
your**HRC**.org

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



GUIDE TO THE

2018

**UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
ELECTIONS**

A photograph showing a long row of national flags on tall, silver flagpoles. The flags are of various colors and designs, including the Malaysian flag, the flag of the United Kingdom, and the flag of the United States. The flagpoles are arranged in a line, and the flags are flying. In the background, a light-colored building with a classical architectural style is visible.

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

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

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

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

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

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

To pursue and realise the mandate of the Council and thereby to ‘promote universal respect for the protection of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all,’ the GA decided that the new body would consist of 47 member States, elected by a majority of the members of the GA. It was made clear 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 all States, including member States, would promote methods of work that would be: transparent, fair and impartial, enable genuine dialogue, be results-oriented, allow for subsequent follow-up discussions to recommendations and their implementation, and allow for substantive interaction with Special Procedures and other mechanisms.

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

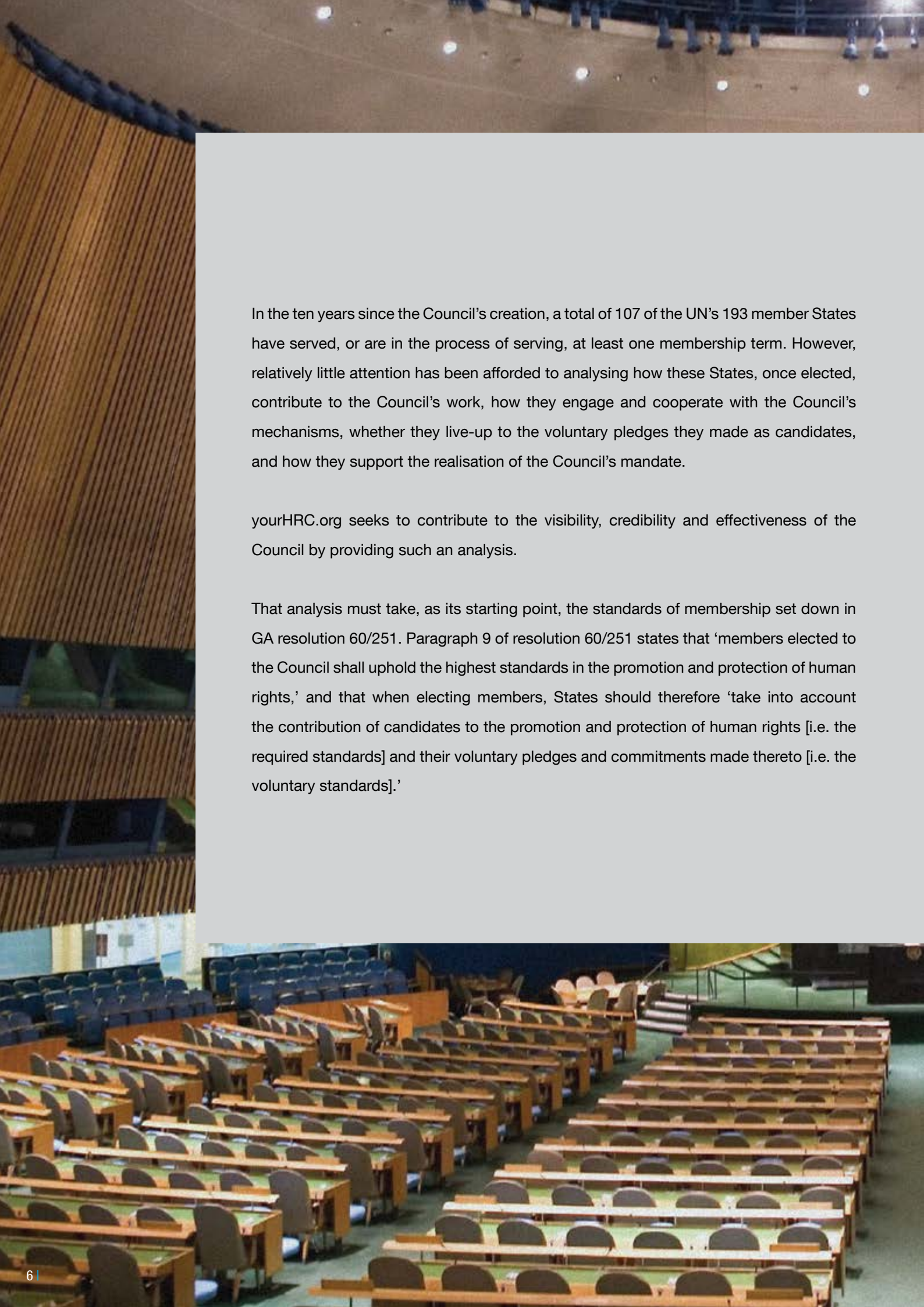
Membership of the Council

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

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

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





In the ten years since the Council's creation, a total of 107 of the UN's 193 member States have served, or are in the process of serving, at least one membership term. However, relatively little attention has been afforded to analysing how these States, once elected, contribute to the Council's work, how they engage and cooperate with the Council's mechanisms, whether they live-up to the voluntary pledges they made as candidates, and how they support the realisation of the Council's mandate.

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

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

Guide to the 2018 UN Human Rights Council Elections

The present document is the fourth annual 'yourHRC.org election guide.' It provides general information on the 2018 Human Rights Council elections (tentatively scheduled for the 12 October at the GA in New York), when States will compete to win seats for new three-year terms (2019-2021).

The Guide is divided into six parts. The first part presents an overview of the 2018 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 2018 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).





2018 HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL ELECTIONS

12 October 2018 (tentative),
UN General Assembly, New York

FOR MEMBERSHIP TERM 2019-2021

CANDIDATE ANALYSIS BY REGIONAL GROUP

2018 elections (for membership period 2019-2021): the candidates

Latin America and Caribbean Group

CLEAN SLATE ALERT

Historic clean slate elections **6/12**

8 seats at HRC

seats available: 3

candidates: 3

Voluntary pledges & commitments

Number of previous terms

 Argentina

 Bahamas

 Uruguay







3

0

2

African Group

CLEAN SLATE ALERT

Historic clean slate elections **10/12**

13 seats at HRC

seats available: 5

candidates: 5

Voluntary pledges & commitments

Number of previous terms

 Burkina Faso

 Cameroon

 Eritrea

 Somalia

 Togo











2

2

0

0

1

Western European and Others Group

CLEAN SLATE ALERT

Historic clean slate elections **8/12**

7 seats at HRC

seats available: **3**

candidates: **3**



Austria



1



Denmark



0



Italy



2

Eastern European Group

CLEAN SLATE ALERT

Historic clean slate elections **6/12**

6 seats at HRC

seats available: **2**

candidates: **2**



Bulgaria



0



Czech Republic



2

Asia Pacific Group

CLEAN SLATE ALERT

Historic clean slate elections **7/12**

13 seats at HRC

seats available: **5**

candidates: **5**

Voluntary pledges & commitments

Number of previous terms



Bahrain



2



Bangladesh



3



Fiji



0



India



4



Philippines








4



state standing for election

African Group (AG)

Overview of Candidates

		Membership of HRC bureau	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2017)	NHRI accreditation status	Previous membership terms	OHCHR presence
Burkina Faso		—	×	Lapsed accreditation	2	—
Cameroon		Vice-president (2012)	×	A	2	Regional office
Eritrea		—	×	—	0	—
Somalia		—	×	—	0	Human rights component of peace mission
Togo		—	×	A	1	—

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

Fulfillment of previous voluntary pledges and commitments

Burkina Faso tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2011-2014 on 20 April 2011.

Internationally, Burkina Faso committed to: cooperate with the mechanisms of the Council, including the Special Procedures; meet its commitments under the UPR; and contribute to international action against human rights violations.

Domestically, Burkina Faso pledged to: implement programmes on human rights education and training, draft new laws to implement the provisions of the CAT, and take steps towards the abolition of the death penalty.

An analysis of the steps taken by Burkina Faso in fulfilment of its international level pledges shows that it has cooperated with Special Procedures – completing three visits and accepting (in principle) a further two; and participated in the UPR at a high political level (ministerial level). Burkina Faso has ratified all eight the core conventions. It has three overdue (i.e., no yet submitted) reports under these conventions.

Cameroon tabled its voluntary pledges and commitments in support for its candidacy for membership (2009-2012) on 30 March 2009.

Internationally, Cameroon pledged to: ratify the CRC-OP1, CRC-OP2, ICRMW, CRPD, CED and the Convention against Discrimination in Education; and cooperate with the Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures.

At the domestic level, Cameroon pledged to: promote the rights of women through adopting legislation and taking into account the observations of the CEDAW Committee, protect and take into account children's rights by implementing recommendations of the CRC Committee on children without shelter, improve conditions of places of detention, fight against corruption, protect the rights of minorities, and promote freedom of the press.

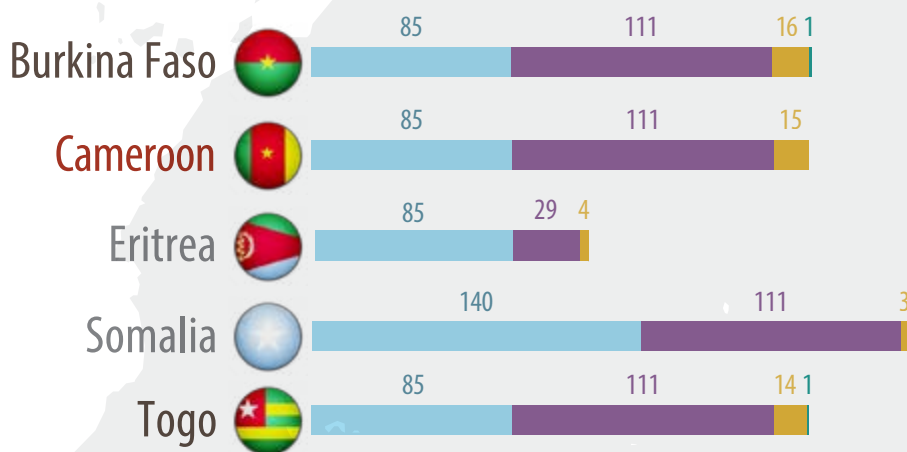
An analysis of the steps taken by Cameroon in fulfilment of its international pledges shows that it has ratified the CRC-OP1 (in 2013) but has yet to ratify the other treaties mentioned in its pledges. Although Cameroon maintains a Standing Invitation, it is yet to respond to four Special Procedures visit requests. It has, however, completed three visits and accepted (in principle) two more. Cameroon normally reports in a timely manner to the Treaty Bodies. At present it has two overdue periodic reports (under CERD and CEDAW).

Eritrea has not previously held a seat on the Council.

Somalia has not previously held a seat on the Council.

The voluntary pledges and commitments tabled by **Togo** in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2016-2018 are not available.

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



■ Regional group statements

■ Cross-regional group statements

EMPTY CHAIR INDICATOR

■ Political group statements

■ Other joint statements

YES NO N.A.

This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State joined during the Council general debates, panel discussions, and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures during the last seven sessions of the Council (March 2016 - June 2018). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology, please see endnote.

Empty chair indicator: Shows whether the relevant state delivered individual statements in less than 10% of all Panel Discussions, General Debates and Interactive Dialogues (combined) during its last (most recent) two HRC membership terms.

Key pledges and commitments for 2018 election

The African Group candidates' voluntary pledges and commitments in support of their candidatures for membership of the Council for the period 2019-2021 were unavailable at the time the yourHRC.org 2018 Election Guide went to press.

Voting history during previous membership terms

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2008, Burkina Faso has either joined consensus on or voted in favour of most resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention). Notwithstanding, it voted against a 2010 resolution on Sudan, and has abstained on a number of texts focused on the situations

in Belarus and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Burkina Faso abstained during voting on resolutions on the situation in Sri Lanka, tabled under item 2. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Burkina Faso has generally voted in favour, although on five occasions it abstained. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Burkina Faso has joined consensus on all resolutions except for two that were voted on during the period of its membership: on cooperation with Ukraine (Burkina Faso abstained) and on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (voted in favour).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Burkina Faso has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has usually voted in favour. Notwithstanding, it has abstained during votes on: religious discrimination, defamation of religion, sexual orientation, and drones. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, Burkina Faso

either joined consensus on or has voted in favour of all adopted texts.

Principal sponsor: 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; and preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, for item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention) resolutions, **Cameroon** has (in the absence of consensus) voted in favour of texts on the situations in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) and the Syrian Arab Republic, against resolutions on the situation in Sudan (2009 and 2010), and abstained on (other) resolutions on DPRK (three times), as well as on resolution on the situations in Belarus and the Islamic Republic of Iran. Cameroon abstained during voting on a 2012 item 2 resolution on Sri Lanka. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Cameroon tends to abstain or (less often) vote in favour. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Cameroon has joined consensus on all resolutions except for one that was voted on during the period of its membership: on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Cameroon voted in favour).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Cameroon has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has usually voted in favour. Notwithstanding, it has abstained during votes on: religious discrimination, defamation of religion, and religious intolerance (2007). It voted against a 2011 South African-sponsored resolution on sexual orientation. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and

cultural rights, Cameroon either joined consensus on or has voted in favour of all adopted texts.

Principal sponsor: Human rights and preventing and countering violent extremism.

Eritrea has not been a member of the Council before.

Principal sponsor: Eritrea has not been principal sponsor of any Council resolution.

Somalia has not been a member of the Council before.

Principal sponsor: Situation of human rights in Eritrea; International Albinism Awareness Day; and assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2016, **Togo** has, in the absence of consensus, voted in favour of a number of item 4 resolutions (situations that require the Council's attention) on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic and Myanmar (2018); and abstained during votes on item 4 resolutions on the situations in Burundi, Belarus, the Islamic Republic of Iran, and a 2016-text on the Syrian Arab Republic. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories) Togo has either abstained (e.g. HRC31) or voted against (e.g. HRC34) all resolutions, the only exception being a resolution on the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination (Togo voted in favour). Regarding item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Togo has always joined consensus or voted in favour (i.e. cooperation with and

assistance to Ukraine in the field of human rights, and cooperation with Georgia), with the exception of a resolution on cooperation with and assistance to Ukraine in the field of human rights (at HRC35) - Togo abstained.

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Togo has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has nearly always voted in favour. Notwithstanding, Togo voted against resolutions on sexual orientation and gender identity, and the protection of human rights while countering terrorism; and abstained during voting on peaceful protests, and the integrity of the judicial system. For thematic resolutions focusing on economic, social, and cultural rights, Togo has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has nearly always voted in favour of such texts. The exception is Togo’s position on the resolution on a democratic and equitable international order (Togo abstained).


Principal sponsor: Togo has not been principal sponsor of any Council resolution.

Inclusivity / Access

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

57%

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’ (2013-2017)?

				
Burkina Faso	Cameroon	Eritrea	Somalia	Togo
N	Y	Y	Y	N
-	N	N	N	-



Cited in the report 2013-2017?



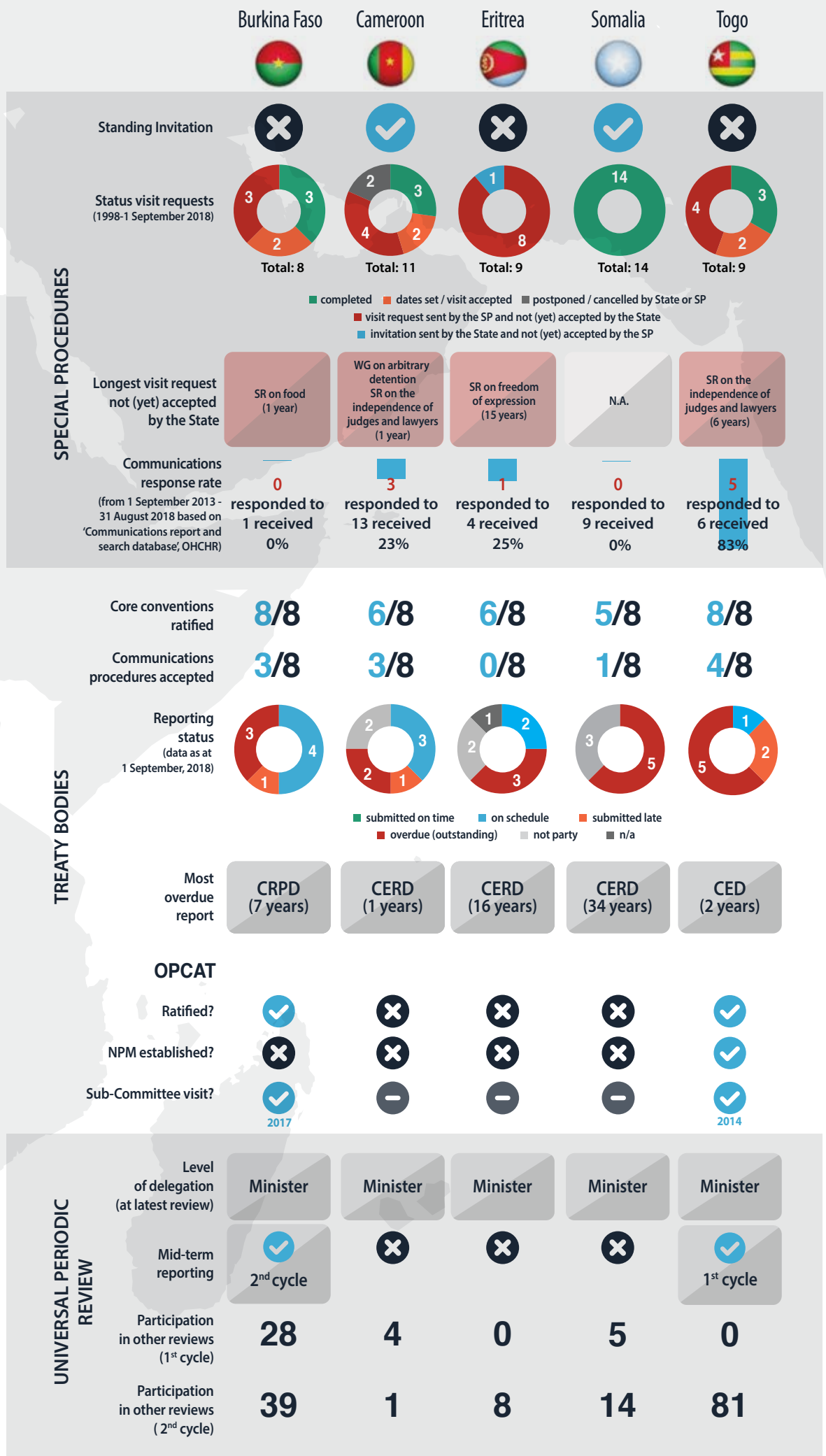
Response provided to allegations?

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

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms






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

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



Asia-Pacific Group (APG)

Overview of Candidates

		Membership of HRC bureau	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2017)	NHRI accreditation status	Previous membership terms	OHCHR presence
Bahrain		—	✗	B	2	—
Bangladesh		—	✗	B	3	Human rights advisers
Fiji		—	✗	Suspended (Commission resigned from the GANHRI on April 2007)	0	Regional office
India		Vice-president (2014)	✓	A	4	—
Philippines		Vice-president (2008-2009, 2018)	✓	A	4	Human rights advisers

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

Fulfillment of previous voluntary pledges and commitments

Bahrain tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2008-2011 on 29 February 2008.

The document generally contains broad statements regarding the importance Bahrain places on the promotion and protection of human rights. Bahrain also presents its existing commitments and practices. The document contains few new concrete pledges or commitments.

Internationally, Bahrain undertook to continue its cooperation and coordination with NGOs and to continue its financial contributions to OHCHR.

At the domestic level, Bahrain made commitments to implement human rights principles and standards.

Bahrain made voluntary contributions to OHCHR in 2008, 2009, 2011, 2013, 2014 and 2016.

Bangladesh tabled 'voluntary pledges and commitments' in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2015-2017 on 16 September 2014.

At domestic level, Bangladesh pledged to: enact national legislation to implement the international human rights instruments to which it is Party; preserve the independence of the judiciary and freedom of the press; strengthen statutory and watchdog bodies; ensure effective parliamentary oversight; provide training programmes in

the field of human rights; work for the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action, the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and Plan of Action, and the outcomes of other major UN international conferences; and promote and protect the rights of minorities and workers.

At the international level, Bangladesh made commitments to: meet its treaty reporting obligations; cooperate with Special Procedures and other Council mechanisms, with a view to continuing to extend invitations to Special Rapporteurs to visit (on a regular basis); continue to engage with the UPR mechanism and implement recommendations; continue to support the work of OHCHR; act as a bridge-builder between different groups at the Council; promote the realisation of the right to development; continue to support UN agencies, programmes and funds; pursue the issue of human rights and climate change; and advocate for the rights of migrant workers across the entire migration cycle.

An analysis of steps taken by Bangladesh in fulfilment of its international pledges shows that Bangladesh has actively participated in Council panel discussions, interactive dialogues and general debates. Regarding cooperation with Special Procedures, Bangladesh has facilitated 6 visits but is yet to answer 18 visit requests; furthermore, it has only responded to 18 out of 34 communications received. Concerning cooperation with Treaty Bodies, Bangladesh has submitted its reports under five of the seven conventions to which it is Party, and has two periodic reports overdue. Bangladesh is an active supporter of the UPR mechanism, participating in the reviews of 84 other states during the first and second cycles.

Fiji has not previously held a seat on the Council.

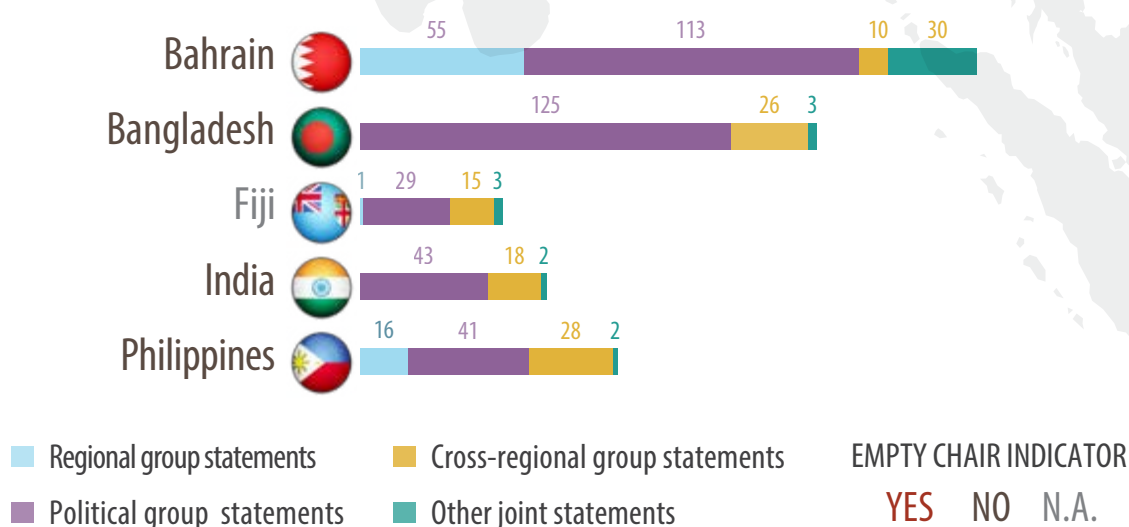
India tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support for its candidacy for membership for the period 2015-2017 on 16 October 2014.

At the international level, India pledged to: continue to engage constructively in the deliberations of the Council; continue to support OHCHR, including through regular voluntary contributions; continue to cooperate with Special Procedures, accept requests for visits and respond to communications; continue its open cooperation with civil society in the UPR process; ratify the CAT and the CED (already a signatory to both); cooperate with Treaty Bodies and fulfil its reporting obligations; provide capacity-building and technical support to help other States implement their human rights obligations; and continue to support international efforts to combat racism and intolerance.

At national level, India made commitments to: implement accepted recommendations from the UPR second cycle; strengthen the implementation of the human rights treaties it has ratified; maintain the independence and powers of the NHRI; promote government transparency and accountability, including through the implementation of the Right to Information Act; and promote the participation and involvement of civil society.

An analysis of steps taken by India in fulfilment of its international pledges shows that it has actively engaged in all Council panel and general debates. Regarding cooperation with the Special Procedures, although India maintains a Standing Invitation, only 52% of all visit requests received by the State have resulted in actual missions. Moreover, it has responded to only 13 of 62 Special Procedures communications. India is still to ratify the CAT and CED. Regarding those treaties to which it is Party, India is yet to submit half of its periodic reports. India has made voluntary contributions to OHCHR every year since 2008.

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



This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State joined during the Council general debates, panel discussions, and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures during the last seven sessions of the Council (March 2016 - June 2018). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology, please see endnote.

Empty chair indicator: Shows whether the relevant state delivered individual statements in less than 10% of all Panel Discussions, General Debates and Interactive Dialogues (combined) during its last (most recent) two HRC membership terms.

The Philippines tabled pledges and commitments in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2011-2014 on 11 February 2011.

At an international level, the Philippines made commitments to: foster cooperation with States to make the Council more efficient; bridge national, regional, and international human rights goals and standards; be sensitive to challenges that impact on human rights; support the right to development; actively engage with the Treaty Bodies, Special Procedures, and the UPR; and work closely with OHCHR on initiatives in areas such as trafficking and human rights education and training.


Domestically, the Philippines pledged to: implement all human rights treaty obligations, realise the UN Millennium Development Goals, support policies that address the concerns of migrants and children, and support the work of NHRIs.

An analysis of steps taken by the Philippines in fulfilment of its international pledges shows that it has facilitated only 8 of 24 Special Procedures visit requests, and has responded to less than half of all communications. Regarding engagement with the Treaty Bodies, the Philippines is Party to seven core conventions, but four of its periodic reports under those treaties were either submitted late (CRPD) or are overdue (ICCPR, CERD, and CRC).







Key pledges and commitments for 2018 election

Bahrain presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2019-2021 on August 2018.

At the national level Bahrain pledges to, *inter alia*:

-  Enact new legislation to protect and guarantee the rights of the child, particularly in the context of health and education.
-  Strengthen its anti-trafficking strategy.
-  Promote the rights of persons with disabilities.
-  Promote freedom of religion and the elimination of discrimination based on religion or belief.
-  Further protect and ensure respect for the rights of workers.
-  Make progress in the implementation of human rights obligations and commitments, as well as with SDG targets.

At the international level Bahrain pledges to, *inter alia*:

-  Continue its efforts to promote men and women's empowerment and equal opportunities.
-  Support UN's effort to combat trafficking in persons.
-  Defend religious tolerance.
-  Maintain cooperation with international humanitarian organisations, the Treaty Bodies, OHCHR, and other UN specialised human rights agencies.
-  Contribute to strengthening the preventative and protective activities of international human rights bodies and NHRIs.
-  Implement accepted UPR recommendations and submit a UPR mid-term report.

Bangladesh presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2019-2021 in 14 June 2018.

At the domestic level Bangladesh pledges, *inter alia* to:

- ☑ Consider acceding to the human rights conventions to which it is not yet Party.
- ☑ Improve its human rights situation through further cooperation with OHCHR and the Special Procedures.
- ☑ Continue to strengthen and empower its watchdog bodies, including its NHRI and Anti-Corruption Commission.
- ☑ Ensure effective parliamentary oversight.
- ☑ Preserve the independence of the judiciary and the free press.
- ☑ Continue to implement a development agenda with a focus on the most vulnerable groups, including women, children, and persons with disabilities; and end violence and discrimination against these groups.
- ☑ Continue to promote and protect the rights of religious and ethnic minorities.

At the international level, Bangladesh is committed, *inter alia*, to:

- ☑ Strengthen its engagement and cooperation with other members of the Council.
- ☑ Continue to support the work of OHCHR and all other UN agencies, programmes, and funds that facilitate the promotion of human rights.
- ☑ Promote the realisation of the right to development.
- ☑ Continue to combat climate change.
- ☑ Continue to promote a culture of peace, the rights of migrant workers and refugees; and collective action to prevent crimes against humanity.

- ☑ Continue to combat racism, xenophobia and Islamophobia.

Fiji presented commitments and pledges in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2019-2021 in July 2018. Fiji pledges, *inter alia*, to:

- ☑ Further strengthen its engagement and cooperation with the Council and its mechanisms, including the Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures.
- ☑ Ratify the international human rights conventions to which it is not yet Party.
- ☑ Work to increase the participation of SIDS and LDCs in the work of the Council, including, *inter alia*, by supporting the SIDS and LDC Trust Fund.
- ☑ Further develop its NMIRF to make it a world-leading institution.
- ☑ Strongly support the following Council initiatives: climate change; environment; migration; internally displaced persons; women's rights, sexual and reproductive rights, and violence against women; independence of judges and lawyers; and torture prevention.
- ☑ Continue to build bridges between the human rights and climate change communities, to better inform the implementation of the Paris Agreement.
- ☑ Champion the global recognition of the universal right to a safe and healthy environment.
- ☑ Emphasise the importance of prevention in addressing human rights violations.
- ☑ Guide reform of the Council's work under item 10 of its agenda.

India presented voluntary commitments and pledges in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2019-2021 in August 2018. Key pledges include, *inter alia*:

At the national level:

- ☒ Strive for the full realisation of all rights, including the right to development.
- ☒ Maintain the independence and power of its NHRIs.
- ☒ Continue to foster transparency and accountability across government.
- ☒ Continue to nurture civil society space.
- ☒ Continue to pursue the necessary domestic actions to implement the 2030-Agenda.

At the international level:

- ☒ Cooperate to help build other States' capacity to fulfil their human rights obligations.
- ☒ Strengthen the work of the Council and further engage and cooperate with the body and its mechanisms, as well as with the Treaty Bodies.
- ☒ Continue to support international efforts to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, and related intolerance.
- ☒ Continue to support OHCHR, including through regular voluntary contributions.
- ☒ Implement accepted UPR recommendations.
- ☒ Ratify the CAT.
- ☒ Continue to support the achievement of the SDGs.

The **Philippines'** voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for the term 2019-2021 were

not available at the time the yourHRC.org 2018 Election Guide went to press.

Voting history during previous membership terms

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **Bahrain** has (in the absence of consensus) voted against item 4 resolutions (situations that require the Council's attention) on the situation in Sudan, but has voted in favour of resolutions on the situation in the DPRK. It has abstained on item 4 texts dealing with the situations in Belarus and the Islamic Republic of Iran. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Bahrain has consistently voted in favour of all texts. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Bahrain has joined consensus on all resolutions except for one that was voted on during the period of its membership: on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Bahrain voted in favour).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Bahrain has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, Bahrain has nearly always voted in favour. The three exceptions are: a 2011 vote on sexual orientation (Bahrain voted against), a 2009 vote on religious discrimination (abstention), and a 2009 vote on torture (abstention). For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, Bahrain has either joined consensus on or has voted in favour of all adopted texts.

Principal sponsor: Bahrain has not been principal sponsor of any Council resolution.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, for item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention) resolutions, **Bangladesh** has (in the absence of consensus) voted: in favour of a number of resolutions on the Syrian Arab Republic (though in more recent times it has abstained); and against resolutions on the situation in the Islamic Republic of Iran (except for a 2017 text). Concerning item 4 resolutions on Sudan, Bangladesh has nearly always joined consensus, except in 2010 when it voted against. Bangladesh has tended to abstain during voting on resolutions on the situations in Belarus and the DPRK. Bangladesh voted against the 2012 item 2 resolution on the situation in Sri Lanka. It joined consensus on a 2015 item 2 resolution on the situation of the Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar, and a 2017 resolution on promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka. In 2017, Bangladesh voted in favour of item 2 resolution on Burundi. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Bangladesh has consistently voted in favour of all texts. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Bangladesh has joined consensus on all resolutions except for two that were voted on during the periods of its membership: on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Bangladesh voted in favour), and cooperation with Ukraine (Bangladesh abstained).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Bangladesh has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, Bangladesh usually votes in favour. Notwithstanding, it voted against a 2011 resolution on sexual orientation and a 2017 resolution on the question of the death penalty, and abstained on a number of texts dealing with religious discrimination (2007), religious tolerance (2009), and torture (2009). Bangladesh also

abstained during a 2015 vote on a resolution on the use of drones, and a 2017 vote on reprisals (i.e., cooperation with the UN, its representatives, and mechanisms in the field of human rights). For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, Bangladesh has either joined consensus on or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts.

Principal sponsor: Protection of the family; human rights and climate change; human rights and preventing and countering violent extremism; and protection of journalists in situations of armed conflict.

Fiji has not previously held a seat on the Council.

Principal sponsor: Promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives, and mechanisms in the field of human rights; and elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **India** has only once voted in favour of a country-specific resolution under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention): a 2012 EU resolution on the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic. India has, in addition, voted in favour of three country-specific resolutions under item 2: the 2012 and 2013 US-sponsored texts on the situation in Sri Lanka, and a 2017 text on sending an OHCHR mission to Burundi. In the absence of consensus on item 4 drafts, India usually abstains during voting, but it has also voted against a number of resolutions on the situations in Belarus and the Islamic Republic of Iran.

For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), India has voted in favour of almost all texts, except the 2016 and 2017 resolutions on ensuring accountability and justice in the OPT (India abstained). Regarding item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), India has joined consensus on all resolutions except for the texts on: cooperation with Ukraine and Georgia (India abstained), and on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (India voted in favour).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, India has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has nearly always voted in favour. India has though voted against texts on the death penalty (four times), countering terrorism (2016) and peaceful protests (2014). India has further abstained on a number of resolutions including: defamation of religion, right to peace, torture, drones, sexual orientation, transitional justice, and complementary standards to the CERD. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, India has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts. India abstained during voting on the 2017 resolution on reprisals.

Principal sponsor: Access to medicines in the context of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; and human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises.






Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, the **Philippines** has (in the absence of consensus) tended to abstain during votes on resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention). Notwithstanding, it voted in favour of the 2012 and 2014 texts on the situation in the DPRK; and against a 2009

resolution on the situation in Sudan and 2017 texts on the Syrian Arab Republic, Belarus and Myanmar. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Philippines has usually voted in favour, though on four occasions it has abstained. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), the Philippines has joined consensus on all resolutions except for two that were voted on during the period of its membership: on cooperation with Georgia (the Philippines voted in against) and on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (the Philippines voted in favour). Regarding the texts on Ukraine, Philippines voted against the resolution on cooperation with and assistance to this country (2018), and abstained during voting on a text on cooperation with Ukraine (2017).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Philippines has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has nearly always voted in favour although it has abstained during the voting on: texts on sexual orientation and gender identity, a 2017 resolution on the death penalty, and resolutions on reprisals. In 2016, it voted against a resolution on countering terrorism. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, Philippines has either joined consensus on, or has voted in favour of, all adopted texts, except for a 2018 resolution on international drug control.

Principal sponsor: World Programme for Human Rights Education; contribution of parliaments to the work of the Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review; extreme poverty and human rights; human rights and climate change; human rights education and training; mandate of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children; trafficking in persons, especially women and children; and youth and human rights.

Cited in the Secretary General's reports on 'alleged reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights' (2013-2017)?

Bahrain	Bangladesh	Fiji	India	Philippines
				
Y	N	N	Y	Y
Y	-	-	Y	N



Cited in the report 2013-2017?



Response provided to allegations?

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

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

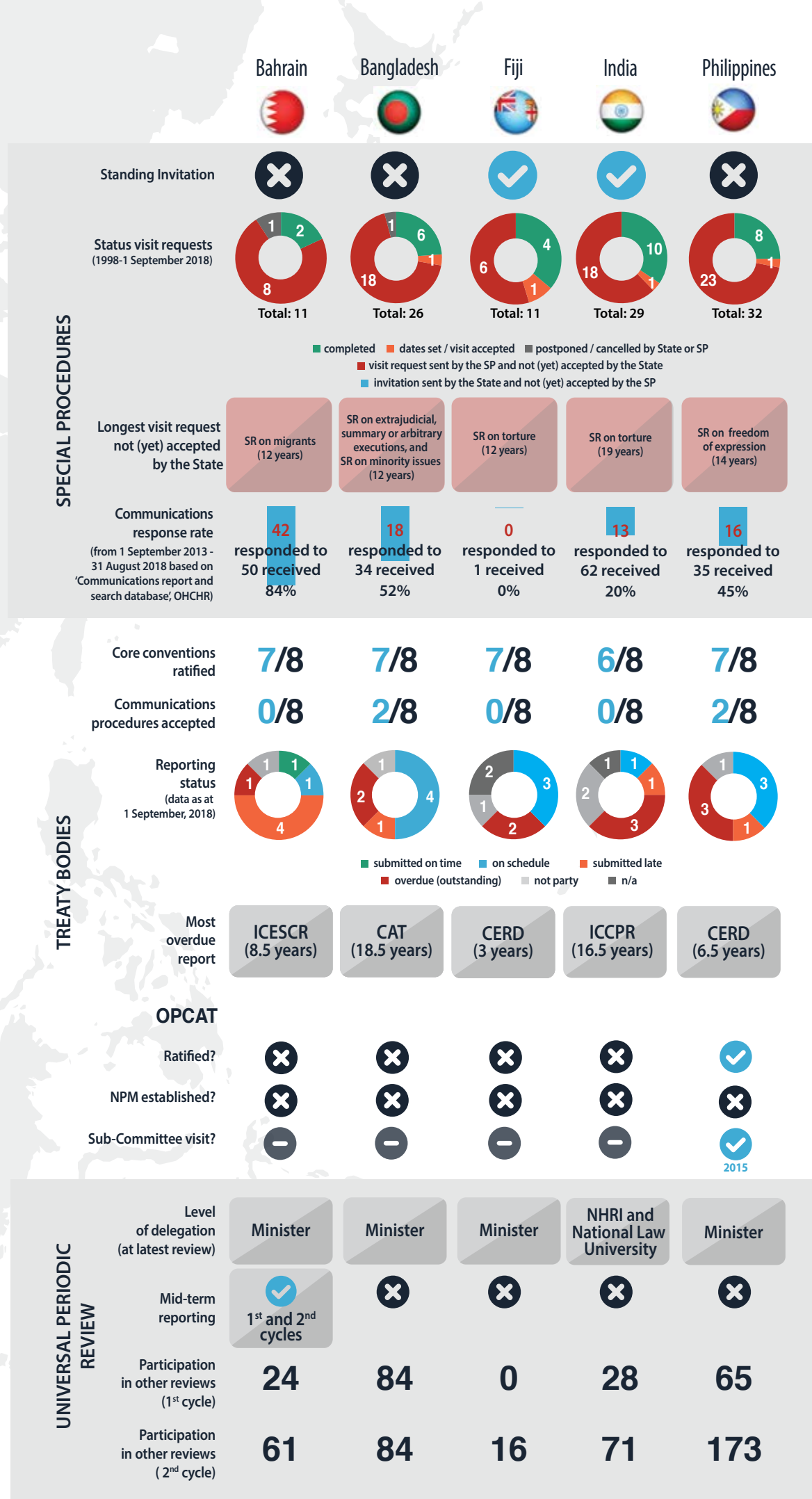
Ratification and reporting is recorded for the eight 'core human rights conventions,' which include: the ICCPR, the ICESCR, the CAT, the CPED, the CEDAW, the CRC, the CERD, and the CRPD.

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

Inclusivity / Access








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

46%



Eastern European Group (EEG)

Overview of Candidates

		Membership of HRC bureau	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2017)	NHRI accreditation status	Previous membership terms	OHCHR presence
Bulgaria		—				—
Czech Republic		Vice-president (2006-2007 2014)		—		—

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

Fulfillment of previous voluntary pledges and commitments

Bulgaria has not been a member of the Council before.

The **Czech Republic** tabled pledges and commitments in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2011-2014 on 14 February 2011.

At international level, the Czech Republic pledged to: actively participate in the work of the Council, in particular through timely responses to human rights violations; cooperate fully with Special Procedures; support the participation of NGOs; engage fully in the UPR, including by participate actively in Working Group interactive dialogues and by implementing recommendations; cooperate fully with Treaty Bodies; ratify the CRPD-OP;

examine the possibility of ratifying the CED and CRC-OP2; maintain voluntary financial contributions to OHCHR; and pay close attention to the UN's work on business and human rights.

Domestically, the Czech Republic committed to: implement measures to protect children from physical and mental violence, strengthen the participation of civil society in the implementation of the recommendations made during the UPR, allocate funds to support projects aimed at the protection and integration of vulnerable groups, and improve the situation of persons with disabilities.




An analysis of steps taken by the Czech Republic in fulfilment of its international pledges shows that it ratified the CRC-OP2 in 2013 and the CED in 2017, but has yet to ratify the CRPD-OP. It cooperates well with Special Procedures, maintaining a Standing Invitation,

and facilitating visit requests (of the three visit requests received by the Czech Republic, it has completed two and accepted the other one in principle). The Czech Republic cooperates with the UPR, participating at deputy-ministerial level, and presenting a mid-term report on implementation (second cycle). The Czech Republic also participated in the review of 93 other States during the first cycle and 119 during the second cycle. The Czech Republic continues to provide yearly voluntary contributions to OHCHR (since 2008).

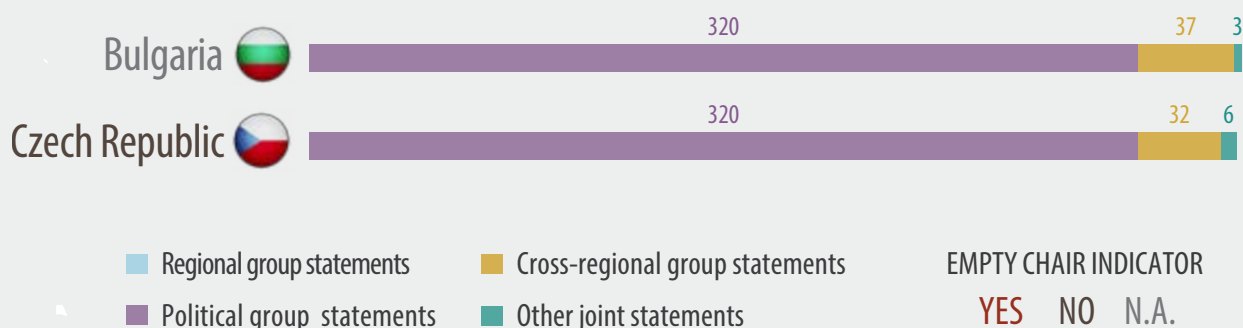
Key pledges and commitments for 2018 election

Bulgaria presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2019-2021 on 6 June 2018. Key pledges include, *inter alia*:

At the national level:

-  Intensify cooperation with developing countries, including through projects aimed at building democratic institutions and protecting human rights.
-  Continue to report regularly to the Treaty Bodies, implement their recommendations, and cooperate with their individual complaints mechanisms.
-  Further implement its international human rights obligations.

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



This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State joined during the Council general debates, panel discussions, and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures during the last seven sessions of the Council (March 2016 – June 2018). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology, please see endnote.

Empty chair indicator: Shows whether the relevant state delivered individual statements in less than 10% of all Panel Discussions, General Debates and Interactive Dialogues (combined) during its last (most recent) two HRC membership terms.

- ☑ Submit a UPR mid-term report by the end of 2018.
- ☑ Further cooperate with all Special Procedures.
- ☑ Strengthen its collaboration with OHCHR and the regional human rights bodies.
- ☑ Work on the following priority areas: inter-ministerial and public dialogue to further promote and protect human rights in Bulgaria; rights of the child; gender equality; rights of persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups; ethnic and religious tolerance; freedoms of speech, expression, religion and belief; rights of migrants and refugees; and rule of law, democracy and good governance.
- ☑ Continue to support a rights-based approach to the 2030 Agenda.
- ☑ Spread awareness on the need to strengthen NHRIs and national human rights frameworks.

At the international level:

- ☑ Further support the work of OHCHR and the UN human rights mechanisms, including the Special Procedures.
- ☑ Support initiatives aimed at strengthening the efficiency of the Council, improving its working methods, and promoting universal participation.
- ☑ Support efforts aimed at strengthening the independence, accountability, efficiency, and effectiveness of the Treaty Bodies and the Special Procedures.
- ☑ Support the further strengthening of the UPR.
- ☑ Support efforts to bring grave country-specific situations to the attention of the UN, and ensure that these addressed properly, including by demanding accountability and by ending impunity.
- ☑ Help strengthen the CRPD.

- ☑ Work on, encourage and support initiatives in the following thematic areas: 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.

The **Czech Republic** presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2019-2021 on 27 April 2018. In the document, the Czech Republic pledges, *inter alia*, to:

At the international level:

- ☑ Actively participate in the work of the Council.
- ☑ Support preventative and timely responses to human rights violations and abuses.
- ☑ Speak openly on both country-specific and thematic issues, in particular those requiring the urgent action of the Council.
- ☑ Promote freedom of expression and information as a gateway to the enjoyment of a wider range of human rights, including freedom of assembly and of association.
- ☑ Cooperate closely with OHCHR, advocate for its independence and impartiality, and make voluntary financial contributions to it.
- ☑ Continue to support the international human rights mechanisms, including the Special Procedures and Treaty Bodies.
- ☑ Strongly support civil society participation in political and public affairs, and speak out against any acts of intimidation or reprisal against persons who seek to cooperate, are cooperating or have cooperated with, human rights mechanisms.

- Build institutions that promote the rule of law, including through activities aimed at combating torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

At the national level:

- Submit a UPR midterm report in 2020, and implement those UPR recommendations received during the last review.
- Ensure continuous dialogue about human rights issues with academia and civil society organisations.
- Ratify the CRPD-OP and the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence (Istanbul Convention).
- Promote equality, inclusion and non-discrimination vis-à-vis the Roma people.
- Advance gender equality.
- Strengthen the implementation of the CRPD, the CRC and the SDGs.
- Sensitise Czech businesses, in particular State-owned businesses, to human rights concerns.

Voting history during previous membership terms

Bulgaria has not been a member of the Council before

Principal sponsor: Bulgaria has not been principal sponsor of any Council resolution.

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

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, the Czech Republic has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has voted in favour of resolutions on: sexual orientation; the question of the death penalty; the regulation of firearms; arms transfers; peaceful protests; and human rights, democracy, and rule of law. It has voted against resolutions on: the right to peace; defamation of religions; and a number of African Group texts dealing with racism. It abstained on a 2014 resolution on 'integrity of the judicial system,' and a 2014 resolution on drones. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social, and cultural rights, the Czech Republic has joined consensus on a majority of texts. Resolutions that it has voted against are: resolutions on the effects of foreign debt, resolutions on international solidarity, resolutions on unilateral coercive measures, and a resolution on economic reform policies. It has consistently voted in favour of NAM resolutions on the right to development. The Czech Republic has abstained during voting on the resolution on the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin.

Principal sponsor: The rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; and equal participation in political and public affairs.

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' (2013-2017)?

Bulgaria	Czech Republic
	
N	N
-	-



Cited in the report 2012-2016?



Response provided to allegations?

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

Inclusivity / Access

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

78%

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

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

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

Bulgaria



Czech Republic



SPECIAL PROCEDURES

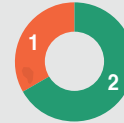
Standing invitation



Status visit requests
(1998-1 September 2018)



Total: 10



Total: 3

■ completed ■ dates set / visit accepted ■ postponed / cancelled by State or SP
■ visit request sent by the SP and not (yet) accepted by the State
■ invitation sent by the State and not (yet) accepted by the SP

Longest visit request
not (yet) accepted
by the State



Communications
response rate

(from 1 September 2013 -
31 August 2018 based on
'Communications report and
search database', OHCHR)

4
responded to
5 received
80%

0
responded to
0 received

TREATY BODIES

Core conventions
ratified

7/8

8/8

Communications
procedures accepted

4/8

6/8

Reporting
status
(data as at
1 September, 2018)



■ submitted on time ■ on schedule ■ submitted late
■ overdue (outstanding) ■ not party ■ n/a

Most
overdue
report

CEDAW
(2 years)

ICCPR
(1 month)

OPCAT

Ratified?



NPM established?



Sub-Committee visit?



UNIVERSAL PERIODIC
REVIEW

Level
of delegation
(at latest review)

NMIRF

Deputy
Minister

Mid-term
reporting



1st cycle



2nd cycle

Participation
in other reviews
(1st cycle)

9

93












Participation
in other reviews
(2nd cycle)

41

119

Latin American and Caribbean Group (GRULAC)

Overview of Candidates

		Membership of HRC bureau	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2017)	NHRI accreditation status	Previous membership terms	OHCHR presence
Argentina		Vice-president (2008-2009, 2014)				Human rights advisers
Bahamas		—		—		—
Uruguay		President (2012) Vice-president (2007-2008)				Human rights advisers

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

Fulfillment of previous voluntary pledges and commitments

Argentina tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2013-2015, on 10 January 2012.

Internationally, Argentina pledged to: submit resolutions at the Council to raise international human rights standards; develop new ways of increasing the participation of civil society in the work of the Council; build the Council's capacity to respond to violations and emergencies; support country mandates; discourage 'no action motions' at the Council; support and strengthen the independence of Special Procedures, guaranteeing full freedom of action to mandate-holders; continue to support the work of

OHCHR; participate constructively in the UPR mechanism and strengthen its transformative potential; and continue efforts to promote global ratification and implementation of the CED.

Domestically, Argentina committed to: fully implement its international obligations at the domestic level; combat impunity by strengthening national legislation; work closely with civil society to develop public policies that promote human rights; and integrate a gender perspective into national reporting under the UPR.

An analysis of steps taken by Argentina in fulfilment of its international-level pledges shows that it has indeed continued to lead initiatives to promote the ratification and implementation of CED. Regarding cooperation with Special Procedures, Argentina has facilitated the completion of 14 visits, but it is yet to respond to six visit requests. It also has a high response rate for communications (80%). Argentina cooperates well with

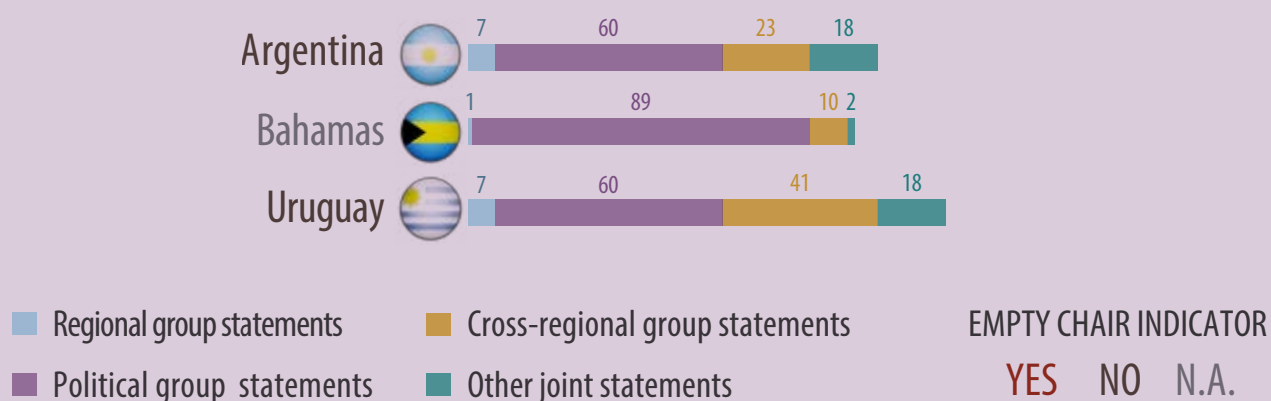
the UPR mechanism (e.g. it submitted a mid-term report on implementation), and contributes to the reviews of other States (it participated in 120 reviews during the first cycle and 189 during the second cycle).

The Bahamas has not been a member of the Council before.

Uruguay tabled voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidacy for membership of the Council for the period 2009-2012, on 29 January 2009.

At international level, Uruguay pledged to: encourage parliamentary ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (CESCR-OP); continue to cooperate fully with the Council and its mechanisms; maintain its Standing Invitation to Special Procedures mandate-holders; submit timely periodic reports to the

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



This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State joined during the Council general debates, panel discussions, and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures during the last seven sessions of the Council (March 2016 - June 2018). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology, please see endnote.

Empty chair indicator: Shows whether the relevant state delivered individual statements in less than 10% of all Panel Discussions, General Debates and Interactive Dialogues (combined) during its last (most recent) two HRC membership terms.

Treaty Bodies; cooperate with OHCHR; and support the effective participation of civil society, including NGOs, in the work of the Human Rights Council.

An analysis of steps taken by Uruguay in fulfilment of its commitments shows that it did indeed ratify the CRPD (February 2009) and the CDESCR-OP (February 2013). With regard to cooperation with the Council, Uruguay participated in about one-third of all panels, interactive dialogues, and general debates. Uruguay has demonstrated a good level of cooperation with the Special Procedures, maintaining a Standing Invitation, completing more than 60% of visits, and responding to two of the three communications received. Turning to Treaty Bodies, Uruguay is Party to all the core conventions and tends to comply with its reporting obligations.

Key pledges and commitments for 2018 election

Argentina presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2019-2021 on June 2018. Key pledges include, *inter alia*:

At international level:

- ☑ Strengthen engagement with specialised agencies to help empower women and end violence against them.
- ☑ Promote multilateralism as an efficient tool for defending human rights.
- ☑ Further engage and support civil society organisations.

- ☑ Strengthen the Council's capacity to take address grave human rights violations.
- ☑ Further support and engage with the Special Procedures, OHCHR and the UPR.
- ☑ Promote the issues of anti-discrimination and violence against women via the UPR mechanism.
- ☑ Work for the universal ratification and implementation of the CED.

At regional level:

- ☑ Foster dialogue and cooperation with a view to developing a coherent regional approach to the Council.
- ☑ Work with the OAS Working Groups on the rights of older persons and persons with disabilities.
- ☑ Promote the adoption of national action plans to further the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325/2000 on women, peace and security.

At national level:

- ☑ Mainstream a gender perspective across all national policies.
- ☑ Cooperate with UN Women Argentina to implement the 'Country for equality' programme.
- ☑ Engage with civil society organisations in the promotion of human rights policies.
- ☑ Adopt a gender perspective in the follow-up process of the UPR.

The Bahamas presented voluntary pledges and commitments in support of its candidature for membership for the period 2019-2021 on 5 September 2018. Key pledges include, *inter alia*:

At international level:

- ☒ Advance human rights to contribute to the realisation of the 2030 Agenda.
- ☒ Cooperate with the Council and its subsidiary organs, as well as with other human rights mechanisms, including by implementing UPR recommendations, reporting to the Treaty bodies, accepting Special Procedures visits and responding to communications.
- ☒ In the Council, prioritise the following key thematic areas: the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities, and migrants; the right to health; SIDS (ensure their participation in the Council); sustainable development; and protection against and prevention of discrimination in all its forms. The Bahamas also committed to work on issues of particular importance to SIDS including human rights and the environment, climate change, public service delivery and local government.
- ☒ Work towards ensuring that human rights are mainstreamed throughout the UN system.
- ☒ Support the strengthening of the Treaty Body system.
- ☒ Attend the consideration of its CEDAW report in October 2018.
- ☒ Continue to support efforts aimed at guaranteeing effective responses by the international community (i.e. prevention and early action) to global human rights violations.

At regional level:

- ☒ Advocate human rights issues within the CARICOM, and promote increased CARICOM participation in the work of the Council.
- ☒ Work within the regional organisations of which it is a member, including the OAS and the CELAC, to further promote and protect human rights in the region.
- ☒ Meaningfully engage with regional partners, including CSOs, to address human rights issues.

At national level:




- ☒ Establish an NHRI in accordance with the Paris Principles.

Uruguay presented its voluntary pledges for election for the term 2019-2021 on July, 2018. Uruguay pledges, if elected, to:







At national level:

- ☒ Adopt a protocol of action for complaints related to situations of racism, xenophobia or any other forms of discrimination.
- ☒ Deepen the measures aimed at: achieving gender equality, and preventing and eradicating gender-based violence; approving a bill on trafficking in persons; and combating racial discrimination.
- ☒ Consolidate the implementation of the national programme related to children living on the street, in line with General Comment No. 21 of the CRC Committee.
- ☒ Strengthen its monitoring mechanisms and the

access to justice by, and protection of the rights of, the most vulnerable groups.

-  Establish the CRPD art. 33.2 independent mechanism.
-  Strengthen its NMIRF, established in 2016.
-  Consolidate the System of Dialogue and Consultation with civil society.

At international level:

-  Strengthen the universal human rights system through cooperation.
-  Continue to support OHCHR, including through voluntary contributions.
-  Continue to cooperate with the Special Procedures and Treaty Bodies, including by facilitating visits (in the case of the former) and through timely reporting (in the case of the latter).
-  Favour dialogue, negotiation and consensus as pillars of improved Council working methods.
-  Continue to promote the full participation of civil society in the Council's agenda, and work to prevent reprisals.
-  Undertake efforts to improve the functioning and effectiveness of the UPR, and continue to fully cooperate with this mechanism.

Voting history during previous membership terms

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **Argentina** has either voted in favour of or has joined consensus on every resolution tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), and country-specific resolutions under item 2. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Argentina has consistently voted in favour. On item 10 resolutions

(capacity-building), Argentina has joined consensus on all resolutions except for three that were voted on during the period of its membership: on cooperation with Ukraine (with Argentina twice abstaining); and on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (with Argentina voting in favour).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Argentina has generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, Argentina has voted in favour of resolutions on: the regulation of firearms; drones; human rights, democracy and rule of law; the effects of terrorism on human rights; right to peace; sexual orientation and gender identity; the question of the death penalty; integrity of the judicial system; peaceful protests; and torture. Argentina has only voted against a resolution on civil and political rights once: a 2010 OIC text on defamation of religions. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, Argentina has either joined consensus on or has voted in favour of all adopted texts.

Principal sponsor: Cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage; human rights and transitional justice; protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; addressing the impact of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence in the context of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance on the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls; the incompatibility between democracy and racism; enforced or involuntary disappearances; Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence; right to the truth; contribution of parliaments to the work of the Human Rights Council and its universal periodic review; business and human rights: Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises; the negative impact of corruption

on the enjoyment of human rights; human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises; 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; the activities of vulture funds; forensic genetics and human rights; and strengthening efforts to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage.

The Bahamas has not been a member of the Council before.

Principal sponsor: the Bahamas has not acted as principal sponsor of any Council resolution.

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2006, **Uruguay** has either voted in favour of or has joined consensus on nearly all resolutions tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), and country-specific resolutions under item 2. The exceptions are three abstention votes between 2011 and 2012 on resolutions dealing with the situations in Belarus and the Islamic Republic of Iran. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Uruguay has consistently voted in favour (or joined consensus). The only exception was an abstention during the adoption of a 2012 resolution on the 'Follow-up to the UN Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict.' On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Uruguay has joined consensus on all resolutions except for one that was voted on during the period of its membership: on the situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Uruguay voted in favour). For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Uruguay has

generally joined consensus. Where there has been a vote, it has generally voted in favour. The exceptions are Uruguay's position on four resolutions (between 2007-2010) on 'defamation of religions' (one vote against and three abstentions), and two item 9 resolutions in 2007 on complementary standards to CERD, and on 'concrete action against racism' (Uruguay abstained).

For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, Uruguay has either joined consensus on or has voted in favour of, nearly all adopted texts. The only exception was in 2010 when Uruguay 'did not vote' on a resolution on unilateral coercive measures.

Principal sponsor: Contribution to the implementation of the joint commitment to effectively addressing and countering the world drug problem with regard to human rights; promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights; addressing the impact of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence in the context of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance on the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls; contribution of the Human Rights Council to the special session of the General Assembly on the world drug problem of 2016; strengthening efforts to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage; effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations - the activities of vulture funds; high-level panel on the occasion of the tenth anniversary of the Human Rights Council; human rights and the environment; human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity; mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography; Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of

the Child on a communications procedure; preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age; promotion and protection of human rights in post-disaster and post-conflict situations; Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence; the incompatibility between democracy and racism; and the role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights.




.....

Inclusivity / Access

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

48%

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’ (2013-2017)?

Argentina	Bahamas	Uruguay
		
N	N	N
-	-	-



Cited in the report 2013-2017?



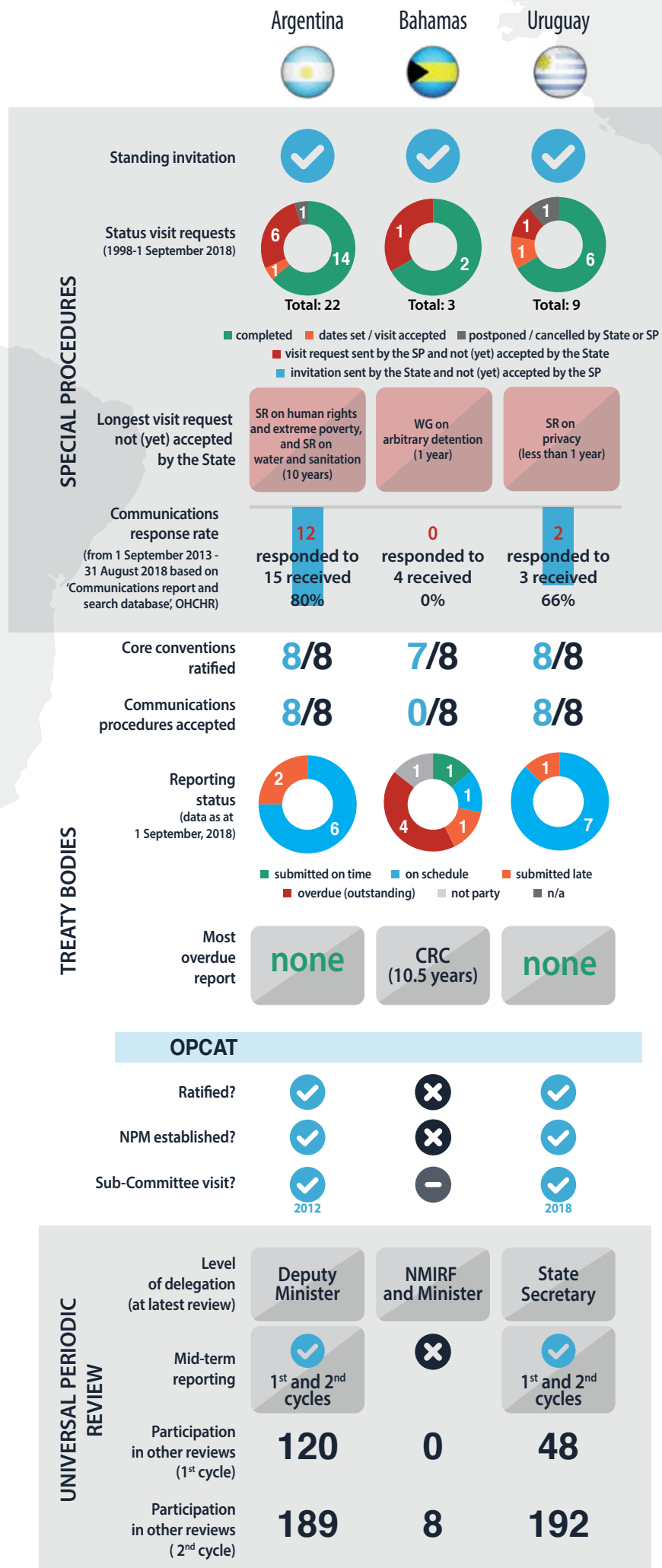
Response provided to allegations?

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

Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

















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

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



Western European and Others Group (WEOG)

Overview of Candidates

		Membership of HRC bureau	Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2017)	NHRI accreditation status	Previous membership terms	OHCHR presence
Austria		Vice-president (2012)				
Denmark						
Italy		Vice-president (2014)				

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

Fulfillment of previous voluntary pledges and commitments

Austria tabled pledges and commitments in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2011-2014 on 11 March 2011.

Internationally, Austria pledged to: ratify the CED and OP-CAT; foster a culture of cross-regional cooperation to

contribute to the full implementation of the mandate of the Council; continue to sponsor resolutions at the Council and the Third Committee within a framework of cross-regional cooperation; protect the interests of children, women, persons with disabilities and other discriminated groups through bilateral cooperation; improve legal protection in the area of torture and in the area of crimes against humanity/war crimes; and accede to the UNESCO Convention against discrimination in education.

Domestically/regionally, Austria committed to: incorporate the rights of the child into the Constitution; ratify the Council of Europe Convention on the protection of children against sexual exploitation and sexual abuse; participate in negotiations on a Council of Europe convention on combatting violence against women; promote human rights training on a national and global level; and promote intercultural dialogue and freedom of religion.

An analysis of steps taken by Austria in fulfilment of its pledges at the international level shows that it has indeed ratified the CED and the OP-CAT (in 2012). However, it is yet to accede to the UNESCO Convention against discrimination in education. Austria has a strong record of engagement with the Council and its mechanisms. For example, it participates in around 70% of panel discussions, sent a ministerial-level delegation to participate in the UPR, and produced a mid-term report on UPR implementation.

Denmark has not been a member of the Council before.

Italy tabled pledges and commitments in support of its candidacy for membership for the period 2011-2014 on 11 February 2011.

At an international level, Italy pledged to: ratify the CED, the OP-CAT, and the OP-ICESCR; work constructively with and within the Council; support the work of the Special Procedures, including through active participation in interactive dialogues; improve the effectiveness of the UPR; promote ratification of the Statute of the ICC; promote human rights education and training; support the prevention of genocide; support campaigns to end violence against women; support

initiatives protecting the rights of children; and advocate for the adoption of a universal moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view for its complete abolition.

Domestically, Italy pledged to: combat religious intolerance; foster interreligious and intercultural dialogue; implement legislation to counter racism and xenophobia; combat violence against women; promote the rights of persons with disabilities; support election observation missions; assist victims of human trafficking, and implement all accepted recommendations in connection with the UPR process.

An analysis of steps taken by Italy in fulfilment of its international pledges shows that it did indeed ratify the OP-CAT (in 2013), OP-ICESCR and CED (in 2015). Italy has a good record of facilitating Special Procedures visits (14 in total) and of responding to communications (over 60% of all communications received). It has actively contributed to the UPR process, participating in the reviews of 127 States during the first cycle and 158 during the second cycle.

Key pledges and commitments for 2018 election

Austria presented its voluntary pledges for election for the term 2019-2021 on June 2018. In the document, Austria pledges to:

At national level :

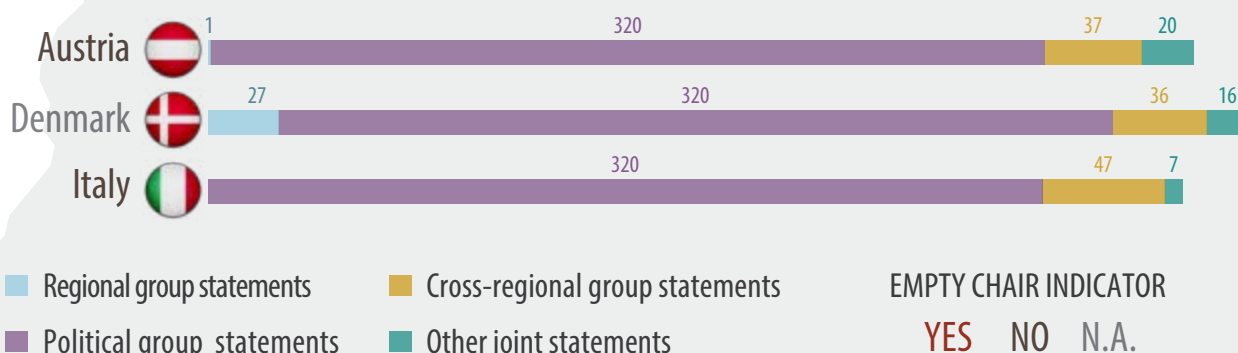
- ✓ Contribute to the full implementation of the Council's mandate, and support efforts to further strengthen the body.
- ✓ Continue to support and engage with OHCHR.
- ✓ Maintain its Standing Invitation, and continue to fully support and cooperate with the Special Procedures and Treaty Bodies.
- ✓ Implement UPR recommendations received during its last review, and present a mid-term report on implementation.
- ✓ Build bridges between the UN human rights mechanisms and other international organisations.

- ✓ Promote cross-regional cooperation.
- ✓ Maintain its cooperation with and support for, civil society; and oppose reprisals against human rights defenders.
- ✓ Continue to support initiatives on: the rights of minorities; freedom of speech and the safety of journalists; human rights of internally displaced persons; human rights in the administration of justice; and the abolition of the death penalty.
- ✓ Work to strengthen the rights of women, children, and persons with disabilities; promote the rule of law and human rights education; and lead the fight against human trafficking, racism and discrimination.
- ✓ Continue to integrate a human rights-based approach into development cooperation.
- ✓ Intensify efforts to promote intercultural dialogue and freedom of religion.

At national level:

- ✓ Improve the framework conditions created for the integration of refugees and migrants.

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



This bar chart shows the number of joint statements each State joined during the Council general debates, panel discussions, and interactive dialogues with the Special Procedures during the last seven sessions of the Council (March 2016 - June 2018). For comprehensive information on data sources, timeframes, and methodology, please see endnote.

Empty chair indicator: Shows whether the relevant state delivered individual statements in less than 10% of all Panel Discussions, General Debates and Interactive Dialogues (combined) during its last (most recent) two HRC membership terms.

- ☑ Expand the legal protection of children.
- ☑ Adapt and expand measures to prevent and combat corruption.
- ☑ Further strengthen the role of the Constitutional Court through the introduction of a mandatory preliminary ruling procedure.
- ☑ Evaluate its national security authorities, and develop them in accordance with international standards.

Denmark presented its voluntary pledges for election for the term 2019-2021 in July 2018. In short, Denmark pledges to, *inter alia*:

Advance human rights in all relevant international fora:

- ☑ Continue to actively engage in all relevant multilateral human rights fora.
- ☑ Address discrimination, and promote equal access and opportunities for all.
- ☑ Maintain the international focus on the prevention of torture.
- ☑ Continue to work for indigenous peoples' rights and enhance their participation.
- ☑ Work for the full observance of the rule of law.
- ☑ Promote a better understanding around, and improved implementation of, the right to freedom of religion or belief, with a special focus on women and girls.

Work for a credible, operative and effective Council:

- ☑ Work for a principled and strong Council that takes timely action to address critical country situations and important thematic issues.
- ☑ Strengthen the effectiveness of the Council, and strive for the full implementation of human rights norms, including by strengthening the

delivery of capacity-building and technical support.

- ☑ Continue supporting universal participation at the Council.
- ☑ Continue to promote and protect civil society space at the Council.
- ☑ Continue to engage with the UPR.
- ☑ Continue to play an active role in exploring the interrelated and mutually reinforcing nature of human rights and the implementation of the SDGs.

Support a strong and independent human rights monitoring system:

- ☑ Continue to support the work and independence of OHCHR, including in providing technical assistance to member States.
- ☑ Promote the independence of the Treaty Bodies, while reviewing ways of improving their efficiency and effectiveness.

Protect and promote human rights at national level:

- ☑ Ratify the CED.
- ☑ Continue to engage constructively with national, regional and international human rights monitoring systems.
- ☑ Maintain a standing invitation to the Special Procedures, and continue to cooperate with the Treaty Bodies.
- ☑ Continue to comply with, and implement the decisions of, the European Court of Human Rights.
- ☑ Continue to combat racial discrimination and hate crimes.
- ☑ Strive for a social policy that ensures better education and work opportunities for the most vulnerable and marginalised in society.

- ☑ Implement a national action plan for the promotion of security, well-being and equal opportunities for members of the LGBTI community,
- ☑ Combat human trafficking.
- ☑ Ensure human rights protection in the asylum system.

Italy presented its voluntary pledges for election for the term 2019-2021 on February, 2018. In the document, Italy pledges to, *inter alia*:

- ☑ Continue to promote an open and inclusive approach to human rights, focusing on ownership by local actors and on cooperation with civil society organisations.
- ☑ Mainstream human rights promotion and protection into conflict prevention, resolution and settlement.
- ☑ Work to further improve the effectiveness of the UPR.
- ☑ Support and cooperate with the Special Procedures.
- ☑ Prevent, combat and secure accountability for international crimes.
- ☑ Support prompt responses to human rights emergencies.
- ☑ Further promote human rights education and awareness.
- ☑ Enhance the role of civil society in the formulation and implementation of human rights policies and programmes; and support NGO participation in the Council.
- ☑ Further work on the following key thematic areas:
 - o **The fight against all forms of discrimination**, including by combatting hate speech.

- o The participation of women at all levels; women's empowerment; prevention of violence against women; eradication of female genital mutilation; the elimination of child, early and enforced marriage; and prevention of sexual violence in conflict and in emergency situations.
- o **Rights of the child** – preventing and combatting child pornography; supporting child victims of violence; and promoting education for all children, adolescents and young people.
- o **End of capital punishment.**
- o **Freedom of religion** - promoting pluralism, inclusion and tolerance, as well as inter-religious and inter-cultural dialogue.
- o Protection of the victims of **human trafficking**.
- o Enhancing international understanding about the needs of **persons with disabilities**.
- o Promoting universal respect for **cultural rights**.
- o Safeguarding the safety and rights of **human rights defenders**, and fighting against all forms of reprisal.

Voting history during previous membership terms

Since it first became a member of the Council in 2011, **Austria** has either voted in favour of or has joined consensus on every resolution tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), and country-specific resolutions under item 2. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Austria generally votes in favour (with some exceptions - such as some resolutions on the 'occupied Syrian Golan' and one on the UN fact-finding mission report on the Gaza Conflict – where it abstained). On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Austria has joined consensus on all resolutions except for one that was voted on (during the period of its membership): on cooperation with Ukraine (with Austria voting in favour).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, where a vote is called Austria tends to either abstain (e.g. on a resolution on the integrity of the judicial system, on a resolution on the use of drones, and on various resolutions on racism), or vote in favour (e.g. resolutions on the death penalty, on gender orientation, on democracy and rule of law, and on peaceful protests). The only civil and political rights resolutions it has voted against are two resolutions on the right to peace (in 2013 and 2014). For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, Austria has joined consensus on a majority of texts. Where there have been votes on such texts, Austria has tended to vote in favour of resolutions on the right to development, and against texts on: the effects of foreign debt; international solidarity; and unilateral coercive measures.

Principal sponsor: Assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights; establishment of a special fund for the participation of civil society in the Social Forum, the Forum on Minority Issues and the Forum on Business and Human Rights; human rights in the administration of justice, in particular juvenile justice; human rights of internally displaced persons; Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure; preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age; rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities; safety of journalists; the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence; the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights; and the right to privacy in the digital age.

Denmark has not been a member of the Council before.

Principal sponsor: Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on Torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; the promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.




Since it first became a member of the Council in 2007, **Italy** has either voted in favour of or has joined consensus on every resolution tabled under item 4 (situations that require the Council's attention), and country-specific resolutions under item 2. For item 7 resolutions (human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories), Italy tends to vote in favour, or to abstain (e.g. resolutions on human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan). Between 2008 and 2010, Italy voted against four item 7 resolutions. On item 10 resolutions (capacity-building), Italy has joined consensus on all resolutions except for two that have been voted on during its time as member: one dealing with cooperation with Ukraine (with Italy voting in favour), and one dealing with cooperation with the Democratic Republic of the Congo (Italy abstained).

For thematic resolutions dealing with civil and political rights, Italy has mainly either voted in favour or joined consensus. Resolutions that it usually (or always) votes against include: resolutions on defamation of religions; resolutions on the right to peace; some resolutions on racism and the Durban Review Conference; and a resolution on complementary standards to CERD. Italy has abstained on a number of resolutions including a 2014 resolution on the integrity of the judicial system and a 2014 resolution on drones. For thematic resolutions dealing with economic, social and cultural rights, Italy has joined consensus on a majority of texts. Where there

have been votes on such texts, Italy has voted in favour of resolutions on the right to development, and against texts on: the effects of foreign debt; and international solidarity. Italy has abstained on a number of resolutions, including on the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin, and on access to medicine.

Principal sponsorship: Cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage; World Programme for Human Rights Education; assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights; contribution of parliaments to the work of the Human Rights Council and its universal periodic review; development of public information activities in the field of human rights, including the World Public Information Campaign on Human Rights; human rights education and training; human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic; national policies and human rights; strengthening efforts to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage; and youth and human rights.

Cited in the Secretary General’s reports on ‘alleged reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights’ (2013-2017)?

Austria	Denmark	Italy
		
N	N	N
-	-	-



Cited in the report 2013-2017?



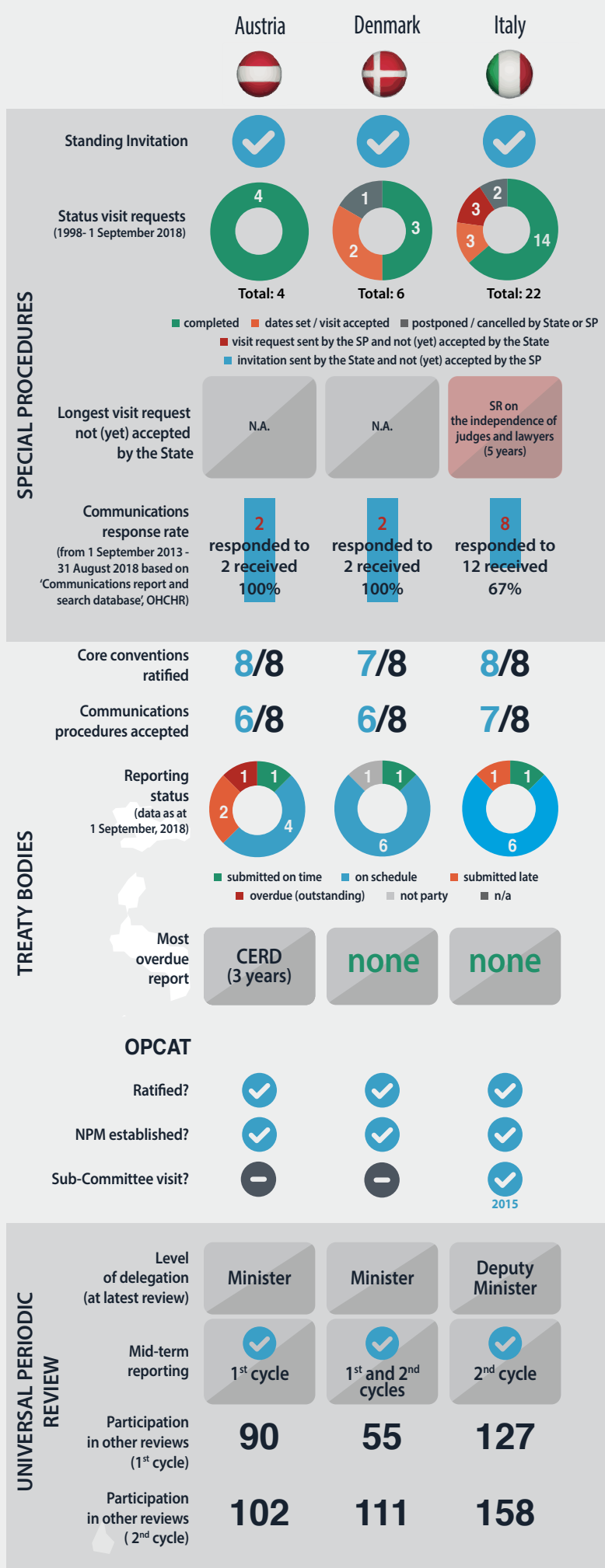
Response provided to allegations?

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

Inclusivity / Access

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

59%



Cooperation with human rights mechanisms

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

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

Methodology Notes

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

Overview of Membership

Membership of HRC 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: 30 August 2018.

Voluntary contribution to OHCHR (2016)

Source: OHCHR website. Our donors. Voluntary contributions to OHCHR in 2016.

[http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/AboutUs/FundingBudget/](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/AboutUs/FundingBudget/VoluntaryContributions2016.pdf)

[VoluntaryContributions2016.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/AboutUs/FundingBudget/VoluntaryContributions2016.pdf)

Data as at: 30 August 2018.

NHRI Accreditation Status

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

<http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/Documents/Status%20Accreditation%20Chart%20%2826%20May%202017.pdf>

Data as at: 30 August 2018.

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: 30 August 2018.

OHCHR Presence

Source: OHCHR website. Human Rights Appeal 2017.

[http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/AboutUs/](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/AboutUs/UNHumanRightsAppeal2018.pdf)

[UNHumanRightsAppeal2018.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/AboutUs/UNHumanRightsAppeal2018.pdf)

Data as at: 30 August 2018.

Fulfillment of previous voluntary pledges and commitments

Source: UN General Assembly website; OHCHR website.

Data as at: 30 August 2018.

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: HRC Extranet.

Data as at: 23 August 2018.

Note: The participation of the candidates in group statements was calculated based on all joint statements listed on the HRC Extranet from September 2015 until June 2018 sessions. 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.

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 2018 election

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

Data as at: 5 September 2018.

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 at: 30 August 2018.

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 looks 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’ (2013-2018)

Source: ‘Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights’ report by the Secretary-General (UN Docs. A/HRC/24/29; A/HRC/27/38; A/HRC/30/29; A/

HRC/33/19; A/HRC/36/31).

Data as at: August 2018.

Note: The 2018 report on reprisals was not available at the time the 2018 Election Guide went to press.

Inclusivity/Access

Source: OHCHR website. Membership of the Human Rights Council.
<http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/Pages/PastMembers.aspx>

Data as at: 30 August 2018.

Note: Self-calculated figures based on the past and current members, as reported by the 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: 30 August 2018.

Visits Completed & 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: 30 August 2018.

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

Communications response rate

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

Data as at: February 2018. More recent information is not yet available.

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: 30 August 2018.

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 the OHCHR website. In cases where there is no deadline for the current reporting cycle, the status of reporting of the previous cycle was used, where available.

Explanation of Options:

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

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

The ‘most overdue’ report time is for the outstanding report that is the most overdue.

OP-CAT

Source: OHCHR website. Country pages. Ratification Status.

Data as at: : 30 August 2018.

NPM Established:

Source: OHCHR website. National Preventive Mechanisms <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/OPCAT/Pages/NationalPreventiveMechanisms.aspx>

Data as at: : 30 August 2018.

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

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: 30 August 2018.

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: 30 August 2018.

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: 30 August 2018.

Mid-term reporting

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

Data as at: 30 August 2018.

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.’ The information reported for Australia was provided directly by the Mission of Australia to the United Nations in Geneva.

Data as at: 30 August 2018.

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](http://www.hrc.org).

About yourHRC.org

The yourHRC.org project has four component parts:

1

A universally accessible and free-to-use web portal - yourHRC.org – providing information on the performance of 107 States that have stood for and won election to the Council, and of the candidates for the 2018 election that have never been members of the Council before. An interactive world map provides information on the Council's membership in any given year, and on the number of membership terms held by each country. Country-specific pages then provide up-to-date information on: the voting record of the State; its sponsorship of important Council initiatives; its level of participation in Council debates, interactive dialogues and panels; its engagement and cooperation with the Council's mechanisms (UPR and Special Procedures) and with the Treaty Bodies; and the degree to which it fulfilled the voluntary pledges and commitments made before its previous membership term.

2

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

3

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

4

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



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yourHRC.org

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