

United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights



**SUGGESTED ELEMENTS FOR
VOLUNTARY PLEDGES AND COMMITMENTS BY CANDIDATES FOR ELECTION TO
THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL**

In accordance with General Assembly resolution A/RES/60/251, when electing members of the Human Rights Council, Member States shall take into account (1) the contribution of candidates to the promotion and protection of human rights and (2) their voluntary pledges and commitments made thereto. Additionally, members elected to the Council shall (1) uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights; (2) fully cooperate with the Council and (3) be reviewed under the universal period review mechanism during their term.

Beyond these provisions, the General Assembly provided no further guidance and established no particular framework for the form and content of electoral pledges, commitments and statements. However, extensive discussions since the adoption of the resolution have yielded useful suggestions for appropriate elements to be included. Drawing from these discussions, the guidance offered herein provides a framework within which Member States can provide relevant information when presenting candidatures. Member States which have already presented candidatures may consider supplementing the information provided in accordance with elements provided herein. These suggestions are not intended to be exhaustive and, in compiling information on the elements below, member States might also wish to provide additional information and make additional pledges and commitments as appropriate. To the extent possible, States are encouraged to include specific, measurable and verifiable commitments in their submissions.

Member States are encouraged to share information on their voluntary pledges and commitments both with the public in their respective countries and with all other Member States. They are further invited to provide that information to the Secretariat for posting on the websites of the United Nations General Assembly and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

1. International contribution, pledges and commitments

- ✓ List of international human rights instruments to which the State is already party and indications of intent to ratify further instruments and to withdraw reservations
- ✓ Co-operation with special procedures, accepting requests for visits, extending standing invitations, and responding positively to communications and follow-up on recommendations
- ✓ Cooperation with treaty monitoring bodies, timely submission of reports and implementation of concluding observations and contribution to the global reform of the treaty body system
- ✓ Contribution to international initiatives for the promotion and protection of human rights through the provision of human, technical and financial resources
- ✓ Cooperation with OHCHR and support for its activities
- ✓ Contribution to the deliberation of international human rights fora.
- ✓ Commitment to fully support and engage constructively in the deliberations of the Human Rights Council, its subsidiary bodies and mechanisms including the special procedures
- ✓ Commitment to open and constructive engagement in a robust universal review procedure including reporting on measures taken to follow-up on its recommendations
- ✓ Commitment to the meaningful engagement of NGOs with the Council.

2. National contribution, pledges and commitments

- ✓ Description of national human rights policy, including information on national human rights planning, the existence of independent national human rights institutions, guarantees of effective remedies to redress human rights abuses, etc.
- ✓ Identification of principal human rights challenges as well as indication of steps to be taken to meet those challenges
- ✓ Indication of approach to the contribution of civil society, including in the formulation and implementation of domestic human rights policy and programmes
- ✓ Commitment to protect against and prevent discrimination in all its forms, in both law and in practice.
- ✓ Pledge to uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights;