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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 26 May 2021 from the Permanent Mission of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Permanent Mission of Luxembourg to the United Nations has the honour to refer to the candidature of Luxembourg to the Human Rights Council for the period 2022–2024 in the elections to be held in autumn 2021 during the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly.

The protection and promotion of human rights is a key priority for Luxembourg at both the national and the international levels. It was in this context that Luxembourg announced its candidature to the Human Rights Council for the period 2022–2024 back in December 2013. By submitting its candidature to the Council for the first time, Luxembourg, as a founding member of the United Nations, intends to channel its multilateral engagement towards the protection of the rights of all human beings.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution [60/251](#), the Permanent Mission of Luxembourg has the honour to transmit herewith the voluntary pledges and commitments of Luxembourg, which reaffirm the priority that it places on the promotion and defence of human rights (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of Luxembourg would be grateful to the President of the General Assembly if he could have the present note verbale and its annex circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 118 (d).

* [A/76/50](#).



Annex to the note verbale dated 26 May 2021 from the Permanent Mission of Luxembourg to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

[Original: French]

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

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

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is a founding member of the United Nations and is committed to firmly upholding the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the principles of the universality, inalienability, interdependence and indivisibility of all human rights. In accordance with General Assembly resolution [60/251](#), Luxembourg hereby sets forth its voluntary pledges and commitments as a candidate for membership of the Human Rights Council for the period 2022–2024.

Should it have the honour of being elected by the General Assembly to the Human Rights Council for the first time in its history, Luxembourg will undertake to engage in dialogue and cooperate in good faith with all States members and observers of the Council, in the spirit of friendly relations based on respect for the principle of equal rights of peoples; to continue its close cooperation with United Nations human rights mechanisms; and to amplify the voice of civil society, which is essential for the Council's proper functioning.

In line with its commitment to effective multilateralism, with the United Nations at its core, and to an international system based on the rule of law, Luxembourg has identified four priorities for its efforts to promote and protect human rights:

- (1) Support for the rule of law, civic space and human rights defenders, and combating impunity;
- (2) Sustainable development and human rights-based climate action;
- (3) Gender equality and combating discrimination;
- (4) Protection and promotion of children's rights.

In accordance with paragraph 8 of General Assembly resolution [60/251](#) of 15 March 2006, Luxembourg has developed, together with national civil society and national human rights institutions, a set of voluntary pledges and commitments related to the promotion and protection of human rights. The pledges and commitments were also guided by the recommendations made by States Members of the United Nations during the universal periodic review of Luxembourg under the Human Rights Council, as well as by the human rights treaty bodies and special procedure mandate holders.

At the national level, Luxembourg undertakes:

1. To develop, on the basis of the recommendations of national and international civil society, national human rights institutions, United Nations mechanisms and the universal periodic review, a national human rights action plan that encompasses existing thematic action plans; and to continue to implement the recommendations of the human rights treaty bodies and to submit regular reports to them;

2. To continue to implement the recommendations accepted by Luxembourg during its third universal periodic review, in 2018, with the involvement of all relevant ministries and in consultation with civil society and national human rights institutions;
3. To complete the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance;
4. To continue to hold regular consultations with civil society and national human rights institutions, including through the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Rights and its working group on business and human rights, and to report on the implementation of these voluntary pledges and commitments in these institutions;
5. To establish a support platform for human rights defenders;
6. To realize the 17 Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development of the United Nations, through its National Sustainable Development Plan, with the aim of combating poverty and reducing intersecting and multidimensional inequalities, while preserving the planet in the face of climate disruption and biodiversity loss;
7. To provide stakeholders with tools and support to enable them to participate in the implementation of the National Sustainable Development Plan and the 2030 Agenda;
8. To organize, with the support of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, an interactive dialogue on the intergenerational transmission of poverty, and to hold in-depth national discussions on the links between poverty and intersecting and multidimensional inequalities, human rights, climate change, migration, technology and other major trends;
9. To accelerate efforts towards the adoption of a national strategy for the prevention of discrimination and of reforms to equip national human rights institutions and citizens with the skills and resources necessary to effectively combat all forms of discrimination and exclusion, in particular gender-based discrimination and racial and xenophobic discrimination; and to draft a bill establishing a discriminatory motive as an aggravating circumstance attending the commission of a crime;
10. To continue to implement its feminist foreign policy and its “Women and Peace and Security” National Action Plan for the implementation of Security Council resolution [1325 \(2000\)](#);
11. To continue legislative efforts towards the development of a juvenile justice system focused on prevention and restorative justice, in accordance with article 40 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in the context of the revision of the Youth Protection Act and in line with the commitment made by Luxembourg on the occasion of the thirtieth anniversary of the Convention;
12. To draft a law to protect the right of children whose mothers gave birth anonymously and children conceived through medically assisted fertilization to know their origins, with a view to ensuring the full implementation of article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular the right of the child to know his or her parents, bearing in mind the principles of non-discrimination (art. 2) and of consideration of the best interests of the child (art. 3), and to withdraw its reservation to that Convention concerning anonymous births;

13. To draft a law to protect the right of intersex children to physical integrity, autonomy and self-determination by prohibiting surgical and hormonal interventions during childhood without the informed consent of the individual, and to provide adequate counselling and support to families with intersex children;
14. To continue efforts in human rights education and professional training;
15. To strengthen laws on the protection of whistle-blowers, including by fully implementing the directive of the European Parliament and of the Council of the European Union on the protection of persons who report breaches of European Union law.

At the international level, Luxembourg undertakes:

1. To answer the call to action launched on 24 February 2020 to the Human Rights Council by the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, by taking action in the seven areas that he identified to realize the highest aspiration of humanity – human rights;
2. To promote human rights in all international forums by continuing to actively support multilateralism and universal values and by integrating human rights as a cross-cutting issue into its three-dimensional approach combining the tools of diplomacy, development and defence;
3. To maintain its voluntary contributions in order to strengthen the United Nations system and multilateralism as a whole, and advocate sustainable and predictable financing for United Nations human rights mechanisms, especially in the context of combating the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic;
4. To support the strengthening and independence of the United Nations human rights treaty bodies and special procedure mandate holders, and continue to provide both political and financial support to the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;
5. To continue to participate constructively in the universal periodic review by making recommendations to the countries under review;
6. To support the active and meaningful participation of civil society and human rights defenders in the work of the Human Rights Council, including by continuing to contribute to efforts to combat all forms of reprisal against such persons;
7. To support, through its diplomatic work and development cooperation policy and in partnership with national authorities and the United Nations, an independent civil society working for human rights and national human rights institutions;
8. To continue its efforts within the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, the Media Freedom Coalition and the International Partnership for Information and Democracy to strengthen the protection of journalists and support media freedom in accordance with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights;
9. To continue to provide political and financial support to the International Criminal Court and other international criminal justice bodies, in particular United Nations investigative mechanisms;
10. To contribute to the strengthening of peacebuilding and the prevention of conflicts and the most serious crimes of concern to the international

community as a whole by promoting human rights, democracy and the rule of law, implementing the 2030 Agenda and supporting the reforms and initiatives launched by the Secretary-General;

11. To continue to meet the United Nations target of 0.7 per cent and allocate at least 1 per cent of its gross national income to official development assistance, while channelling these funds towards poverty reduction in the least developed countries and adopting a development approach based on multi-stakeholder partnerships, systematically integrating human rights, gender equality and equity, and environmental sustainability into its efforts, with a view to ensuring inclusivity and leaving no one behind;
12. To promote the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas;
13. To protect the universality, inalienability, interdependence and indivisibility of human rights for all, promote gender equality and combat all forms of discrimination, in particular discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity;
14. To combat the pushback against sexual and reproductive health and rights, the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and the rights of refugees and migrants, and continue its efforts to strengthen those rights;
15. To continue to support the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict and engage in efforts to combat sexual and gender-based violence, following on from the international “Stand Speak Rise Up” conference, which was held in Luxembourg in March 2019 as an initiative of the Grand Duchess to support survivors of sexual violence;
16. To continue to systematically promote the rights of children in all international forums and support the work of special procedure mandate holders dealing with the rights of the child, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict and the Committee on the Rights of the Child; to promote the effective participation of children and young people in initiatives that affect them; to promote the Luxembourg Guidelines, which are terminology guidelines for the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse that were adopted in Luxembourg by 18 international organizations in January 2016;
17. To continue its efforts to contribute actively to the promotion of human rights within climate action, including through the development of a road map for human rights-based climate financing.

If elected, Luxembourg will endeavour to contribute effectively and actively to the work of the Human Rights Council during the period 2022–2024. Luxembourg undertakes to protect and promote the rights of all human beings, bearing in mind the purpose set in 1945 in Article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations: “to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion”.