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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 18 June 2024 from the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

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

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Cyprus would be grateful if the present note and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 115 (c) of the preliminary list.

* [A/79/50](#).



Annex to the note verbale dated 18 June 2024 from the Permanent Mission of Cyprus to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Candidature of Cyprus to the Human Rights Council, 2025–2027

Voluntary pledges and commitments pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/251

1. The Republic of Cyprus presents its first candidature to the Human Rights Council, for the period 2025–2027. In line with General Assembly resolution 60/251, Cyprus introduces herewith its voluntary pledges and commitments.
2. Cyprus's position on human rights is guided by the fundamental principles that all human beings are born equal in dignity and life, and that human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated and mutually reinforcing.
3. Cyprus is a staunch supporter of the Charter of the United Nations. It strongly advocates the universality of human rights as a guiding principle for peace, stability, equality, cooperation and the promotion of dialogue among States.
4. Cyprus is resolutely committed to the advancement of multilateralism and to upholding all three pillars of the Charter. It is a fervent proponent of an international order based on the rule of law and on the promotion of respect to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights for all on an equal footing.
5. Cyprus remains steadfast in its long-standing commitment to protecting and promoting human rights, both domestically and within the framework of the United Nations, having acceded to the core United Nations human rights treaties and European human rights-related instruments. Cyprus perceives the Human Rights Council as an integral part of the international community in addressing existing human rights violations and preventing those of the future, as well as a vital component of the United Nations system in safeguarding the value of multilateralism and international cooperation.
6. As an observer State, Cyprus has actively participated in the deliberations of the Council in a constructive manner and will continue to do so if elected.
7. In this regard, Cyprus is ready to assume its responsibilities and is committed to working relentlessly for the protection and promotion of the rights of all human beings, within the framework of an effective multilateralism and in a spirit of mutual respect, understanding and in good faith. In achieving this goal, Cyprus will be actively engaging with all the Member States of the United Nations and with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as with members of civil society, for the attainment of our shared objective: the strengthening and promotion of human rights, for all.
8. In the international human rights system, Cyprus pledges to:
 - (a) Work closely and constructively with all United Nations Member States and international stakeholders;
 - (b) Continue to provide political support to the mandate of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and its engagement in addressing urgent human rights violations and abuses, while respecting and preserving its independence;
 - (c) Continue to provide voluntary financial support to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;

(d) Continue to cooperate fully with the mechanisms of the Council. To this end, the special procedures, treaty bodies and the universal periodic review are indispensable elements in enhancing the effectiveness of the international human rights protective system;

(e) Uphold the standing invitation to all special procedure mandate holders and facilitate country visits as effectively as possible;

(f) Enhance effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system by creating conditions conducive to result-oriented dialogues;

(g) Actively participate in universal periodic review dialogues and offer constructive recommendations aiming towards promoting human rights at the national level;

(h) Closely cooperate with civil society, human rights defenders and national human rights institutions, thus protecting an inclusive and open civic space and promoting their meaningful participation to human rights dialogues;

(i) Protect and further develop human rights around the world and preserve the fundamental civil and political rights of all persons;

(j) Actively engage in the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights;

(k) Work to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, acknowledging that the Goals are intrinsically linked to the achievement of the human rights agenda;

(l) Promote a human rights-based approach in addressing technological advancements, particularly in the fields of artificial intelligence, cybersecurity and misinformation;

(m) Continue to promote a human rights-based approach to climate change, as a way of redressing climate impacts and further advancing international solidarity.

9. Domestically, Cyprus pledges to:

(a) Ratify the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights regarding complaints from individuals in cases of violations of the Covenant;

(b) Examine the possibility of acceding to other pending international human rights instruments;

(c) Take concrete and structured actions to implement recommendations received and supported by Cyprus during the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review in April 2024;

(d) Safeguard and further promote freedom of expression and media pluralism. We will continue ensuring the protection of journalists, media agents, human rights defenders and civil society actors;

(e) Promote the rights of women. We will continue to advocate the criminalization of femicide, combat trafficking and provide tangible assistance to women who are victims of trafficking or domestic violence;

(f) Step up efforts to achieve gender equality through the further deconstruction of gender stereotypes and the closing of the gender pay gap by ensuring the application of the principle of equal remuneration for women and men workers;

(g) Continue efforts aiming at mainstreaming gender in all State programmes and policies, through the implementation of the National Strategy for Gender Equality 2024–2026;

(h) Accelerate action to tackle discrimination against women by combating sexist behaviour and sexual harassment in the workplace;

(i) Continue to effectively implement the Council of Europe Convention on Preventing and Combating Violence against Women and Domestic Violence;

(j) Strive to protect and promote the rights of the child, without discrimination. We will work towards ensuring that all children, particularly girls, children with disabilities and children in vulnerable situations, have equal opportunities for quality education. We will also focus on protecting the rights and promoting the welfare of victimized children;

(k) Prioritize the best interests of the child when addressing juvenile delinquency. We pledge to advance the promotion of a child-friendly justice system and implement alternative measures to detention;

(l) Promote the dignity, social inclusion and welfare of persons with disabilities by increasing employment opportunities through new schemes offering access to employment and enhancing independent living;

(m) Enhance cultural dialogue and uphold the right of everyone to take part in cultural life, including the ability to access and enjoy cultural heritage, as a means of promoting understanding and respect, thus defying the obstacles of discrimination and exclusion;

(n) Continue to reach out to the elderly with protection and social care services and address challenges, such as the low participation of adults in lifelong learning;

(o) Safeguard the rights of migrants, including by combating racism and discrimination and promoting migrants' social integration;

(p) Accelerate action to tackle discrimination against migrants by advancing respect and tolerance through education and social integration;

(q) Adopt a national strategy specifically on the rights of LGBTIQ+ persons and accelerate efforts to prevent discrimination, hostility and violence against persons because of their sexual orientation and gender identity;

(r) Pay due diligence in identifying vulnerabilities and providing the needful to persons in vulnerable situations, without any exclusion;

(s) Strive to effectively protect the right to health by ensuring equal access to health and health-care services for all.