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Agenda item 114 (c)

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

**Letter dated 15 September 2023 from the Permanent Representative
of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the
Secretary-General**

I have the honour to transmit herewith a position paper in connection with the candidature of the Russian Federation for election to the Human Rights Council for the period 2024–2026 at the elections to be held during the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly under agenda item 114 (c).

(Signed) V. Nebenzia



Annex to the letter dated 15 September 2023 from the Permanent Representative of the Russian Federation to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

Candidature of the Russian Federation for election to the Human Rights Council for the period 2024–2026

Voluntary pledges and commitments submitted in accordance with General Assembly resolution [60/251](#)

1. The Russian Federation regards the Human Rights Council as a key body within the United Nations system, called upon, through its work, to encourage the development of constructive inter-State cooperation on human rights protection and to promote the strengthening of the international human rights system on the basis of justice and equality of rights, in accordance with the purposes and principles embodied in the Charter of the United Nations.
2. The Russian Federation was elected to the Human Rights Council in 2020 and worked actively within that key human rights body until April 2022, when its membership of the Council was suspended through a non-consensual resolution of the General Assembly, adopted on the initiative of the United States of America and its allies.
3. Despite unprecedented pressure on Russia, including in the area of human rights, it has decided to apply to return to the Human Rights Council in the elections to be held in October 2023 during the seventy-eighth session of the General Assembly.
4. Russia considers it important to prevent a further increase in the trend of turning the Human Rights Council into a body that carries out the political orders of one group of countries to punish Governments that have fallen out of favour for pursuing their independent domestic and foreign policies. That is where Russia will focus its efforts if it is elected to the Council. Russia will steadfastly uphold the principles of cooperation and the fostering of a constructive, mutually respectful dialogue among States in the Council in order to find optimal solutions to pressing human rights problems.
5. Russia counts on the support of all States Members of the United Nations and a vote in favour of the candidature of Russia in the elections to the Human Rights Council for the period 2024–2026.