

**CANDIDACY OF LUXEMBOURG TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
FOR THE 2022-2024 TERM**

**Voluntary pledges and commitments pursuant to resolution 60/251
of the United Nations General Assembly**

The Grand Duchy of Luxembourg is a founding member of the United Nations and commits to respecting fully the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the principles of universality, inalienability, interdependence, and indivisibility of all human rights. In conformity with United Nations General Assembly resolution 60/251, Luxembourg presents herewith its voluntary pledges and commitments as a candidate for the Human Rights Council for the 2022-2024 term.

If Luxembourg has the honour of being elected, for the first time in its history, to the Human Rights Council by the United Nations General Assembly, it pledges to engage and cooperate in good faith with all Member States and Observer States of the Council, in the spirit of friendly relations based on respect for the principle of equal rights of peoples. Luxembourg also pledges to continue its close cooperation with the United Nations human rights mechanisms, and to work to ensure that the voice of civil society, which is essential to the proper functioning of the Human Rights Council, is heard.

In keeping with its commitment to effective multilateralism, with the United Nations at its centre, and to an international system based on the rule of law, Luxembourg has defined four priorities for its action to promote and protect human rights:

- (1) Support for the rule of law, civic space and human rights defenders and the fight against impunity
- (2) Sustainable development and climate action based on human rights
- (3) Gender equality and the fight against all forms of discrimination
- (4) The protection and promotion of the rights of the child

Pursuant to paragraph 8 of resolution 60/251 adopted on 15 March 2006 by the United Nations General Assembly, Luxembourg has drawn up a series of voluntary pledges and commitments for the promotion and protection of human rights, in partnership with national civil society and national human rights institutions. The following pledges and commitments are also inspired by the recommendations made by Member States of the United Nations during Luxembourg's Universal Periodic Review within the framework of the Human Rights Council, as well as by the human rights treaty bodies and special procedures mandate holders.



At the national level, Luxembourg pledges to:

1. Develop a **national human rights action plan**, based on the recommendations of national and international civil society, national human rights institutions, United Nations mechanisms and the Universal Periodic Review, covering inter alia existing thematic action plans; continue to implement the recommendations of human rights treaty bodies and submit regular reports to them;
2. Continue the implementation of the recommendations accepted during the third **Universal Periodic Review of Luxembourg** in 2018, involving all relevant Ministries and consulting civil society and national human rights institutions;
3. Finalise the **ratification of the International Convention** for the Protection of All Persons from **Enforced Disappearance**;
4. Continue **regular consultations with civil society and national human rights institutions**, notably through the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Rights and its Working Group on Business and Human Rights; report on the implementation of these voluntary pledges and commitments in those fora;
5. Establish a **platform for supporting human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders**;
6. Implement the **17 Sustainable Development Goals of the United Nations Agenda 2030** through its third National Plan for Sustainable Development in order to fight poverty and reduce intersectional and multidimensional inequalities, while protecting the planet against climate change and biodiversity loss;
7. Provide stakeholders with tools and support for their participation in the implementation of the **National Plan for Sustainable Development** and the 2030 Agenda;
8. Organise, with the support of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, a **participatory dialogue on the intergenerational transmission of poverty**; deepen reflections at the national level on the interdependencies between poverty and intersectional and multidimensional inequalities, human rights, climate change, migration, technology, and other global trends;
9. Accelerate efforts to put in place a **strategic national approach to the prevention of discrimination**, as well as reforms to equip national human rights institutions and individuals with the skills and resources necessary to effectively combat all forms of discrimination and exclusion, including gender, racial, and xenophobic discrimination; elaborate a draft law introducing an aggravating circumstance for any criminal offence committed with a discriminatory motive;
10. Continue to implement its **feminist foreign policy** and its **National Action Plan on “Women and Peace and Security”** for the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325;
11. Continue legislative efforts to establish a **juvenile justice system** geared towards preventive action and restorative justice, in line with Article 40 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in the framework of the reform of the national legislation on the protection of youth and in keeping with the pledge it has made on the occasion of the 30th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;



12. Develop legislation to protect the **rights of children born through anonymous birth and children conceived through medically assisted procreation to know their origins**, with a view to ensuring the full implementation of the provisions of Article 7 of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, in particular the right of the child to know his or her parents, having regard to the principles of non-discrimination (Article 2) and consideration of the best interests of the child (Article 3), and **to withdraw the national reservation to this Convention regarding anonymous births**;
13. Develop legislation to **protect the right of intersex children to physical integrity, autonomy, and self-determination by prohibiting surgical and hormonal interventions** made without personal and informed consent during childhood and to ensure adequate counselling and support for families with intersex children;
14. Continue efforts in terms of human rights **education and training**;
15. Strengthen legislation on the **protection of whistleblowers**, notably by transposing fully the EU Directive on the protection of persons who report breaches of Union law.

At the international level, Luxembourg pledges to:

1. Respond to the **Call to Action** launched on 24 February 2020 at the Human Rights Council by the Secretary-General of the United Nations António Guterres by taking action in the seven domains he has identified in order to achieve humankind's highest aspiration in terms of human rights;
2. **Promote human rights** in all international fora, by continuing to engage actively in support of multilateralism and universal values and by integrating human rights in a cross-cutting manner in its **3D approach**, combining the tools of diplomacy, development, and defence;
3. Maintain its **voluntary contributions to strengthen the United Nations system and multilateralism as a whole** and advocate for sustainable and predictable funding in support of the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including in the context of the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic;
4. Support the **strengthening and independence** of the United Nations human rights treaty bodies and special procedures mandate holders; continue to provide both political and financial support to the **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**;
5. Continue to participate constructively in the **Universal Periodic Review**, by making recommendations to the countries under review;
6. Support the **active and meaningful participation of civil society and human rights defenders, including women human rights defenders**, in the work of the Human Rights Council, including by continuing to contribute to efforts to combat all forms of reprisals targeting those persons;
7. Support **independent civil society** working for human rights as well as **national human rights institutions** through its **diplomatic action** and **development cooperation policy**, in partnership with national authorities and the United Nations;



8. Continue its efforts to strengthen the **protection of journalists** and support **media freedom** in the framework of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, within UNESCO, the Media Freedom Coalition and the International Partnership for Information and Democracy;
9. Continue to provide political and financial support to the **International Criminal Court** and other **international criminal justice bodies**, including the United Nations investigative mechanisms;
10. Contribute to strengthening **peacebuilding as well as the prevention of conflicts and the prevention of the most serious crimes of concern to the international community as a whole** by promoting human rights, democracy, and the rule of law, by implementing the 2030 Agenda and by supporting the reforms and initiatives launched by the Secretary-General of the United Nations;
11. Continue to respect the 0.7% target set by the United Nations and to **devote at least 1% of its gross national income to official development assistance**, focusing these resources on the fight against poverty in the least developed countries and adopting an approach to development based on multi-stakeholder partnerships, systematically integrating human rights, gender equality and equity, as well as environmental sustainability in its actions, in order to further the inclusion of all and to leave no one behind;
12. Promote the United Nations Declaration on the **Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas**;
13. Protect the **universality, inalienability, interdependence, and indivisibility of human rights for all**, promote **gender equality**, and **combat all forms of discrimination**, including those based on **sexual orientation and gender identity**;
14. Combat the attempts to undermine **sexual and reproductive health and rights**, the **rights of LGBTI persons**, and the **rights of refugees and migrants** and continue its efforts to strengthen those rights;
15. Continue to support the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General on **Sexual Violence in Conflict** and to combat sexual and gender-based violence, following the international conference *Stand Speak Rise Up* held in Luxembourg in March 2019 at the initiative of HRH the Grand Duchess with a view to supporting women survivors of sexual violence;
16. Continue to work systematically for the **rights of the child** in all international fora and to support the activities of special procedures mandate holders on the rights of the child, the Office of the Special Representative of the UN Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict, and the Committee on the Rights of the Child; promote **effective participation of children and youth** in initiatives affecting them; promote the *Luxembourg Guidelines*, terminology guidelines for the protection of children from sexual exploitation and sexual abuse, which were adopted in Luxembourg in January 2016 by 18 international organisations;
17. Continue its efforts to contribute actively to the **promotion of human rights in the context of climate action**, including through the development of a roadmap for **human rights-based climate financing**.



If elected, Luxembourg will endeavour to make a useful and active contribution to the work of the Human Rights Council during the 2022-2024 term. Luxembourg pledges to protect and promote the rights of all human beings, bearing in mind the purpose enshrined in article 1 of the Charter of the United Nations in 1945: “to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of an economic, social, cultural, or humanitarian character, and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language, or religion”.

