



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-fourth session

Item 116 (c) of the provisional agenda\*

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

### **Note verbale dated 15 July 2019 from the Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

The Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations has the honour to refer to the candidature of Indonesia to the Human Rights Council for the period 2020–2022 at the elections to be held during the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution [60/251](#), the Permanent Mission has the further honour to attach a document setting out the voluntary pledges and commitments made by Indonesia, reaffirming its commitment to the promotion and protection of all human rights (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of Indonesia would be grateful if the present note verbale and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly under item 116 (c) of the provisional agenda.

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\* [A/74/150](#).



## **Annex to the note verbale dated 15 July 2019 from the Permanent Mission of Indonesia to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

### **Candidature of Indonesia 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 Indonesia presents its candidature to the Human Rights Council for the 2020–2022 period, at the election to be held during the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly in New York, in November 2019. Indonesia was last seated in the Human Rights Council during its membership in the 2015–2017.
2. As a country that has been resolute in upholding its constitutional mandate and commitments to implement global norms on human rights, Indonesia underscores the importance of its candidature to the Human Rights Council. Indonesia's 1945 Constitution mandates the Government of Indonesia to contribute actively to the creation of global peace and justice as well as to guarantee the promotion and protection of human rights. Indonesia, therefore, is a firm believer that human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated and interdependent, and that all human rights must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis.
3. From Indonesia's standpoint, human rights are an intrinsic part of our DNA. A country as large, diverse, and archipelagic as Indonesia will not be able to thrive and progress if respect for human rights and the rule of law, as the basic tenets within the fabrics of our society, are not acknowledged and protected. As a democracy with the fourth biggest population in the world, consisting of approximately 260 million people and having six official religions acknowledged by the State while also having the biggest Muslim population in the world, Indonesia is poised, based on its rich experiences, to share valuable lessons on the importance of maintaining unity in diversity within a multilateral setting. Furthermore, the rationale for Indonesia's candidature to the Human Rights Council for the 2020–2022 period, are, inter alia, set out below.

#### **International/multilateral level**

4. Indonesia reaffirms the importance of the work of the Human Rights Council to promote dialogue and international cooperation for the betterment and enhancement of human rights in all countries. To this end, not only was Indonesia a founding member of the Human Rights Council in the period 2006–2007 and was re-elected in the periods 2007–2010, 2011–2014 and 2015–2017, but it is also committed to continue rendering its active engagement and support in the future work of the Council.
5. Indonesia consistently holds the view that advancing the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide, in line with the principles of the establishment of the Human Rights Council, must be based on the principles of objectivity, impartiality, non-politicization and non-selectivity. In this context, Indonesia continues to share its advancement of democracy and human rights at the regional and global levels through triangular and technical cooperation.
6. As a recently elected non-permanent member of the Security Council for the period 2019–2020, Indonesia seeks to bridge the importance of the two Councils. Indonesia strives to enhance the prevention mandate of the Human Rights Council

through cooperation and dialogue before possible conflicts arise. At the same time, Indonesia also provides meaningful insights and contributions to preventing the possible politicization of human rights issues within the Human Rights Council and the Security Council.

7. Indonesia was among the first countries to undergo the third cycle of the universal periodic review. Indonesia is of the view that the universal periodic review is a leading mechanism for the betterment of human rights for all States Members of the United Nations based on equal footing. Indonesia appreciates the constructive contribution of participating States in the universal periodic review dialogue. Taking action on the universal periodic review recommendations is crucial to support the efforts to realize the full enjoyment of human rights for all States Members of the United Nations, including Indonesia.

8. In the same vein, Indonesia has also carried out the voluntary national review of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2017. Indonesia is of the view that the universal periodic review and the voluntary review are mutually reinforcing, with their implementation contributing to the significant betterment of human rights.

9. Indonesia is a member of various human rights initiatives. In the Human Rights Council, Indonesia is part of several core groups of human rights resolutions, such as on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and association, the right to work, the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights, enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights and access to medicine. Indonesia is also an active member of the Convention against Torture Initiative since 2014. Indonesia has also been active in advancing the work of the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission within the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

10. Indonesia continues to implement eight core international human rights instruments and two Optional Protocols to the Convention on the Rights of the Child at the national and subnational levels. In 2017, Indonesia submitted its initial report on the implementation of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families and carried out dialogue with the Committee.

11. Indonesia has engaged proactively with various United Nations human rights mechanisms. In 2017 and 2018, respectively, Indonesia invited and facilitated the visit of a number of special procedures mandate holders, namely, the Special Rapporteur on the right to health and the Special Rapporteur on the right to food. In the beginning of 2018, Indonesia also invited the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to conduct an official visit as well as to participate in a regional dialogue commemorating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Actions. Within these given opportunities, national and subnational human rights stakeholders had active dialogues with the aforementioned special procedures mandate holders and the High Commissioner.

12. Numerous United Nations human rights mechanisms have also visited Indonesia in their private capacity. They attended meetings, seminars and public events in Indonesia organized by Indonesian civil society organizations. To name a few, the Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders are among those who have visited Indonesia for non-official visits. The Deputy High Commissioner for Human

Rights also visited Indonesia and discussed human rights issues with high-level officials in November 2018.

### **Regional and bilateral levels**

13. Indonesia plays a leading role in the efforts to advance human rights causes and address humanitarian issues in the region. This includes Indonesia's leadership in strengthening the role of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) in advancing democracy, fundamental freedoms, and the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular in the establishment of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and the ASEAN Institute for Peace and Reconciliation. Indonesia has also been active in enhancing the role of the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance in responding to the humanitarian crisis in the region.

14. As the third-largest democracy with the world's largest Muslim population, and underpinned by the principle of religious freedom and tolerance, Indonesia is a living proof that democracy and Islam can coexist peacefully and harmoniously. Indonesia also continues to actively promote genuine dialogue to advance human rights causes, including on religious freedom and tolerance, and to broaden understanding among civilizations, cultures and religions through various bilateral, regional and interregional initiatives, including the Bali Democracy Forum and the International Organization for Muslim Scholars. Indonesia also plays an active role in the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, either as a host for the sixth Global Forum of the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations, or as an active contributor in promoting the culture of dialogue, tolerance and cooperation among different civilizations.

15. Indonesia is of the view that human rights should be promoted constructively through dialogue and cooperation. In order to realize such a view, Indonesia engages a number of countries or groups of countries through bilateral human rights dialogues and interfaith dialogues to increase understanding and cooperation among countries in terms of human rights.

### **National level**

16. Since its introduction in 1998, the National Action Plan on Human Rights continues to serve as the national implementation framework on human rights. This five-yearly Action Plan will be entering its fifth generation in 2020. The Government and related civil societies organizations continue to improve and enhance the quality and effectiveness of the framework, including with the latest incorporation of the rights of persons with disabilities.

17. To further strengthen the capacities of government officials and stakeholders at the national and local levels, Indonesia has regularly conducted training and dissemination programmes related to obligations and commitments on human rights. The programmes target a broad range of audiences, including civil servants, law enforcers, students, teachers and community leaders, and address different thematic issues such as juvenile justice, anti-torture initiatives, land property rights, human trafficking, citizenship, and women's and children's rights. This demonstrates Indonesia's inclusive approach to the promotion and protection of human rights.

18. Indonesia has also empowered various mechanisms, including national human rights institutions, as well as engagement with civil society organizations for collective efforts to promote and protect human rights. This has become an integral part of our efforts in strengthening the national check-and-balance mechanism on human rights and in enhancing mutual understanding of the Government's substantive positions and policies on contemporary human rights topics. This further

demonstrates Indonesia's inclusive approach on the promotion and protection of human rights.

19. On the advancement of women's rights, President Joko Widodo is a "HeForShe Impact Champion" and has put forward three agendas to increase women's representation in decision-making; improve maternal health; and end violence against women. Furthermore, Indonesia has a flagship programme entitled Three Ends programme, which focuses on ending: (a) violence against women and children; (b) human trafficking; and (c) barriers to economic justice for women.

20. The promotion and the protection of the rights and well-being of more than 88 million children remains a national priority of Indonesia. The National Action Plan on Human Rights and National Medium-Term Development Plan has laid the road map to protect the rights of the child, which also includes protecting children against violence and discrimination. Indonesia launched The National Strategy on Elimination of Violence against Children to strengthen cross-sector partnership between various government institutions and community organizations, identifying and determining key principles, priority interventions and mechanisms for coordination and monitoring of children. As a pathfinder country in the Global Partnership to End Violence against Children, Indonesia is deeply committed to creating the ecosystem conducive for its children to grow and make contributions to their society and the world through community-based child protection systems, promoting the establishment of family learning centres and children forums at the district level, improving school enrolment at the primary and secondary levels, as well as combatting stunting at the district and village levels.

21. On the rights of persons with disabilities, following the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2011, Indonesia adopted Law No.8/2016 on Persons with Disabilities to replace Law No.4/1997. This Law focuses on strengthening legal and institutional frameworks, as well as improving implementation mechanisms. It has transformed the Government's approach by mainstreaming disability policies and programmes in relevant ministries/bodies. To further mainstream disability perspective and improve the accountability of government leading sectors at all levels, a guideline on disability-responsive planning and budgeting was launched in 2015.

22. Through specific regulations, Indonesia continues to support cities across the archipelago to better fulfil and respect the human rights of the citizen. Cities like Bandung, Surabaya, Yogyakarta, and Wonosobo are making tangible efforts to turn their respective cities as human rights cities. The national authority encourages more cities in the country to follow suit, and a number of cities in Indonesia have issued by-laws that are relevant to the protection and promotion of the rights of women, children and persons with disabilities.

23. Freedom of expression in Indonesia is guaranteed by article 28 of the Constitution on freedom of association and assembly, as well as laws and regulations, including Law No. 9/1998 on Freedom of Delivering Opinion in Public and Law No. 19/2016 on the Amendment to Law No.11/2008 on Electronic Information and Transaction. Meanwhile, freedom of the press, as an essential element in Indonesia's democracy, is protected and not without limit as it adheres to professional and ethical codes.

24. Indonesia will also continue its active and constructive engagement in the promotion of universal respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms which includes the following pledges and commitments:

- (a) At the international/multilateral level:

- Indonesia will advance international cooperation to ensure that the efforts of the United Nations system towards universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all will contribute to the stability and well-being necessary for peaceful and friendly relations among nations and to improved conditions for peace and security as well as social economic development.
  - Indonesia is committed to promoting greater efficiency and effectiveness in United Nations human rights mechanisms and in the work of the Council, which shall continue to be transparent, fair and impartial and shall enable genuine dialogue and be results-oriented.
  - Indonesia will continue to engage United Nations human rights mechanisms, Member States and other stakeholders to further promote and protect human rights. Indonesia will also further mainstream human rights in the work of the United Nations.
  - Indonesia will enhance its endeavours to ensure that all human rights (civil and political rights; economic, social, and cultural rights; and the right to development) are given equal emphasis in the work of the Human Rights Council and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.
  - Indonesia will play a more active role in the promotion of dialogue on human rights and interfaith cooperation at the international and multilateral levels.
  - Indonesia is committed to supporting and contributing to the efforts within the framework of the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation in the promotion and protection of human rights in its member countries.
- (b) At the regional and bilateral levels:
- Indonesia will continue to advance bilateral, regional and international cooperation to enhance the capacity of Member States to fulfil their duty to promote and protect all human rights and fundamental freedoms, bearing in mind the significance of national and regional particularities and various historical, cultural and religious backgrounds.
  - Indonesia is committed to further strengthening the work of the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights on the promotion and protection of human rights in the region, as well as of other relevant thematic ASEAN human rights commissions, such as the ASEAN Commission on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Women and Children.
  - Indonesia will further promote democratic ideals and bridge the gaps of political development in Asia by advancing dialogue and practical cooperation, especially through the Bali Democracy Forum – an inclusive and open forum for countries in the region initiated by Indonesia in 2008.
  - Indonesia will continue to strengthen and broaden the scope of its bilateral human rights cooperation, dialogue and consultations.
- (c) At the national level:
- Indonesia is committed to improving the work of the national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights and the mechanism to share their experiences with relevant human rights actors at the regional and global levels.

- Indonesia will further strengthen the human rights machineries at the national, provincial, district and municipal levels.
- Indonesia is committed to making further progress in implementing its human rights laws and regulations, improving the level of coordination and synergy between the government authorities, strengthening legislative frameworks and mainstreaming human rights in the policymaking process at all levels.
- Indonesia will enhance its partnerships with various stakeholders, including national human rights institutions and civil society groups, in the promotion and protection of human rights in the country.

25. The present aide memoire demonstrates the unwavering commitment of the Government of Indonesia, in partnership with all related stakeholders in the country, to further accelerate the efforts to realize the full enjoyment of human rights in Indonesia. The continuation of the promotion and protection of human rights remains a priority for Indonesia.

26. In this regard, the Government of Indonesia would highly appreciate the support of your Government for Indonesia's candidacy to the Human Rights Council for the period of 2020–2022.

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