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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 11 June 2025 from the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

The Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations has the honour to refer to the candidature of India 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 India 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 foreign policy of India.

The Permanent Mission of India 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 11 June 2025 from the Permanent Mission of India to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly

Candidature of India to the Human Rights Council, 2026–2028

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

I. Introduction: India's philosophy and commitment

1. India's enduring philosophy of "Vasudhaiva kutumbakam" ("The world is one family") underscores its unwavering commitment to global unity, openness and mutual respect. As the world's largest democracy, India represents one sixth of humanity, embodying a vibrant mosaic of cultures, languages and religions. For millennia, its pluralistic society has upheld the values of coexistence, diversity and human dignity.

2. India's commitment to human rights is deeply rooted in its constitutional framework, which guarantees the fundamental rights of its citizens and promotes the ideals of justice, liberty and equality. This candidature for the Human Rights Council is a reflection of India's dedication to advancing the principles of human rights globally, fostering dialogue and bridging divides to achieve collective progress.

Commitment to human rights: constitutional framework and institutions' constitutional provisions

3. India's Constitution enshrines fundamental rights under part III, including the rights to equality, freedom and protection against discrimination. It also provides for directive principles of State policy (part IV), which guide the State to achieve socioeconomic and cultural rights progressively. These principles reflect India's holistic approach to human rights, ensuring that no individual is left behind.

4. India's democratic and constitutional polity is complemented by a fiercely independent judiciary, a range of national and state-level commissions that monitor compliance with human rights, a free press and a vibrant and vocal civil society. A series of affirmative measures are in place to help the more vulnerable and marginalized segments of society, including disadvantaged communities, minorities, women, etc., and to address issues of social exclusion, deprivation and disadvantage that may be faced by such groups.

India's holistic efforts and achievements in human rights and development

5. India's commitment to human rights and sustainable development is evident in its initiatives and policies. Major government programmes are aligned with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and promote civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development for all. Inclusive growth, empowerment and equitable development are at the core of numerous government programmes for women and children, people with disabilities and vulnerable groups and initiatives in the areas of sanitation and access to clean drinking water, health and education, to name a few.

6. India is a global leader in combating climate change, evidenced by its commitments under the Paris Agreement and initiatives such as the International Solar Alliance, the Coalition for Disaster-Resilient Infrastructure, the Global Biofuels Alliance, etc. India maintains that sustainable lifestyles and sustainable patterns of consumption and production are important to achieving inclusive sustainable

development. Through responsible governance and international cooperation, India strives to uphold human rights while addressing global challenges.

7. India attaches utmost priority to poverty eradication and achieving inclusive sustainable development. The Government's motto of "Sabka saath, sabka vikas, sabka vishwas", that is, inclusive development for all and with the trust of all, reflects India's commitment to achieving inclusive development in the spirit of "leaving no one behind". In all its policies, India seeks to ensure inclusive development and the protection and promotion of rights of marginalized groups through their empowerment.

8. India's achievements span a wide spectrum of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. Through inclusive and sustainable policies, it has improved the lives of millions, making tangible progress towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

9. As the world's largest democracy, India conducts free, fair and transparent elections for over 900 million voters. The Election Commission of India has provided technical assistance to countries across the globe, strengthening democratic institutions globally.

India and the Human Rights Council

10. India's desire in serving as a member of the Human Rights Council is rooted in its belief that member States of the Council have a unique opportunity and responsibility to work towards global advancement of human rights. India believes that the promotion and protection of human rights is best pursued through dialogue, cooperation and constructive and collaborative engagement among the member States of the Council aimed at shaping a better future for all. India as a member of the Council would continue to bring its pluralistic, moderate and balanced perspective to straddle various divides or differences in the Council.

11. India has been a member of the Human Rights Council continuously since its creation in 2006, except for two mandatory breaks in 2011 and 2018. In the first Council election in May 2006, India was elected with the highest number of votes, securing 173 of 190 votes. Since then, India has had six terms, in 2006–2007, 2008–2010, 2012–2014, 2015–2017, 2019–2021 and 2022–2024.

12. India has constructively participated in all universal periodic review cycles, integrating recommendations into national policies. Its transparent approach sets an example for meaningful international cooperation. In July 2024, India successfully concluded its fourth periodic review by the Human Rights Committee under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. The review saw the Indian delegation engaging in constructive dialogue with the members of the Human Rights Committee on a wide range of issues related to civil and political rights, and showcasing India's commitment, actions and achievements in these areas.

II. Leadership in multilateralism

13. India's proactive role in multilateral platforms, including the Group of 20, BRICS and South-South cooperation, demonstrates its commitment to collective progress. As Group of 20 president, India emphasized inclusive development under the theme "One Earth, one family, one future".

Voluntary pledges for 2026–2028

14. Against this backdrop, India is presenting its candidature for membership of the Human Rights Council for the term 2026–2028, for which the elections will be held

at the General Assembly in New York in October 2025. India makes the following voluntary pledges and commitments:

- (a) India will continue to uphold the highest standards in the promotion and protection of human rights;
- (b) India will continue to strive for the full realization of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development;
- (c) India will continue to strengthen national mechanisms and procedures to promote and protect the human rights and fundamental freedoms of all its citizens;
- (d) India will continue to cooperate with States, upon request, in their implementation of human rights through capacity-building by means of technical cooperation, dialogue and exchange of experts;
- (e) India will continue to strive to promote the work of the Human Rights Council in accordance with the principles of sovereign equality, mutual respect, cooperation and dialogue;
- (f) India will continue to strive to make the Human Rights Council a strong, effective and efficient body capable of promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms for all;
- (g) India will continue to support international efforts to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;
- (h) India will continue to support the protection and promotion of the rights of women and children, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups through necessary laws, programmes and policies;
- (i) India will remain committed to promoting and protecting the full and effective enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health by all;
- (j) India will continue to engage constructively in the deliberations of the Human Rights Council and its subsidiary bodies and mechanisms;
- (k) India will continue to support the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, including through regular voluntary contributions;
- (l) India will continue to cooperate and engage with special procedures, accept requests for visits and respond to communications;
- (m) India is committed to implementing the recommendations it accepted during the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review;
- (n) India remains committed to ratifying the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment;
- (o) India will continue to cooperate with treaty monitoring bodies and engage constructively with them in the context of fulfilling its human rights obligations;
- (p) India will continue to strengthen the implementation of the human rights treaties that it has ratified;
- (q) India will maintain the independence, autonomy and genuine powers of investigation of national human rights bodies, including its National Human Rights Commission, National Commission for Women, National Commission for Protection of Child Rights, National Commission for Minorities, National Commission for Scheduled Castes, National Commission for Scheduled Tribes and National Commission for Backward Classes, as mandated by the Indian Constitution and national legislation;

(r) India will continue to foster a culture of transparency, openness and accountability in the functioning of the Government;

(s) India will continue to foster the genuine participation and effective involvement of civil society, including human rights defenders, in the promotion and protection of human rights, and strengthen protection against reprisals;

(t) India will support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and continue to pursue the necessary domestic actions to implement the Agenda, with an overarching focus on poverty eradication and a balanced emphasis on social development, economic growth and environmental protection;

(u) India will continue its strong support and steadfast commitment to work with fellow developing countries and the United Nations development system towards collectively achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

III. Conclusion

15. Guided by its foundational values and global commitments, India seeks re-election to the Human Rights Council for 2026–2028. As a nation rooted in pluralism and dedicated to bridging divides, India aspires to contribute its inclusive, balanced and constructive perspective to the advancement of global human rights.
