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Item 115 (c) of the preliminary list*

**Elections to fill vacancies in subsidiary organs and other
elections: election of members of the Human Rights Council**

Note verbale dated 1 July 2024 from the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations has the honour to refer to the candidature of Switzerland to the Human Rights Council for the term 2025–2027 at the elections to be held in October 2024 in New York.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution [60/251](#), the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations has the further honour to transmit herewith the voluntary pledges and commitments reaffirming that the promotion and protection of human rights are a priority of the foreign policy of Switzerland (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations would be grateful if the present note and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under item 115 (c) of the preliminary list.

* [A/79/50](#).



Annex to the note verbale dated 1 July 2024 from the Permanent Mission of Switzerland to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Candidature of Switzerland to the Human Rights Council, 2025–2027

Voluntary pledges and commitments pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251

1. Switzerland played an active role in the creation of the Human Rights Council and has since had the honour to be a member for three terms (2006–2009, 2010–2013 and 2016–2018). Since the Council's establishment, Switzerland has done its utmost to ensure that the Council is a strong and efficient forum, capable of promoting and protecting human rights around the world.
2. Switzerland is presenting its candidature for a fourth term on the Human Rights Council, this time for the period 2025–2027.
3. Switzerland is committed to a Human Rights Council that is responsive to human rights violations, but also engaged in strengthening human rights standards and their implementation. Switzerland works closely with the Council's special procedures and has extended a standing invitation to all thematic mandate holders. In its own initiatives, such as on transitional justice, peaceful protests or human rights and the environment, Switzerland has championed a cross-regional approach, always favouring and promoting dialogue and consensus-building as a reliable partner.
4. As part of its candidacy for a fourth term on the Human Rights Council, Switzerland undertakes the pledges and commitments in the field of human rights as set out below.

Promoting and protecting human rights in a strong Human Rights Council

5. Switzerland pledges to promote and protect human rights in the Human Rights Council as well as ensure suitable framework conditions by:
 - (a) Continuing to actively participate in the work of the Human Rights Council in a spirit of cooperation, inclusion and dialogue;
 - (b) Contributing to improving the working methods of the Human Rights Council;
 - (c) Appropriately addressing new threats and challenges to human rights in relation to the environment and those that are emerging with the rapid development of new technologies, in particular digital technologies, cybertechnologies and neurotechnologies;
 - (d) Strengthening democratic institutions through the promotion and protection of election standards, freedom of expression and freedom of peaceful assembly and association;
 - (e) Pursuing its commitment to the worldwide abolition of the death penalty;
 - (f) Continuing its efforts towards universal representation at the Human Rights Council by assisting States to set up permanent missions in Geneva.

Promoting and protecting human rights across the United Nations system

6. To nurture a human rights perspective beyond the United Nations human rights pillar, Switzerland pledges to promote human rights by:

- (a) Strengthening the space, diverse participation and voices of civil society representatives, including human rights defenders, paying particular attention to the meaningful participation of women and girls;
- (b) Contributing to the protection of linguistic, religious, ethnic, national or other minorities and vulnerable groups;
- (c) Raising awareness of the role of human rights in the prevention of conflict and supporting the efforts of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to strengthen its work on prevention and early warning capabilities;
- (d) Supporting global monitoring and investigation of gross human rights violations while reinforcing accountability and the fight against impunity;
- (e) Supporting efforts to strengthen the financial basis of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and other funds, programmes and agencies of the United Nations mandated to advance the protection of human rights;
- (f) Promoting sustainable and inclusive development with a human rights-based approach in its cooperation with United Nations development agencies;
- (g) Contributing to strengthening the treaty body system.

Strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights at the national level

7. Switzerland pledges to further improve its compliance with its human rights obligations and commitments at the national level by:

- (a) Implementing the accepted universal periodic review recommendations in good faith and drafting its fifth universal periodic review report in an inclusive manner, involving all levels of government and encouraging active contributions from civil society;
- (b) Stepping up efforts to improve coordination at every level of government towards the full implementation of its international human rights obligations, including in close cooperation with the recently established independent Swiss national human rights institution;
- (c) Continuing its efforts to combat all forms of discrimination and violence, including sexual and gender-based violence;
- (d) Stepping up its efforts to raise awareness of the issue of human trafficking;
- (e) Pursuing the dialogue with private sector companies based in Switzerland on respect for human rights in their national and international activities;
- (f) Following up on the reports of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council pursuant to their visits to Switzerland.