



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

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Agenda item 3

**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development**

### **Note verbale dated 14 February 2022 from the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council**

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of Belarus to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva encloses herewith the declaration on the protection of citizens' electoral rights and of guarantees of the electoral sovereignty of States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States, which was recently adopted by the Council of Heads of State of the Commonwealth of Independent States (see annex).

The Permanent Mission requests that the present note verbale and annex thereto\* be published as a document of the Human Rights Council under agenda item 3 in all official languages of the United Nations.

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\* Reproduced without formal editing.



**Annex to the note verbale dated 14 February 2022 from the Permanent Mission of Belarus to the United Nations Office at Geneva addressed to the secretariat of the Human Rights Council**

[Original: Russian]

**Declaration on the protection of citizens' electoral rights and guarantees of electoral sovereignty of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States**

The Heads of State of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States,

Reaffirming the commitment to protect and promote the exercise of electoral rights and freedoms through support for sustainable democratic institutions and the rule of law,

Seeking to build public confidence in elections and referendums by increasing the openness and transparency of electoral procedures, including through the use of modern digital technology,

Respecting the historical, cultural and legal particularities of the States members of the Commonwealth of Independent States and recognizing the value of the national experience that they have gained in the legal regulation of elections,

Based on the provisions of the Convention on Standards for Democratic Elections and Electoral Rights and Freedoms in the States Members of the Commonwealth of Independent States of 7 October 2002 and other international obligations of the States members of the Commonwealth,

Rejecting any attempts to use electoral campaigns to exert outside influence on organizational and legal procedures and the internal political situation,

Emphasize the importance of constructive, equitable and respectful dialogue on fundamental electoral issues that define the standards of modern democratic elections;

Declare the need for strict compliance with constitutional provisions, national legislation and international obligations of States when holding elections and referendums on their territories;

Support the expansion and deepening of cooperation through the central electoral bodies of the CIS member States, including the formation of a corresponding permanent mechanism for their interaction within the Commonwealth;

Note the importance of public and international observation of elections based on the generally accepted principles and rules of international law and the principles of political neutrality, impartiality and non-interference in the electoral process and taking into account the approaches agreed upon by the CIS member States;

Condemn any attempts to interfere in the electoral procedures of member States of the Commonwealth by other States, their associations and non-governmental organizations and regard such interference as a violation of the principles of the sovereign equality of States and non-interference in their internal affairs;

Welcome the practice of sending the CIS Observer Mission to presidential and parliamentary elections and referendums in the Commonwealth and the interaction of the CIS Executive Committee and the Interparliamentary Assembly of the CIS member States with other monitoring missions in order to exchange best practices, build confidence and prevent double standards;

Call for a concerted effort by the States and international organizations concerned to develop and adopt possible common principles and methodologies for international election observation.

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