to development, the rights to education and health, the fight against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, the right to food, and the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order.
 - Continue to advocate for the full respect for the principles of universality, indivisibility, objectivity, non-politicization and non-selectivity in the treatment of human rights issues.
 - Work to strengthen cooperation and technical assistance in the field of human rights, while promoting with full respect for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of countries.



The **Dominican Republic** presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership of the Council for the period 2024-2026 on 8th August 2023. In the document, the Dominican Republic pledges to promote respect for the UN Charter, dialogue between nations for the settlement of disputes, equal rights, the self-determination of peoples, the maintenance of international peace and security, and the achievement of sustainable development. To achieve these goals, the Dominican Republic pledges to, *inter alia*:

At national level:

- Implement the Action Plan Against Human Trafficking and Smuggling; the National Plan for Gender Equality and Equity 2010-2030, the National Development Strategy, the Sustainable Development Goals, the Law against child marriage, and the National Human Rights Plan 2018-2024.
- Encourage and promote human rights education for all.
- Work to promote the abolition of forced labour, child marriage, and the death penalty.
- Strengthen the implementation of human rights, notably by supporting human rights defenders.
- Combat all types of discrimination.
- Work to improve the treatment of people in situations of human mobility, with an emphasis on solidarity, cooperation, responsibility, and burden-sharing.
- Study the international instruments that it is yet to ratify.

- Advocate for the establishment of guarantees and protection of people in cyberspace, combat disinformation and fake news, and engage in the consideration and evaluation of the implications for human rights of new technologies and artificial intelligence, as an evolving social reality.
- Promote economic, social, and cultural rights, and the right to development.
- Prevent violence against women and girls.

At international level:

- Defend and promote assertive action to address climate change, which particularly affects Small Island Developing States.
- Reaffirm the independence of OHCHR.
- Support the Council in addressing human rights violations and defend its role as the most important forum for dialogue on these issues.
- Based on equitable and constructive dialogue, contribute to the development of international standards that guarantee the principles of equality and non-discrimination.
- Work closely with national and international civil society organisations, through open and frank dialogue.
- Reaffirm multilateralism as the ideal forum for the promotion and protection of human rights.
- Strengthen the UPR through concrete recommendations based on the recommendations presented by the UN Treaty Bodies.

Peru presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2024-2026 on 30 March 2023. In the document, Peru pledges to, *inter alia*:

At national level:

- Strengthen social inclusion, equity and poverty eradication, from a human rights, gender, disability and intercultural perspective.
 - Continue striving to secure the equal enjoyment by all, especially the most vulnerable, of their rights to education, health, equality, participation, access to justice, and non-discrimination, and eliminate all forms of violence, including trafficking in persons, and sexual and other types of exploitation.
 - Improve dialogue with Indigenous Peoples and scale up efforts to improve their quality of life, focusing on reducing poverty, promoting their development, and protecting their natural environment.
 - Fulfil the rights of human rights defenders and strengthen measures to secure a safe environment for them.
 - Maintain a constructive and ongoing dialogue with civil society regarding the design and promotion of public human rights policies.
 - Continue to regularise the immigration status of foreigners in Peru and eliminate cases of statelessness.
- At international level:
- Promote the strengthening of democracy, democratic institutions, and the rule of law.
 - Participate constructively in the UPR and respond to the resulting recommendations.
 - Promote the strengthening of the Special Procedures mechanism and the extension, by more States of standing invitations.
 - Sponsor and support resolutions in the General Assembly and the Council on democracy, extreme poverty, combating impunity, and the rights of Indigenous Peoples, among others.
 - Continue to support the work and the strengthening of OHCHR, and cooperate with its mandate.
 - Continue to foster the promotion and protection of the human rights of all people, especially women, children and adolescents, older persons, persons with disabilities, and Indigenous Peoples.
 - Strengthen collaboration with the Treaty Bodies, including by submitting relevant periodic reports and by implementing the resulting recommendations.
 - Continue supporting the work of international judicial bodies, in particular the International Criminal Court, and promoting the gradual universalisation of the Rome Statute and its amendments.
 - Strengthen cooperation and the exchange of information between the UN human rights system and regional systems, in particular the inter-American human rights system.

VOTING HISTORY DURING PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP TERMS

Since becoming a member of the Council in 2006, **Brazil** has consistently voted in favour of or joined consensus on most resolutions tabled under item 2. The exceptions are the texts concerning the Occupied Palestinian Territories and the resolutions on strengthening cooperation in Venezuela - Brazil has consistently voted against. Concerning item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention) resolutions, Brazil usually votes in favour. However, it abstained during voting on the 2015 and 2021 texts on the Syrian Arab Republic, most resolutions on Iran, a 2021 text on South Sudan, and a 2009 text on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea. Brazil tends to vote in favour of item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories). The exceptions to this trend are the texts related to the Occupied Syrian Golan (Brazil abstained once and voted against twice), and the resolutions on Israeli settlements (Brazil has consistently abstained during voting on these resolutions). Regarding item 10 (capacity-building) resolutions, in situations where consensus is not achieved, Brazil has tended to abstain. The exceptions are two instances where Brazil voted in favour of resolutions on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (2009 and 2017).

For thematic resolutions concerning civil and political rights, as well as economic, social, and cultural rights and cross-cutting issues, Brazil has generally joined consensus or voted in favour. There are, however, some exceptions: Brazil has abstained during votes on matters such as the elaboration of an international legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises (2014), defamation of religion (2007-10), international cooperation (2018-2020), democratic and equitable international order (2018-2021), the right to development (2019, 2021), protection of the family (2014,

2015 and 2017), inequality within and among States (2020), mercenaries (2020, 2021), the rights of peasants (2019), and unilateral coercive measures (2018, 2020).

Principal sponsorship (2019-2023):

The incompatibility between democracy and racism; Promotion and protection of human rights in Nicaragua; Adequate housing; Elimination of discrimination against persons with leprosy; Human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Mental health; New and emerging technologies; Human rights implications of drug policies; Commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the 30th anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action; Mandate of Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; Human rights of older persons; Safety of journalists; Right to health; Rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; Freedom of opinion and expression; Access to medicines; Situation of human rights in Venezuela; Promoting international cooperation to support national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up; Enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building; Corruption and human rights; Privacy; Human rights in the context of HIV and AIDS; Human rights on the internet; Safety of journalists; Human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; Promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal, and the World Programme for Human Rights Education.

Since joining the Council in 2006, **Cuba** has consistently voted against every resolution tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention) and has generally voted against most country-specific texts under item 2. The exceptions are: Cuba voted in favour of item 2 resolutions on strengthening cooperation in Venezuela, the occupied Palestinian Territories, and Burundi, and did not vote during votes on item 2 texts on the situation of human rights in Myanmar; Cuba abstained from the 2023 item 4 resolution on the Situation of human rights in Ukraine stemming from the Russian aggression. Regarding item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Cuba has voted in favour of nearly all texts. However, in 2009 it voted against the resolutions concerning the Syrian Golan and Israeli settlements. Regarding item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Cuba normally joins consensus. Where votes have been called, it has voted against all texts (e.g., on cooperation with Georgia and Ukraine), with the exception of two resolutions on the Democratic Republic of the Congo (2009, 2017) - Cuba voted in favour. For thematic resolutions focused on civil and political rights, Cuba has typically joined consensus or voted in favour of most resolutions. The exceptions include Cuba's abstentions during voting on resolutions addressing civil society space (2018), the death penalty (2014, 2015, 2017), transitional justice (2016), violent extremism (2015), democracy (2012, 2015), and defamation of religions (2009). Additionally, Cuba voted against resolutions on good governance (2008), civil society space (2016), and peaceful protests (2014, 2016), as well as resolutions concerning human rights defenders (2016) and international drug control (2018). In terms of thematic resolutions focusing on economic, social, and cultural rights, Cuba has generally joined consensus or voted in favour of all adopted texts.

Principal sponsorship (2019-2023):

Social Forum; Cultural rights; Democratic and equitable international order; The use of mercenaries; International solidarity; Foreign debt, Composition of staff of OHCHR; The right to food; The right to peace.

The **Dominican Republic** has not been a member of the Council before.

Principal sponsorship (2019-2023):

The Dominican Republic has not been a principal sponsor of any Council resolution during the period under review.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **Peru** has either voted in favour of or has joined consensus on all resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), and most country-specific resolutions under item 2 – the exceptions are the 2019 and 2020 texts on strengthening cooperation in Venezuela (Peru voted against). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Peru has consistently voted in favour (or joined consensus). On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Peru has joined consensus on all resolutions, except for one that was voted on during the period of its membership: on cooperation with Ukraine (2014, Peru abstained). For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Peru has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has nearly always voted in favour. The exceptions are Peru's abstentions during voting on two resolutions on defamation of religion (2007 and 2008) and one on concrete action against racism (2007). For

thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, Peru has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, nearly all adopted texts, but tended to abstain during voting on mutually-beneficial cooperation, democratic and equitable international order, foreign debt, the effects of economic reform policies, inequality within and among States, and traditional values.

Principal sponsorship (2019-2023):

Promotion and protection of human rights in Nicaragua; Arms transfers; Extreme poverty; Democracy; Panel discussion on the 10th anniversary of the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States Trust Fund; Equal participation in political and public affairs; Situation of human rights in Venezuela; Right to development; Responsibility to protect; Enhancement of international cooperation.

Cited in the Secretary-General’s reports on ‘alleged reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights’ (2021-2023)?

	Mentioned in the last 3 reports? (Number of reports)	Responded to allegations (Number of reports)
Brazil 	1	1
Cuba 	2	0
Dominican Republic 	—	—
Peru 	—	—

Note: See endnote for full details of methodology.

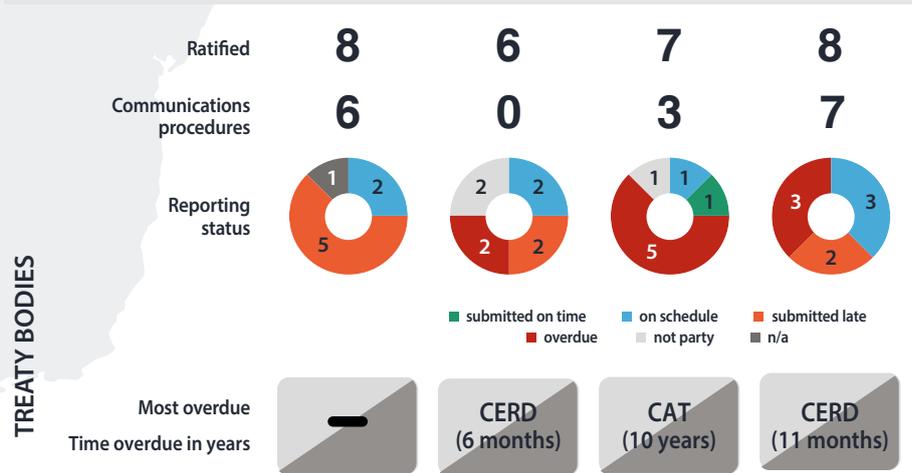
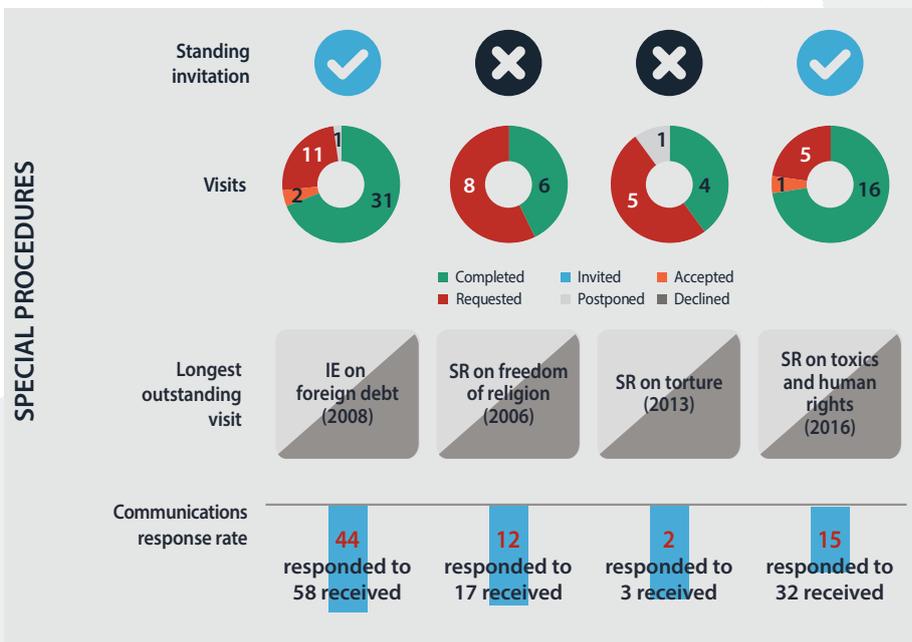
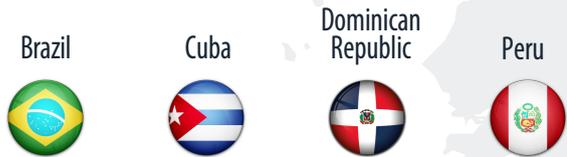
Inclusivity/Access

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

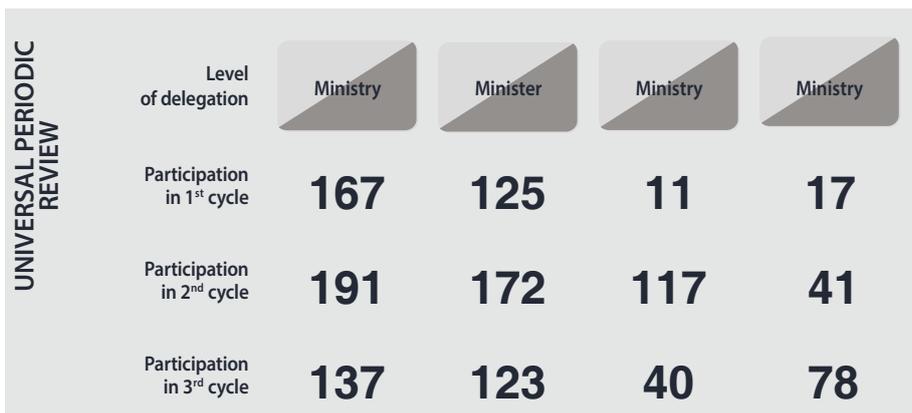
55%

COOPERATION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

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



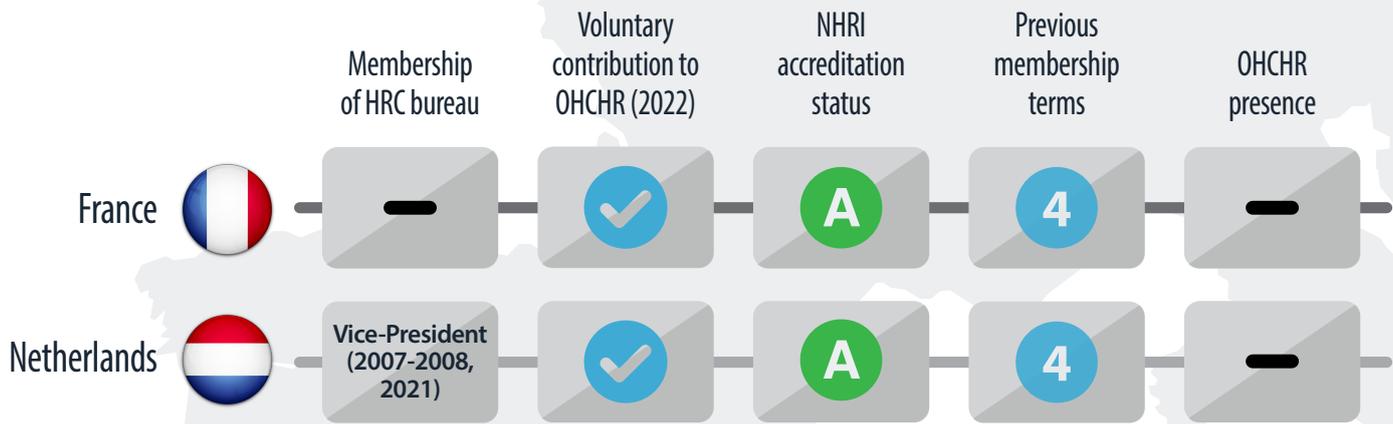
OP-CAT



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

WESTERN EUROPEAN AND OTHERS GROUP (WEOG)

OVERVIEW OF CANDIDATES



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

FULFILMENT OF PREVIOUS VOLUNTARY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS

France presented its voluntary pledges for election to the Council for the term 2021-2023 early in 2020. In the document, France pledged and committed to, *inter alia*:

- Combat all forms of inequality, and to this end, strengthen international efforts to end violence and discrimination against women; promote economic, social, and cultural rights to fight inequality through new projects on corporate social responsibility, human rights and the environment, the right to water and sanitation, the fight against climate change, and the Global Pact for the Environment; combat racism, anti-Semitism, xenophobia, and hate speech; defend and promote the rights of LGBTI persons and support resolutions and mandates on sexual orientation and gender identity; and continue to work on the promotion and protection of the rights of children, and combat

the use of children in armed conflict.

- Protect fundamental freedoms, and to this end ensure the safety of journalists and the right to reliable information, including by combating the manipulation of information; fight enforced disappearances and arbitrary detention, and promote the universal abolition of the death penalty.
- Help people who promote human rights including by supporting human rights defenders and civil society, and by fighting impunity for crimes against them.

An analysis of steps taken by France in fulfilment of its international pledges shows that France indeed sponsored or supported resolutions in all the thematic areas mentioned. France has ratified all core human rights treaties, submitted all its periodic reports to the

Treaty Bodies, and has accepted seven individual communications procedures. Regarding cooperation with Special Procedures, France has responded to only 37% of the communications received but has facilitated 60% of visit requests. Specifically regarding the thematic areas included in its pledges, France is yet to complete visits from, among others, the mandate holders on extreme poverty, and water and sanitation.

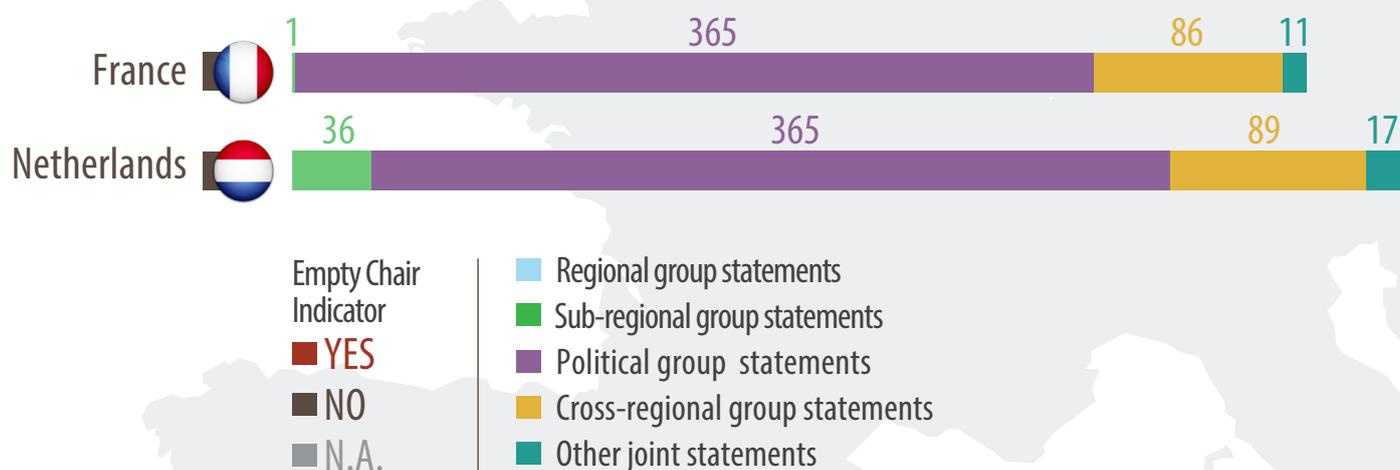
The **Netherlands** presented its voluntary pledges for election for the term 2020-2022 on 19 March 2019. In the document, the Netherlands pledged to, *inter alia*:

- Continue to engage with the international human rights system to ensure the full implementation of the international human rights conventions.
- Cooperate with OHCHR, the Council and its mechanisms, including by making voluntary financial contributions to OHCHR, maintaining standing invitations to Special Procedures mandate-holders, facilitating visits by these experts, and making at least two measurable and implementable recommendations to each State under review during the UPR.
- Cooperate with the Treaty Bodies and work towards improving their efficiency and effectiveness.
- Defend and expand civil society space.
- Support and promote the Human Rights Up Front initiative and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda.
- Pursue bilateral development and human rights policies emphasising dialogue, partnership, and technical cooperation.

- Strengthen the Council's ability to respond to human rights violations at the national and local levels.
- Proactively reflect on the Council's working methods, efficiency, and ability to implement meaningful reforms.
- Advance and promote freedom of expression, press freedom, freedom of religion and belief, sexual orientation and gender identity (including by supporting the work of the Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity), and civil society space.

An analysis of steps taken by The Netherlands in fulfilment of its international pledges shows that it indeed engaged constructively with the Council, acting as Vice-President in 2021 and participating through individual statements in over 36% of all Council debates, dialogues, and panels. The Netherlands also joined a high number of joint statements, particularly cross-regional and political group statements (89 and 365 respectively - above the averages for all countries which are 84 and 109 respectively). The Netherlands has a strong record of cooperation with Special Procedures, responding to all communications received and facilitating almost 70% of all visit requests. The Netherlands has submitted all its periodic reports to the Treaty Bodies and participated in almost all reviews of other States during the UPR second and third cycles – including by extending recommendations. The Netherlands has continued to support OHCHR through voluntary contributions. Regarding country-specific situations, the Netherlands sponsored resolutions on Yemen, Eritrea, Iran, Myanmar, the Russian Federation, Syria, Ukraine, and other countries as part of the European Union. It also supported the resolutions on all the thematic areas mentioned in its pledges.

PARTICIPATION IN JOINT STATEMENTS DURING COUNCIL DEBATES, PANEL DISCUSSIONS, AND INTERACTIVE DIALOGUES



This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State has joined during Council general debates, panel discussions, and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures during the last four years (June 2019 - June 2023). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes and methodology please see endnote.

KEY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS FOR 2023 ELECTION

France presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership of the Council for the period 2024-2026 on 6 September 2023. In the document, structured around three main priorities, France pledges, *inter alia*, to:

- Boost solidarity, and to this end:
 - Promote an approach based on human rights, the rule of law, sustainable development, and action to address the three-fold global crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution.
 - Protect the rights of those affected by climate change, asking the Council to organise a global consultation with young people, scientists, and businesses on how best to protect everyone’s rights in the face of the effects of biodiversity loss and pollution.

- Advocate for universal rules applicable to corporate human rights obligations.
- Promote development based on human rights and greater social resilience.
- Step up the Council’s action to foster economic and social rights and international solidarity.
- Lend its full support to the drafting of universal rules guaranteeing the contribution of businesses to achieving the SDGs and furthering human rights, as well as fair competition.
- Support a political reaffirmation by the Council of the universal right to social security, ahead of the World Social Summit announced by the UN Secretary-General for 2025.

- Further freedoms, and to this end:
 - Work to foster the equal participation of women in all public and private decision-making processes, support the UN Secretary-General's call in the Common Agenda to place women and girls at the center, and ask the Council to draw up an index to track progress in this area.
 - Foster debate and enable civil society to act, calling for young people to have a dedicated forum for expression and participation at the Council.
 - Preserve freedom from violations of privacy, discrimination linked to sexual orientation and gender identity, and the right to control over one's body.
 - Continue to defend sexual and reproductive health and rights at the Council and call for universal decriminalization of homosexuality.
 - Further justice and stand with the victims of human rights violations, and to this end:
 - Fight violence and seek justice for victims, both in peacetime and in wartime. Specifically, France will ask the Council to step up its action to foster reconciliation and transitional justice and work towards the universal ratification of the CED.
 - Make zero tolerance for violence against women a reality in the digital environment. France will ask the Council to act to end online harassment and foster women's freedom of expression online.
 - Remain opposed to the death penalty everywhere and in all circumstances, and continue to fight for its universal abolition.
 - Fight racism, intolerance, and hatred, and ask the Council to hold digital actors to account, ensuring they are accountable to States and users and that they fight hate speech, stereotypes, and dangerous content.
 - Fight for accountability for serious human rights violations.
- The **Netherlands** presented pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership of the Council for the period 2024-2026 on 2 June 2023. In the document, The Netherlands pledges to, *inter alia*:
- At the national level:
- Uphold the indivisibility, interdependence, and universality of human rights in its national policies and interventions.
 - Fight discrimination and racism, both through policy and through the implementation of that policy.
 - Continue to engage in the UPR and to implement the resulting recommendations.
- At the international level:
- Proactively reflect on the working methods, effectiveness and efficiency of the Council, and play a leading role in discussions on strengthening the Council.
 - Promote universal participation and diversity in the Council and work with the Membership Contact Group to ensure the participation of Small Island Developing States and Least Developed Countries, including by continuing its contribution to the Trust Fund for SIDS and LDCs.

- 
- Work closely with civil society organisations, including human rights defenders, and promote participation of civil society and individual human rights defenders within the Council.
 - Support meaningful participation of youth at the Council.
 - Respect, promote, and defend the independence of OHCHR and continue making annual voluntary contributions.
 - Cooperate fully with the Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures, including by maintaining a standing invitation, by facilitating country visit requests, and by responding in a timely manner to communications.
 - Support and participate in the UPR and make at least two measurable and implementable recommendations to each State under review.
 - Continue its efforts to promote human rights through all appropriate multilateral forums and UN specialised agencies, including international financial institutions, to which the Netherlands is a leading donor.
 - Continue to engage constructively with all national and international human rights monitoring systems.
 - Remind the Council of its mandate to address human rights violations, including gross and systematic violations.
 - Actively engage in and promote Council efforts aimed at preventing human rights violations.
 - Strengthen accountability and fight impunity for perpetrators of human rights violations, war crimes, and aggression, and enhance access to remedy and justice for their victims.
 - Promote international tribunals and the authority and universality of the International Criminal Court, and call upon the Security Council to refer cases to the International Criminal Court as appropriate.
 - Thematically, the Netherlands pledges to work to advance the rights of women and girls, gender equality, the rights of future generations, the right to freedom of expression, online and offline, the safety of journalists and media workers, the right to freedom of religion and belief, equal rights for LGBTIQ+ persons, and a safe and enabling space for civil society.

VOTING HISTORY DURING PREVIOUS MEMBERSHIP TERMS

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **France** has either voted in favour of or joined consensus on every resolution tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention) as well as country-specific resolutions under item 2 (reports by the High Commissioner). For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the occupied Palestinian Territories), France generally either votes in favour or abstains (almost equally). Nonetheless, it has voted against four item 7 texts: in 2008 and 2010 on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories; and in 2022 and 2023 on human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan. Regarding item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), France has either joined consensus or voted in favour of on all resolutions except one dealing with technical cooperation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (2009, France abstained). For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, France has generally either voted in favour or joined consensus. Resolutions that it usually (or always) votes against include resolutions on the right to peace, effects of terrorism on human rights, and drones. France abstained on a 2014 resolution on the integrity of the judicial system, a 2015 resolution on the regulation of firearms, and a 2008 text on the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, where there have been votes on such texts, France has tended to abstain or vote against. Exceptions include France voting in favour of resolutions on the right to development, and the right to water and sanitation.

Principal sponsorship (2019-2023):

Extreme poverty, Situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic; Safety of journalists; Youth; Arbitrary detention; Situation of human rights in the Russian Federation; Death penalty; Extreme poverty; Enforced disappearances; Marking the 25th anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, the Netherlands has either voted in favour of or joined consensus on every resolution tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention) and country-specific resolutions under item 2. The exceptions are an item 2 resolution on Burundi (2017), which the Netherlands voted against; and two abstentions in 2020 during voting on the item 2 resolutions on strengthening cooperation in Venezuela and a text on ensuring accountability for all human rights violations in the occupied Palestinian Territory. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), the Netherlands normally votes in favour of the texts on the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination, Israeli settlements, and the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. The Netherlands tends to abstain or vote against the resolutions on human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan, ensuring accountability and justice for human rights violations in the occupied Palestinian Territories, and the follow-up resolutions to the special sessions on the Occupied Palestinian Territories.

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, where a vote has been called, the Netherlands sometimes votes against (e.g., on resolutions on the effects of terrorism on human rights, the right to peace, defamation of religions, and certain resolutions on racism), and sometimes in favour. It has voted in favour of resolutions dealing with the death penalty, peaceful protest, sexual orientation, regulation of firearms, democracy and rule of law, torture, discrimination based on religion or belief, arbitrary detention, and the elimination of religious and racial intolerance. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, where a vote has been called, the Netherlands has tended to vote against. Notable exceptions include its votes in favour of the resolutions on climate change, water and sanitation, and the right to food. When a vote has been called on resolutions on the right to development, the Netherlands has abstained.

Cited in the Secretary-General’s reports on ‘alleged reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights’ (2021-2023)?

	Mentioned in the last 3 reports?	Responded to allegations
France 	1	—
Netherlands 	—	—

Note: See endnote for full details of methodology.

Principal sponsorship (2019-2023):

Freedom of opinion and expression; Child, early and forced marriage; Human rights in Syrian Arab Republic; Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States Trust Fund; Freedom of assembly and association; Situation of human rights in the Russian Federation; Equal participation in political and public affairs; Situation of human rights in Eritrea; Situation of human rights in Yemen.

Inclusivity/Access

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

66%

COOPERATION WITH HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

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

France



Netherlands



SPECIAL PROCEDURES

Standing invitation



Visits



Completed Inverted Accepted Requested Postponed Declined

Longest outstanding visit



Communications response rate



TREATY BODIES

Ratified

8

8

Communications procedures

8

5

Reporting status



submitted on time on schedule submitted late overdue not party n/a

Most overdue



Time overdue in years

OP-CAT

Ratified?



NPM established?



Received Sub-Committee visit?



2015

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW

Level of delegation



Participation in 1st cycle

184

151

Participation in 2nd cycle

192

189

Participation in 3rd cycle

141

140

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

Methodology Notes

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

Overview of membership

Membership of Council Bureau

Source: OHCHR website. Presidency and bureau.

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

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

Data as at: 25 August 2023.

Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2020)

Source: OHCHR website. Our donors. Voluntary contributions to OHCHR in 2022.

Data as at: 25 August 2023.

NHRI Accreditation Status

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

<https://ganhri.org/membership/>

Most updated data published by Ganhri as at:

20 September 2023

Previous membership terms

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

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

Data as at: 25 August 2023.

OHCHR Presence

Source: OHCHR website. Human Rights Appeal 2023.

Data as at: 25 August 2023.

Fulfilment of previous voluntary pledges and commitments

Source: UN GA website; OHCHR website.

Data as at: 25 August 2023.

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

Contribution to Council debates and dialogues

Source: Council Extranet.

Data as of: 25 August 2023.

Note: The participation of the members of the Council in group statements was calculated based on all joint statements listed on the HRC Extranet from June 2017 until June 2023. Figures include statements not delivered due to lack of time. Figures include statements not delivered due to lack of time. Statements not listed on the Extranet were not counted, nor were we able to count joint statements on behalf of a group of States that were not individually listed.

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

Regional Groups

- AG
- APG
- EEG
- GRULAC
- WEOG

Subregional Groups

- Arab Group
- ASEAN
- Benelux
- CARICOM
- Nordic
- Nordic-Baltic
- Others

Political Groups

- ALBA
- CELAC
- Council of Europe
- European Union
- Gulf Cooperation Council
- Mercosur
- OIC
- Others

Cross-regional

- Beneficiaries of LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund
- BRICS
- Climate Vulnerable Forum
- Committee on Victim Assistance of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention
- Community of Portuguese Language Countries
- Core-group on National policies and human rights
- Core-Group on the right to Privacy
- Geneva Support Group Western Sahara
- Group of Friends of the International Criminal Court in Geneva
- Group of Friends of the Responsibility to Protect
- Group of Friends on Children and Armed Conflict
- Group of Friends United against Human Trafficking
- Groupe Francophone
- Like-Minded Group

- MIKTA
- Non-Aligned Movement
- Platform for Human Rights Education and Training
- Safe Schools Declaration
- Territorial integrity of Kingdom of Morocco
- The Group of Friends of Economic Social and Cultural Rights Others

Other

Any statement delivered by two or more countries of the same regional group (but not the whole regional group)

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

Key pledges and commitments for 2023 election

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

Data as at: 30 August 2023.

Note: yourHRC.org summarises the key specific, forward-looking pledges made by States when presenting their candidatures for membership of the Human Rights Council. GA resolution 60/251 establishing the Council stipulates that, when electing members of the Council, States shall take into account: the contribution of candidates to the promotion and protection of human rights; and their voluntary pledges and commitments made thereto. yourHRC.org presents these key pledges in a factual manner, without value judgement. Notwithstanding, the lists of key pledges are non-exhaustive – with selection based on an analysis and the judgement by URG analysts.

Voting history during previous membership terms

Source: URG HRC Voting Portal (<http://www.universal-rights.org/country-voting-history-portal/>) which in turn is updated with the information published on the HRC Extranet.

Data as of: 25 August 2023.

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

Cited in the Secretary General's reports on 'alleged reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights' (2021-2023)

Source: Last three Secretary-General's 'Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives, and mechanisms in the field of human rights' reports.

Data as at: 25 August 2023.

Inclusivity/Access

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

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

Data as at: 25 August 2023.

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

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

Special Procedures

Standing invitation

Source: OHCHR website. Special Procedures: Standing invitations.

http://spinternet.ohchr.org/_Layouts/SpecialProceduresInternet/StandingInvitations.aspx

Data as at: 25 August 2023.

Visits Completed and longest outstanding visit

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

http://spinternet.ohchr.org/_Layouts/SpecialProceduresInternet/ViewCountryVisits.aspx?Lang=en

Data as at: 25 August 2023.

Note: The number of visits completed includes only visits that have actually taken place, as listed on OHCHR's website (i.e., visits reported as completed or with report forthcoming). The dates for the most overdue visit are calculated according to the initial request date of the corresponding visit (regardless of subsequent reminders, when initial request date is not available, the date taken to calculate the time a visit is overdue was the earliest reminder published in OHCHR's website); only visits requested by the Special Procedures that have not yet been accepted by the State are considered in this calculation.

Communications response rate

Source: Special Procedures communications report and search data base, OHCHR.

Data as at: 25 August 2023.

Note: The response rate to Special Procedures communications (i.e., to letters of allegations and urgent appeals) is calculated for the last five years.

Treaty Bodies

Status of Ratification and Reporting

Source: OHCHR website. Country Pages. Ratification Status.

Data as at: 25 August 2023.

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

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

Explanation of Options:

- **SUBMITTED ON TIME:** The State party Report submitted the report before the due date.
- **ON SCHEDULE:** The current cycle due date is in the future. This occurs when a State's reporting cycle changes, so the deadline for the next report is set.
- **SUBMITTED LATE:** The State party Report has been submitted for the current cycle but was submitted late.

- **OUTSTANDING (OVERDUE):** The current cycle report has not yet been submitted and is overdue.
- **NOT PARTY:** The State has not ratified the respective Treaty.
- **N/A:** data is not available.

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

OP-CAT

Source: OHCHR website. Country pages. Ratification Status.

Data as of: 25 August 2023.

NPM Established:

Source: OHCHR website. National Preventive Mechanisms

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

Data as at: 25 August 2023.

Note: Shows if the country has notified the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture that it has designated a national preventive mechanism.

Sub-Committee visit:

Source: OHCHR website. Optional Protocol of the Convention against Torture (CAT-OP). Country Visits.

http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/CountryVisits.aspx?SortOrder=Alphabetical

Data as at: 25 August 2023.

Note: Indicates whether the Sub-Committee has visited the country against torture, and the years in which this occurred, when applicable.

Universal Periodic Review

Level of delegation

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

Data as at: 25 August 2023.

Mid-term reporting

Source: OHCHR Website

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

Data as at: 25 August 2023.

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

Participation in other reviews

Source: UPR Info 'Statistics of UPR Recommendations.'

Data as at: 25 August 2023.

Note: Participation in other reviews relates to the number of other 1st and 2nd cycle reviews (out of 192) during which the State concerned presented its own recommendations.

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



GUIDE TO THE
2023
UN HUMAN RIGHTS
COUNCIL ELECTIONS

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 116 States that have stood for and won election to the Council, and of the candidates for the 2023 election that have never been members of the Council before. An interactive world map provides information on the Council's membership in any given year, and on the number of membership terms held by each country. Country-specific pages then provide up-to-date information on: the voting record of the State; its sponsorship of important Council initiatives; its level of participation in Council debates, interactive dialogues and panels; its engagement and cooperation with the Council's mechanisms (UPR and Special Procedures) and with the Treaty Bodies; and the degree to which it fulfilled the voluntary pledges and commitments made before its previous membership term.

2

An annual 'yourHRC.org Election Guide,' providing at-a-glance information on candidatures for upcoming Council elections.

3

An annual 'yourHRC.org end-of-year report' (published each December), providing information on levels of member State engagement and cooperation over the course of that year.

4

Periodic 'Know yourHRC members' and 'Know yourHRC candidates' email alerts, to be sent to stakeholders profiling Council members, or informing them of candidature announcements for future Council elections.



UNIVERSAL RIGHTS GROUP

Maison de la Paix,
Chemin Eugène-Rigot 2E, Building 5
CH-1202 Geneva,
Switzerland

info@universal-rights.org

yourHRC.org

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



UNIVERSAL RIGHTS GROUP



Permanent Mission of Norway
to the United Nations