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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 20 September 2024 from the Permanent Mission of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

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

The Permanent Mission of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [60/251](#), transmits herewith the voluntary pledges and commitments of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, confirming its commitment to the promotion and protection of individual and collective human rights, in the framework of international law, international human rights law and the Charter of the United Nations (see annex). The Mission requests that the present note verbale and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.



Annex to the note verbale dated 20 September 2024 from the Permanent Mission of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Candidature of the Plurinational State of Bolivia to the Human Rights Council for the term 2025–2027

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

I. Introduction

1. The Plurinational State of Bolivia, reaffirming its commitment to the protection, promotion and enjoyment of human rights, presents its candidature to the Human Rights Council for the term 2025–2027, at the elections to be held in October 2024, in the General Assembly.
2. Bolivia, in its institutional structure, recognizes the existence of diverse nations and peoples, hence the strong emphasis on respect and equality among all who live in the territory, under the development model of “living well” in harmony with Mother Earth.
3. As part of its international commitments with respect to human rights, the promotion of multilateralism and cooperation among States, Bolivia recognizes the Human Rights Council as the ideal forum for respectful dialogue and international cooperation on human rights.
4. During its membership of the Human Rights Council for the term 2021–2023, Bolivia participated constructively and contributed to the Council’s work, in strict compliance with international human rights law and the Charter of the United Nations. It also had the honour to serve as Vice-President of the Council in 2023.

II. Cooperation with international human rights mechanisms

5. The Plurinational State of Bolivia, as a founding member of the United Nations, has been committed since the Organization’s establishment to the tenets of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, fundamental instruments of international law and international human rights law. As part of its international responsibility for human rights, it is a party to the main international instruments, including:
 - the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Optional Protocol thereto
 - the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
 - the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and the Optional Protocol thereto
 - the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance
 - the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the Optional Protocol thereto
 - the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

- the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
- the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the three Optional Protocols thereto
- the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Optional Protocol thereto

6. In addition, Bolivia recognizes the competence of the various monitoring bodies to hear individual petitions, including the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee against Torture.

7. Bolivia has also participated actively in the universal periodic review process, making great efforts to implement the recommendations accepted during previous cycles, and is currently preparing its fourth national report.

8. During its membership of the Human Rights Council, it sponsored landmark resolutions on the rights of Indigenous Peoples; economic, social and cultural rights; the right to development; the rights of women and girls; and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. In addition, in 2023, Bolivia sponsored the resolution establishing the working group on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas.

III. Human rights in the Plurinational State of Bolivia

9. In its Constitution, Bolivia defines itself as a social unitary State of communitarian plurinational law, and recognizes political, economic, legal, cultural and linguistic pluralism. The plurinational character of the State is based on the recognition of the pre-existence of Indigenous, original and campesino nations and peoples.

10. To ensure the full exercise of the human rights of Bolivian men and women, international treaties and instruments on human rights signed, ratified or acceded to by the Plurinational State of Bolivia that provide for more favourable rights than the Constitution itself take precedent, thereby integrating international instruments into the Bolivian legal system.

Combating racism and discrimination

11. Bolivia prohibits and punishes all forms of discrimination based on gender, cultural identity, sexual orientation and religion, among others. The Constitution guarantees equal opportunities and respect for the rights of all persons without distinction.

12. Act No. 045 against racism and all forms of discrimination is one of the fundamental pillars of efforts to combat racism and discrimination. It provides for sanctions for discriminatory and racist acts committed in various domains, including public and private institutions. It also provides for preventive and punitive measures, such as the creation of anti-racism units in ministries and government offices.

13. The Multisectoral Comprehensive Development Plan for Living Well – Against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination 2021–2025 is a comprehensive Bolivian strategy that sets out the actions of different government sectors to combat racism and

discrimination under the “living well” model, which promotes development in harmony with nature and fair and equitable coexistence among the country’s diverse cultures and peoples.

Protection of Indigenous Peoples

14. Bolivia is a State that recognizes the pre-existence of Indigenous Peoples and their right to self-determination. The Indigenous, original and campesino nations and peoples have the right to autonomy and self-government and to maintain their culture and traditions within the framework of the State.

15. Indigenous Peoples have specific rights, including access to their lands and protection of their traditional knowledge, medicine and cultural practices, as well as the right to prior consultation concerning exploitation of natural resources in their territories.

- The right of Indigenous Peoples to self-governance in their territories has been recognized through the creation of autonomous Indigenous communities, which have the power to manage their own resources, practices and government structures according to their traditions and customs.
- Indigenous Peoples are granted rights over their ancestral territories, known as original community lands or campesino original Indigenous territories. These territories are inalienable, imprescriptible and indivisible.
- The State is required to carry out prior, free and informed consultations with Indigenous Peoples when planning activities that may affect their territories and resources, in particular with respect to the exploitation of natural resources.
- The right of Indigenous Peoples to maintain, develop and transmit their own cultures, languages, traditions and justice systems is protected and promoted.
- The Constitution provides that Indigenous Peoples have the right to direct representation in the Plurinational Legislative Assembly, which means reserved seats for Indigenous representatives. This measure ensures that Indigenous Peoples are involved in political decision-making at the local, regional and national levels.

16. Act No. 073 on jurisdictional demarcation establishes the limits and relations between the Indigenous, original and campesino justice system and the ordinary justice system. The objective is to avoid conflicts of jurisdiction and to regulate the coexistence of both systems within the framework of legal pluralism.

Gender equality

17. The Bolivian Constitution sets forth fundamental principles for gender equality, including parity and alternation in political participation, and prohibits discrimination based on sex, sexual orientation and other grounds. It also promotes the equal participation of women in the political and social life of the country.

18. The comprehensive act on guaranteeing women a life free from violence (Act No. 348) is a milestone in Bolivian legislation as it establishes a comprehensive framework for preventing, punishing and eradicating violence against women. It recognizes multiple forms of violence, such as physical, psychological, sexual and economic violence, guarantees protection for victims and sanctions for perpetrators, and provides for the establishment of specialized centres to care for and support affected women.

19. The act establishes parity and alternation as fundamental principles for guaranteeing the equal participation of men and women in public office. Currently,

52 per cent of members of the Plurinational Legislative Assembly are women, which not only represents an advance in gender equity, but has also enabled issues related to equality, gender-based violence, women's labour rights and other matters that directly affect women in the country to be addressed in greater depth. Such representation has led to more inclusive policies and an increased focus on historically neglected issues.

20. The act on political harassment and violence against women is intended to combat political harassment and violence faced by women in or seeking public office. The act recognizes political violence as an obstacle to women's participation and establishes sanctions for those who perpetrate such violence, thereby protecting the right of women to exercise political functions free of discrimination or violence. It is a unique example at the international level.

21. The State has established policies aimed at decolonization and dismantling the patriarchy, in order to eliminate gender-based power structures that perpetuate inequality and violence against women, and to promote a model of coexistence based on mutual respect and equity.

Economic, social and cultural rights

22. The Bolivian Constitution guarantees every person the right to decent work, health, education and access to basic services, such as water and electricity. The Constitution also highlights the right to a healthy environment, social security and the promotion of the common good.

- Bolivia has succeeded in reducing extreme poverty considerably in recent decades, thanks to wealth redistribution policies, including increases in the minimum wage, targeted social programmes and economic reforms that have had a positive impact on the middle class. Such measures have enabled millions of Bolivians to escape poverty and improve their living conditions, while the country focuses on strengthening equity and social justice.
- The Bolivian State has implemented several social programmes that have been instrumental in combating poverty and social exclusion. They include the Juana Azurduy voucher scheme, aimed at vulnerable mothers to improve child health and nutrition; the Juancito Pinto voucher scheme, an economic incentive aimed at reducing school dropout rates; and Renta Dignidad, a non-contributory pension that is intended to improve the living conditions of people over the age of 60 and help combat poverty in old age.
- Access to education in Bolivia has improved significantly, with the Plurinational State guaranteeing free and universal education from primary to university level, with a budget allocation of 8 per cent of gross domestic product. The implementation of intercultural, intracultural and multilingual education, including Indigenous languages, was important for the inclusion and recognition of the knowledge and wisdom of Indigenous Peoples in the educational system. In addition, thanks to the successful literacy programme “Yo, sí puedo” (Yes, I can), Bolivia was declared free of illiteracy in 2008.
- The establishment of the single health system in 2019 was a breakthrough in universal health coverage in Bolivia, ensuring free access to basic medical services for the entire population. The system has led to a significant reduction in maternal and infant mortality, in particular in rural areas, and the expansion of health infrastructure, improving disease prevention and treatment.
- Labour rights in Bolivia have improved with policies that protect workers and promote decent working conditions. The minimum wage has increased steadily over the past decade, improving the income of workers in the formal sector. In

addition, laws have been implemented to protect workers against unfair dismissal and strengthen the rights of domestic workers. Programmes have also been launched to generate employment for young people and in rural areas, by promoting training and the creation of job opportunities.

- Access to housing has been a priority for the State, in particular for the most vulnerable. In addition, access to basic services, such as drinking water, electricity and sanitation, has been improved, with a particular focus on rural areas and low-income communities.
- Bolivia has implemented policies to strengthen local agricultural production and reduce reliance on imports, with the aim of achieving food sovereignty. Through food security programmes and agricultural subsidies, the State has supported smallholders in rural and Indigenous areas, promoting sustainable family farming that contributes to improving the country's food security and rural development.

IV. Voluntary pledges

23. As a member of the Human Rights Council for the term 2025–2027, the Plurinational State of Bolivia will continue to contribute to strengthening the international human rights system and the work of the Council, based on the principles of universality, indivisibility, objectivity and non-selectivity set forth in General Assembly resolution [60/251](#), through the following pledges:

- Promoting constructive and respectful dialogue in the Human Rights Council, fostering international cooperation and technical assistance in the field of human rights, and respecting the Charter of the United Nations and the sovereignty of countries.
- Supporting the universal periodic review process and the work of the special procedures and the regional human rights protection mechanisms.
- Promoting and supporting initiatives to combat all forms of violence and discrimination against women, Indigenous Peoples, campesinos and other historically excluded groups, and promoting the rights of children and the right to food, water, sanitation and a healthy environment.
- Strengthening the monitoring of progress and proposals concerning efficiencies and rationalization of the Human Rights Council, taking into account the results achieved in 2023.
- Advancing measures and suggestions aimed at preventing sexual and gender-based harassment and promoting the equal participation of women in the activities of the Human Rights Council.
- Strengthening multilateralism and cooperation as tools for the promotion and protection of human rights.
- Promoting policies aimed at decolonization and dismantling the patriarchy, with a view to “living well”, and enhancing the principles and values of ancestral cultures.

24. The Plurinational State of Bolivia would appreciate receiving your valuable support for its candidature to the Human Rights Council for the term 2025–2027, in order to promote and strengthen respect for the human rights of all, in particular the rights of children, women, Indigenous Peoples and Mother Earth.