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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 22 July 2020 from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the General Assembly and has the honour to refer to the candidature of Ukraine to the Human Rights Council for the term 2021–2023, at the elections to be held during the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly.

In view of the above, and in accordance with General Assembly resolution [60/251](#), the Permanent Mission transmits herewith a statement of the voluntary commitments and pledges of Ukraine on human rights, reaffirming its commitment to the promotion of and respect for all human rights and its active engagement in the work of the Human Rights Council (see annex).

The Permanent Mission would like to request that the present note verbale and its annex be circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

* [A/75/150](#).



Annex to the note verbale dated 22 July 2020 from the Permanent Mission of Ukraine to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Candidature of Ukraine to the Human Rights Council (2021–2023)

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

1. As a founding member of the United Nations and a responsible partner in international cooperation, Ukraine is strongly committed to the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, and strictly adheres to its international commitments under these and other international instruments in the field of human rights.
2. Ukraine is an active participant in the work of the human rights treaty bodies of the United Nations system and is a party to the main United Nations human rights instruments, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its optional protocols, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.
3. Ukraine has actively contributed to the establishment of the Human Rights Council and to its activities ever since, and is committed to ensuring the effectiveness of the Council and its mechanisms, and its leading role in addressing human rights violations and promoting human rights worldwide. Ukraine considers the Human Rights Council as the main United Nations organ to respond promptly, effectively and in a timely and adequate manner to serious human rights violations, and supports efforts aimed at its further strengthening.
4. Ukraine strongly believes that human rights violations are often among the major precursors to threats to peace. Bearing that in mind, since 2010, Ukraine has been consistently and regularly promoting in the Human Rights Council the initiative on the role of prevention of human rights violations, with the dedicated support of a core group of States. The relevant Council resolutions entitled “The role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights” (resolutions [14/5](#) of 17 June 2010, [18/13](#) of 29 September 2011, [24/16](#) of 27 September 2013, [33/6](#) of 29 September 2016 and [42/6](#) of 26 September 2019) were adopted by consensus.
5. As a country that continues to suffer from the Russian armed aggression, Ukraine is focusing on the human rights situation in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. It has been Ukraine’s firm standpoint, as expressed in the provisions of General Assembly resolution [68/262](#) of 27 March 2014 entitled “Territorial integrity of Ukraine”, resolutions [71/205](#) of 19 December 2016, [72/190](#) of 19 December 2017, [73/263](#) of 22 December 2018 and [74/168](#) of 18 December 2019 entitled “Situation of human rights in the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine”, and also resolutions [73/194](#) of 17 December 2018 and [74/17](#) of 9 December 2019 entitled “Problem of the militarization of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol, Ukraine, as well as parts of the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov”, which are instrumental in political and legal terms.
6. Ukraine has been working closely with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and her Office, including with the Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, which has been operating at the invitation of the Government of Ukraine since mid-March 2014. The primary objective of the Mission, as envisaged in Article IV of the Agreement between the Office of the United Nations High

Commissioner for Human Rights and the Government of Ukraine of 31 July 2014, is to “monitor the human rights situation in the country, with particular attention to the Autonomous Republic of Crimea, Eastern and Southern regions of Ukraine, and provide regular, accurate and public reports by the High Commissioner on the human rights situation and emerging concerns and risks”.

7. While our primary focus is on the humanitarian consequences of the Russian aggression, Ukraine continues to further promote the proper protection of the rights of all persons living across its territory within internationally recognized borders. As an active advocate of gender equality, the empowerment of women and overcoming gender stereotypes, Ukraine participates in United Nations deliberations on these issues, including in the Security Council debates on women and peace and security. In particular, as an elected member of the Security Council, Ukraine co-sponsored the landmark resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women and peace and security, reaffirming the important role of women in prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peacebuilding, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and post-conflict resolution. Furthermore, Ukraine duly implements the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, in particular by carrying out national programmes and projects. Ukraine is a participant in the Group of Friends of Women, Peace and Security .

8. Ukraine is actively engaged in international cooperation on sustainable development aimed at comprehensively addressing the challenges of environmental protection, social development and economic growth at the global, regional, and national levels, and in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development from a human rights perspective.

9. As part of its active cooperation with the Human Rights Council universal periodic review mechanism, Ukraine has undergone three successful review cycles, in 2008, 2012 and 2017.

10. As a member of the Human Rights Council, Ukraine submits itself fully to the universal periodic review and undertakes the following voluntary commitments and pledges.

11. Within the Human Rights Council and the United Nations system, Ukraine will:
- Strive to promote objectivity and non-selectivity in the functioning of the Council
 - Engage in a constructive and transparent human rights dialogue with States and non-governmental organizations
 - Continue to support the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
 - Further contribute to developing the modalities of the universal periodic review and to institutional strengthening of the Council
 - Cooperate constructively with Member States in reforming the United Nations treaty body system
 - Further promote the initiative on the role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights
 - Continue interaction with the relevant stakeholders to ensure effective protection and promotion of human rights in armed conflict situations
 - Seek to increase support for initiatives and resolutions aimed at protecting children’s rights
 - Further support activities that promote gender equality, and combat violence against women and international trafficking in human beings

- Continue to cooperate with the United Nations special procedures mandate holders
 - Cooperate with Member States to ensure that the Human Rights Council is actively engaged in multilateral endeavours aimed at shaping a human rights-compliant response to address the negative impact of public emergencies, including the current coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic
 - Ensure that measures taken to address the negative impact of public emergencies are in full compliance with States' obligations and commitments under applicable international human rights law.
12. At the bilateral level, Ukraine will:
- Actively cooperate with States – irrespective of their membership in the Council – in order to reflect their views with regard to the ongoing deliberations within the Council
 - Facilitate the interaction between the Council and individual countries
 - Ensure that the Council provides advisory services, technical assistance and capacity-building in consultation with, and with the consent of, the States concerned.
13. Domestically, Ukraine will:
- Continue to promote a human rights-based approach through a better integration of human rights, both in the decision-making process and in policy implementation
 - Continue to strengthen a close engagement and partnership between the Government and civil society in promoting and protecting human rights
 - Aim at establishing an efficient mechanism for protecting human rights and freedoms in Ukraine and settling systemic issues in this realm, including through drafting the national human rights strategy for the period 2021–2023 and an action plan to implement the strategy
 - Further facilitate transparent dialogue between the Government, civil society and the media in promoting public policies that guarantee respect for human rights and the improvement of human rights nationally
 - Ensure effective protection and promotion of the rights of national minorities and indigenous peoples
 - Further strengthen activities that protect children's rights and advance women's rights and gender equality
 - Implement reforms so as to reinforce the protection of human rights and the democratic functioning of the country's institutions in line with international standards
 - Continue to focus efforts on the promotion of equal and full participation of women in decision-making, in particular in the areas of national security, conflict prevention and resolution, peacebuilding and peacekeeping, as well as on protection of the rights of women and the most vulnerable groups, including children, girls, persons with disabilities, older persons, internally displaced persons, refugees and migrants
 - Implement relevant laws and develop further policies to combat violence against women and girls in all its forms
 - Uphold the independence of the national human rights institution, including through an effective national preventive mechanism.