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Item 119 (c) of the preliminary list*

Election of members of the Human Rights Council

Letter dated 13 March 2020 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 2021–2023 at the elections to be held during the seventy-fifth 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 item 119 (c) of the preliminary list.

(Signed) V. Nebenzia

* [A/75/50](#).



Annex to the letter dated 13 March 2020 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 2021–2023

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

1. The promotion and protection of human rights is an absolute priority of the foreign policy of the Russian Federation. In keeping with its commitment to its international obligations in the sphere of human rights, Russia sees its tasks as the following:

(a) To achieve respect for human rights and freedoms throughout the world through constructive international dialogue on a basis of equality of rights and taking into account the national, cultural and historical specificities and values of each State;

(b) To counter attempts to use human rights protection as a tool for exerting political pressure and interfering in the internal affairs of States, including with a view to their destabilization and the replacement of legitimate governments;

(c) To ensure the protection of human rights and freedoms on the basis of the rules of international law and strict compliance by States with their international human rights obligations;

(d) To develop, at the inter-State level, cultural and humanitarian ties between peoples;

(e) To strongly oppose any manifestations of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, neo-Nazism, aggressive nationalism, anti-Semitism and religious and ethnic intolerance, efforts to falsify history and use it to fuel confrontation and revanchism in world politics, and attempts to revise the outcome of the Second World War; and to contribute to the depoliticization of historical discussions;

(f) To involve civil society institutions in addressing international issues;

(g) To develop international cultural and humanitarian cooperation as a means of establishing a dialogue among civilizations, achieving harmony and ensuring mutual understanding among peoples while paying special attention to interreligious dialogue;

(h) To enhance cooperation with international and non-governmental human rights organizations in order to strengthen universally recognized human rights standards, coupling them with the responsibility of individuals for their actions, primarily in terms of preventing offence to the feelings of believers, fostering mutual understanding and respect, strengthening moral principles in the human rights dialogue, and eliminating double standards in this area.

2. The Russian Federation is convinced that the standards and principles embodied in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the International Covenants on Human Rights must be implemented consistently throughout the world. In order to attain this objective, all actors on the international scene need to focus their efforts on strengthening dialogue and cooperation and involving those concerned in a collective process of developing and adopting decisions. The United Nations, particularly the Human Rights Council, should become the driving force behind this process.

3. 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. Russia is confident that human rights should be considered a factor in bringing different countries and groups of countries together and improving the climate of trust and mutual respect in international relations.

4. As a member of the Council (in 2006–2009, 2009–2012 and 2013–2016), and also as an observer (in 2013 and since 2017), Russia has worked consistently to advance cooperation based on equality of rights and mutual respect in promoting and protecting human rights, in accordance with the principles and rules of international law; to eliminate double standards; and to prevent the use of human rights issues as a pretext for interference in the internal affairs of sovereign States.

5. The decision of Russia to present its candidature for election to the Council for the period 2021–2023 stems from the determination to pursue a fair, mutually respectful and equal dialogue on human rights and fundamental freedoms.

6. If elected to the Council, Russia will take steps to transform it into an efficient and effective tool for promoting and protecting human rights throughout the world, and to ensure that its work is based on the principles of universality, non-selectivity, objectivity, equal treatment of all categories of human rights and respect for the diversity of cultures and civilizations.

7. The Russian Federation has successfully completed the Human Rights Council's universal periodic review process three times: in 2009, 2013 and 2018. Work is currently under way to implement recommendations from the third cycle of the review.

8. Considerable attention has been given to cooperation with the system of special procedures of the Council. Since 2013, Russia has sent more than 150 replies to communications from these monitoring mechanisms. During its membership of the Council and its time as an observer, Russia has been visited by a number of special procedures, including the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers; the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples; the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises; the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children; the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights; and the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights. Intersessional meetings of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues have been held in Russia.

9. The Russian Federation is a party to seven major international human rights instruments – the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment; the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities – and cooperates actively with the respective treaty bodies. Since 2013, Russia has submitted national reports to the Human Rights Committee (2015), the Committee on the Rights of the Child (2014 and 2018), the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (2015), the Committee on the

Elimination of Racial Discrimination (2017), the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2017), the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2018) and the Committee against Torture (2018). In addition, Russia responds regularly to enquiries from the treaty bodies received under the so-called individual communications procedure.

10. The Russian Federation has traditionally attached great importance to establishing constructive cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). As a dependable donor to OHCHR, Russia makes an annual voluntary contribution of US\$ 2 million to its budget, a portion of which is used, inter alia, to fund the work of the Council's special procedures. Under the OHCHR Framework for Cooperation with the Russian Federation for 2007 and beyond, joint projects are being implemented in such areas as ensuring the rule of law, promoting equality of rights and tolerance, and developing a system of education and awareness-raising in the field of human rights.

11. The Russian Federation cooperates actively with regional human rights institutions and mechanisms, in particular the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

12. In view of the above, the Russian Federation looks forward to receiving the support of partners in the General Assembly at the elections to the Human Rights Council for the period 2021–2023, to be held in autumn 2020 during the Assembly's seventy-fifth session.
