



# General Assembly

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## Seventy-fifth session

Agenda item 119 (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 14 September 2020 from the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

The Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations presents its compliments to the Office of the President of the General Assembly and has the honour to refer to the candidature of Mexico to the Human Rights Council for the term 2021–2023, at the elections to be held on 13 October 2020, in New York.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution [60/251](#), the Permanent Mission of Mexico 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 Mexico (see annex).

The Permanent Mission of Mexico would be grateful if the present note and its annex could be circulated as a document of the General Assembly, under agenda item 119 (c).

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\* [A/75/150](#).



**Annex to the note verbale dated 14 September 2020 from the Permanent Mission of Mexico to the United Nations addressed to the President of the General Assembly**

[Original: Spanish]

**Candidature of Mexico to the Human Rights Council, 2021–2023**

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

**I. Mexico and multilateralism in the context of the universal human rights system**

1. Mexico has been and will continue to be a defender of multilateralism as a means of addressing global challenges, especially in relation to respecting, promoting, protecting and ensuring human rights for all persons. In that regard, Mexico recognizes that multilateralism and the Human Rights Council are the appropriate means and forum for finding solutions to common challenges faced by States in the area of human rights.

2. With a view to achieving those objectives, Mexico will implement a transformative multilateral policy focused on compliance with international human rights obligations and standards, reflected in concrete actions at the national level for the benefit of all people. Likewise, Mexico reaffirms its policy of openness to international scrutiny by both the universal human rights system and the inter-American system.

3. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michelle Bachelet, visited Mexico in April 2019. During that visit, Mexico signed an agreement with the Office of the High Commissioner under which the Presidential Commission for Truth and Access to Justice for the Ayotzinapa case would receive technical assistance and guidance on the protection of human rights. It also signed a second agreement under which the Office of the High Commissioner would provide technical assistance and guidance on training the National Guard in accordance with international human rights standards.

4. The Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons, are both expected to visit Mexico in 2020.

5. In compliance with its obligations under international human rights treaties, Mexico has submitted or presented various reports setting out its actions to protect human rights, while also acknowledging new and ongoing challenges in that regard. From the time of its election to the Human Rights Council in 2018, Mexico has submitted or presented the following reports:<sup>1</sup>

- Follow-up report to the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (February 2018).
- Periodic report under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (March 2018).

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<sup>1</sup> It is scheduled to present its combined second and third periodic reports under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in August 2020.

- Midterm follow-up report under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (submitted in October 2019).
- Ninth periodic report under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (submitted in December 2016 and considered in July 2018).
- Follow-up dialogue on the second report on implementation of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (November 2018).
- Seventh periodic report under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (submitted in October 2017 and considered in April 2019).
- Eighteenth to twenty-first periodic reports under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (submitted in June 2017 and considered in August 2019).
- Sixth periodic report under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (submitted in February 2018 and considered in October 2019).

6. Based on these reports, Mexico has entered into an ongoing and constructive dialogue with the treaty bodies and the special procedures of the Human Rights Council. In that context, Mexico has also engaged with civil society in frank specialized dialogue that forms an essential part of its open and collaborative approach to promoting and ensuring human rights.

7. It is from the perspective of collaboration and dialogue that Mexico is presenting its candidature for re-election to the United Nations Human Rights Council for the period 2021–2023, with the aim of continuing to advance the international human rights agenda and strengthening the standards and institutions of the universal human rights system.

8. Mexico, as a member of the Human Rights Council, is committed to promoting international cooperation, in accordance with the principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and the shared responsibility of States, within both the Council itself and the other bodies of the universal human rights system, in order to generate synergies allowing for the implementation of best practices and international standards in the effective fulfilment of its international human rights obligations, incorporating a gender perspective and seeking to eliminate all multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

## **II. Contributions and pledges within the framework of the Human Rights Council for the period 2021–2023**

9. The work done by Mexico as a member of the Human Rights Council is described below, together with its key pledges and commitments regarding its work for the promotion and protection of human rights over the period 2021–2023.

10. For Mexico, collaboration and dialogue within the Human Rights Council and with the special procedures are tools that can translate into specific actions to address human rights violations and ensure the full exercise by all persons of their rights and freedoms.

11. Mexico has contributed to strengthening the Human Rights Council in order to ensure the effective exercise of its mandate throughout the world. That leadership has earned it the international recognition reflected in its election as a member of the Council for the periods 2006–2009, 2009–2012, 2014–2016 and 2018–2020.

12. Since 2018, Mexico has presented a total of 19 resolutions, and sponsored another 50, on such priority issues as indigenous peoples, protection of migrants and their human rights, moratorium on the death penalty, rights of persons with disabilities, human rights and counter-terrorism, privacy in the digital age, elimination of all multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls, rights of the child, elimination of violence and discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation and gender identity, rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, and the right to work. It has also sponsored 6 parallel events, participated in 3 panel discussions and promoted 14 joint interventions concerning various issues on the human rights agenda.

### **A. Universal periodic review mechanism**

13. Mexico is committed to participating actively in the reviews conducted as part of the universal periodic review mechanism, seeking to ensure that the mechanism serves as a platform for States to focus, through candid dialogue, on improving the human rights situation in each country by engaging in an objective performance-based evaluation and, where necessary, pointing out challenges in a constructive and cooperative manner.

14. In November 2018, Mexico underwent its third universal periodic review, in the context of which it received 264 recommendations regarding the protection of human rights, especially those of groups in vulnerable situations, and accepted 262 of them. Mexico also attended all the dialogues with States under review and formulated recommendations aimed at addressing the prevailing challenges in each case.

15. Mexico will continue to participate in this important exercise and will formulate specific, objective, action-oriented recommendations based on the most important human rights concerns. Moreover, it will seek to ensure that the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms serve as platforms for States to build bridges of cooperation and understanding.

16. It will also continue to work on implementing the recommendations it accepted.

17. As it has done to date, Mexico will promote continued strengthening of the institutions of the universal human rights protection system, thereby preventing the mechanisms established under the Human Rights Council from being undermined or politicized.

### **B. Migration**

18. Mexico showed active leadership in the development of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, based on the two key pillars of its own migration policy, namely, protection of migrants' human rights, and support for development in communities of origin to address the structural causes of migration.

19. In that regard, Mexico will continue to promote the protection of human rights as an essential aspect of the international governance of international migration. People must be at the centre of all policies to address migration, which should place particular emphasis on the provision of assistance for persons in vulnerable situations and incorporate a gender perspective.

20. Within the Human Rights Council, Mexico will continue to present the resolution on the protection of the human rights of migrants, with the aim of raising

awareness of the most urgent concerns and promoting multilateral action to address them.

### **C. Gender**

21. The Government of Mexico will continue to work multilaterally to defend and promote the highest human rights standards for women and girls, with a view to eradicating all forms of discrimination and violence against them. Despite the progress made on this issue, gender equality is threatened by regressive trends that set aside the needs and concerns of women and girls, particularly those in vulnerable situations. Mexico undertakes to advance the gender equality agenda as a priority, both in order to strengthen the relevant international standards and to promote gender parity in the Human Rights Council, its mechanisms and the treaty bodies.<sup>2</sup>

22. Mexico recently adopted a feminist foreign policy, which consists of a set of principles guiding governmental actions to reduce and eliminate gender inequalities, gender gaps and structural differences between women and men, with a view to building fairer and more prosperous societies. These actions involve mainstreaming gender and intersectionality in all resolutions, agreements, decisions, positions taken, and other actions in multilateral forums. Mexico seeks to enhance the visibility and recognition of the contribution of women in the multilateral sphere and to combat stereotypes, alongside other global efforts.

23. In that regard, in 2020, the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Beijing Platform for Action represents an opportunity for the international community to renew its commitment to achieving gender equality and to eradicating all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls. The Generation Equality Forum demonstrates the commitment of Mexico to the gender equality agenda and the human rights of women and girls, in line with its new feminist foreign policy, as well as its intention to continue to position itself as a global leader on that front.

### **D. Death penalty**

24. Mexico considers the death penalty to be a cruel and inhuman punishment that can cause irreparable human rights violations. It will therefore continue to promote action within the United Nations Human Rights Council to encourage the widespread application of a moratorium on executions and, ultimately, the worldwide abolition of the death penalty.

25. Mexico, as part of the core group that presents the biennial resolution on the question of the death penalty, reaffirms its commitment to the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular the right to life, and urges States, until the death penalty is completely abolished, to refrain from applying it to persons under 18 years of age, pregnant women and persons with disabilities.

### **E. Groups in vulnerable situations**

26. Mexico has shown itself to be active in promoting recognition and protection of the human rights of persons who are in vulnerable situations or who have been

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<sup>2</sup> In Human Rights Council resolution 41/6 on the elimination of all forms of discrimination against women and girls, presented by Mexico, the Council's Advisory Committee was requested to prepare a report on current levels of representation of women in human rights organs and mechanisms, in order to identify the actions needed to achieve gender parity in those bodies.

historically subjected to discrimination. It strongly supports the aim of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to ensure that no one is left behind.

27. Within the Human Rights Council, Mexico will continue to pursue initiatives to promote, respect, protect and ensure the human rights of specific groups, such as indigenous peoples and people of African descent, persons with disabilities, ethnic and religious minorities, migrants, and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.

## **F. Elimination of discrimination and hate speech**

28. Mexico considers it essential to eradicate racism, hate speech and all forms of discrimination and intolerance. It will work to advance this agenda, which is of vital importance in the current context of worsening manifestations of xenophobia and stigmatization and a regrettable increase in hate crimes.

29. In that regard, Mexico ratified the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance and acceded to the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance on 21 January 2020.

30. Mexico is aware of, and deeply concerned by, the fact that all types of discrimination, whether on grounds of age, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity and expression, language, religion, cultural identity, opinions, social origin, socioeconomic status, level of education, migratory status, disability, state of health or any other reason, as well as racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and the various forms of related intolerance, undermine human dignity and compound conditions of poverty, marginalization and social exclusion.

31. Within the Human Rights Council, Mexico will continue to advance and support initiatives that promote the principles of equality and non-discrimination.

## **G. Reflection and dialogue on the reform of the Human Rights Council**

32. Looking ahead to the discussions planned for the period 2021–2026 on the possible reform of the Human Rights Council, Mexico is convinced that it is essential to ensure that the human rights pillar of the United Nations is strengthened and that it functions in coordination with the peace and security and sustainable development pillars. It is also vital to support measures to strengthen the technical capacities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights.

33. Mexico considers it necessary to strengthen the Council's capacity to effectively discharge its mandate of preventing human rights violations and providing technical assistance to strengthen the capacities of States.

34. Mexico will seek to place greater emphasis on prevention and the response to early warning signs to avert serious human rights violations. The adoption of a less reactive stance and a stronger focus on prevention with the aim of identifying the emergence or intensification of crises will enable it to address conditions that could develop into serious human rights violations.

## **H. Action to promote international human rights cooperation**

35. Mexico is making efforts to mainstream human rights across a range of United Nations events, summits and conferences. For example, it promoted gender mainstreaming and the inclusion of contributions of indigenous persons at the

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high-level political forum on sustainable development and the United Nations Climate Change Conference held in 2019.

## **I. Objectives of Mexico for the promotion and protection of human rights in the period 2021–2023**

36. Membership of the Human Rights Council implies the fulfilment of commitments made, and a proactive and constructive approach to all work undertaken.

37. As a member of the Human Rights Council for the period 2021–2023, Mexico will continue to collaborate in and contribute to strengthening the international human rights system, by means of the following objectives:

- Working to ensure that the special procedures not only expose human rights violations and challenges but also contribute, through their recommendations, to the joint action and technical assistance needed to overcome them.
  - Taking an objective and impartial approach to the national situations reviewed in the Human Rights Council, so as to avoid their politicization.
  - Encouraging States to make action-oriented universal periodic review recommendations in order to contribute to the realization of prosperous, human-rights-compliant societies.
  - Enhancing the complementarity of the work of the Human Rights Council with that of other human rights bodies.
  - Strengthening the preventive nature of the work of the Human Rights Council so that progress can be made on all those issues that promote the well-being and development of our societies.
  - Enhancing the opportunities for dialogue with, and participation by, civil society in the work of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, recalling the important role of civil society for the functioning of those mechanisms and the advancement of rights in our countries.
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