



General Assembly

Distr.: General
13 June 2025

Original: English

Eightieth 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 10 June 2025 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic 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 has the honour to refer to the candidature of the Republic of Iraq to the Human Rights Council for the term 2026–2028, at the elections to be held in October 2025 in New York.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution [60/251](#), the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq 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 national policies of the Republic of Iraq and to reiterate its commitment to interaction in accordance with internationally agreed principles (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations would be grateful to the President of the General Assembly if the present note and its annex could be circulated as a document of the Assembly, under agenda item 116 (c) of the preliminary list.

* [A/80/50](#).



Annex to the note verbale dated 10 June 2025 from the Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Candidature of the Republic of Iraq to the Human Rights Council, 2026–2028

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

1. The Republic of Iraq, reaffirming its steadfast priority to promote and respect universally recognized human rights and fundamental freedoms, has the honour to submit its candidature for membership in the Human Rights Council for the term 2026–2028. The Republic of Iraq places human rights at the heart of its national policies and remains firmly committed to their promotion and protection.
2. The Republic of Iraq supports the Human Rights Council, recognizing its pivotal role in the defence and advancement of human rights. Through its candidature and prospective membership, Iraq seeks to contribute actively to strengthen the Council's dynamism and efficiency, in particular in safeguarding its independence and effectiveness, thereby advancing the global human rights agenda. In this context, the Republic of Iraq is pleased to present its voluntary pledges and commitments as a candidate member of the Human Rights Council pursuant to General Assembly resolution [60/251](#).

I. National pledges and commitments

3. The Republic of Iraq pledges to continue the improvement of national legislation and its alignment with international human rights standards, including judicial reforms, enhancement of prison conditions and ensuring compliance with relevant international norms.
4. Iraq pledges to continue to support the High Commission for Human Rights and to strengthen its role in monitoring governmental institutions, receiving complaints, initiating legal proceedings in cases of human rights violations, referring cases to the Public Prosecution, and conducting visits to prisons and correctional facilities.
5. Iraq is committed to providing a supportive environment for the operation of civil society organizations, recognizing them as key partners in the promotion and protection of human rights. This commitment is evidenced by the significant increase in the number of non-governmental organizations registered in Iraq (now exceeding 5,915), operating across various fields, in particular in monitoring governmental performance and protecting civil and political freedoms, to continue to promote awareness of citizens' fundamental rights. This includes strengthening policies and programmes aimed at protecting the rights of women, children, persons with disabilities and minorities.
6. Iraq pledges to continue to strengthen anti-corruption efforts as part of the pursuit of good governance and the consolidation of the rule of law. In this context, Iraq has completed the national integrity and anti-corruption strategy (2021–2024) and issued a third report on the implementation of this strategy for the year 2023.
7. Iraq pledges to enhance the role and status of women in political, economic and social spheres, ensuring their effective participation in peacemaking processes. This is being implemented within the framework of the national strategy for Iraqi women (2023–2030), the national plans related to the women and peace and security agenda,

and the implementation of the provisions of the joint statement of Iraq and the United Nations on sexual violence against women and girls in times of conflict.

8. Iraq pledges to continue to promote and protect children's rights through the implementation of the national policy for the prevention of the recruitment of children and juveniles by terrorist groups (2024–2029) and the national strategy for early childhood development (2022–2031) while accelerating the adoption of the bill of child protection following its first reading by the Iraqi Council of Representatives. A series of dialogue sessions has been organized to contribute to the development and refinement of the law in preparation for its final adoption.

9. Iraq pledges to strengthen the rights of persons with disabilities and to promote their integration into society through the implementation of the national policy for the empowerment of persons with disabilities and special needs (2024–2028), along with the national guideline specifying suitable jobs for persons with disabilities and special needs.

10. Iraq pledges to provide care and protection to the elderly by implementing dedicated policies and plans to support this important category and by expediting the adoption of the draft national policy for the elderly by the Council of Ministers, which was developed in cooperation with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia.

11. Iraq attaches special importance to the development of education, considering it a strategic investment in the future of children and youth and one of the country's key developmental goals. This is pursued through the formulation of policies, plans and strategies supporting the advancement of the education system, the development of curricula, the enhancement of community participation in the educational process, the guarantee of education for all, the promotion of lifelong learning opportunities and the enforcement of compulsory education. In this context, the national strategy for education and higher education (2022–2031) has been adopted.

12. The Government of Iraq is committed to protecting the rights of all its components and ensuring their effective participation in various aspects of political, social and economic life while promoting peaceful coexistence among all segments of the population. It is also committed to ensuring respect for cultural and religious diversity and to creating a stable and inclusive environment that guarantees rights for all, contributing to building a shared future marked by peace and justice, and improving economic and social conditions to alleviate poverty and foster sustainable development.

13. Iraq is continuing its efforts to combat terrorism in all its forms, following a comprehensive approach that balances counter-terrorism efforts with the protection and promotion of human rights. Iraq is committed to combating terrorist groups and ensuring judicial accountability for crimes committed by terrorists through transparent legal trials. Through the national team for evidence collection and documentation, led by the Supreme Judicial Council, Iraq works to gather evidence related to crimes committed by Da'esh terrorist groups to establish a national archive for preservation. The team also coordinates with concerned countries through the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) to investigate these crimes and locate the perpetrators and bring them to justice.

14. Iraq remains committed to promoting the rights of victims of gross human rights violations. In this regard, the Council of Representatives passed the Yazidi Female Survivors Law No. 8 of 2021, which is aimed at supporting women who suffered violations at the hands of Da'esh terrorist groups by providing material and moral reparations, as well as implementing rehabilitation and reintegration programmes.

The law recognizes these crimes as acts of genocide and calls for the accountability of the perpetrators.

II. International pledges and commitments

15. Iraq attaches particular importance to the universal periodic review mechanism, regarding it as a principal tool for the promotion and advancement of human rights. Iraq reaffirms its full commitment to cooperating with and supporting this mechanism, submitting its national reports within the specified deadlines and actively participating in its sessions. Iraq is committed to implementing the accepted recommendations issued by the universal periodic review and integrating them into its national policies and plans, thereby reflecting its adherence to international standards and enhancing its ongoing efforts to improve the human rights situation.

16. Iraq will continue its cooperation with the special procedures by providing assistance in the performance of their duties, supplying the required information in a timely manner and responding to communications transmitted by the special procedures, including facilitating field visits based on the recommendations of the national committee for hosting Special Rapporteurs.

17. Iraq reaffirms its unwavering commitment to fulfilling its international obligations, in particular those related to the human rights treaty bodies. It remains dedicated to the regular preparation, submission and transparent discussion of its national reports within these bodies while focusing on following up on the implementation of accepted recommendations in line with its international commitments.

18. Iraq continues to extend its support for humanitarian causes, in particular those relating to natural disasters, wars and conflicts. It strives to provide the necessary humanitarian assistance to those affected by such crises and to host refugees, whom Iraq respectfully refers to as “guests”, providing them with care and protection. These efforts reflect the profound belief of Iraq in the importance of international solidarity during times of humanitarian crises and the need for an effective response.

19. Iraq endeavours to promote and protect human rights through dialogue and cooperation at both the international and regional levels by raising human rights issues and contributing actively to their advancement.

III. Priorities during membership in the Human Rights Council

20. Iraq is committed to supporting initiatives aimed at enhancing international cooperation in addressing climate change, desertification and water scarcity, recognizing them as global challenges that have a direct impact on human rights.

21. Iraq is committed to promoting national and international efforts to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, considering it one of the main causes of human rights violations, while focusing on strengthening security and stability and ensuring the protection of the rights of individuals and communities.

22. Iraq is committed to supporting international and local initiatives to counter violent extremism through the implementation of comprehensive strategies encompassing prevention and awareness-raising.

23. Iraq is committed to promoting good governance and the rule of law to eradicate corruption and achieve social justice by ensuring transparency and accountability, developing effective anti-corruption mechanisms and continuing efforts to protect public freedoms, such as freedom of expression, assembly and peaceful protest, and the right to access information.

24. Iraq is committed to strengthening the role of civil society organizations as key partners in promoting and protecting human rights through enhanced cooperation with these organizations in developing policies and programmes aimed at improving the human rights situation.

25. Iraq is committed to implementing the objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, given its significant impact on the promotion of human rights, through the advancement of social justice, the eradication of poverty, the achievement of gender equality, and the provision of education and healthcare for all, as well as the pursuit of sustainable economic growth.
