



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-fourth session

Item 116 (c) of the preliminary list\*

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

### **Note verbale dated 12 June 2019 from the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations presents its compliments to the President of the General Assembly and has the honour to refer to the candidature of the Government of the Republic of Iraq to the Human Rights Council for the term 2020–2022, at the elections to be held in New York in 2019.

The Permanent Mission has the further honour to attach hereto the voluntary pledges and commitments of the Government of the Republic of Iraq regarding its candidature for re-election to the Human Rights Council for the term 2020–2022 (see annex), by which the Government reaffirms its belief in the universality of human rights and its unwavering commitment to its principles, in terms of upholding the highest standards in the promotion and the protection of human rights and full cooperation with the Council and its members, in accordance with General Assembly resolution [60/251](#).

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq should be grateful if you would have the present note and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly.

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\* [A/74/50](#).



## **Annex to the note verbale dated 12 June 2019 from the Permanent Mission of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

### **Candidature of Iraq to the Human Rights Council, 2020–2022**

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

1. The Government of the Republic of Iraq is seeking to maintain an active role in the Human Rights Council, based on full cooperation and effective dialogue, to promote and protect universal rights and consolidate respect for human rights and individual freedoms around the world. In this regard, the Government of Iraq has the great honour to submit its voluntary pledges and commitments regarding its candidature for re-election to the Human Rights Council, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 60/251.

#### **International pledges and commitments**

2. Iraq reiterates its full support for the universal periodic review as one of the most important mechanisms and essential means of the Human Rights Council for promoting, protecting and improving human rights situations impartially and professionally around the world.

3. Iraq strives to ensure harmony among cultures, religions and civilizations through respect, tolerance and solidarity and to eliminate hate speech and disrespect for any kind of cultural differences.

4. Iraq emphasizes the role of civil society organizations and other stakeholders as main partners in developing the work of the Human Rights Council and will continue to permit those partners to address the Council on human rights issues.

5. Iraq supports concrete efforts towards achieving justice and equality in human rights through the protection of human dignity and values from all forms of discrimination, violence and persecution, as stipulated in the Constitution of Iraq of 2005, and in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

6. Iraq promotes international initiatives that seek to end all forms of discrimination and restrictions on the rights of persons with disabilities, women, the elderly and the poor in order to safeguard their rights and create an equal basis for them in all aspects.

7. Iraq is committed to implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals by building the resilience of the poor and strengthening disaster risk reduction, promoting welfare and better life opportunities for young people, persons with disabilities, women and children, in addition to improving the quality of education and providing free health care and decent housing for all individuals.

8. Iraq reiterates its belief in the principles of open and transparent consultations and full cooperation among States Members of the United Nations to further enhance the promotion and protection of human rights, with full respect for cultural, religious and ethnic diversity.

9. Iraq will continue to work constructively in cooperation with all members of the Human Rights Council to provide the necessary assistance to Member States in fulfilling their obligations under international humanitarian law and international treaties and conventions relating to human rights.

10. Iraq reiterates its belief in the universality of human rights and its unwavering commitment to its principles, in terms of upholding the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights, in accordance with the mandate of the Human Rights Council.

11. Iraq will exert further concrete efforts to support the work of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to fulfil her mandate and will continue to coordinate with her Office in a positive and efficient manner.

12. Iraq encourages initiatives by the Human Rights Council for exchanging experiences, technical cooperation and capacity-building programmes to overcome the challenges and obstacles faced by Member States.

### **National pledges and commitments**

13. Iraq will continue to provide full support to national human rights institutions, which guarantee the promotion and protection of human rights. In this regard, Iraq established the High Commission for Human Rights under article 102 of its Constitution and Law No. 53 (2008) on the High Commission for Human Rights, which are in compliance with the Paris Principles, as the first Iraqi national body monitoring the work of government institutions, in addition to having a broad mandate that includes conducting human rights investigations, accepting individual complaints and monitoring the international commitment of Iraq to fostering and enforcing human rights principles.

14. Despite the difficult circumstances surrounding its war on terrorism, Iraq has not declared a state of emergency, to ensure the continuation of the work of legislative, executive and judicial institutions and uphold their constitutionally guaranteed authorities, and to protect individual and collective fundamental freedoms and rights.

15. Iraq has worked on women's empowerment and gender equality through the launch of a national action plan (2014–2018), in accordance with Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#) on women and peace and security. Iraq thus became the first country in the Middle East and North Africa to develop a national plan in line with the resolution.

16. Iraq fulfils its international obligations by submitting periodic and binding reports to the Human Rights Council. Iraq submitted its national report for the universal periodic review in 2014 and is now preparing to submit its second report, in 2019.

17. Iraq believes in transparency and adherence to international human rights standards and principles. Accordingly, it has extended an open invitation to all special rapporteurs and special procedures mandate holders to visit Iraq and to monitor closely the fulfilment of its obligations to promote and protect human rights, despite the difficulties and extraordinary circumstances that Iraq has faced during and after the war on terrorism.

18. Democracy and the peaceful transition of power are the founding principles of the new Iraqi political system, as demonstrated by its full adherence to the constitutional timetables of the parliamentary elections in 2005, 2006, 2010, 2014 and 2018.

19. Iraq is proud of its ethnic and religious diversity and continues to protect this diversity from any kind of violation or heinous crime committed by ISIS, Al-Qaida and other terrorist groups.

20. Iraq signed a joint communiqué with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and launched the joint communiqué action plan in February 2018.

21. The Government of Iraq facilitates all administrative procedures relating to registration for the 3,200 existing civil society organizations, which are considered influential and supportive partners to the Government and which also monitor its work.

22. The Government of Iraq considers children as the future of every society and a main cornerstone for achieving sustainable development. Therefore, it has initiated many national policies, including the establishment of the Child Welfare Commission in 1979, to enhance the well-being and serve the best interests of children, working closely with United Nations bodies, especially the United Nations Children's Fund, to implement the country programme action plan 2016–2019, which strengthens basic social service systems to reach the most vulnerable children affected by conflict and displacement. Iraq has also acceded to the Convention on the Rights of the Child and two of its Optional Protocols and submits national reports in this regard.

23. Iraq is working with international organizations to develop a long-term, multisectoral and inclusive national strategy for young people with a view to enhancing their national affiliation and consolidating their rights. In addition, the Government of Iraq has prepared a plan for the period 2018–2022 to support young people in terms of improving their living standards, protecting them from exploitation and reducing their rate of unemployment.

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