

India Re-Elected to the UN Human Rights Council

India was re-elected to the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC) for a second consecutive term for the period 2015-17, receiving the highest number of votes (162 nos.) in the Asia-Pacific group. India is currently a member of the 47-nation UN Human Rights Council and its first term is due to end on 31 December 2014.

Apart from India, the other 14 member states elected to the Human Rights Council for a three-year term of office beginning January 1, 2015, are Albania, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Botswana, the Congo, El Salvador, Ghana, Indonesia, Latvia, the Netherlands, Nigeria, Paraguay, Portugal, and Qatar.

The Human Rights Council is the key inter-governmental body within the United Nations system responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe. The Council members are elected for a period of three years by the majority of members of the General Assembly through direct and secret ballot. They have the ability to discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations that require its attention throughout the year.

The Council's Membership is based on equitable geographical distribution, with 13 seats each for African and Asia-Pacific states, eight seats for Latin American and Caribbean states, seven for Western European and other states and six for Eastern European states.
