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

Note verbale dated 6 August 2024 from the Permanent Mission of North Macedonia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of North Macedonia to the United Nations has the honour to refer to the candidature of North Macedonia 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 the Republic of North Macedonia 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 North Macedonia (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of North Macedonia to the United Nations would be grateful to the President of the General Assembly if the present note and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Assembly, under agenda item 115 (c) of the provisional agenda.

* [A/79/150](#).



**Annex to the note verbale dated 6 August 2024 from the
Permanent Mission of North Macedonia to the United Nations
addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

**Candidature of North Macedonia to the Human Rights Council for
the term 2025–2027**

Voluntary pledges and commitments pursuant to General Assembly resolution [60/251](#)

I. Introduction

1. North Macedonia is a candidate for the Human Rights Council (2025–2027) at the upcoming elections during the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly in New York in 2024.

2. We hereby present our candidature for the second time after completing a successful term as a member of the Council during the period 2014–2016.

3. We pledge to further enhance the important role of the Human Rights Council for the mainstreaming of a holistic approach to human rights within the United Nations system.

4. North Macedonia will continue to apply this approach in addressing situations of concern and remains fully committed to further strengthening its cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and all existing international human rights mechanisms.

5. Pursuing human rights and fundamental freedoms is enshrined in the country's Constitution, and therefore one of the core components of the foreign policy of North Macedonia.

6. As a multi-ethnic and multicultural country, North Macedonia supports systematic efforts to sustain and promote the culture of peace, tolerance, non-discrimination, understanding and respect for cultural and ethnic diversity.

7. Abiding by the basic principles, values and commitments of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, North Macedonia is committed to honouring the principles of the universality, indivisibility and inalienability of the human rights of all individuals equally.

North Macedonia pledges to work for the advancement and promotion of the full enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms and their protection for all people around the world, as well as at home, during its prospective membership of the Human Rights Council for the period 2025–2027, through the voluntary commitments set out below.

II. Commitments at the international level

8. North Macedonia will consistently aspire to the full enjoyment of human rights by all people by addressing the advancement of human rights, both in international human rights forums and in political bilateral dialogues. By respecting human rights, we also strive to contribute to international security, thus preventing or limiting the emergence of any security threats.

9. North Macedonia will support systematic efforts to sustain and promote the culture of peace, tolerance, non-discrimination, understanding and respect for cultural

diversity, including for people belonging to different ethnic and religious communities.

10. North Macedonia will engage in all activities of the Human Rights Council to enhance dialogue and cooperation among all States members of the Council.

11. We endeavour to support initiatives aimed at further strengthening the efficiency of the Human Rights Council, improving its methods of work and ensuring its effectiveness and transparency.

12. North Macedonia will engage and support all efforts aimed at further strengthening the independence, accountability, efficiency and effectiveness of the treaty bodies and the special procedures. North Macedonia will support the strengthening of multilateralism and international cooperation, including through the Secretary-General's call to action for human rights.

13. We will work to further strengthen the role of the universal periodic review as an effective and unique peer review tool. North Macedonia will encourage the sharing of good practices, offer recommendations to States and support their efforts to implement recommendations in the field of human rights.

14. We are committed to promoting the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Human Rights Council.

15. In our actions for promoting and protecting human rights, we will be guided by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, from a human rights perspective.

16. We will dedicate further efforts to addressing the new threats and increasing challenges to freedom of expression, both online and offline, the independence of the media and the safety of journalists, especially female journalists.

17. We will continue to support regional and international initiatives envisaged to promote good practices and lessons learned, while tackling the negative impact of disinformation and hate speech on freedom of expression and media pluralism.

18. North Macedonia intends to advance the efforts of the international community for achieving full gender equality, especially the realization of the human rights of women and girls and their empowerment. We will continue to advocate for strengthening the role and equal participation of women in political, economic and public life and in decision-making processes at all levels, in both the public and the private sectors.

19. North Macedonia will continue to support advancement of the rights of the child. We remain fully committed to the promotion of the rights of young people and encourage their participation in all spheres of political and social life. North Macedonia will increase its support and focus on initiatives aimed at mitigating the effect of climate change on the rights of the child. Recognizing the important role of children and youth in achieving positive changes for sustainable development, we will advocate for their more substantial involvement in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

20. Recognizing that bullying, including cyberbullying, can take both direct and indirect forms, from acts of physical, verbal, sexual and relational violence or aggression to social exclusion, and acknowledging the need to prevent and eliminate bullying among children, North Macedonia will support and promote initiatives on this subject.

21. North Macedonia remains committed to further promoting the rights of persons with disabilities and facilitating their full participation in all aspects of life. We will continue to encourage inclusive education, which constitutes an important part of our efforts on non-discrimination and poverty eradication.

22. We will advocate for a coordinated United Nations-led approach in addressing the root causes of trafficking in human beings, including poverty, unemployment, the lack of educational opportunities, social exclusion and marginalization, as well as for strengthening human rights through the enhanced protection, support and empowerment of victims of trafficking and accountability for such crimes.

23. In order to contribute to the global fight against corruption, North Macedonia undertakes to promote adherence to and the implementation of the main international anti-corruption instruments of the United Nations, the Council of Europe and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, as well as relevant European Union legislation and policies.

24. North Macedonia will continue to promote human rights in the environmental context, foster multilateral cooperation in the field of sustainable development and participate in joint efforts to address the impacts of environmental degradation and climate change on human rights, including efforts aimed at the fulfilment of the right of all people to live in a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment with clean drinking water and sanitation.

25. North Macedonia supports Human Rights Council actions on the impact of new and emerging technologies, including artificial intelligence, on human rights. We will support regional and international initiatives aimed at ensuring that the development and use of digital technologies support democratic institutions and enhance digital resilience. We will continue to tackle cyberattacks by improving the prevention and investigation of cybercrimes and strengthening capacities in law enforcement and the judiciary.

III. Commitments at the national level

26. North Macedonia will remain committed to upholding the international standards in the field of human rights, democracy and the rule of law and to ensuring the effective implementation of international human rights treaties on a national level.

27. North Macedonia will continue to engage with all stakeholders to uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights and to support a human rights-based approach in the planning and implementation of its national policies.

28. North Macedonia will continue to effectively involve civil society representatives and organizations, social partners and other stakeholders in all human rights-related policy and decision-making processes, at all levels.

29. North Macedonia will continue to offer its full cooperation and support to the Human Rights Council, all its special procedures to which we issued a standing invitation and the treaty bodies.

30. Actively engage with the universal periodic review mechanism and implement the recommendations received during the universal periodic review in May 2024, supported by the Government of North Macedonia.

31. North Macedonia will continue the reforms aimed at promoting the independence of the judiciary and at increasing its capacity for effectively investigating and prosecuting persons engaged in high-level corruption, in conformity with the National Strategy for Prevention of Corruption and Conflict of Interest (2021–2025).

32. Based on its long-standing tradition of tolerance, North Macedonia will continue to promote intercultural and interreligious dialogue, strengthening the protection of

freedom of religion or belief and fighting all forms of discrimination, racism, xenophobia, antisemitism and hate speech.

33. Achieving the full integration of Roma in all national policies is a strategic priority of North Macedonia. We are committed to the full implementation of the Roma Inclusion Strategy (2022–2030).

34. North Macedonia pledges to continue to implement measures to promote freedom of expression, including the safety of journalists, and closely monitor the protection of media freedom through the effective implementation of national legislation.

35. We will continue to work on digital transformation by increasing information literacy, in order to deal with fake news and misinformation and prevent abuse of the Internet and social networks.

36. We will continue to advance gender equality and further support women's and girls' empowerment in all spheres of political and social life to achieve the goals of the National Strategy for Gender Equality 2022–2027 and its annual action plans. North Macedonia has adopted a strong legal framework for preventing and combating violence against women and will continue to implement policies and programmes in this regard, in compliance with the relevant international standards.

37. Take necessary efforts to develop, in cooperation with civil society, specific strategic priorities for the full enjoyment of human rights by all LGBTQIA+ persons.

38. North Macedonia pledges to fulfil its second national action plan to implement the United Nations agenda on women and peace and security for the period 2020–2025. North Macedonia is committed to strengthening the role of women in peace and security and the full implementation of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women and peace and security and related Council resolutions.

39. North Macedonia will continue to enhance the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and their equal access to health care, education, employment and recreational activities, which is defined as a priority in the Government's work programme for 2022–2024.

40. Increase the implementation of measures to combat trafficking in human beings, in order to enhance the identification, protection and support of victims, especially women, children and other persons belonging to vulnerable groups, and to foster the prosecution of the perpetrators of such crimes.

41. Enhance the implementation of measures to guarantee the protection of the rights of migrants, refugees, asylum-seekers and temporarily displaced persons.