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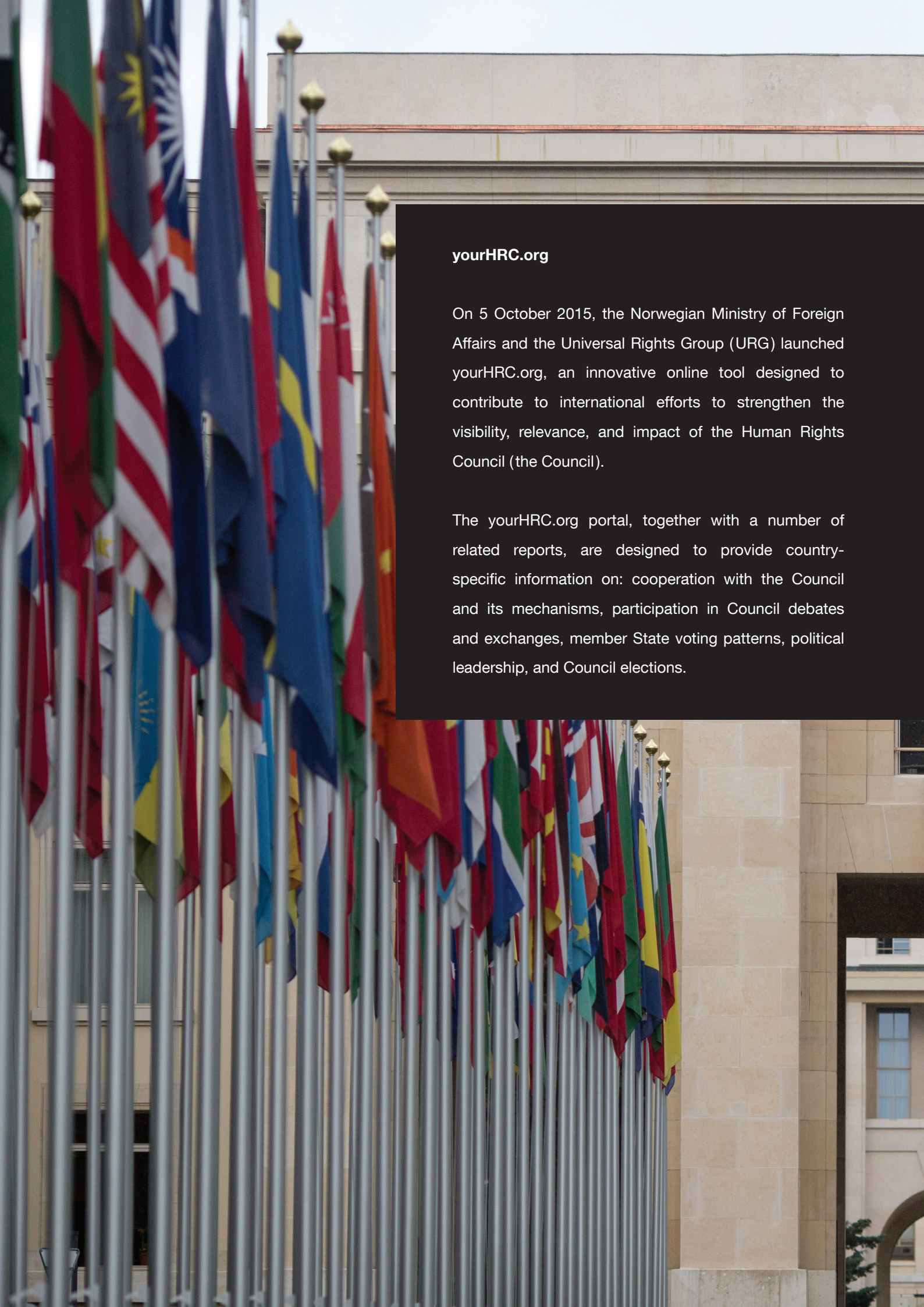
**A window onto cooperation, dialogue, leadership
and policymaking at the UN Human Rights Council**



THE HUMAN RIGHTS
COUNCIL

2017

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



yourHRC.org

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

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

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INTRODUCTION

As this third edition of 'The Human Rights Council in' report makes abundantly clear, in 2017 the Council continued to address a staggering array of human rights issues and situations of violations - across three regular sessions and countless inter-sessional meetings. However, in the medium- to long-term, 2017 will probably be mainly remembered as the year that States 'got serious' about institutional reform and strengthening.

It has been clear for some time that States, in consultation with other stakeholders, such as civil society, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), and UN experts, needed to undertake some type of review of the work and functioning of the Council. This is both normal and necessary. Normal because the body is still relatively new, and thus bound to experience some 'growing pains' as it enters adolescence. And necessary, because the Council's workload and output have grown at unsustainable levels over the past decade, meaning that without some kind of institutional correction the body would risk collapsing under its own weight.

What changed in 2017 was the growing realisation that the largely ad hoc reforms championed by recent Council presidencies would not be sufficient to bring about such a correction. This, combined with the very public scepticism directed at some aspects of the Council's work by the current United States Administration, created the conditions in which, probably for the first time since 2011, States are now broadly united in their acceptance of the need for a wide-ranging, holistic, and inclusive process of reform.

Institutional framework of the Council

On 15 March 2006, the GA passed resolution 60/251 establishing the Council in replacement of the former Commission on Human Rights.

The Council held its first Session in June 2006, with the first Council President, H.E. Mr Luis Alfonso de Alba (Mexico), immediately establishing an inclusive consultation process to negotiate and agree the detailed institutional framework of the new body. This process was led by a group of co-facilitators, appointed by the President, who convened a series of three Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Groups (IGWG) focused on the following issues: review, rationalisation and improvement of mandates, mechanisms, functions, and responsibilities in order to maintain a system of Special Procedures, expert advice, and a complaints procedure; the development of the modalities of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR); and the Council's agenda, programme of work, methods of work, and rules of procedure. The first of these IGWGs had three co-facilitators (the Czech Republic, Jordan, and Switzerland), and undertook four rounds of open-ended inter-sessional consultations; the second had a single facilitator (Morocco) and held four rounds of open-ended inter-sessional consultations; and the third had two co-facilitators (Guatemala and the Philippines).

At the end of these consultations, the President of the Council brought the outcomes of each IGW together into a draft 'institution-building package' (IBP). This was presented to the Council and, following final negotiations under the authority of the President, was adopted on 18 June 2007 with Council resolution 5/1.





Five-year review

Five years later, as foreseen in operative paragraph 16 of GA resolution 60/251, the Council conducted a ‘review [of] its work and functioning.’ The review, which perhaps came too soon in the Council’s life (i.e. before any real lessons could be gleaned from the body’s early experiences), was kick-started by Council resolution 12/1 of September 2009 tabled by the Russian Federation, entitled ‘open ended intergovernmental working group on the review of the work and functioning of the Human Rights Council.’ With this resolution, the Council decided to establish a single intergovernmental working group (IGWG), which would hold two sessions and be chaired by the President of the Council. The resolution also requested the Secretary-General to present a report to the Council on how to improve conference and secretariat services.

This ‘five-year review’ was overseen by the fifth President of the Council, H.E. Mr Sihasak Phuengketkeow (Thailand). A series of six informal Pre-Working Group meetings (retreats) in Mexico, France, Morocco, Republic of Korea, Algeria, and Switzerland, fed into a first meeting of the IGWG in October 2010.

Thereafter, between November and December 2010, informal consultations were convened by five co-facilitators (Morocco, Finland, Romania, India, and Brazil). These considered five broad issues: the UPR; Special Procedures; the Advisory Committee, the Complaints Procedure, and other subsidiary bodies; the agenda and framework of programme of work; and methods of work and rules of procedure. Proposals from these informal consultations were then further considered during a retreat in Thailand and a second meeting of the IGWG in

February 2011. During this second meeting, the President of the Council attempted to find agreement on a series of relatively minor modifications / clarifications to the IBP.

Ahead of the first meeting of the IGWG in October 2010, States were invited to submit proposals for reform / strengthening. Ideas and suggestions put forward at that time included, *inter alia*:

- That the adoption of UPR outcome reports be taken out of regular sessions of the Council, and instead adopted during special Council plenaries convened at the end of each UPR Working Group meeting.
- Other UPR-related proposals, including strengthening the participation of civil society and NHRIs, strengthening follow-up to the implementation of recommendations from earlier cycles, and developing new mechanisms and strategies for technical assistance and capacity building to help States implement UPR recommendations. Other States however, called for the UPR mechanism to be left broadly untouched (as established by the IBP).
- Periodically undertake a process of review, rationalisation, and improvement (RRI) of Special Procedures mandates to avoid unnecessary duplication, and to give full implementation of paragraph 58 (d) of the IBP.
- Introducing a mandatory step-by-step procedure (including criteria and a cost-benefit analysis) for the creation of any new Special Procedures mandates.
- Creating more time and space on the Council’s agenda for meaningful dialogue with Special Procedures, including by moving away from the practice of clustered dialogues.

- Strengthening follow-up to the implementation of Special Procedures recommendations; and improving transparency around levels of State cooperation with Special Procedures, including in the context of candidatures for election to the Council.

- Strengthening and systematising the role of Special Procedures in early warning – i.e. for prevention.

- Some States proposed a simplification of the Council's agenda – for example by combining items 3, 8, and 9 (thematic issues), and combining items 2, 4, and 7 (country-specific issues). Other States however insisted on leaving the agenda as agreed in the IBP.

- Some States proposed including a new agenda item (or strengthening agenda items 5 and 10) to cover implementation and follow-up; exchange of good practice, lessons learnt, and achievements; and technical assistance and capacity-building support for implementation (for all States).

- Rationalising/streamlining the Council's programme of work over the course of each annual cycle, avoiding duplication and the repetition of agenda items, and thereby reducing the burden on delegations.

- As a key part of this streamlining exercise, reducing the number and duration of general debates.

- In order to streamline/rationalise the programme of work, and strengthen transparency and predictability, the presidency should organise an annual 'programming' meeting that would set the annual (or even multiannual) programme of work.

- Reducing the number and duration of panel discussions, including by reconsidering all annual panels – especially full-day annual panels.



- Avoiding the proliferation of resolutions at the Council, as well as duplication with human rights texts at the Third Committee of the General Assembly.

- Encouraging the bi- or triennialisation of resolutions, including by developing an annual or biannual calendar of initiatives. The President of the Council might present such a calendar at an annual programming meeting (to agree the programme of work).

- Allowing more time and space for informal consultations on draft resolutions, including by further encouraging the early notification of initiatives, or perhaps by suspending a session for two days – to allow States to concentrate on informal consultations on drafts.

- The President might organise open-ended information meetings on resolutions ahead of each session.

- For prevention, making better use of the existing 'toolbox,' including open-ended briefings, urgent 'early warning' briefings by the High Commissioner to the Council, and presidential statements. Also looking at the establishment of new types of mechanisms/forums, such as 'good offices' diplomatic missions under the authority of the President of the Council, or confidential (Council members only) 'cooperation and dialogue' meetings with concerned countries and regions.

- Also for prevention, developing 'criteria' or 'principles' to guide Council members on whether to act on a given situation, thereby reducing selectivity.

- Creating a trust fund to strengthen the participation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the work of the Council – especially for those States that do not yet have a permanent mission in Geneva.

- Ensuring the continuation of a strong role for civil society and NHRIs in the work of the Council.

- Strengthening the visibility and public profile of the Council through stronger engagement with the press and social media, and through a dedicated Council website.

The end result of the negotiations on these and other proposals was the adoption, during the second meeting of the IGWG, of an 'outcome of the review of the work and functioning of the Human Rights Council' (February 2011). Overall, this 'five-year review outcome,' subsequently adopted as Council resolution 16/21, did not make many significant changes to the IBP. Notwithstanding, it did include some important technical modifications, especially in the context of working methods. For example, it called

on the President and Bureau to develop a voluntary annual calendar of resolutions, and encouraged States to bi- or triennialise the tabling of texts. The outcome also called for the creation of an LDC-SIDS trust fund.

The five-year review outcome was subsequently adopted by the GA with resolution 65/281. This resolution also decided to 'maintain the status of the Human Rights Council as a subsidiary body of the General Assembly' and to consider this question again 'at a time no sooner than ten years [2011] and no later than fifteen years [2026].'

Efficiency drive (2015)

In January 2015, the ninth President of the Council, H.E. Mr Joachim R  cker (Germany) announced his intention to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Council's working methods. As part of that effort, he encouraged more States to biennialise and triennialise resolutions and pushed for further improvements to the annual calendar of initiatives so that it would also cover relevant Special Procedures mandates, instruments, panels, and Third Committee texts.

On 3 July 2015, the Council adopted a presidential statement (PRST 29/1) on 'enhancing the efficiency of the Council' that took forward some of these steps to improve efficiency. With PRST 29/1, members decided 'to improve further the voluntary yearly calendar for thematic resolutions of the Council, in accordance with Council resolution 16/21, in consultation with the main sponsors,' and encouraged all States to 'consider voluntarily the biennialisation and triennialisation of their initiatives.' It also underlined the need for the 'early notification of proposals, early submission of draft resolutions and decisions by the end of the penultimate week of regular sessions,' and the need for all States to 'observe the principles of transparency and inclusiveness with regard to the consultation process.'

PRST 29/1 also requested OHCHR to ‘develop, manage and support, as soon as possible and no later than the thirty-first session, a more distinguishable, accessible and user-friendly webpage ... for the Human Rights Council, its mechanisms and procedures, including a user-friendly extranet.’ As of today, this distinct Council website has not been built.

The efficiency push led by H.E. Mr Joachim R  cker did result in a temporary drop in the number of resolutions adopted by the Council in 2015. However, in 2016 and 2017 the numbers began to grow again – putting ever-greater strain on the Council’s agenda and programme of work.

Efficiency drive - continued (2016)

In 2016, the tenth President of the Council, H.E. Mr Choi Kyonglim (Republic of Korea) announced that he would seek to continue the efficiency drive begun by Ambassador R  cker. This decision was made against a backdrop in which the Director-General of UNOG, H.E. Mr Michael M  ller, sent a letter to the presidency (9 August 2016) in which he drew the Council’s attention to the unsustainable growth in the Council’s work (and thus meeting time). He made clear in his letter that UNOG could no longer service the increasing number of Council meetings. He stated that a maximum of 135 meetings could be serviced in 2017, and a maximum of 130 in 2018.

Against this background, President Choi Kyonglim asked one of his Bureau members, H.E. Mr Janis Karklins, the Ambassador of Latvia, to prepare proposals for consideration by the membership as a whole.

The subsequent - fairly technical - proposals covered:

- Time management (e.g. start Council meetings on time; allocate speaking time during Interactive Dialogues based on the number of speakers, but with a minimum speaking time of two minutes, and improve transparency around tabling deadlines).
- Organisation of work (e.g. de-couple the High Commissioner’s statement from the debate under item 2; and extend the voluntary calendar of resolutions/initiatives from one- to three-years).
- Information and access to information (e.g. develop and publish an annotated programme of work; develop an online calendar of Council-related events, such as NGO side events; send SMS notifications to delegates about the start of different agenda items).
- Universal Periodic Review (e.g. troikas should automatically cluster substantively similar recommendations).

Some of these proposals – which mainly involved changing practices rather than changing the IBP – were subsequently taken forward under the authority of the President.

2017 – the end of the road for ad hoc reforms?

In June 2017, the eleventh President of the Council, H.E. Mr Joaqu  n Alexander Maza Martelli (El Salvador) and his Bureau, together with the High Commissioner for Human Rights, and the Director-General of UNOG, established a Joint Task Force on the increasing workload of the Council. The Task Force was asked to review various options for reducing the workload, as well as their implications in terms of cost, working methods, meeting room availability and documentation. The Task Force,



which was chaired by one of the members of the Bureau, H.E. Mr Valentin Zellweger, Ambassador of Switzerland, would then report to the President and the rest of the Bureau.

The Task Force made a number of proposals covering, *inter alia*:

- The annual programme of work (e.g. cap the number of panel discussions at 13 per year; linked with this point, develop a more transparent, predictable, and structured annual programme of work so that delegations could see when the next ‘space’ for a panel would be; and reduce the duration of panels from three to two hours).
- Speaking time limits (e.g. limit the number of statements that each delegation is allowed to deliver during a given Council session; and cluster general debates during June and September Council sessions).
- UPR (e.g. reduce the duration of reviews in the UPR working group; change adoption in plenary to an ‘en bloc adoption procedure’ that would use up less regular session time; or reduce the duration of outcome adoptions in plenary).

In August-September 2017, the Ambassador of Switzerland presented the Task Force’s proposals and the Bureau as a whole considered the various options. In the end, the Bureau decided to put forward four key measures for consideration by the wider Council membership:

1. Reduce the duration of panel discussions from three to two hours.
2. Streamline UPR adoptions during Council plenaries to thirty minutes, consisting of ten minutes for the State under Review and twenty minutes for NHRIs and NGOs.



3. Revert to the speaking time limits for general debates and Interactive Dialogues that prevailed before 2017, namely three and two minutes for members and observers, respectively.

4. (And in return) adopt a decision requesting the UNGA to provide the necessary support for up to 20 fully serviced additional meetings to be held by the Council annually (i.e. at a cost of US\$ 223,000).

The Bureau agreed to recommend to the Council to adopt (at its 36th session) a decision on these measures. However, during the 36th session (September 2017), it became clear that there was no consensus support for such a decision. Therefore, at the end of the session the President announced he would hold an organisational meeting on 20 October to try to move forward. Ahead of

that meeting, the President and the Bureau convened an informal consultation (on 17 October) to seek comments on a draft decision. However, again there was no consensus on the (abovementioned) four proposed measures. Thus, the President prepared a new draft decision simply requesting the extra resources from the GA (without any of the Council efficiency measures). Perhaps predictably, States rejected this draft.

What next?

On 1 December 2017, the Permanent Missions of Latvia, Mexico, the Netherlands, Rwanda, and the United Kingdom, convened an open informal meeting to gather and (re-) consider, in an inclusive and transparent manner, all the above reform / strengthening proposals (as well as other proposals as appropriate). The meeting was designed to provide a platform for States, including incoming members of the Council Bureau, to take stock and put in place a coherent, holistic and structured process of Council strengthening for 2018 and beyond.

This process of reform and strengthening is expected to be the Council’s principal priority and preoccupation in 2018.



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

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

When establishing the Council, the United Nations (UN) General Assembly (GA) decided that it would consist of 47 member States, elected a majority of UN members. In making their choice, members of the GA would take into account the contribution of the candidates to the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as their voluntary pledges and commitments.

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

yourHRC.org has been created to promote transparency around the degree to which the Council and its members are delivering on this crucial mandate, passed to them by the GA and, ultimately, entrusted to them by 'the Peoples of the United Nations' described in the UN Charter.



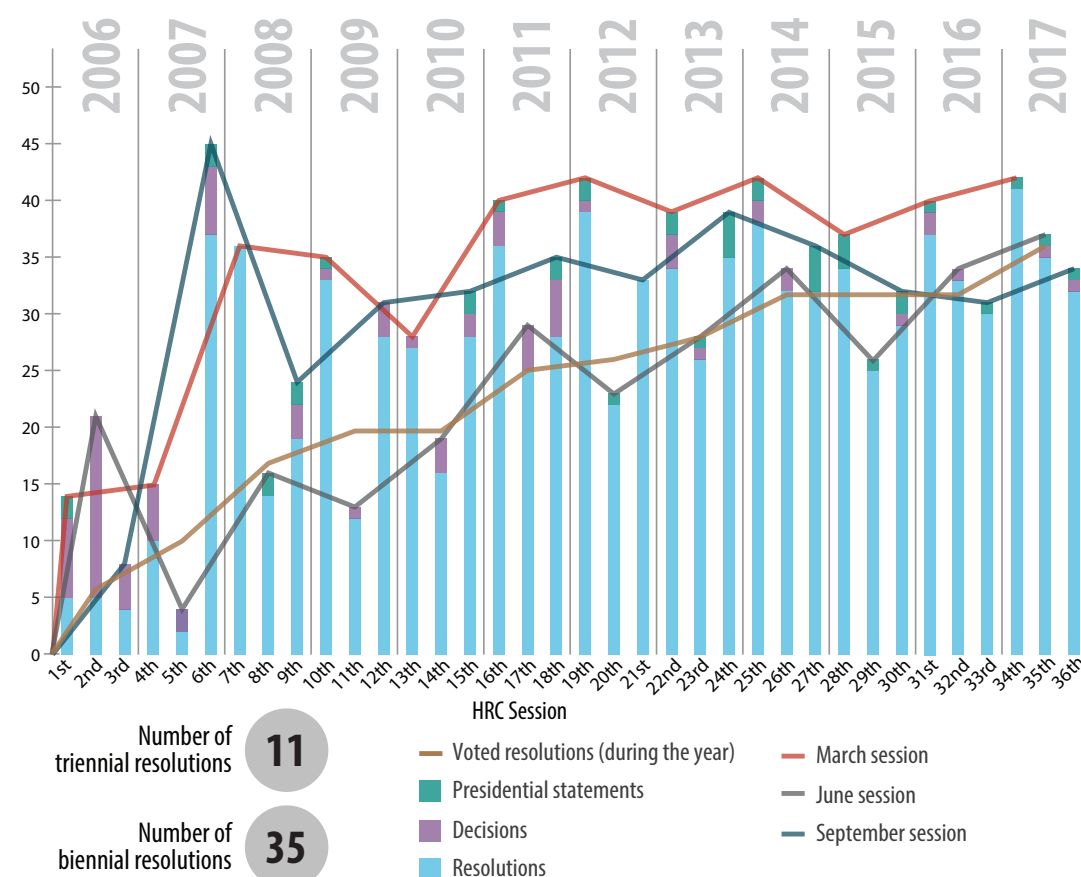
PART I

2017

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

THE COUNCIL'S FOCUS AND OUTPUT: RESOLUTIONS AND MECHANISMS

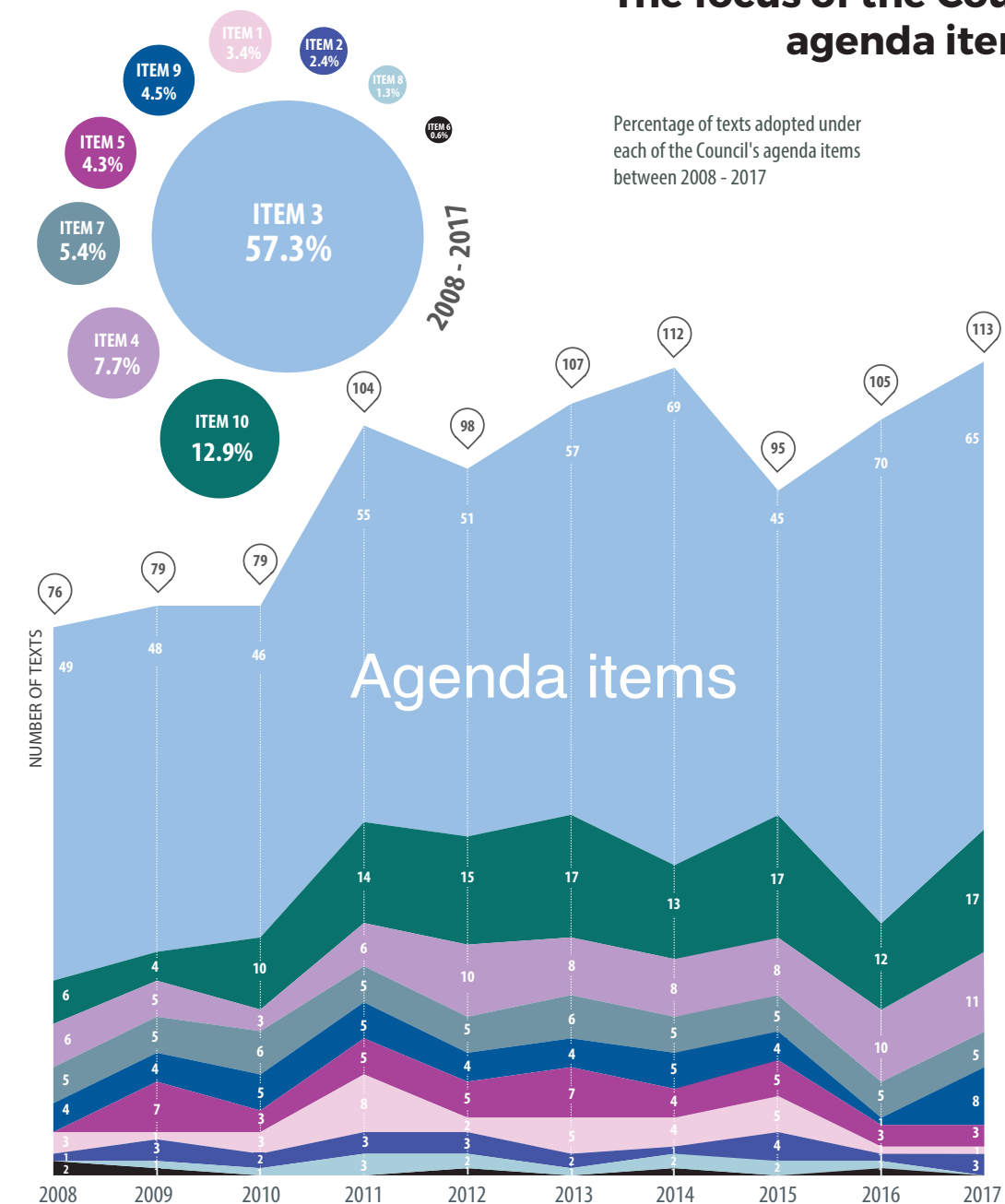
Number of Council texts adopted over time



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

- 2017 saw the adoption of the highest number of texts in the history of the Council - 113.
- 2017 also saw the highest number of voted resolutions (i.e. contested resolutions) in the Council's history - 36 (32% of all adopted texts).

The focus of the Council's texts by agenda item (2008-2017)

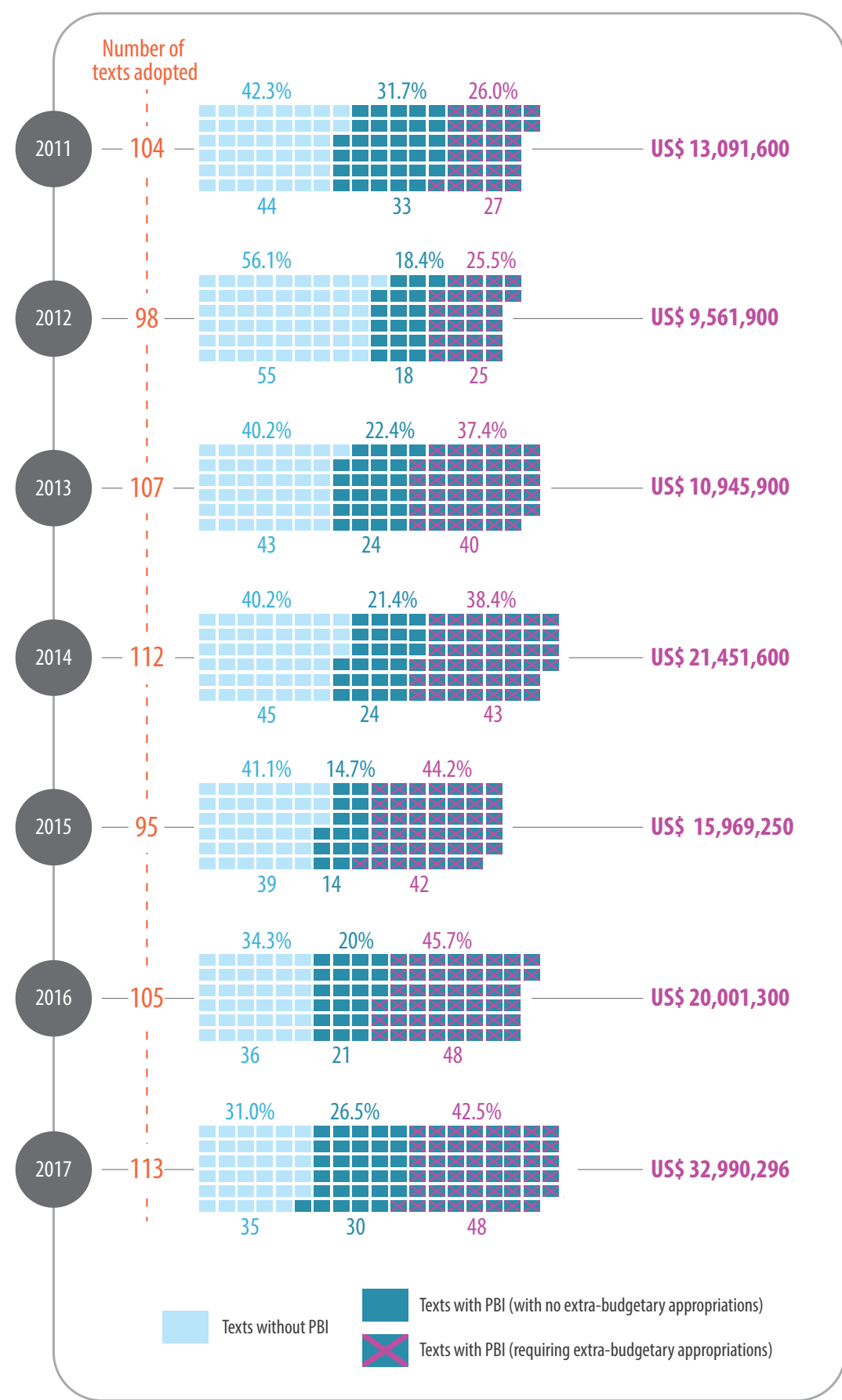


Data Source: Council's texts (resolutions, decisions or presidential statements) adopted between 2008-2017, available on the OHCHR extranet and via the URG Resolutions Portal.

Note: For the titles of each agenda item please see endnote.

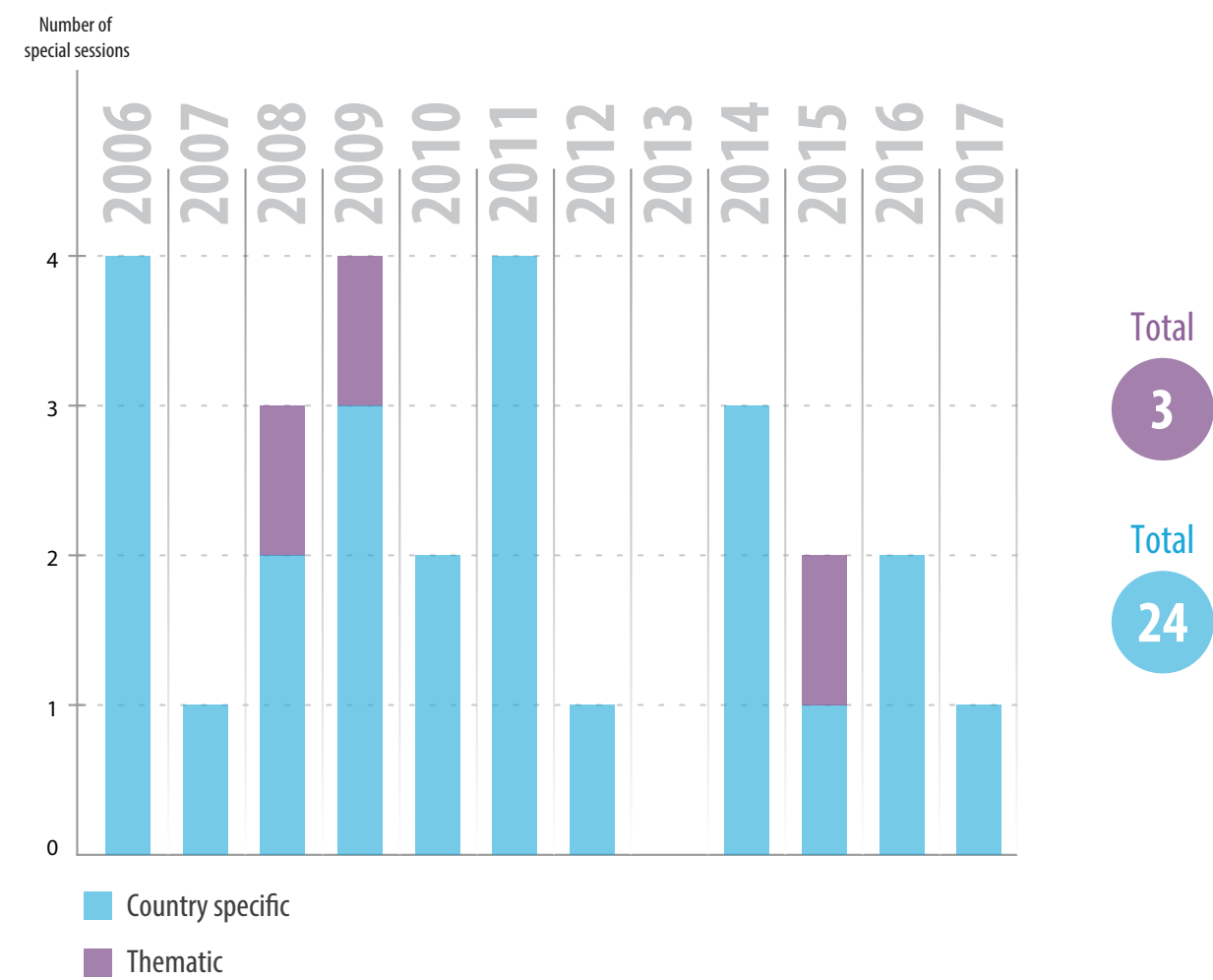
- In 2017, a large proportion (58%) of the Council's 113 resolutions were adopted under agenda item 3 (the 'promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development'). This is consistent with the predominance of item 3 texts across other years.
- In 2017, the Council did not adopt any resolution under agenda item 8 ('follow-up and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action').
- In 2017, there was a significant jump in the number of resolutions adopted under agenda items 9 ('racism, discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance'), and 10 ('capacity-building and technical assistance').

Financial implications of Council resolutions (2010-2017)

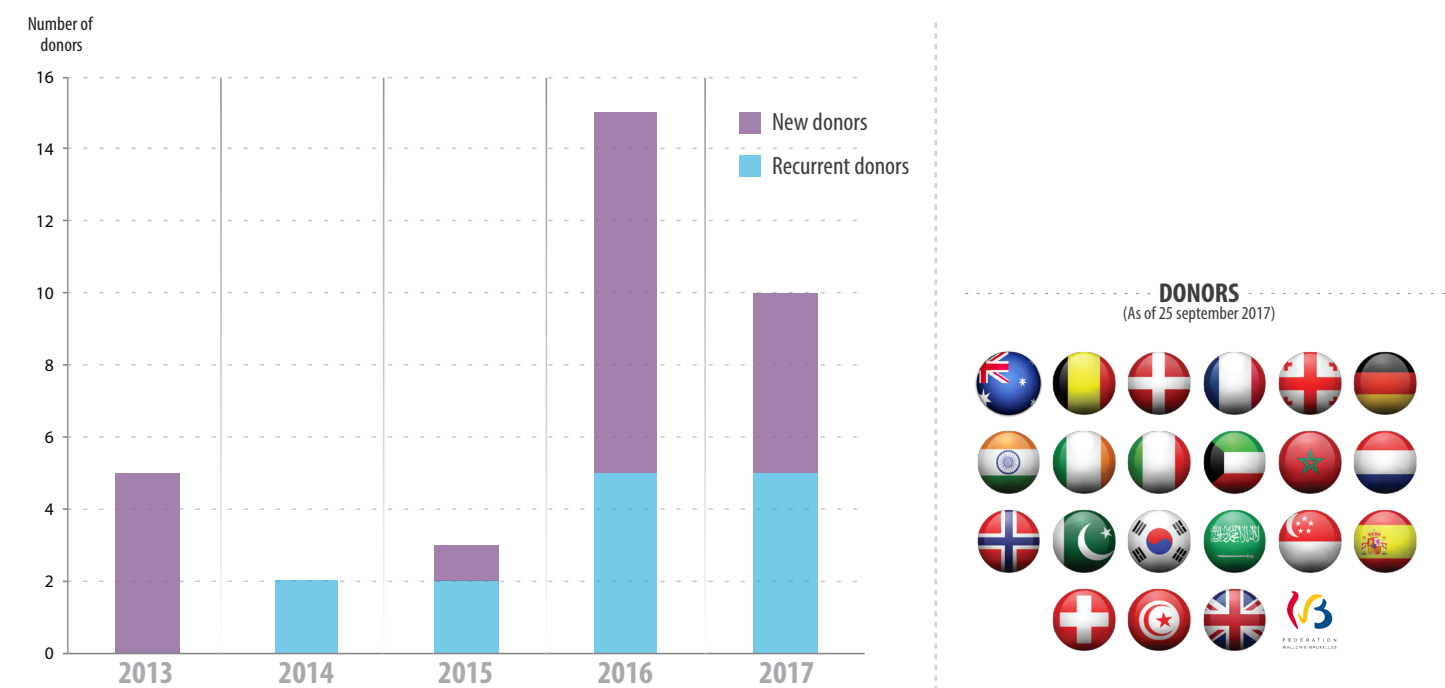


Data Source: Programme Budget Implications (PBIs) arising from each resolution (2011-2017) available on the OHCHR extranet and via the URG Resolutions Portal.

Evolution of Council Special Sessions since 2006

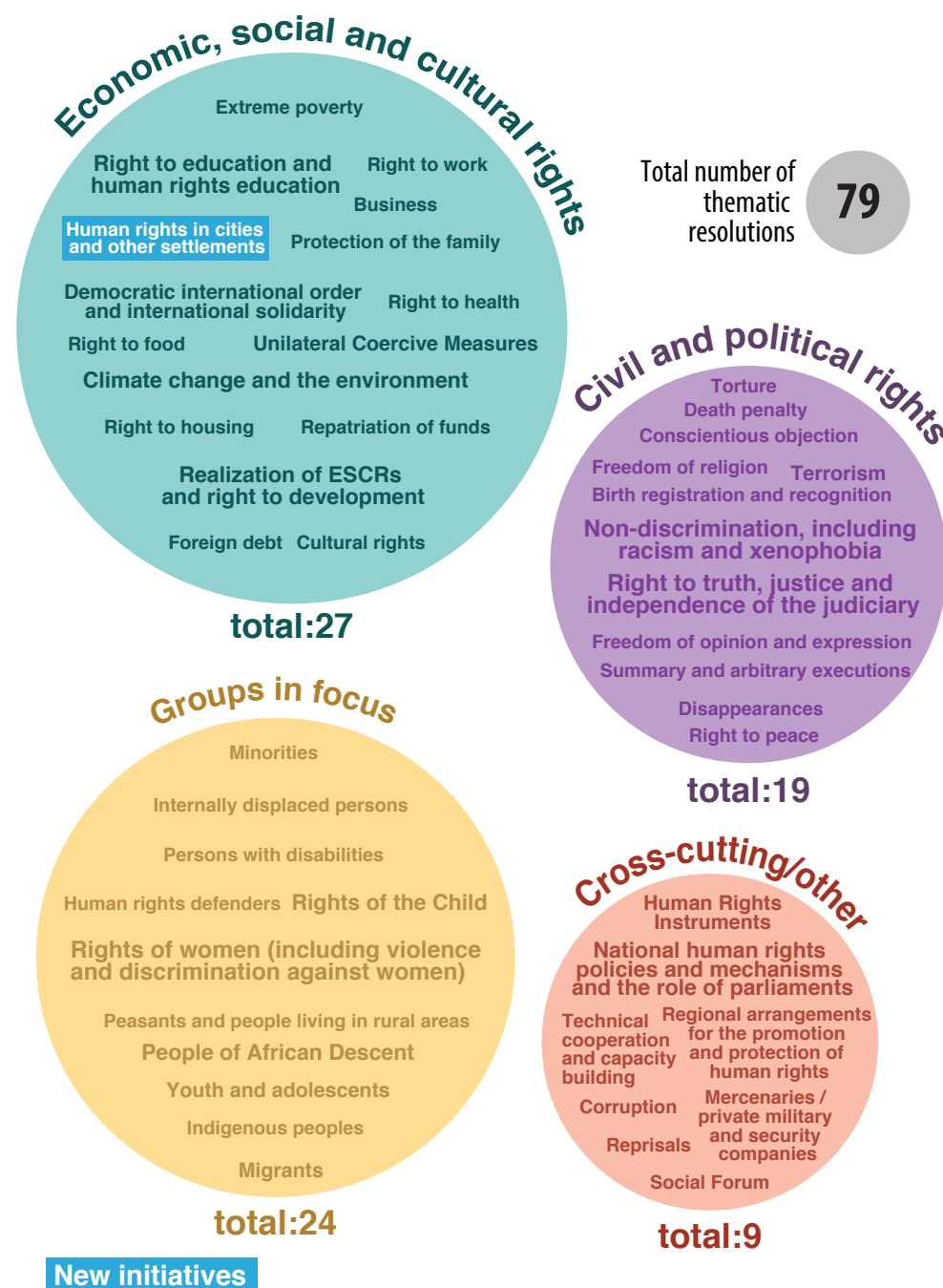


Donors of the Voluntary Trust Fund to support the participation of LDCs and SIDS in the Council



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

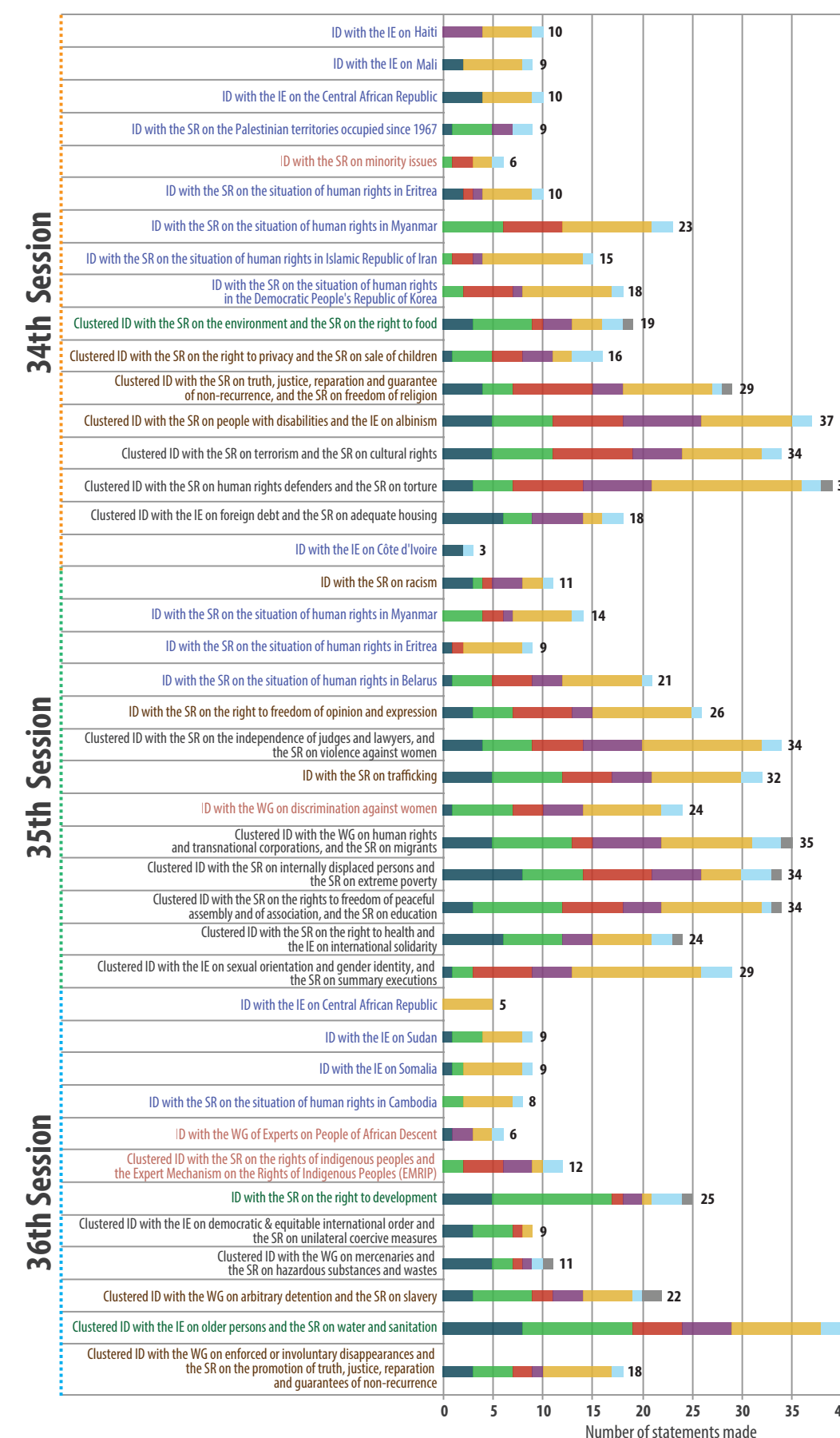
Top themes in 2017: focus of thematic resolutions



Note: The size of each bubble, and word/phrase within the bubble, relates to the number of resolutions adopted with that focus/theme in 2017. Data source: Council resolutions available on the OHCHR extranet and via the URG Resolutions Portal.

- In 2017, for the second consecutive year, the number of resolutions focused on economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) issues (27) outstripped the number focused on civil and political rights (CPR) issues (19).
- Regarding ESCR resolutions in 2017 there was a strong focus on the relationship between human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- For CPR resolutions, there was a strong focus, in 2017, on the issue of racial discrimination.

State participation in interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures in 2017



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

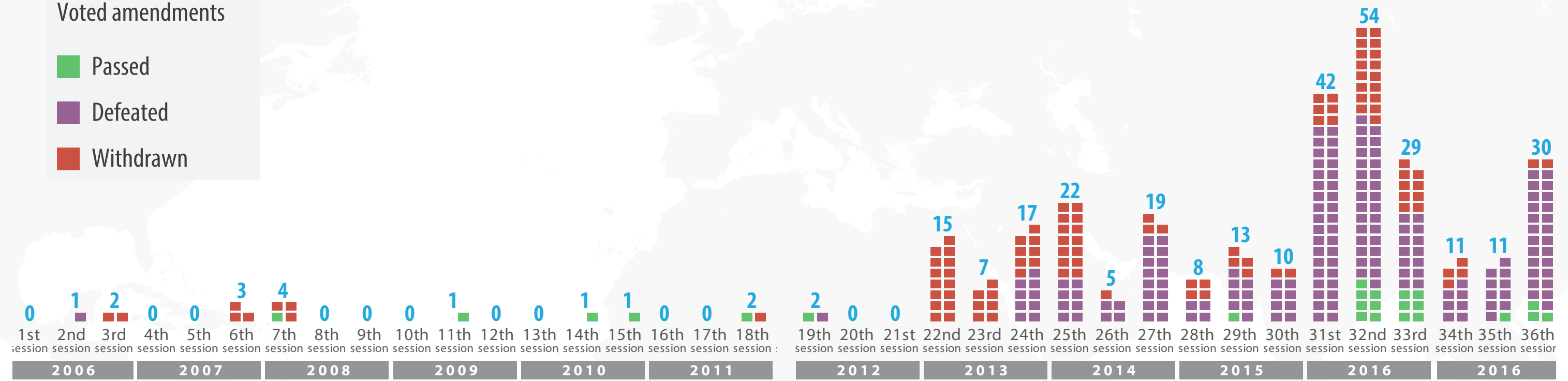
Evolution of amendments to Council resolutions

Voted amendments

Passed

Defeated

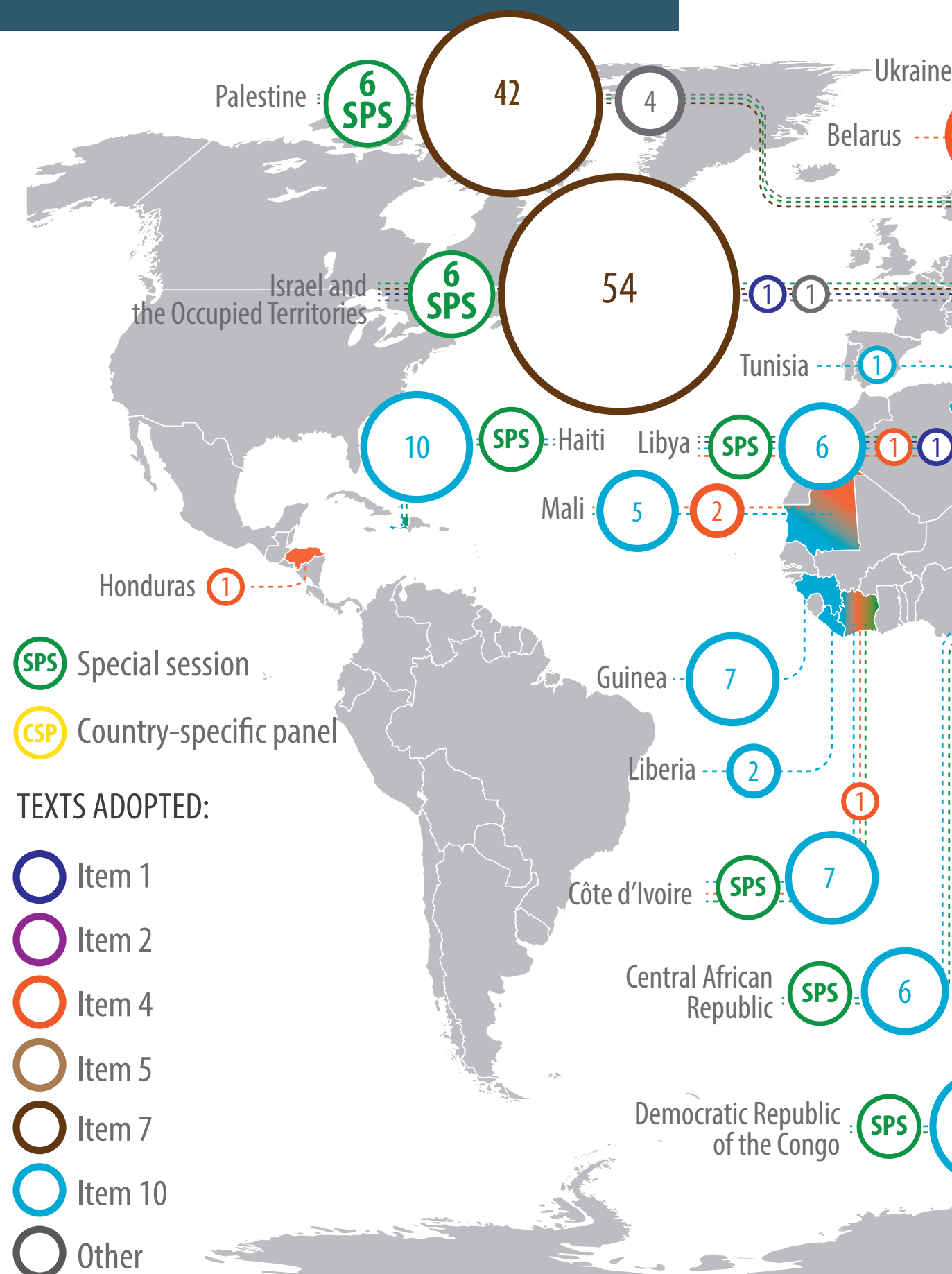
Withdrawn



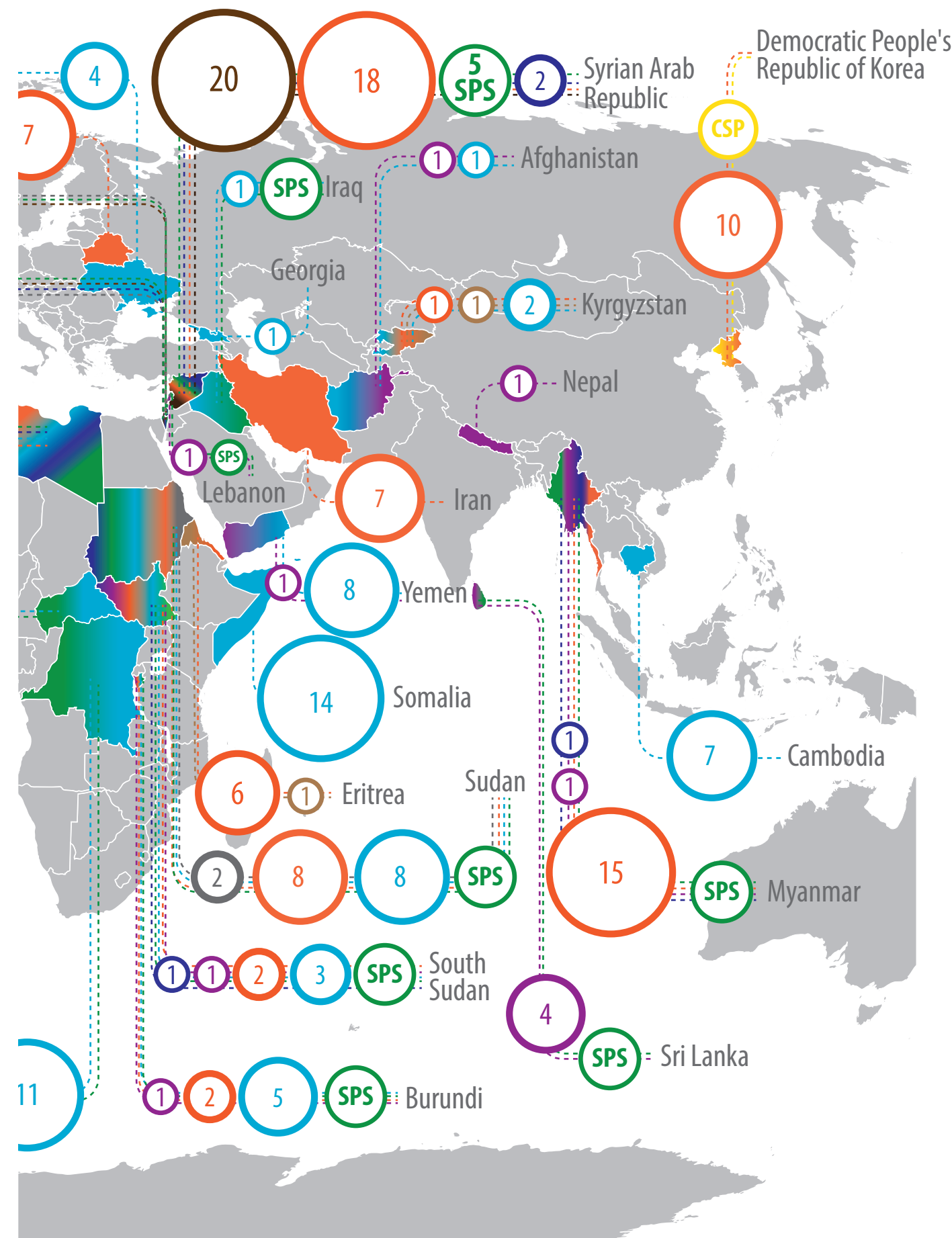
Session of the Human Right Council

THE COUNCIL'S FOCUS AND OUTPUT: RESOLUTIONS AND MECHANISMS

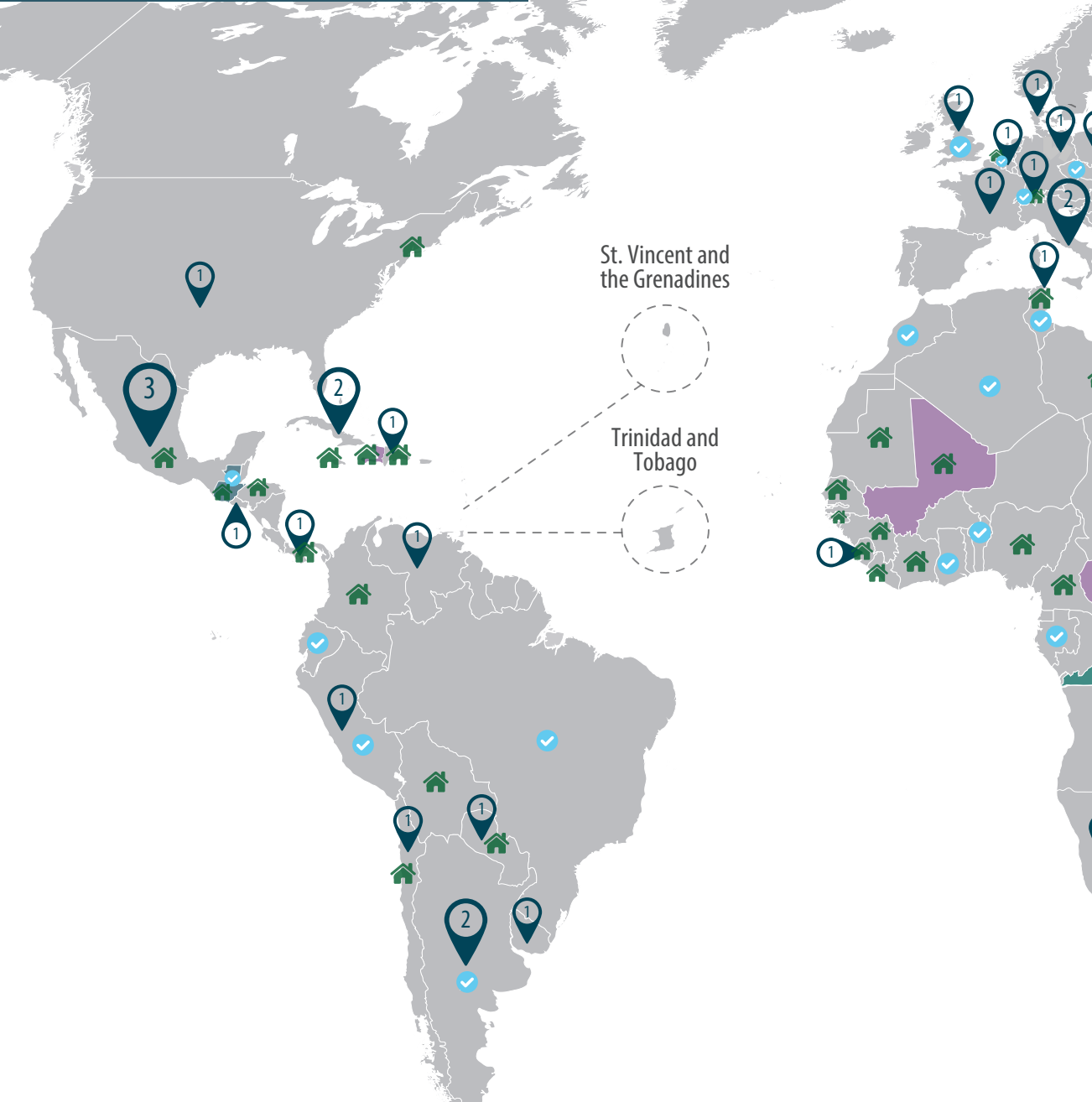
GEOGRAPHIC FOCUS OF COUNCIL TEXTS,
SPECIAL SESSIONS, AND PANELS (2006-2017)






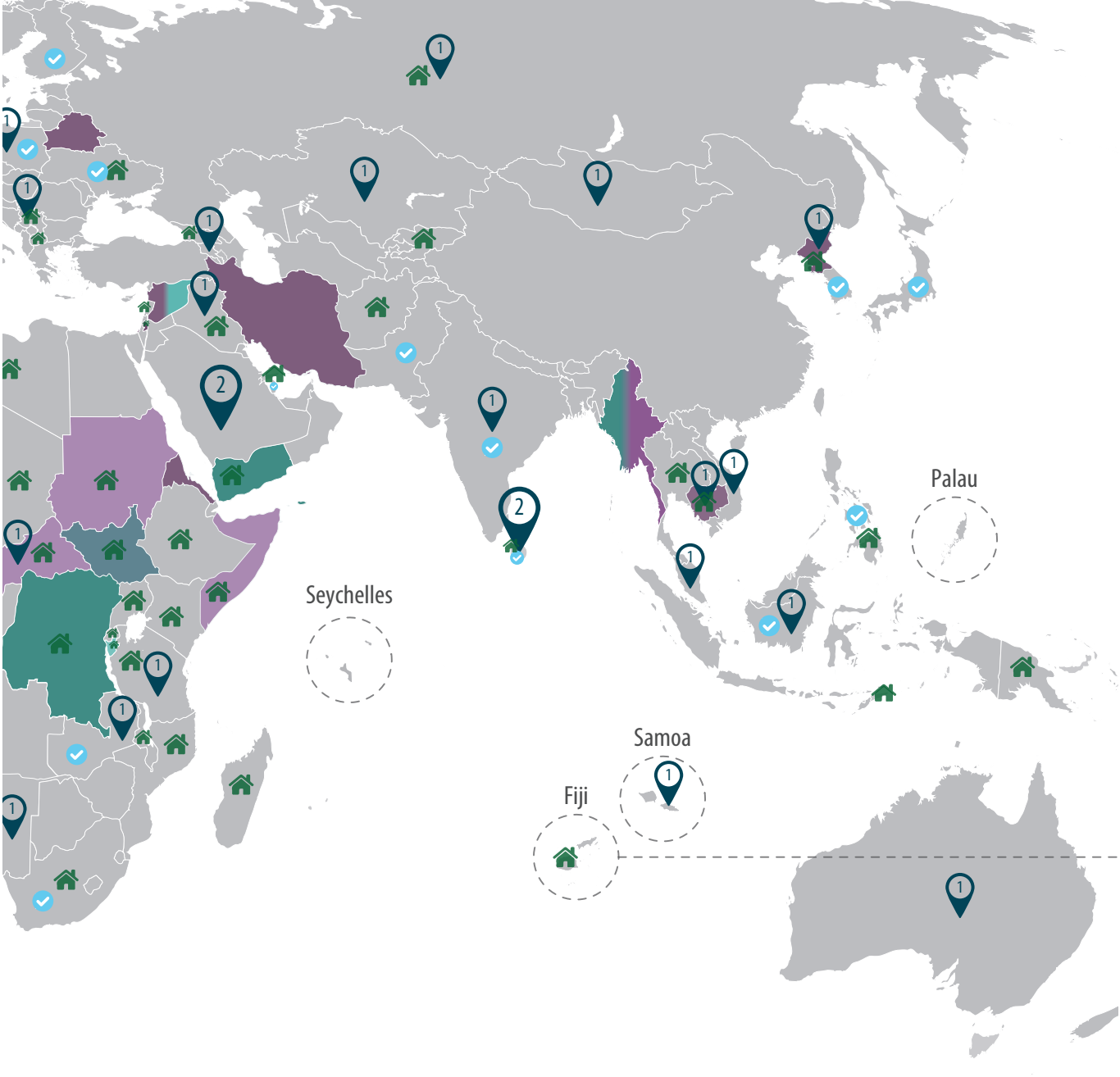
Data source: Council texts (resolutions, decisions, or presidential statements) 2006-2017, available on the OHCHR extranet and via the URG Resolutions Portal. Note: For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology please see endnote.








Global coverage of the UN human rights system in 2017



OHCHR FIELD PRESENCE	UPR	THEMATIC SPECIAL PROCEDURES
		
OHCHR field presence during 2017	UPR review completed 2017	Country visits completed 2017



COUNTRY-SPECIFIC SPECIAL PROCEDURES	COMMISSIONS OF INQUIRY
 Country Independent Expert  Country Special Rapporteur	 Commission of Inquiry (COI)  Fact-Finding Mission  Commission on Human Rights

Data source: Council texts (resolutions, decisions, or presidential statements) 2006-2017, available on the OHCHR extranet and via the URG Resolutions Portal.

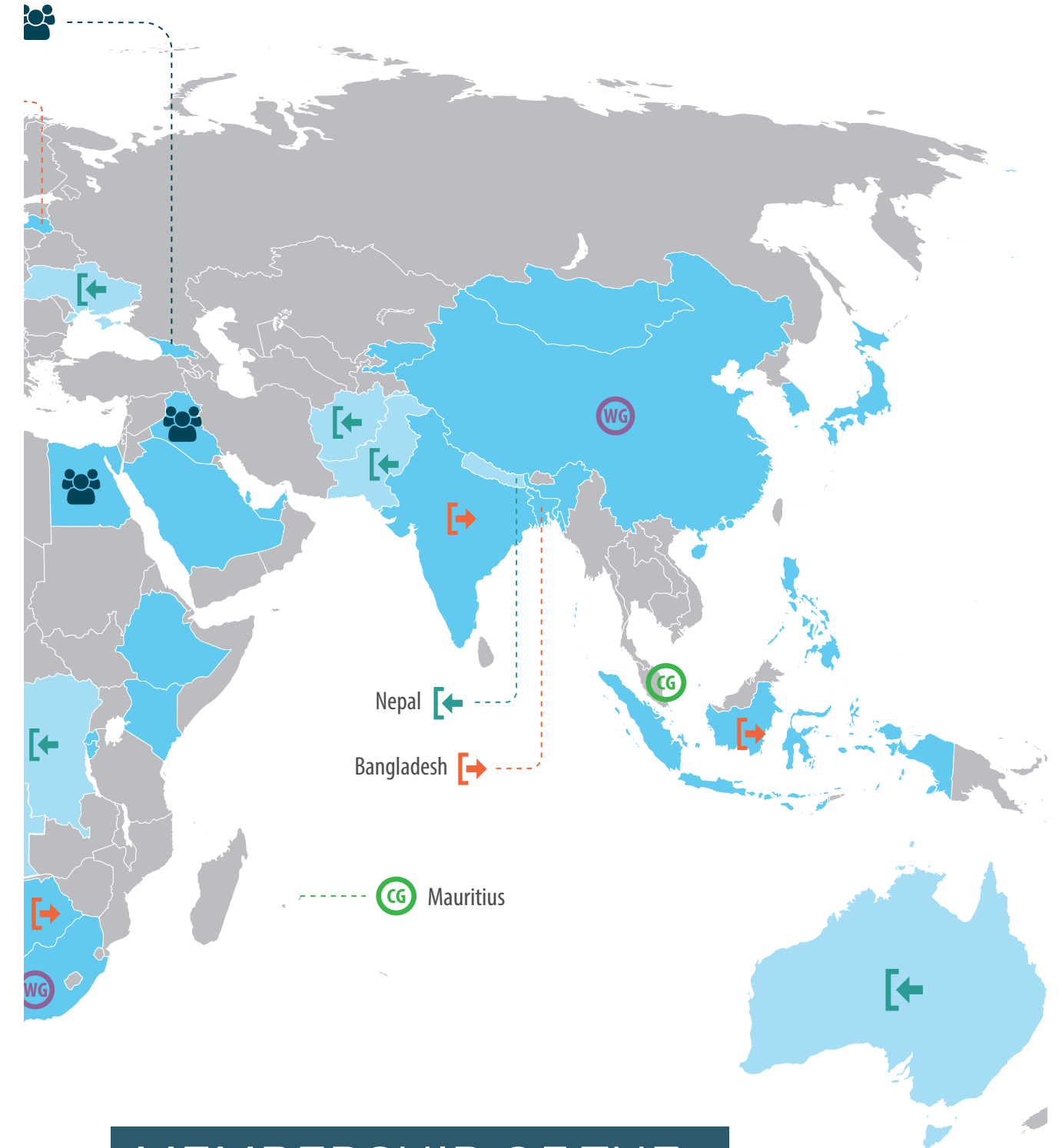
Note: For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology please see endnote.



PART II

2017

**COUNCIL MEMBER STATES:
ENGAGEMENT, LEADERSHIP,
COOPERATION**



MEMBERSHIP OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL IN 2017

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

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

Secretary-General's report

In September 2017, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, Mr Andrew Gilmour, presented the Secretary-General annual report (pursuant to resolution 12/2) to the 36th session of the Council on: 'Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives, and mechanisms in the field of human rights.'

With resolution 12/2, the Council had condemned all acts of intimidation and reprisal against individuals and groups who seek to cooperate, are cooperating, or have cooperated with the UN, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights, committed by State and non-State actors. The 2017 report highlights the initiatives and efforts by the UN system and other stakeholders to raise awareness, prevent, respond to, and address such acts.

The report draws particular attention to the efforts by the High Commissioner for Human Rights (HCHR), member States, and NGOs to raise awareness on this issue, mainly through delivering statements before the Council. It also remarks a number of initiatives that have taken place within the UN system to address and tackle reprisals and intimidations, including the recommendation by the Chairs of the human rights Treaty Bodies to implement the 'San Jose Guidelines' (so far endorsed by eight Treaty Bodies). The report further recalls and emphasises the relevance of: the last report of the Coordination Committee of the Special Procedures, which stresses the graveness of reprisals and intimidation acts; the 2016 Guidance Note on Human Rights for Resident Coordinators and Country Teams; and the work undertaken by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights in raising awareness on this issue.

Moreover, the Secretary-General presents information on alleged acts of intimidation and reprisal based on data gathered from 1 June 2016 to 31 May 2017, including follow-up information on cases discussed in previous reports by his predecessor. 'Information received was verified and corroborated by primary and other sources to the maximum extent possible... Responses provided by Governments by 31 July 2017, whether in writing or orally during sessions of United Nations human rights bodies and mechanisms, are also included'.

The cases included comprise acts of intimidation and reprisal against individuals working with the 'Council, special procedures, treaty bodies, the UPR, the OHCHR, human rights components

of peace missions including the Central African Republic (MINUSCA), the Democratic Republic of Congo (MONUSCO), Darfur (UNAMID) and South Sudan (UNMISS)', as well as individuals 'trying to travel and report to sessions of the International Labour Organization or the meetings of the Copenhagen Framework Convention on Climate Change.' However, the report does not 'include cases where the risk to the security and well-being of the individuals concerned, or their family members, was deemed too high'.

The 2017 report summarises and provides comprehensive information on alleged cases of intimidation and reprisals in the following countries:

Algeria	Oman
Bahrain	Pakistan
Burundi	Rwanda
People's Republic of China (China)	Saudi Arabia
Cuba	South Sudan
Egypt	Sri Lanka
Eritrea	Sudan
Honduras	Tajikistan
India	Thailand
Islamic Republic of Iran (Iran)	Turkey
Israel	Turkmenistan
Mauritania	United Arab Emirates (UAE)
Mexico	Uzbekistan
Morocco	Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (Venezuela)
Myanmar	

Additionally, the Secretary-General mentions multiple States that have frozen the banking assets of human rights organisations working for victims of torture, in order to impede external funding, including from the United Nations Fund for Victims of Torture.

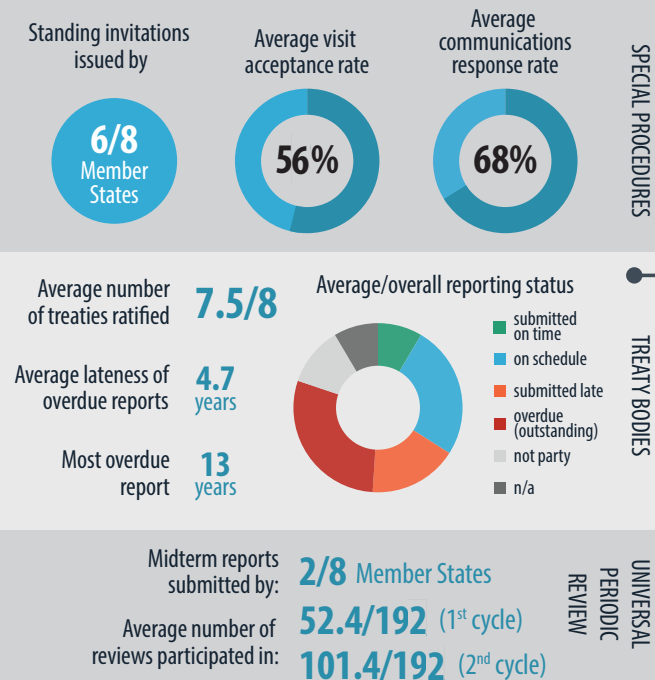
The report further summarises follow-up information on cases included in previous reports, concerning the following countries:

Honduras	Morocco
Iraq	Uganda
Japan	

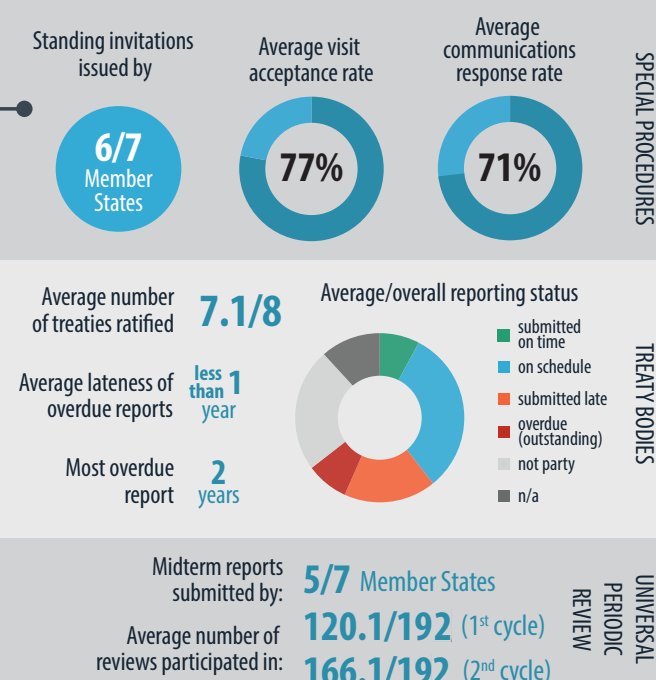
The Secretary-General concludes his report by stating that ‘(t)he range of reprisals and intimidations has also become broader over the past year, and the means used increasingly blunt’. He underscores that, in addition to the harm and the impact on people’s lives, acts of intimidation and reprisal undermine the UN action in the field of human rights and the trust of the organisation’s partners in it. Moreover, the report remarks that the UN has a collective responsibility, derived from the UN Charter, to tackle and prevent such acts and that this is not only a ‘normative duty, but an operational imperative for ensuring respect for human rights, sustainable development, and building secure and peaceful societies’.

Finally, the Secretary-General recognises that the Council and its mechanisms are important actors in addressing acts of intimidation and reprisal, calls on all member States and the UN to cooperate with Mr Gilmore in discharging his mandate as senior official to lead the UN action in acts of intimidation and reprisals, and calls on States to follow-up on the cases mentioned in the report.

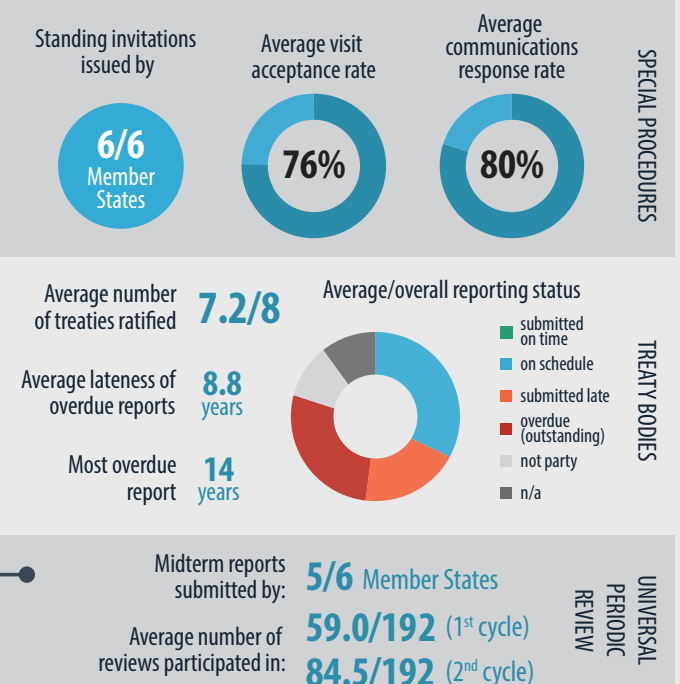
Latin America and Caribbean Group



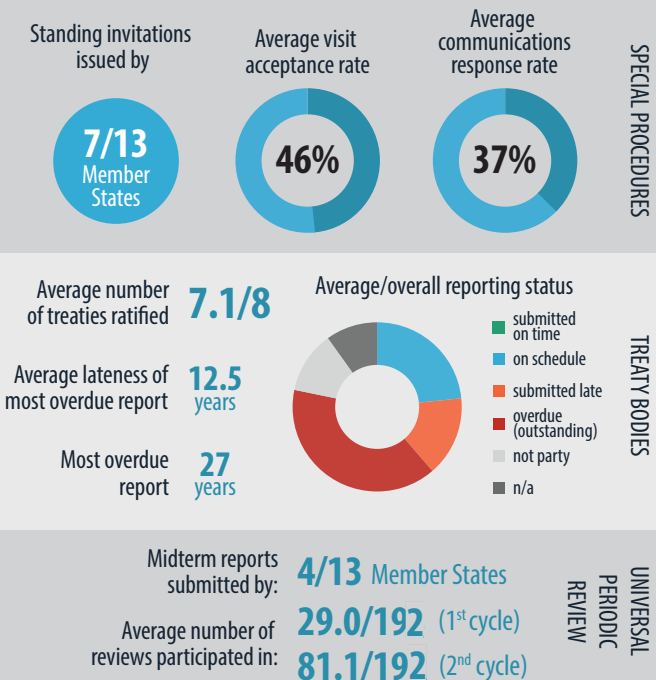
Western Europe and Others Group



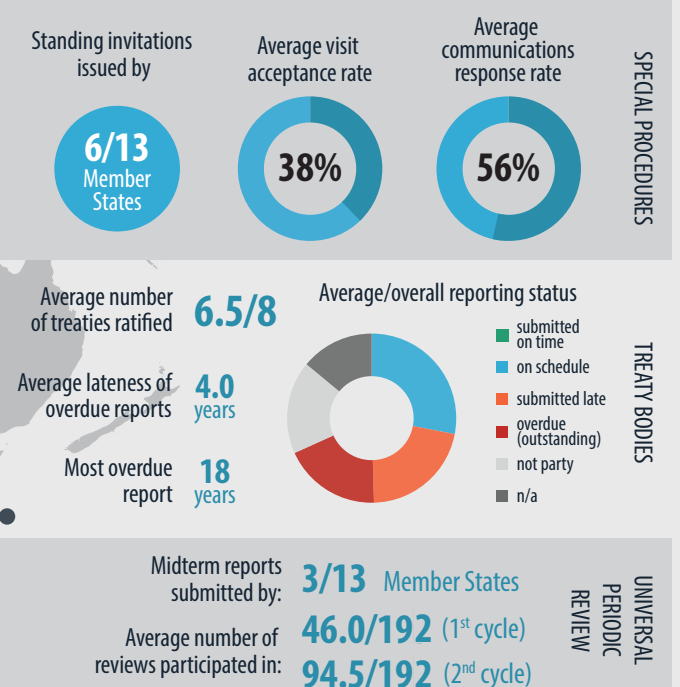
Eastern European Group



African Group



Asia Pacific Group



GLOBAL OVERVIEW OF COOPERATION

✓ Standing invitation issued

✓ UPR midterm report submitted

African Group (AG)

Overview of Members

		Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2016)	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (Oct 2017)	NHRI accreditation status	Membership terms
Botswana				—	2
Burundi				A	1
Congo				B	2
Côte d'Ivoire				B	2
Egypt				A	2
Ethiopia				B	2
Ghana				A	3
Kenya				A	2
Nigeria				A	3
Rwanda				A	1
South Africa				A	4
Togo				A	1
Tunisia				B	2

Principal sponsorship

During the course of 2017, African members of the Council led (as main sponsors/part of a core group) on a number of important resolutions, covering both thematic and country-specific issues.

At a thematic level, in 2017 African members led, *inter alia*, on the following issues:

Botswana - Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers; independence and impartiality of the judiciary, so it reads: and assessors, and the independence of lawyers.

Côte d'Ivoire - Protection of the family in supporting the protection and promotion of human rights of older persons; and youth and human rights.

Egypt - Youth and human rights; effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights; the negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin to the countries of origin on the enjoyment of human rights and the importance of improving international cooperation; and the right to work.

Ethiopia - Elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members; child, early and forced marriage in humanitarian settings; and the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights.

Ghana - Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights; and business and human rights: Mandate of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises.

Namibia - Adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and the right to non-discrimination in this context.

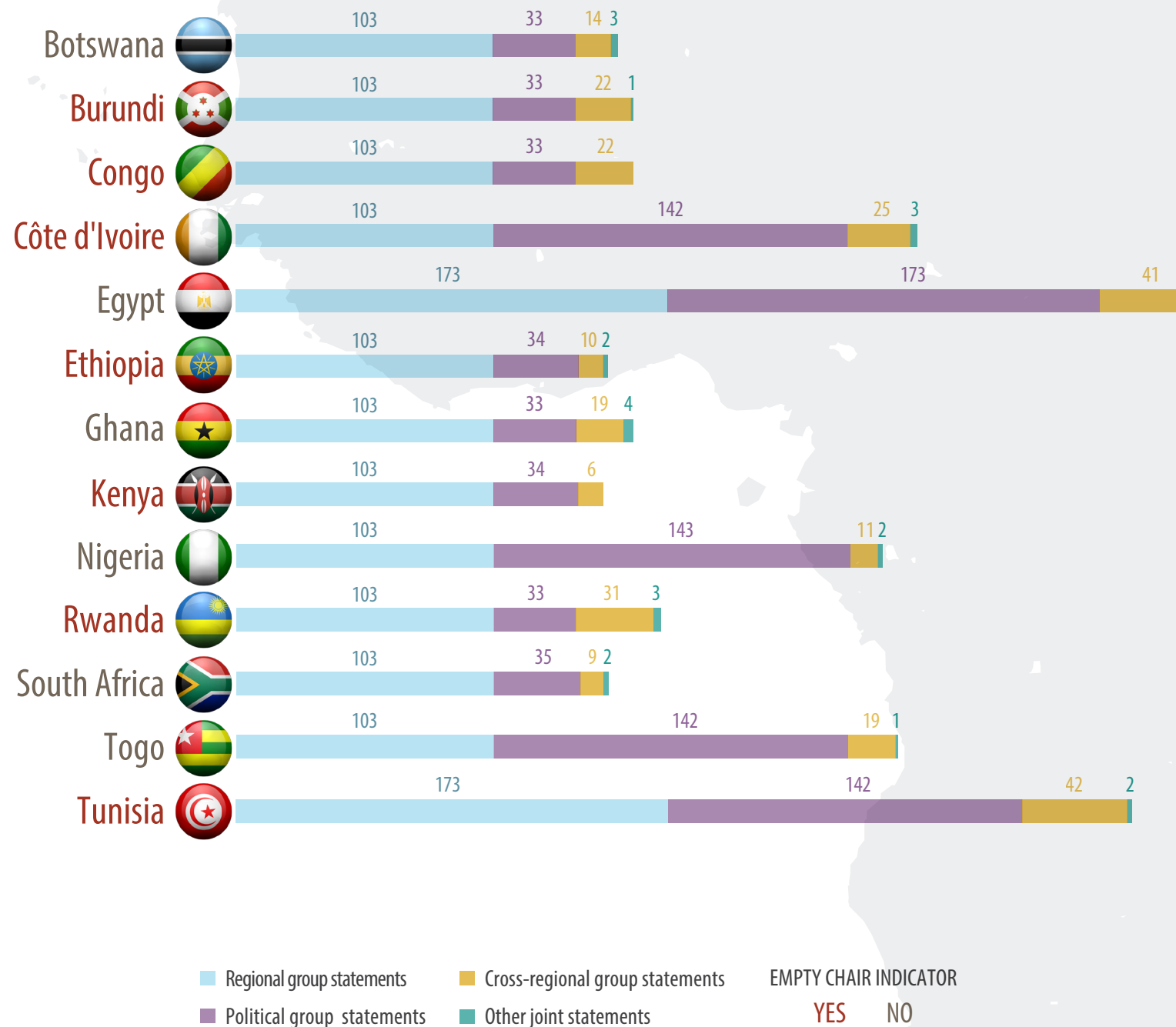
South Africa - Promotion and protection of the human rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas.

Tunisia - Protection of the family: role of the family in supporting the protection and promotion of human rights of older persons; youth and human rights; and human rights democracy and the rule of law

Notwithstanding such individual leadership, it is important to note that African States often work through their regional group. In 2017, the African Group led on, *inter alia*, the following resolutions: mandate of the open-ended intergovernmental working group to elaborate the content of an international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies; mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes; mandate of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent; from rhetoric to reality: a global call for concrete action against racial discrimination, and related intolerance; consideration of the elaboration of a draft declaration on the promotion and full respect of human rights of people of African descent; the negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin to the countries of origin on the enjoyment of human rights, and the importance of improving international cooperation; establishment of a forum on people of African descent; mandate of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action; mandate of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance; and elaboration of complementary standards to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

The African Group also led on Council initiatives aiming to deliver technical assistance to strengthen the enjoyment of human rights in certain States, including the following resolutions: mission by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to improve the human rights situation and accountability in Burundi; technical assistance and capacity building in the field of human rights in the Central African Republic; technical assistance and capacity-building to improve human rights in the Sudan; technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; technical assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and accountability concerning the events in the Kasai region; technical assistance and capacity-building to improve human rights in Libya; and technical assistance and capacity-building for Mali in the field of human rights.

Contribution to Council debates, panel discussions, and dialogues in 2017



Note: This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State joined during the Council's general discussions, panel debates, and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures. The empty chair symbol indicates whether, overall, the country, as a Council member, participated (individual statements) in more than 10% of panel discussions, general debates, and interactive dialogues. For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology please see endnote.

Voting analysis

With regard to texts on country-specific situations (item 4 texts - situations that require the Council's attention), African States joined consensus on the Council's item 4 resolutions on the human rights situations in Eritrea, Myanmar, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), and South Sudan. However, on the resolutions on Burundi, the Syrian Arab Republic (Syria), Belarus, and Iran, most African members abstained. The exceptions to these were: on the resolutions on Syria, Burundi voted against and Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Rwanda, and Togo voted in favour; on the item 4 resolution on the situation in Burundi, Burundi, Congo, Egypt, Ghana, and South Africa voted against, but Botswana and Rwanda voted in favour; on the text on the human rights situation in Iran, Botswana and Rwanda voted in favour, and Burundi, Egypt, and Kenya voted against; and on the Belarus text, Burundi and Egypt voted against, and Ghana voted in favour.

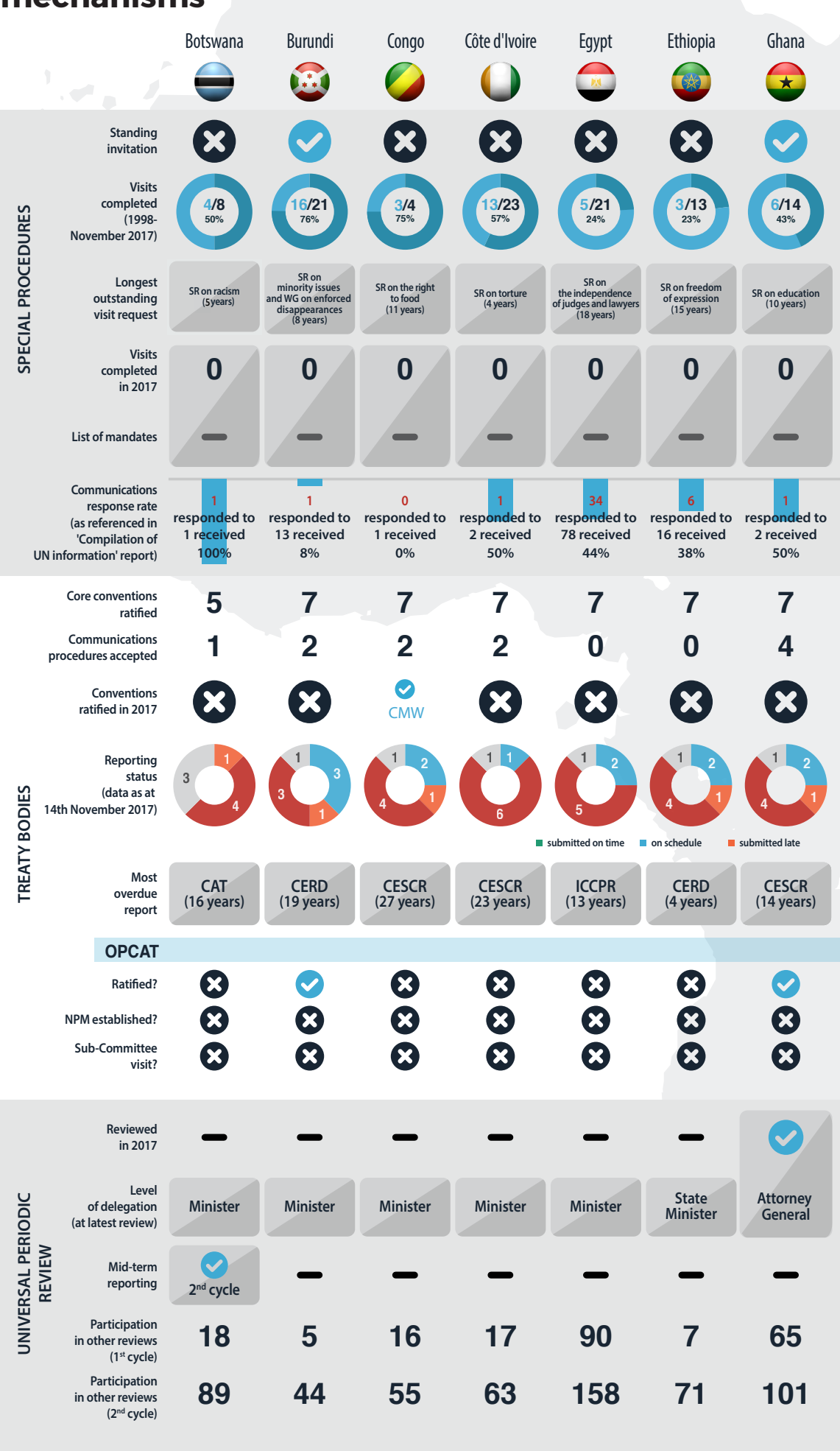
Regarding item 7 resolutions (Occupied Palestinian Territories), African States generally voted in favour (though sometimes Congo and Rwanda abstained). The exception to this was Togo, which voted against all item 7 resolutions. For item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), African members joined consensus or voted in favour on all texts in 2017, except when a vote was called on resolutions on Ukraine (Burundi voted against, while Botswana, Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, South Africa, Togo, and Tunisia abstained) and on Georgia (Burundi voted against; Botswana, Ghana, and Togo, voted in favour; and all other African members abstained).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, or 'groups in focus', where a vote was called in 2017, African members usually voted in favour. Notable exceptions include voting on:

- A resolution on the question of the death penalty: Botswana, Burundi, Egypt, and Ethiopia voted against, and Kenya, Nigeria, and Tunisia abstained.
- A resolution on cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights: Burundi, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, South Africa, and Togo abstained.
- A resolution on the effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights: South Africa voted against.

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, African States either joined consensus on, or voted in favour of, nearly all adopted texts. The only exception was Togo that abstained on a resolution on human rights and unilateral coercive measures.

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms



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

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

Asia-Pacific Group (APG)

Overview of Members

		Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2016)	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (Oct 2017)	NHRI accreditation status	Membership terms
Bangladesh				B	3
China				—	4
India				A	4
Indonesia				A	4
Iraq				B	1
Japan				—	4
Kyrgyzstan				B	2
Mongolia				A	1
Philippines				A	4
Qatar				A	3
Republic of Korea				A	4
Saudi Arabia				—	4
UAE				—	2

Principal sponsorship

During the course of 2017, Asia-Pacific members of the Council led (as main sponsors/part of a core group) on a number of important resolutions, covering both thematic and country-specific issues

At a thematic level, in 2017 Asia-Pacific members led, *inter alia*, on the following issues:

Bangladesh - Protection of the family: role of the family in supporting the protection and promotion of human rights of older persons; and human rights and climate change.

China - The contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights; and protection of the family: role of the family in supporting the protection and promotion of human rights of older persons.

Indonesia - Enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights; the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights; and the right to work.

Japan - Enforced or involuntary disappearances; and elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members.

Mongolia - The question of the death penalty.

The Philippines - World Programme for Human Rights Education; mandate of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children; youth and human rights, extreme poverty and human rights; human rights and climate change; and the contribution of parliaments to the work of the Human Rights Council and its universal periodic review.

Qatar - Enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights; and protection of the family: role of the family in supporting the protection and promotion of human rights of older persons.

Saudi Arabia - Protection of the family: role of the family in supporting the protection and promotion of human rights of older persons; and effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights.

Republic of Korea - Human rights, democracy and the rule of law.

United Arab Emirates - Realizing the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl.

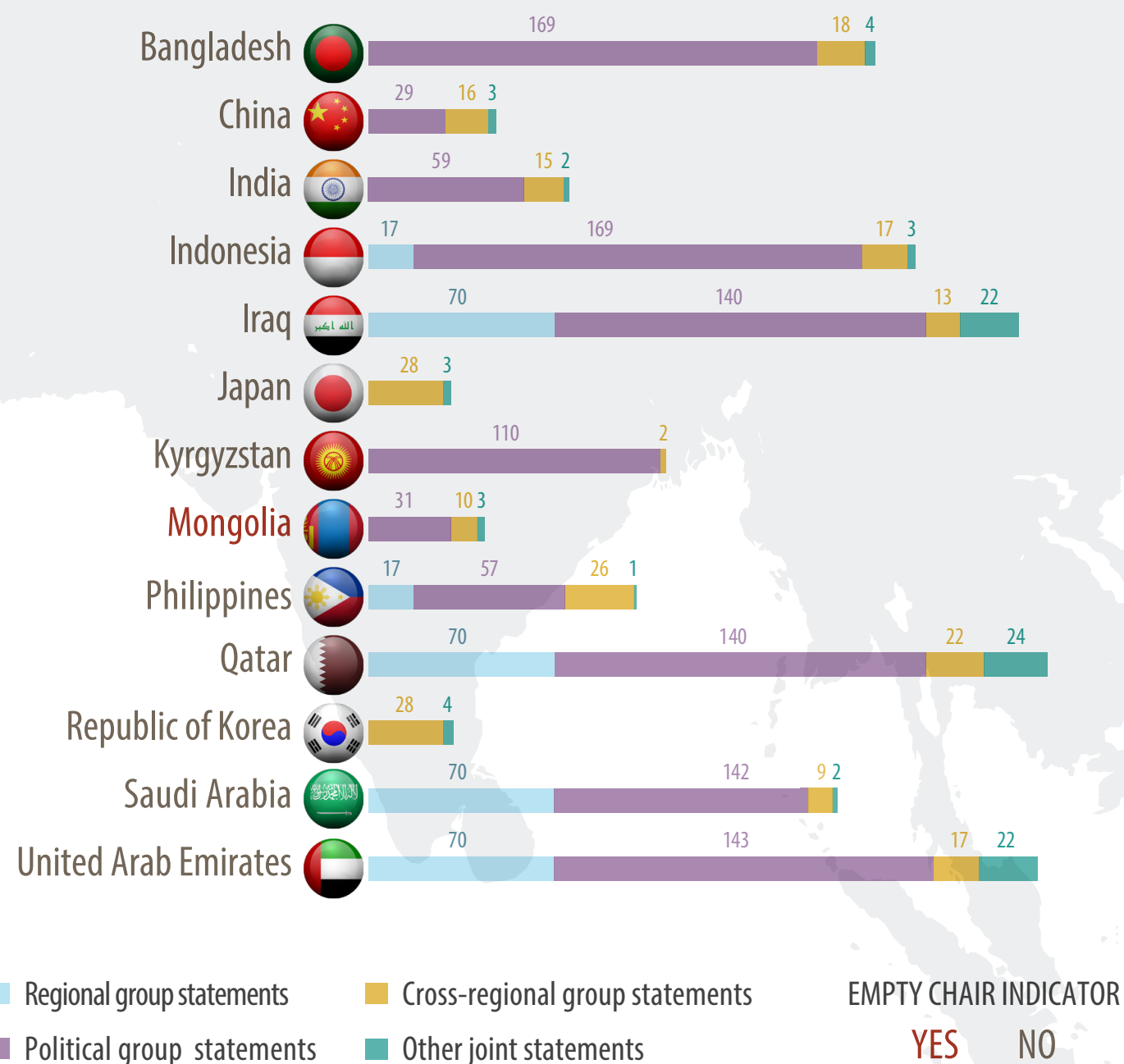
At a country-specific level, Asia-Pacific Members led, *inter alia*, on the following situations:

Japan - Advisory services and technical assistance for Cambodia; and situation of human rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

Qatar and Saudi Arabia: The human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic (resolutions adopted on March, June, and September).

Notwithstanding such individual leadership, it is important to note that some Asia-Pacific States regularly work through political groups, especially the Arab Group. In 2017, the Arab Group led on resolutions dealing with, at the country level, human rights, technical assistance and capacity-building in Yemen; human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan; ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem; and right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. At the thematic level, the Arab Group led on the resolution protection of the family: role of the family in supporting the protection and promotion of human rights of older persons.

Contribution to Council debates, panel discussions, and dialogues in 2017



Note: This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State joined during the Council's general discussions, panel debates, and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures. The empty chair symbol indicates whether, overall, the country, as a Council member, participated (individual statements) in more than 10% of panel discussions, general debates and interactive dialogues. For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology please see endnote.

Voting analysis

On country-specific situations, concerning item 4 resolutions (situations that require the Council's attention) the Asia-Pacific Group (APG) displayed markedly different voting records. China voted against all item 4 resolutions; Japan and Republic of Korea voted in favour of all texts; Bangladesh abstained during the voting on all texts; and the other members voted in distinctly different ways: India generally abstained, except on resolutions on Belarus and Iran - it voted against; Indonesia abstained on all item 4 texts, but voted against the resolution on Iran; Iraq voted against all resolutions but abstained on the resolutions on Belarus and Burundi; Kyrgyzstan voted against the texts on Iran and one resolution on Syria, and abstained on texts on Burundi, Syria (September resolution), and Belarus; Mongolia abstained on all resolutions except on the item 4 text on Burundi, which it supported; Philippines abstained during the voting on the texts on Burundi, Syria (March resolutions), and Iran, and voted against the texts on Syria (June and September resolutions) and Belarus; Qatar voted in favour of all item 4 resolutions, except on the resolutions on Burundi and Belarus, in which it abstained; and Saudi Arabia and United Arab Emirates voted in favour of all item 4 texts on Syria and Iran, abstained during the voting on the resolution on Belarus, and voted against the resolution on Burundi.

During voting on item 7 resolutions (Occupied Palestinian Territories), in 2017 Asian States nearly always voted in favour. For item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), in 2017 Asia-Pacific members joined consensus on, or voted in favour of, all texts except on the resolution assistance to Ukraine and Georgia – with Asian States usually abstaining.

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, or 'groups in focus,' where a vote was called in 2017, APG members usually voted in favour. Notable exceptions include:

- A resolution on the question on death penalty: most APG members voted against, and Indonesia and the Republic of Korea – abstained.
- A resolution on the effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights: Japan and Republic of Korea voted against, and Kyrgyzstan and Mongolia abstained.

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, Asian States either joined consensus on, or voted in favour of, nearly all adopted texts, except for Japan, which only voted in favour of the resolution on the right to food.

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

		Bangladesh	China	India	Indonesia	Iraq	Japan	Kyrgyzstan	Mongolia	Philippines	Qatar	Republic of Korea	Saudi Arabia	UAE
SPECIAL PROCEDURES	Standing invitation	✗	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✓	✗	✓	✓	✗	✗
	Visits completed (1998-November 2017)	7/21 33%	7/27 26%	10/26 38%	10/33 30%	7/13 54%	8/17 47%	7/16 44%	6/9 67%	8/30 27%	3/6 50%	15/27 56%	4/14 29%	4/13 31%
	Longest outstanding visit request	SR on minority issues and SR on arbitrary executions (11 years)	SR on freedom of religion or belief (14 years)	SR on torture (18 years)	SR on freedom of religion or belief (18 years)	WG on enforced disappearances (18 years)	SR on racism (4 years)	SR on freedom of religion or belief (13 years)	SR on human rights defenders (5 years)	SR on freedom of expression (12 years)	SR on adequate housing (3 years)	SR on migrants (4 years)	SR on freedom of expression (13 years)	SR on education (12 years)
	Visits completed in 2017	0	0	1	1	1	0	0	1	0	0	0	2	0
	List of mandates	—	—	SR on water and sanitation	SR on the right to health	SR on arbitrary executions	—	—	SR on a clean, healthy and sustainable environment	—	—	—	SR on terrorism; SR on extreme poverty	—
TREATY BODIES	Communications response rate (as referenced in 'Compilation of UN information' report)	27 responded to 30 received 90%	80 responded to 100 received 80%	29 responded to 55 received 53%	5 responded to 42 received 12%	15 responded to 36 received 42%	9 responded to 10 received 90%	16 responded to 24 received 67%	0 responded to 1 received 0%	4 responded to 27 received 15%	4 responded to 4 received 100%	14 responded to 15 received 93%	20 responded to 45 received 44%	6 responded to 23 received 26%
	Core conventions ratified	7	6	6	7	8	8	6	8	7	5	7	5	5
	Communications procedures accepted	2	0	0	0	0	0	2	5	2	0	4	1	0
	Conventions ratified in 2017	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
	Reporting status (data as at 14th November 2017)													
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW	Most overdue report	CAT (18 years)	none	ICCPR (16 years)	CERD (7 years)	none	CAT (0.5 years)	none	none	CERD (6 years)	none	CRC (0.5 years)	CAT (0.5 years)	CAT (4 years)
	OPCAT													
	Ratified?	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✓	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗
	NPM established?	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗
	Sub-Committee visit?	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✗	✓ (2012)	✓ (2017)	✓ (2015)	✗	✗	✗	✗
UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW	Reviewed in 2017	—	—	✓	✓	—	✓	—	—	✓	—	✓	—	—
	Level of delegation (at latest review)	Minister	Minister	Attorney General	Minister	Deputy Minister	Minister	Deputy Prime Minister	Deputy Minister	Senior Civil Servant	Deputy Minister	Deputy Minister	President of the Human Rights Commission	Minister
	Mid-term reporting	—	—	—	—	—	✓ 1 st and 2 nd cycles	—	✓ 1 st cycle	—	—	✓ 2 nd cycle	—	—
	Participation in other reviews (1 st cycle)	84	57	28	78	16	75	20	0	65	39	69	45	22
	Participation in other reviews (2 nd cycle)	84	173	71	192	96	90	48	10	173	57	110	55	69

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

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

Eastern European Group (EEG)

Overview of Members

		Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2016)	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (Oct 2017)	NHRI accreditation status	Membership terms
Albania					
Croatia					
Georgia					
Hungary					
Latvia					
Slovenia					

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

Principal sponsorship

During the course of 2017, members of the Eastern European Group (EEG) led (as main sponsors/part of a core group) on a number of important resolutions, covering both thematic and country-specific issues.

At a thematic level, in 2017 Eastern European members led, *inter alia*, on the following issues:

Albania - Extreme poverty human rights.

Croatia - Conscientious objection to military service.

Hungary - Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights; mandate of the special rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers; independence and impartiality of the judiciary, jurors and assessors, and the independence of lawyers.

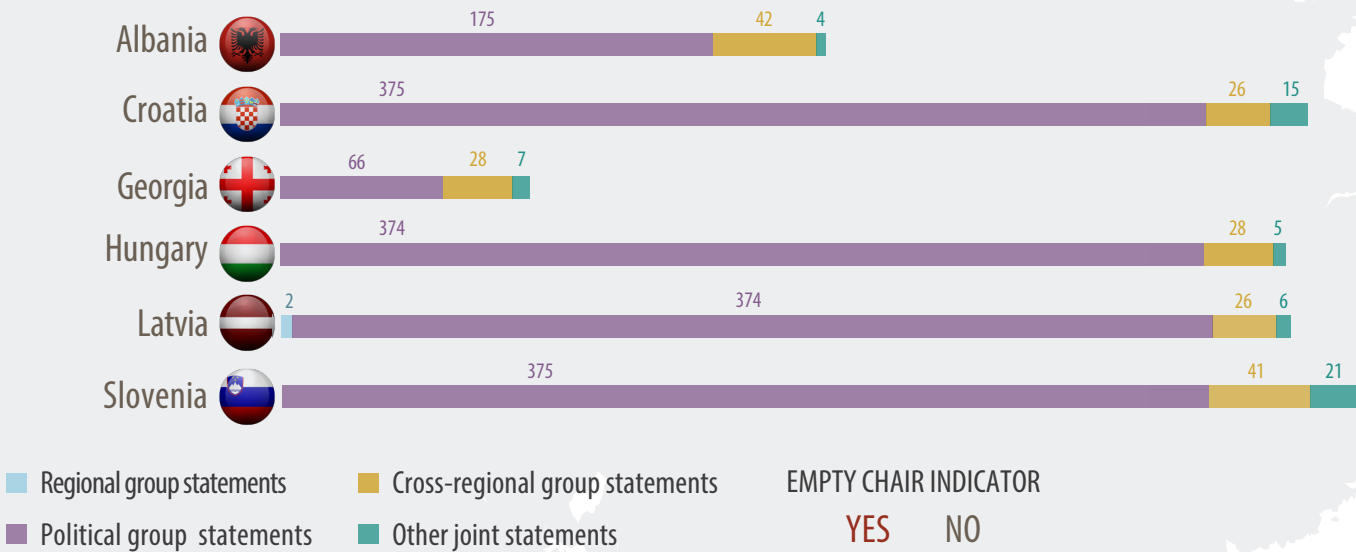
Slovenia - World programme for human rights education; mandate of the special rapporteur on minority issues; and human rights and the environment.

At a country-specific level, in 2017 Eastern-European members led, *inter alia*, on the following issues:

Albania - Situation of human rights in South Sudan.

Georgia - Cooperation with Georgia.

Contribution to Council debates, panel discussions, and dialogues in 2017



Note: This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State joined during the Council's general discussions, panel debates, and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures. The empty chair symbol indicates whether, overall, the country, as a Council member, participated (individual statements) in more than 10% of panel discussions, general debates and interactive dialogues. For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology please see endnote.

Voting analysis

Eastern European members tended to join consensus on or vote in favour of item 4 texts (situations that require the Council's attention) in 2017, with the exception of Georgia's abstention during the voting on the resolution Iran and Belarus.

During voting on item 7 resolutions (Occupied Palestinian Territories), EEG States tended to abstain, except during the voting on the resolution on 'Human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem', when all EEG members voted in favour. For item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), EEG members joined consensus on all texts in 2017, and, when a vote was called, all of them voted in favour.

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, and 'groups in focus,' where a vote was called in 2017, Eastern European members usually voted in favour. Notable exceptions include the following resolutions:

- From rhetoric to reality: a global call for concrete action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance: All EEG members abstained, except Albania that voted against.
- Promotion of the right to peace: All EEG members voted against, except Albania and Georgia – both abstained.
- Effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights: All members voted against, except Georgia that abstained.
- Promotion and protection of the human rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas: All EEG members voted against.

- Protection of the family: role of the family in supporting the protection and promotion of human rights of older persons: all EEG members voted against, except Georgia and Hungary - both abstained.

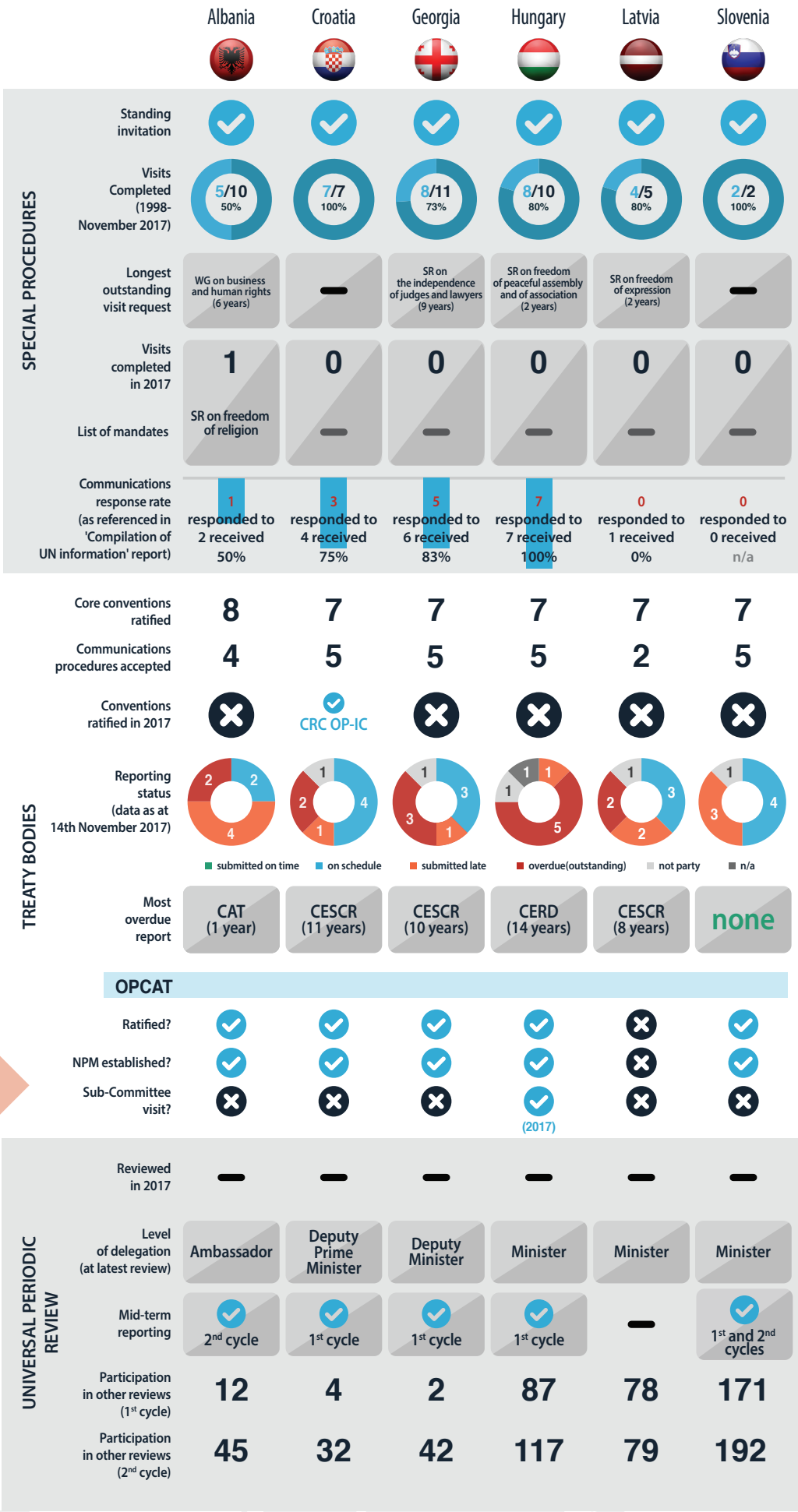
For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, EEG States usually joined consensus. Where there was a vote, EEG members mostly voted against. Some notable exceptions include:

- The resolution on the right to development all EEG States voted against except Albania and Slovenia that both abstained.
- The resolutions on the negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin to the countries of origin on the enjoyment of human rights, and the importance of improving international cooperation, and enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights: all EEG members abstained.
- A resolution on the contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights: most EEG members voted against and Georgia abstained.
- A resolution on the right to food: all EEG members voted in favour.

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

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

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms



Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)

Overview of Members

		Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2016)	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (Oct 2017)	NHRI accreditation status	Membership terms
Bolivia					
Brazil					
Cuba					
Ecuador					
El Salvador					
Panama					
Paraguay					
Venezuela					

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

Principal sponsorship

During the course of 2017, Latin America and the Caribbean Group (GRULAC) members of the Human Rights Council led (as main sponsors/part of a core group) on a number of important resolutions, covering both thematic and country-specific issues.

At a thematic level, in 2017 GRULAC members led, *inter alia*, on the following issues:

Brazil - The full enjoyment of human rights by all women and girls and the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; World Programme for Human Rights Education; promoting international cooperation to support national human rights follow-up systems, processes and related mechanisms, and their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; mental health and human rights; enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights; elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members; the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; human rights in cities and other human settlements; the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights; consideration of the elaboration of a draft declaration on the promotion and full respect of human rights of people of African descent; the right to privacy in the digital age; and adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living and the right to non-discrimination in this context.

Bolivia - Promotion and protection of the human rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas.

Cuba - Composition of staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; the use

of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination; mandate of the Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order; promotion and protection of the human rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas; human rights and international solidarity; promotion of the right to peace; the Social Forum; promotion of the enjoyment of the cultural rights of everyone and respect for cultural diversity; and the mandate of the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights; and the right to food.

Ecuador - Promotion and protection of the human rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas, human rights in cities and other human settlements; contribution of parliaments to the work of the Human Rights Council and its universal periodic review; and national policies and human rights.

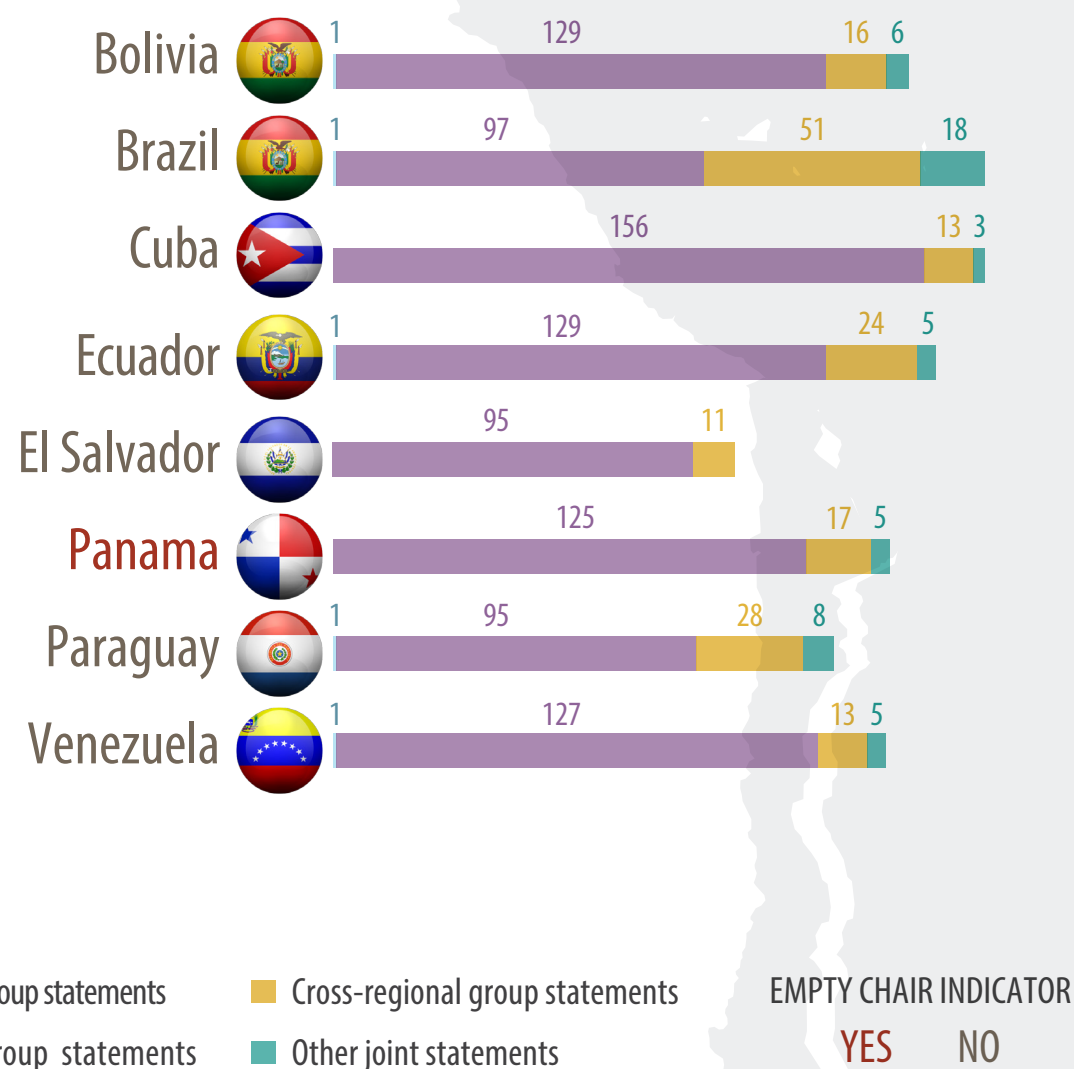
El Salvador - Unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and human rights; protection of the family: role of the family in supporting the protection and promotion of human rights of older persons; and youth and human rights.

Paraguay - Promoting international cooperation to support national human rights follow-up systems, processes and related mechanisms and their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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

Paraguay - Situation of human rights in South Sudan.

Contribution to Council debates, panel discussions, and dialogues in 2017



Note: This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State joined during the Council's general discussions, panel debates, and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures. The empty chair symbol indicates whether, overall, the country, as a Council member, participated (individual statements) in more than 10% of panel discussions, general debates, and interactive dialogues. For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology please see endnote.

Voting analysis

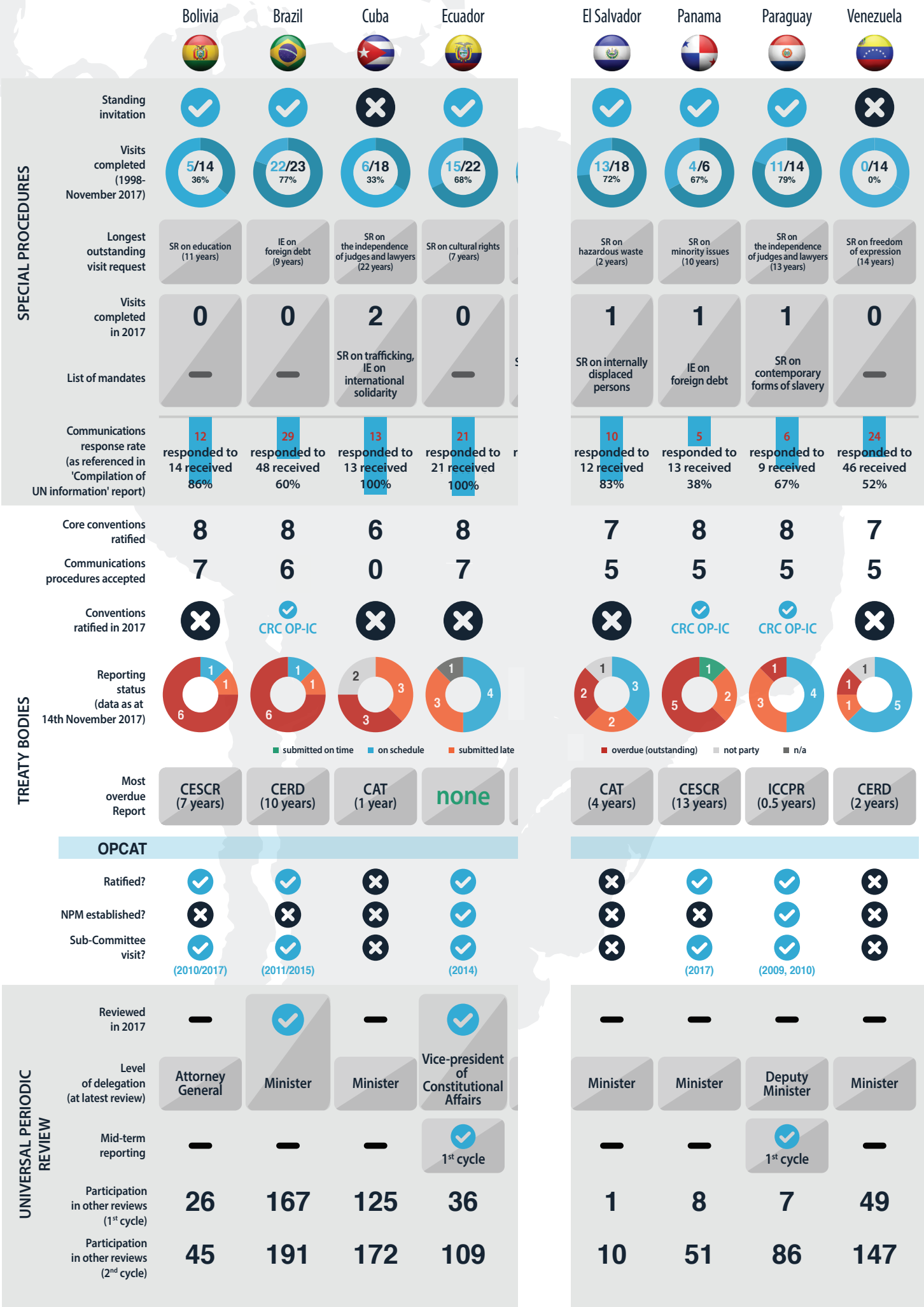
In terms of their voting records on item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention) texts, Latin American members of the Council can be broadly divided into three groups. When a vote was called in 2017, the Plurinational State of Bolivia (Bolivia), Cuba, and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela (Venezuela) voted against all item 4 texts, irrespective of substance or focus. On the other hand, Brazil, El Salvador, Panama, and Paraguay voted in favour of nearly all item 4 resolutions in 2017, although some of them abstained during the voting of some resolutions, i.e. El Salvador on Belarus.

During voting on item 7 resolutions (Occupied Palestinian Territories), Latin American States nearly always voted in favour (the exception being Panama and Paraguay – both abstained during voting on all item 7 resolutions). For item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), when a vote was called, GRULAC members voted in favour on the resolution on Democratic Republic of the Congo; however, the Latin American and Caribbean members were divided on the resolutions on Ukraine and Georgia; with most members either supporting the resolutions, or abstaining during the corresponding votes.

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, or 'groups in focus' where a vote was called in 2017, GRULAC member States usually joined consensus or, where a vote was called, voted in favour. The exceptions were the following abstentions: Panama during the voting on the resolution on 'effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights'; Bolivia, Cuba, and Venezuela, during the voting on the resolution on 'cooperation with the United Nations and its mechanisms', and Brazil and Panama on the resolution of the role of the family.

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, where a vote was called in 2017, GRULAC States nearly always voted in favour. The exceptions were Panama's abstentions during the voting on the resolutions on the contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights the negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin and the importance of improving international cooperation; Paraguay's abstention to the latter resolution; and Brazil's vote against the resolution on the mandate of the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social, and cultural rights.

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

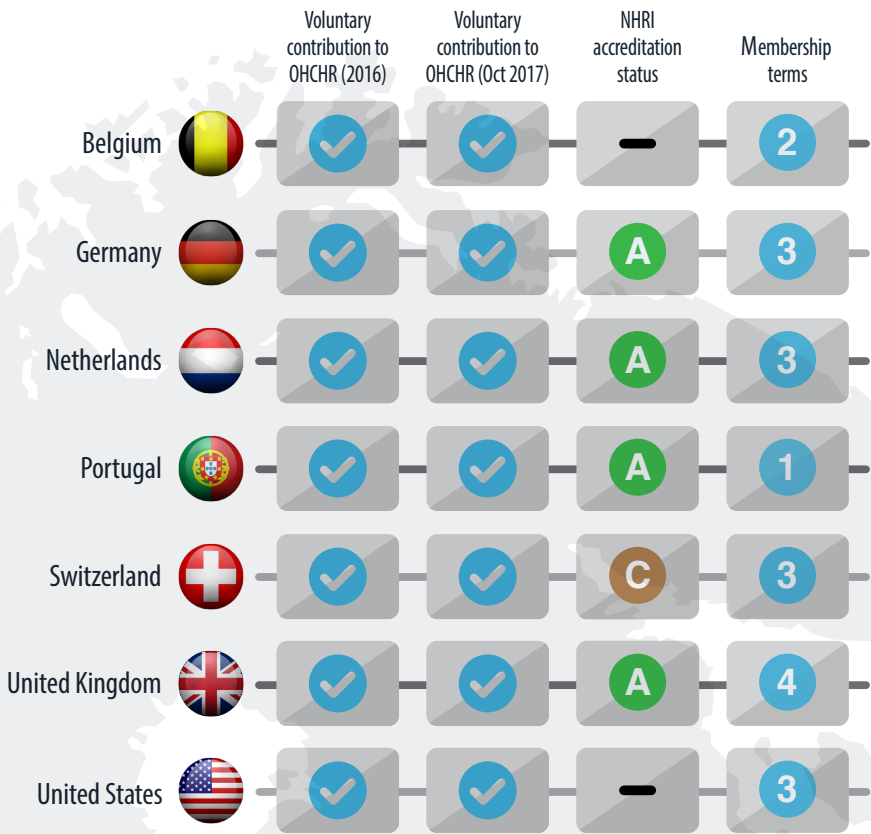


* Ratification and Reporting is recorded for eight 'core UN human rights conventions' which include: the ICCPR, the ICESCR, CAT, the CPED, the CEDAW, the CRC, the CERD, and the CRPD.

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

Western European and Others Group (WEOG)

Overview of Members



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

Principal sponsorship

During the course of 2017, Western members of the Human Rights Council led (as main sponsors/part of a core group) on a number of important resolutions, covering both thematic and country-specific issues.

At a thematic level, in 2017 WEOG members led, *inter alia*, on the following issues:

Belgium - The question of death penalty; extreme poverty and human rights; and regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights.

Germany - Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children; the right to privacy in the digital age; and adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living and

the right no non-discrimination in this context.

The Netherlands - Child, early and forced marriage in humanitarian settings; and promoting the voluntary technical assistance trust fund to support the participation of least developed countries and small island developing states in the work of the Human Rights Council.

Portugal - The full enjoyment of human rights by all women and girls and the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the implementation of the 2030 agenda for sustainable development; mental health and human rights; the right to education follow-up to human rights council resolution 8/4; youth and human rights; The right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health in the implementation of the 2030

Agenda for Sustainable Development; and the question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights.

Switzerland - Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence; the question of the death penalty; child, early and forced marriage in humanitarian settings; the right to privacy in the digital age; human rights and the environment; and promoting the voluntary technical assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the work of the Human Rights Council.

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland (United Kingdom) - Child, early and forced marriage in humanitarian settings; and the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights.

United States of America (United States) - Freedom of opinion and expression: mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression.

On country-specific resolutions, members of the WEOG, led on, *inter alia*, the following resolutions:

Germany - The human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic.

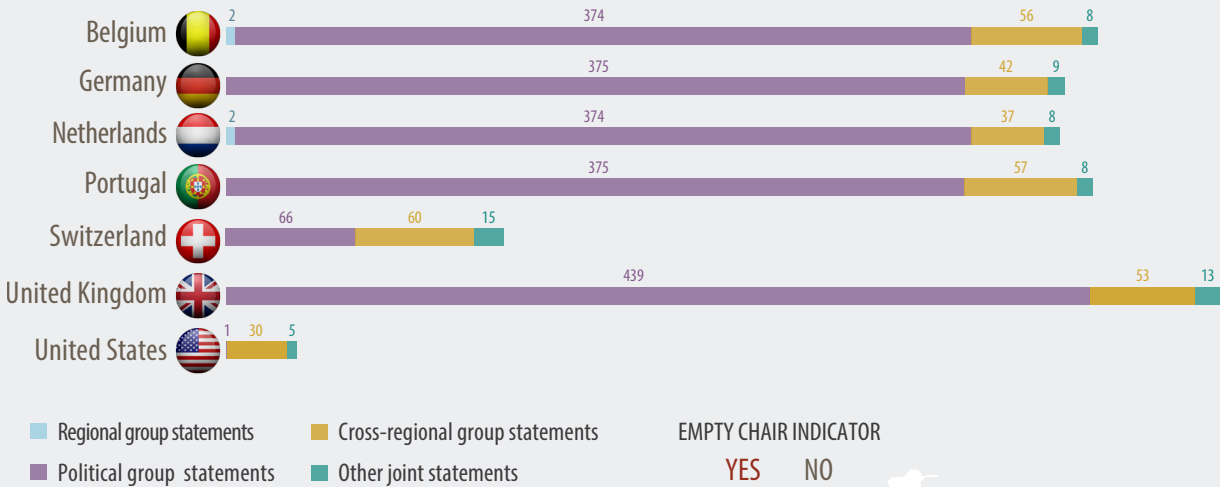
The Netherlands - Situation of human rights in Yemen

United Kingdom - Assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights; the human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic; promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka; and the situation of human rights in South Sudan.

United States - The human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic; promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka; situation of human rights in South Sudan; and situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Notwithstanding such individual leadership, it is important to note that some WEOG Council members regularly work through the European Union (EU). In 2017, for example, at the thematic level, the EU led on resolutions dealing with, *inter alia*, freedom of religion or belief; and rights of the Child: protection of the rights of the child in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the country-specific level, the EU led on: renewal of the mandate of the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi; extension of the mandate of the independent international fact-finding mission on Myanmar; situation of human rights in Belarus; situation of human rights in Myanmar; and the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

Contribution to Council debates, panel discussions, and dialogues in 2017



Note: This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State joined during the Council's general discussions, panel debates, and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures. The empty chair symbol indicates whether, overall, the country, as a Council member, participated (individual statements) in more than 10% of panel discussions, general debates, and interactive dialogues. For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology please see endnote.

Voting analysis

During 2017 members of the Western Europe and Others Group (WEOG) either joined consensus on or voted in favour of all texts tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council’s attention). This included resolutions on the situations in Burundi, Belarus, Eritrea, Iran, DPRK, Myanmar, South Sudan, and Syria.

During voting on item 7 resolutions (Occupied Palestinian Territories), all WEOG States either voted in favour or abstained, except for the United States’ votes against all item 7 resolutions, and the ‘no vote’ of the United Kingdom against the resolution on ‘human rights in the occupied Syrian Gola’. Concerning item 10 resolutions, all WEOG countries joined consensus or, when a vote was called, voted in favour, with the notable exceptions of the United States’ vote against the resolution on the Democratic Republic of the Congo, and the abstention of Switzerland from the voting on resolution on Georgia.

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights or ‘groups in focus’, WEOG members:

- All voted against the resolutions on the role of the family and the effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights.
- All, except the United States (voted against), voted in favour of the resolutions on the question of the death penalty and the mandate of the intergovernmental Working Group on the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action.

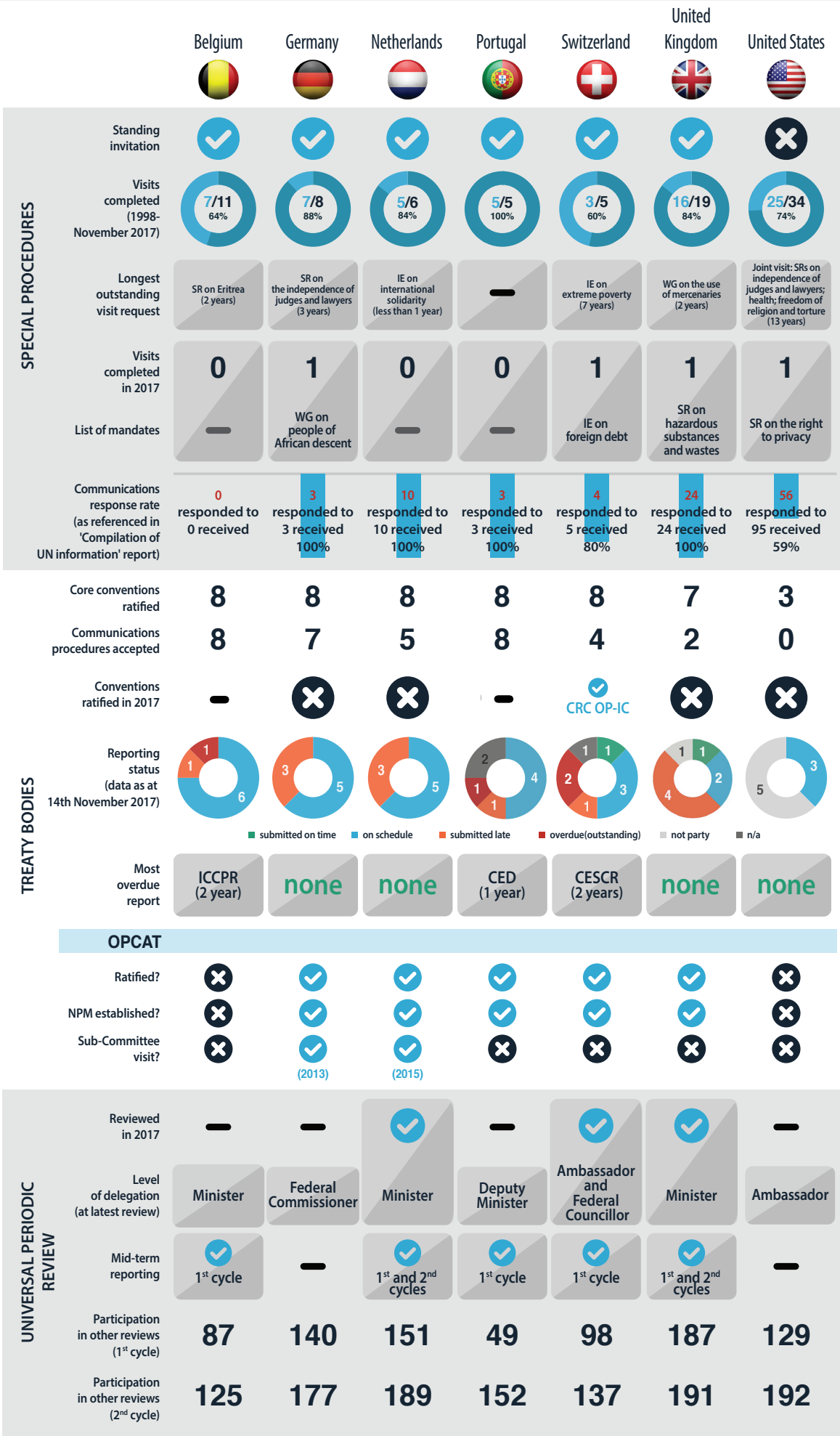
- The majority (except for Portugal and Switzerland that abstained) voted against the resolution on the right to peace.
- On the resolutions ‘From rhetoric to reality: a global call for concrete action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance’ and ‘Elaboration of complementary standards to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination’, Belgium, the Netherlands, and Portugal abstained while all the other members voted against.

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, WEOG States either joined consensus on, or when a vote as called, voted against most adopted texts. The main exceptions were the voting on the resolution on the right to food - all WEOG members voted in favour, except the United States; and the resolutions on enhancing international cooperation and the negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin to the countries of origin - all members abstained, except, again, the United States that voted against.

* Ratification and Reporting is recorded for eight ‘core UN human rights conventions’ which include: the ICCPR, the ICESCR, CAT, the CPED, the CEDAW, the CRC, the CERD, and the CRPD.

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

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms



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

Section I

The Council's focus and output: Resolution and mechanisms

Source: OHCHR website. OHCHR extranet.
Timeframe: 2006-2017.
Data as of: 14 November 2017

Special Sessions

Source: OHCHR website.
Timeframe: 2006-2017.
Data as of: 13 November 2017

The focus of Council texts by agenda item (2008-2017)

Source: Individual resolutions, decisions, and presidential statements. OHCHR extranet.
Timeframe: 2008-2017
Data as of: 13 November 2017

The Human Rights Council agenda, as contained in resolution 5/1 of 2007, reads:

- Item 1. Organisational and procedural matters
- Item 2. Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General
- Item 3. Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development
- Item 4. Human rights situations that require the Council's attention
- Item 5. Human rights bodies and mechanisms
- Item 6. Universal Periodic Review
- Item 7. Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories
- Item 8. Follow-up and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action
- Item 9. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, follow-up and implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action
- Item 10. Technical assistance and capacity-building

Financial Implications of Council resolutions (2011-2017)

Source: Individual PBIs. OHCHR extranet.
Timeframe: 2011-2017
Data as of: 13 November 2017

Trust Fund for the participation of the SIDS and LDCs in the Council

Source: OHCHR.
Data as of: 13 November 2017

Top themes in 2017: focus of thematic resolutions

Source: Individual resolutions, decisions, and presidential statements. OHCHR extranet.
Timeframe: 2017
Data as of: 13 November 2017

Geographic focus of the Council texts, special sessions, and panels (2006-2017)

Source: Council texts: Individual resolutions, decisions, and presidential statements. OHCHR extranet; Special Sessions: OHCHR website; Panels: OHCHR website.
Timeframe: 2006 - 2017
Data as of: 13 November 2017

Global coverage of the UN human rights system in 2017

Source: OHCHR website. UN Human Rights Appeal 2017.
Timeframe: 2017
Data as of: 13 November 2017

State participation on Interactive Dialogues of Special Procedures in 2017

Source: HRC Extranet
Data as of: 13 November 2017
Note: The level of participation in Interactive Dialogues with Special Procedures was calculated based on the individual statements listed on the OHCHR Extranet during the 2017 sessions (i.e. during the Council's sessions 31-33). Joint statements on behalf of a group of States that were not individually listed were not counted. Nevertheless, of course, States do also participate in this broader manner.

Section II

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

Source: OHCHR website – Human Rights Council.
Data as of: 13 November 2017.

Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2016 and 2017)

Source: OHCHR website.
Data as of: 13 November 2017.

NHRI Accreditation Status

Source: Chart of the Status of National Institutions, accredited by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI); <http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/Documents/Status%20Accreditation%20Chart.pdf>
Data as of: 13 November 2017.

Previous membership terms

Source: OHCHR website.
Data as of: 13 November 2017.

Contribution to Council debates, panels, and dialogues

Source: HRC Extranet.
Data as of: 13 November 2017.
Note: The participation of the members of the Council in group statements was calculated based on all joint statements listed on the HRC Extranet from March 2015 until June 2017 (i.e. during HRC sessions 29-36). Figures include statements not delivered due to lack of time.

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

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

Special Procedures

Standing invitation
Source: OHCHR website.
Data as of: 13 November 2017.

Visits Completed & longest outstanding visit

Source: OHCHR website.
Data as of: 13 November 2017.
Note: The number of total country visits since 1998 includes all visits undertaken, visits agreed by the State concerned but which have not yet taken place, visits cancelled or postponed, and requests that have received no reply, as listed on the OHCHR website. The number of visits undertaken includes only visits that have actually taken place, as listed on the OHCHR website (i.e. visits reported as completed or with report forthcoming). The dates for the most overdue visit are calculated according to the initial request date of the corresponding visit (regardless of subsequent reminders) or with the earliest request date published, when the initial request date is not available. When the dates of the initial visit request or the reminders thereof are not available, the date taken was the 'agreed dates' published in the OHCHR website. When no dates are available for a certain visit, such visit was considered in the total number of country visits, but not in the calculation of the most outstanding visit; except in the case of countries where no dates were available for any outstanding visit, case in which all visits were including with the annotation 'n.d.'

Communications response rate

Source: 'Compilation of UN Information' report during the State's latest UPR.
Data as of: 13 November 2017.
Note: The response rate to Special Procedures communications (i.e. to letters of allegations and urgent appeals) is based on the information provided in the 'Compilation of UN Information' report submitted to the most recent UPR review of the State concerned.

Treaty Bodies

Status of Ratification and Reporting

Source: OHCHR website.

Data as of: 13 November 2017.

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

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

Explanation of Options:

SUBMITTED ON TIME: The State Party Report submitted the report before or on the due date;

ON SCHEDULE: The current cycle due date is in the future;

SUBMITTED LATE: The State Party Report has been submitted for the current cycle, but was submitted late, i.e. after the due date;

OVERDUE (OUTSTANDING): The current cycle report has not yet been submitted, and it is overdue;

NOT PARTY: The State has not ratified the corresponding Treaty;

N/A: No deadline has been set or data is not available.

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

Reporting and ratification scores were calculated with the information published on the OHCHR website on the 13 November 2017.

Communications procedures accepted

Source: OHCHR website.

Data as of: 13 November 2017.

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

OP-CAT

Source: OHCHR website.

Data as of: 13 November 2017.

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

Universal Periodic Review

Level of delegation

Source: The Head of a State’s delegation (for its last UPR) was determined using the report submitted by the corresponding State during its last UPR.

Where the rank of the representative was not clear, the URG followed up with the relevant missions as far as possible.

Data as of: 13 November 2017.

Mid-term reporting

Source: OHCHR

Data as of: 13 November 2017.

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

Participation in other reviews

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

Data as of: 13 November 2017.

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

Voting and principal sponsorship

Source: OHCHR extranet.

Data as of: 13 November 2017.

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

PHOTO CREDITS:

UN Geneva. Human Rights Council - 34th Session. H.E. Mr. Didier Burkhalter, Federal Councilor and Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, speaks during the High-Level-Segment of the 34th Session of the Human Rights Council. UN Photo / Elma Okic. License: CC BY-NC-ND 2.0, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/>.

UN Geneva. Human Rights Council - 36th Session

During the votes at a 36th session of the Human Rights Council. 28 September 2017. UN Photo / Jean-Marc Ferré. License: CC BY-NC-ND 2.0, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/>.

UN Geneva. Human Rights Council - 35th Session. A general view of participants at a 35th Session of the Human Rights Council. 6 June 2017. UN Photo / Jean-Marc Ferré. License: CC BY-NC-ND 2.0, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/>.

UN Geneva. Human Rights Council - 34th Session. Panel on human rights mainstreaming. High-Level-Segment of the 34th Session of the Human Rights Council. UN Photo / Elma Okic. License: CC BY-NC-ND 2.0, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/>.

UN Geneva. Official visit of the Secretary-General. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres speaks during the High Level Segment of the 34th Session of the Human Rights Council. 27 february 2017. UN Photo / Jean-Marc Ferré. License: CC BY-NC-ND 2.0, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-nd/2.0/>.

United States Mission Geneva. Human Rights Council Panel on Syria. Syrians impacted by the six-year conflict gave personal testimony at a United Nations Human Rights Council panel discussion moderated by CNN’s Arwa Damon March 14. Speakers included former detainees, activists, and witnesses of human rights violations. U.S. Mission Photo/ Eric Bridiers. License: CC BY-ND 2.0, <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/2.0/>

United States Mission Geneva.

34th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council

The 34th Session of the United Nations Human Rights Council entered its third week this morning with the presentation of reports on the Human Rights Situations in North Korea, Iran and Myanmar. For statements by the U.S. delegation, geneva.usmission.gov/us-hrc/ U.S. Mission Photo/Eric Bridier. License: CC BY-ND 2.0 <https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nd/2.0/>

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

2

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

3

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

4

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

The present document is the third annual ‘yourHRC.org end-of-year report,’ offering an assessment of the Council’s work, output, achievements and shortfalls in 2017, and analysing the contributions of member States to the work of the Council and to the enjoyment of human rights around the world.

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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