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

Letter dated 13 September 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

I have the honour to inform you that the Government of the State of Eritrea has decided to present its candidature to the Human Rights Council for the period 2022–2024 for one of the seats allocated to the African States in the elections to be held in October 2021. The Executive Council of the African Union endorsed Eritrea's candidature for the Human Rights Council during its thirty-eighth ordinary session.

In this regard, the Government of the State of Eritrea has the honour to transmit its statement of voluntary pledges and commitments for the promotion and protection of human rights in accordance with General Assembly resolution [60/251](#) (see annex). Eritrea will accelerate its efforts to realize the pledges that it made during the election for its current membership.

I would be grateful if you could have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

(Signed) Sophia **Tesfamariam**
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

* [A/76/150](#).



Annex to the letter dated 13 September 2021 from the Permanent Representative of Eritrea to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Candidature of Eritrea to the Human Rights Council, 2022–2024

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

I. Introduction

1. Eritrea is seeking re-election for membership of the Human Rights Council (2022–2024) in the election to be held in October 2021. The Executive Council of the African Union endorsed the candidature of Eritrea to the Human Rights Council during its thirty-eighth ordinary session.

2. During its current membership in the Human Rights Council, Eritrea has made an earnest effort to fulfil its obligations under the international and regional treaty bodies. As part of its commitment to effective implementation and monitoring, it fulfilled its reporting obligations and participated in the following treaty body reviews:

- Submitted its sixth periodic report under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and participated in the review process during the 1755th and 1756th meetings of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, held on 14 February 2020
- Submitted its combined fifth and sixth periodic report under the Convention on the Rights of the Child to the Committee on the Rights of the Child and is waiting to participate in the Committee's review
- Engaged with the Human Rights Committee for a review, conducted on 12 and 13 March 2019, providing oral responses and additional information to the questions and observations related to the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- Submitted its national report to the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child
- Finalized the preparation of its periodic report on the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights (2017–2020)

3. Eritrea continued to consolidate its efforts to mainstream human rights in its national development programmes by accelerating its commitments under the universal periodic review. Eritrea presented its report under the third cycle of the universal periodic review during the thirty-second session of the Human Rights Council in 2019 and accepted 131 new recommendations.

4. Consistent with its commitment to promoting and protecting human rights, Eritrea is a party to the core regional and international human rights instruments, including the following:

- International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
- International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights
- Convention on the Rights of the Child, including the two optional protocols thereto

- Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
- International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
- Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- Forced Labour Convention, 1930 (No. 29)
- Freedom of Association and Protection of the Right to Organise Convention, 1948 (No. 87)
- Right to Organise and Collective Bargaining Convention, 1949 (No. 98)
- Equal Remuneration Convention, 1951 (No. 100)
- Abolition of Forced Labour Convention, 1957 (No. 105)
- Discrimination (Employment and Occupation) Convention, 1958 (No. 111)
- Minimum Age Convention, 1973 (No. 138)
- Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, 1999 (No. 182)

5. In the past three years, Eritrea has made an active contribution to the effectiveness of the Human Rights Council. If re-elected, Eritrea will continue to redouble its efforts to protect and promote human rights at the national and international levels and contribute to strengthening the work of the Council.

6. In accordance with resolution 60/251, in which the General Assembly established the Human Rights Council, and with due regard to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Charter of the United Nations and all other international and regional human rights instruments to which Eritrea is a party, Eritrea hereby presents its voluntary pledges below.

II. Protecting and promoting human rights at the national level

7. Eritrea is a safe, peaceful and stable nation with remarkable harmony among its diverse population. Its evolving political system seeks to foster the broadest possible participation of its citizens at home and abroad, at all levels and in all of the nation's affairs. In addition, Eritrea is working to build a justice system based on a body of laws, including the supreme law of the land.

8. Eritrea is committed to sustained and equitable development that supports the material, social and cultural aspirations of the people, particularly the youth. After years of difficulty, the foundation for broad-based growth is being laid on the basis of lessons learned. As many who have partnered with it will attest, Eritrea makes judicious and effective use of available resources. National ownership and national responsibility are the pillars of its approach to the endeavours of nation-building. In this regard, Eritrea pledges to:

(a) Accelerate its efforts to complete the people-centred nation-building project of creating a peaceful and prosperous country without discrimination along regional, ethnic, linguistic, religious, gender or class lines, and to ensure macroeconomic stability, strengthen the participatory political system and the rule of law, and create efficient, responsive and transparent institutions;

(b) Foster harmony among different sectors of the country, protect the equal rights of all citizens in law and in practice, and combat and eradicate all forms of discrimination, exclusion and marginalization through increased social and economic investment aimed at expanding opportunities to historically underprivileged areas;

(c) Increase the effectiveness and efficiency of the national coordination body for the universal periodic review, composed of representatives from line ministries and civil society organizations, in order to enable the prompt monitoring and implementation of recommendations;

(d) Ensure the supremacy of and respect for the law, increase the accessibility, efficiency, transparency and accountability of the judicial system and strengthen redress measures at all levels;

(e) Enhance the capacities of law enforcement institutions to ensure human security, combat transnational organized crime and promote the rule of law;

(f) Strive to ensure the equal participation of women in all areas and encourage them to protect and promote their rights by organizing among themselves and, in that regard, accelerate the implementation of the national gender action plan aimed at empowering women and combating and eradicating all forms of violence against women;

(g) Further expand opportunities for persons with disabilities to live in dignity, become self-sufficient and contribute to the society in which they live;

(h) Mainstream regional and international human rights instruments to which Eritrea is a party into its national programmes and institutions on the basis of national priorities and context.

III. Promoting international partnerships and dialogue on human rights

9. Eritrea is a modest regional and global actor that engages independently, constructively and consciously. Eritrea believes in solidarity among nations and peoples and in genuine and mutually beneficial partnerships.

10. Eritrea further believes that international engagement in the promotion and protection of human rights should strengthen the capacity of States to fulfil their national priorities and international obligations. The international community should address conditions that impede the full enjoyment of all human rights. Discussions on human rights cannot be meaningful without addressing poverty, instability, occupation and unjustified sanctions that severely impact peoples' rights to peace, harmony and development. In this respect, Eritrea pledges to:

(a) Expand its regional and international engagement in order to foster mutual understanding, resolve conflicts and promote peace, development and respect for human dignity and to advocate for the balanced and timely implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(b) Continue its active engagement in regional and international forums in order to promote genuine and constructive dialogue, based on the principle that human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated;

(c) Fulfil its reporting obligations in respect of regional and international human rights mechanisms and develop a framework to map the timely submission of its seventh periodic reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Right of the Child, its fourth national report to the African Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child and its report under the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review to the Human Rights Council;

(d) Continue its engagement and technical cooperation with development agencies and United Nations entities, including the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

(e) Expedite the ratification of relevant human rights instruments;

(f) Advocate for the protection of migrant rights, enhance the contribution of migrants to countries of origin and destination and strengthen international cooperation to combat the smuggling of migrants and trafficking in persons;

(g) Enhance its cooperation with the mechanisms of the Council by facilitating visits of the special procedures mandate holders, to whom it has already extended an invitation.

IV. Advocating for an effective and credible Human Rights Council

11. Human rights are universal, indivisible, interdependent and interrelated and all human rights should be treated equally. Eritrea believes that dialogue and cooperation enhance the effectiveness of global human rights mechanisms. Conversely, confrontation, double standards and politicization contribute to polarization and the erosion of the credibility of human rights mechanisms. As a current member of the Human Rights Council, Eritrea has been working with members of the Council and the broad membership of the United Nations for the principled implementation of United Nations human rights declarations, action plans, conventions and resolutions. If re-elected, Eritrea will intensify its engagements and contribution for a Council that serves the interests of every person. Eritrea wishes to reaffirm its commitments and further pledges to:

(a) Work towards a more effective and credible Council and conduct inclusive, cross-regional and transparent dialogue on the protection and promotion of human rights across all countries and regions;

(b) Advocate equal treatment by the Council in its deliberations and decisions with regard to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights;

(c) Undertake further steps to strengthen support and cooperation in respect of the universal periodic review, recognizing it as the most effective mechanism to promote human rights through dialogue and technical assistance;

(d) Advocate meaningful participation by the least developed countries in the universal periodic review and human rights treaty bodies through technical and financial assistance and the mainstreaming of reporting obligations;

(e) Encourage and support constructive contributions from non-governmental organizations and civil society organizations;

(f) Advocate and work to enhance the capacity of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide technical support to Member States.