

H.E. Mr. Syed Mohamad Hasrin Adid  
Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations in New York

H.E. Mr. Ahmad Faisal Muhamad  
Permanent Representative of Malaysia to the United Nations in Geneva

29th September, 2021

Your Excellencies,

### **Questions from Human Rights Council Elections Pledging Event 2021**

On 8<sup>th</sup> September 2021, Amnesty International and the International Service for Human Rights held an online pledging event for candidate States to the Human Rights Council for the membership term 2022-2024.

This year's event had over 200 online attendees and an overwhelming number of questions posed to candidates, providing an opportunity for candidates to present their visions for membership and to engage with a range of stakeholders on their human rights commitments and pledges.

We thank you for your participation in the event. With the goal of furthering dialogue, as well as improving adherence to Council membership standards and accountability, as articulated in UN General Assembly resolution 60/251, please find below the questions addressed specifically to Malaysia as well as questions for all candidate States.

The questions, as well as your responses, will be shared on ISHR's website. We request that you please send your responses to Maithili Pai at [m.pai@ishr.ch](mailto:m.pai@ishr.ch) by 8th October 2021.

#### **Questions addressed specifically to Malaysia**

1. *Joseph Alafac (Twitter user)*: Taking into account the fact that Malaysia has ratified only 5 out of 18 core human rights treaties, will the momentum finally change?
2. *Gabisile Nkosi (South Africa)*: How has the participation of Malaysia in the Universal Periodic Review process contributed to strengthening its human rights systems domestically?
3. *Forum Asia*: What would be Malaysia's approach to Myanmar-on Human Rights Council's continued scrutiny of Myanmar, restoration of the civilian government, protection of minorities especially Rohingya, accountability, etc-at the Human Rights Council as well as the ASEAN level?
4. *Jerald Joseph*: How will Malaysia continue to enhance other agencies like police, immigration, etc to better comply with international human rights norms? There seems to be a lack of policy consistency from Malaysia's active international commitments that is translated better on the ground on enforcement agency accountability, refugee and asylum seekers policy, common worker protection for foreign workers, etc.
5. *Malaysian Youth Council*: Could Malaysia share its national mechanism or process taken for coordinating the implementation of accepted Universal Periodic Review recommendations and the

monitoring of progress and impact?

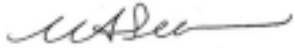
**Questions posed to all candidate States:**

1. *Outright International*: The Human Rights Council continues to be a vital resource for LGBTI communities to bring visibility to the human rights violations they face based on their sexual orientation, gender identity and expression and sex characteristics. However, questions related to LGBTI persons are also unfortunately highly politicized at the Council. How would the candidates present today ensure that politics does not get in the way of promoting and protecting the human rights of LGBTI persons?
2. *CIVICUS*: What are the steps you will take to ensure full NGO participation in the Council, its mechanisms and resolutions, and to engage with national and international civil society as a Council member?
3. *Human Rights Watch*: NGOs have been banned from UN headquarters since March 2020. Although UN employees, diplomats & media representatives (resident correspondents) can now enter UN headquarters (with restrictions), NGOs remain under a total ban. What will you do to ensure COVID-19 isn't used as a convenient excuse for those who are not fans of civil society to bar NGOs from UN headquarters? Will you support allowing accredited NGO representatives to participate in UN headquarters activities in line with all UN guidelines and restrictions like other UN stakeholders?
4. *Child Rights Connect*: What are your plans to mainstream and advance child rights at the Human Rights Council?
5. *Permanent Mission of the Principality of Liechtenstein to the United Nations*: Ensuring accountability for human rights violations should be a priority for all States, especially Human Rights Council members. The support of the ACT Code of Conduct is an important factor for Liechtenstein's support of a candidature, in addition to its human rights record, pledges and commitments. To what extent are you prioritising strengthening accountability and supporting the ACT Code of Conduct?
6. *Genoveva Sotirova (Twitter user)*: What are your plans in order to improve access to healthcare to low-income individuals?
7. *Genoveva Sotirova (Twitter user)*: What is your plan to promote the right of access to education of Muslim and Roma women refugees?

**Questions posed and answered during the event:**

1. *CIVICUS*: What steps will you take to ensure that commitments to protect civic space at the international level are also implemented at the national level, especially concerning legislation that criminalises freedom of expression and assembly?
2. *Indonesian Mission*: As we know, climate change has been a relatively overlooked issue in the Human Rights Council. I would like to ask Malaysia: as a member of the HRC, does Malaysia plan to put forward any initiatives in the context of climate change and human rights?
3. *FORUM Asia*: Following the last elections, Malaysia pledged to push for the ratification of at least six international human rights treaties. It initiated a process to ratify two treaties/ conventions- International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and Rome Statute-without success. What is Malaysia's current plan for the ratification of key human rights treaties?

We look forward to hearing from you.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'MSinclair', written in a cursive style.

Madeleine Sinclair

New York Office Director & Legal Counsel

International Service for Human Rights

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