

Updated List of Candidates for the November 2013 UN Human Rights Council Elections

Compiled by UN Watch on 29 July 2013 from multiple sources

| Western Europe and Others 2 open seats | Africa 4 open seats | Latin America 2 open seats | Asia 4 open seats | Eastern Europe 2 open seats |
|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p>France <i>UN lists candidacy</i> Campaign brochure</p> <p>United Kingdom <i>UN lists candidacy</i> Campaign brochure</p> | <p>Algeria <i>UN lists candidacy</i></p> <p>Chad Declared bid in UNHRC plenary, <i>but not yet listed by UN</i></p> <p>Morocco <i>UN lists candidacy</i> Campaign Aide-Memoire</p> <p>Namibia <i>UN lists candidacy</i></p> <p>South Africa <i>UN lists candidacy</i></p> <p>South Sudan <i>UN lists candidacy</i></p> <p>Tunisia <i>UN lists candidacy</i></p> | <p>Cuba <i>Declared bid in the media, but not yet listed by UN</i></p> <p>Mexico <i>UN lists candidacy</i> Campaign pitch and Official pledge</p> <p>Uruguay <i>UN lists candidacy</i> News on Uruguay's pact with Vietnam</p> | <p>China <i>UN lists candidacy</i> Official pledge</p> <p>Jordan <i>UN lists candidacy</i></p> <p>Maldives <i>UN lists candidacy</i></p> <p>Saudi Arabia <i>UN lists candidacy</i></p> <p>Syria <i>Confirmed by diplomats from Asian and Western groups, AP, AFP, and Reuters, but not yet listed by UN</i></p> <p>Vietnam <i>UN lists candidacy</i></p> | <p>Macedonia <i>UN lists candidacy</i></p> <p>Russia <i>UN lists candidacy</i> Campaign pitch</p> |

Background

The UN General Assembly has [announced](#) that it will hold elections on November 12, 2013, to replace 14 of the 47 rotating seats on the UN Human Rights Council, for 3-year terms that begin in January 2014 and conclude in December 2016.

UN Watch has compiled the above list of candidacies based on those [listed on the UN website](#) as of July 29, 2013, and those who declared their bids elsewhere, with links to sources. Candidacies may be added or dropped until November, but the above list is expected to remain mostly unchanged.

Call for Action

UN Watch urges the **United States** and the **European Union** to end their silence over the wholly inappropriate candidacies of governments such as **Algeria, China, Russia, Cuba, Saudi Arabia, and Vietnam**. UN Watch will join with other NGOs and dissidents to campaign against these and other grossly unqualified bids, which threaten to damage the efficacy of the Human Rights Council, and the credibility of the United Nations as a whole. Prior to the elections UN Watch will publish its annual detailed evaluation of each candidacy.

Updates

Updates from UN Watch's [initial report](#):

- **Iran Pulled Out:** After UN Watch broke the story on July 9, 2013, that Iran was running—confirmed by numerous diplomats as well as by AP, AFP and Reuters—worldwide outrage ensued. Tehran quickly pulled out, possibly to extinguish flames of controversy at a time when new

president Hassan Rouhani is attracting positive media coverage for the regime.

- **Syria is Running:** Syria initially declared its candidacy in 2011. After UN Watch revealed the Assad regime's bid and mobilized world opinion, heavy pressure on the Asian states led to a last-minute announcement on May 11, 2011: Kuwait would replace Syria.

Syrian Ambassador Bashar Ja'afari made clear, however, that his country had agreed only "to reschedule the timing of our candidacy," saying they would run instead in the 2013 elections, for a three-year term. His counterpart corroborated the pact: "We agreed to exchange terms," said Kuwaiti Ambassador Mansour Ayyad Alotaibi. "Syria is not withdrawing," he told reporters.

In July 2012, the U.S. and the EU took the unprecedented action of asking the council to disqualify Syria in advance. The draft paragraph "stressed that the current Syrian government's announced candidacy for the Human Rights Council in 2014 fails to meet the standards for Council membership" as set forth in its founding charter.

In July 2013, UN Watch revealed, based on reliable inside sources, that Syria was actively running for the Nov. 2013 elections. This was then confirmed by [AP](#), [AFP](#), and [Reuters](#).

- **South Africa** is a newly declared candidate. [Latvia](#) will not be running in this year's race but rather in 2014, for the 2015-2017 term.