

## Voting analysis: [Third Committee resolution on the situation of human rights in Syria](#)

### Overview

The vote was 122 for, 13 against with 41 abstaining. 17 States were absent.

Syria called a no action motion before the vote. The vote for the no action motion was 118 against, 20 for and 29 abstained. Nicaragua and Venezuela spoke in favour of the no action motion on principle against country specific resolutions. Saudi Arabia and France spoke against the motion drawing attention to the fact that the resolution is a circumstantial and unique initiative. Saudi Arabia noted that the situation in Syria cannot be ignored and that previous appeals have not been met with an appropriate response. The delegate reminded the Third Committee that the resolution should be seen as a one off situation.

Comparing votes to [Human Rights Council Resolution S-16/1](#) on Syria, Gabon and Mauritania switched their vote from **NO to YES**, and Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Ukraine changed their vote from **Abstain to YES**. Bangladesh, China, Malaysia, Pakistan and the Russian Federation all changed their votes from **NO to Abstain**. Unfortunately Ghana and Zambia changed their votes from **YES to Abstain**.

Comparing votes to [Human Rights Council Resolution S-17/1](#), Mauritania changed their vote from **Abstain to YES**, Congo and Thailand switched from **YES to Abstain**, while the Russian Federation and China changed their vote from **NO to Abstain**.

Apart from the United Kingdom (the main sponsor) and Syria, 19 States addressed the Third Committee. Iran, Venezuela, Cuba (on behalf of NAM), DPRK, Vietnam and Ecuador (who all voted **NO**) spoke strongly against the resolution on principle against state resolutions. Singapore and Thailand also spoke against country resolutions but **abstained**. Malaysia, the Russian Federation and China (who also **abstained**) emphasised an increased focus on mutual dialogue and cooperation.

Costa Rica (who voted in favour of the resolution) stated that country specific resolutions should be used to look at grave human rights violations and that the international community cannot deviate from its responsibility to address such violations. Israel and the Ukraine also spoke in favour of the resolution.

Besides Syria, Saudi Arabia and Egypt were the only two Arab States to address the Third Committee, both of whom voted in favour of the resolution. Egypt noted that the resolution improved over the last few days, and became more consistent with the approach taken by the Arab League. Egypt welcomed the call to immediately implement the Arab League's plan of action. The delegate from Egypt also highlighted that the resolution ensures the preservation of Syrian unity, and cannot be interpreted as an invitation for foreign intervention.

Of the states that traditionally oppose state resolution: 9 states (Belarus, Cuba, DPRK, Iran, Syria, Uzbekistan, Venezuela, Vietnam, Zimbabwe) maintained that position but 4 states (Algeria, China, Russia, Malaysia) **Abstained** and 5 states (Oman, Libya, Egypt, Sudan, Kyrgyzstan) voted **YES**.

### Votes by regional or other groups

Of the 56 OIC states: A majority (33) voted **YES**, 3 voted **NO** (Uzbekistan, Syria and Iran) and 14 **abstained**. 6 were absent.

Of the 117 states in the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM): Almost half (56) voted **YES** despite a principled NAM position against country resolutions in the General Assembly. A further 13 voted **NO** and 36 states **abstained**. 12 were **absent**.

The majority of GRULAC states supported the resolution with 21 states voting **YES**. Five States **abstained** (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines) and the usual 5 GRULAC states voted **NO** (Bolivia, Cuba, Ecuador, Nicaragua and Venezuela). Two were absent (Dominica and Suriname).

In the African group, over half of the present States voted **YES** (26) while Zimbabwe was the only State to vote **NO**. 16 States **Abstained** (Algeria, Angola, Cameroon, Comoros, Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Swaziland, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, and Zambia). Eleven States were absent (Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Gambia, Niger, Sao Tome and Principe, Seychelles, Somalia and South Sudan).

## 2011 votes compared

REGION	COUNTRY	Syria SS 16	Syria SS 17	Syria C3 no-action 2011	Syria C3 2011
African	Algeria			A	A
African	Angola		A	A	A
African	Benin		YES		YES
African	Botswana		YES	NO	YES
African	Burkina Faso	YES	YES	NO	YES
African	Burundi			NO	YES
African	Cameroon	A	A		A
African	Cape Verde			NO	YES
African	Central African Republic				
African	Chad			NO	YES
African	Comoros				A
African	Congo		YES		A
African	Côte D'Ivoire			NO	YES
African	Democratic Republic of the Congo				
African	Djibouti	A	A		
African	Egypt				YES
African	Equatorial Guinea			NO	
African	Eritrea				
African	Ethiopia			NO	YES
African	Gabon	NO		NO	YES
African	Gambia				
African	Ghana	YES		A	A
African	Guinea			NO	YES
African	Guinea-Bissau			NO	YES
African	Kenya			A	A
African	Lesotho			A	A
African	Liberia			NO	YES
African	Libya			NO	YES
African	Madagascar			NO	YES
African	Malawi			NO	YES
African	Mali			A	A
African	Mauritania	NO	A	NO	YES
African	Mauritius	YES	YES	NO	YES
African	Morocco			NO	YES
African	Mozambique			A	A
African	Namibia			YES	A
African	Niger				
African	Nigeria	A	YES	NO	YES
African	Rwanda			NO	YES
African	Sao Tome and Principe				

African	Senegal	YES	YES	NO	YES
African	Seychelles				
African	Sierra Leone			NO	YES
African	Somalia				
African	South Africa			NO	A
African	South Sudan				
African	Sudan			A	YES
African	Swaziland			YES	A
African	Togo				YES
African	Tunisia			A	YES
African	Uganda	A	A	A	A
African	United Republic of Tanzania			A	A
African	Zambia	YES		A	A
African	Zimbabwe			YES	NO
Asian	Afghanistan			NO	YES
Asian	Bahrain			NO	YES
Asian	Bangladesh	NO	A	A	A
Asian	Bhutan			NO	A
Asian	Brunei			A	A
Asian	Cambodia				YES
Asian	China	NO	NO	YES	A
Asian	Cyprus			NO	YES
Asian	DPRK			YES	NO
Asian	Fiji			NO	A
Asian	India		A	A	A
Asian	Indonesia		YES	NO	YES
Asian	Iran			YES	NO
Asian	Iraq				
Asian	Japan	YES		NO	YES
Asian	Jordan		YES	NO	YES
Asian	Kazakhstan			NO	YES
Asian	Kiribati				
Asian	Kuwait		YES	NO	YES
Asian	Kyrgyzstan	YES	YES	A	YES
Asian	Lao People's Democratic Republic			YES	A
Asian	Lebanon				A
Asian	Malaysia	NO	A	A	A
Asian	Maldives	YES	YES	NO	YES
Asian	Marshall Islands			NO	YES
Asian	Micronesia			NO	YES
Asian	Mongolia			NO	YES
Asian	Myanmar			YES	NO
Asian	Nauru			NO	YES
Asian	Nepal			A	A
Asian	Oman			NO	YES
Asian	Pakistan	NO		A	A
Asian	Palau			NO	YES
Asian	Papua New Guinea			NO	YES
Asian	Philippines		A	A	A
Asian	Qatar		YES	NO	YES
Asian	Republic of Korea	YES		NO	YES
Asian	Samoa			NO	YES
Asian	Saudi Arabia	A	YES	NO	YES
Asian	Singapore			YES	A
Asian	Solomon Islands				YES
Asian	Sri Lanka			YES	A
Asian	Syria			YES	NO
Asian	Tajikistan			A	A
Asian	Thailand	A	YES	A	A
Asian	Timor-Leste			NO	YES
Asian	Tonga				
Asian	Turkmenistan			A	A
Asian	Tuvalu			NO	
Asian	United Arab Emirates			NO	YES
Asian	Uzbekistan			YES	NO
Asian	Vanuatu			NO	YES
Asian	Viet Nam			YES	NO
Asian	Yemen			A	A
CEIT	Albania			NO	YES
CEIT	Armenia				A

CEIT	Azerbaijan				YES
CEIT	Belarus			YES	NO
CEIT	Bosnia and Herzegovina			NO	YES
CEIT	Bulgaria			NO	YES
CEIT	Croatia			NO	YES
CEIT	Czech Republic		YES	NO	YES
CEIT	Estonia			NO	YES
CEIT	Georgia			NO	YES
CEIT	Hungary	YES	YES	NO	YES
CEIT	Latvia			NO	YES
CEIT	Lithuania			NO	YES
CEIT	Montenegro			NO	YES
CEIT	Poland	YES	YES	NO	YES
CEIT	Republic of Moldova	YES	YES	NO	YES
CEIT	Romania		YES	NO	YES
CEIT	Russian Federation	NO	NO	YES	A
CEIT	Serbia			NO	YES
CEIT	Slovakia	YES		NO	YES
CEIT	Slovenia			NO	YES
CEIT	The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia			NO	YES
CEIT	Ukraine	A		NO	YES
GRULAC	Antigua and Barbuda			NO	A
GRULAC	Argentina	YES		NO	YES
GRULAC	Bahamas			NO	YES
GRULAC	Barbados			NO	YES
GRULAC	Belize			NO	YES
GRULAC	Bolivia			YES	NO
GRULAC	Brazil	YES		A	YES
GRULAC	Chile	YES	YES	NO	YES
GRULAC	Colombia			NO	YES
GRULAC	Costa Rica		YES	NO	YES
GRULAC	Cuba	NO	NO	YES	NO
GRULAC	Dominica				
GRULAC	Dominican Republic			A	A
GRULAC	Ecuador	NO	NO	YES	NO
GRULAC	El Salvador			NO	YES
GRULAC	Grenada			NO	A
GRULAC	Guatemala	YES	YES	NO	YES
GRULAC	Guyana			A	YES
GRULAC	Haiti			NO	YES
GRULAC	Honduras			NO	YES
GRULAC	Jamaica			NO	YES
GRULAC	Mexico	YES	YES	NO	YES
GRULAC	Nicaragua			YES	NO
GRULAC	Panama			NO	YES
GRULAC	Paraguay			NO	YES
GRULAC	Peru		YES	NO	YES
GRULAC	Saint Kitts and Nevis			A	A
GRULAC	Saint Lucia			NO	YES
GRULAC	Saint Vincent and the Grenadines			A	A
GRULAC	Suriname				
GRULAC	Trinidad and Tobago			NO	YES
GRULAC	Uruguay	YES	YES	NO	YES
GRULAC	Venezuela			YES	NO
WEOG	Andorra			NO	YES
WEOG	Australia			NO	YES
WEOG	Austria		YES	NO	YES
WEOG	Belgium	YES	YES	NO	YES
WEOG	Canada			NO	YES
WEOG	Denmark			NO	YES
WEOG	Finland			NO	YES
WEOG	France	YES		NO	YES
WEOG	Germany			NO	YES
WEOG	Greece			NO	YES
WEOG	Iceland			NO	YES
WEOG	Ireland			NO	YES
WEOG	Israel			NO	YES
WEOG	Italy		YES	NO	YES
WEOG	Liechtenstein			NO	YES

WEOG	Luxembourg			NO	YES
WEOG	Malta			NO	YES
WEOG	Monaco			NO	YES
WEOG	Netherlands			NO	YES
WEOG	New Zealand			NO	YES
WEOG	Norway	YES	YES	NO	YES
WEOG	Portugal			NO	YES
WEOG	San Marino			NO	YES
WEOG	Spain	YES	YES	NO	YES
WEOG	Sweden			NO	YES
WEOG	Switzerland	YES	YES	NO	YES
WEOG	Turkey			NO	YES
WEOG	United Kingdom	YES		NO	YES
WEOG	United States	YES	YES	NO	YES
		7	9	29	41
		9	4	118	13
		26	33	20	122