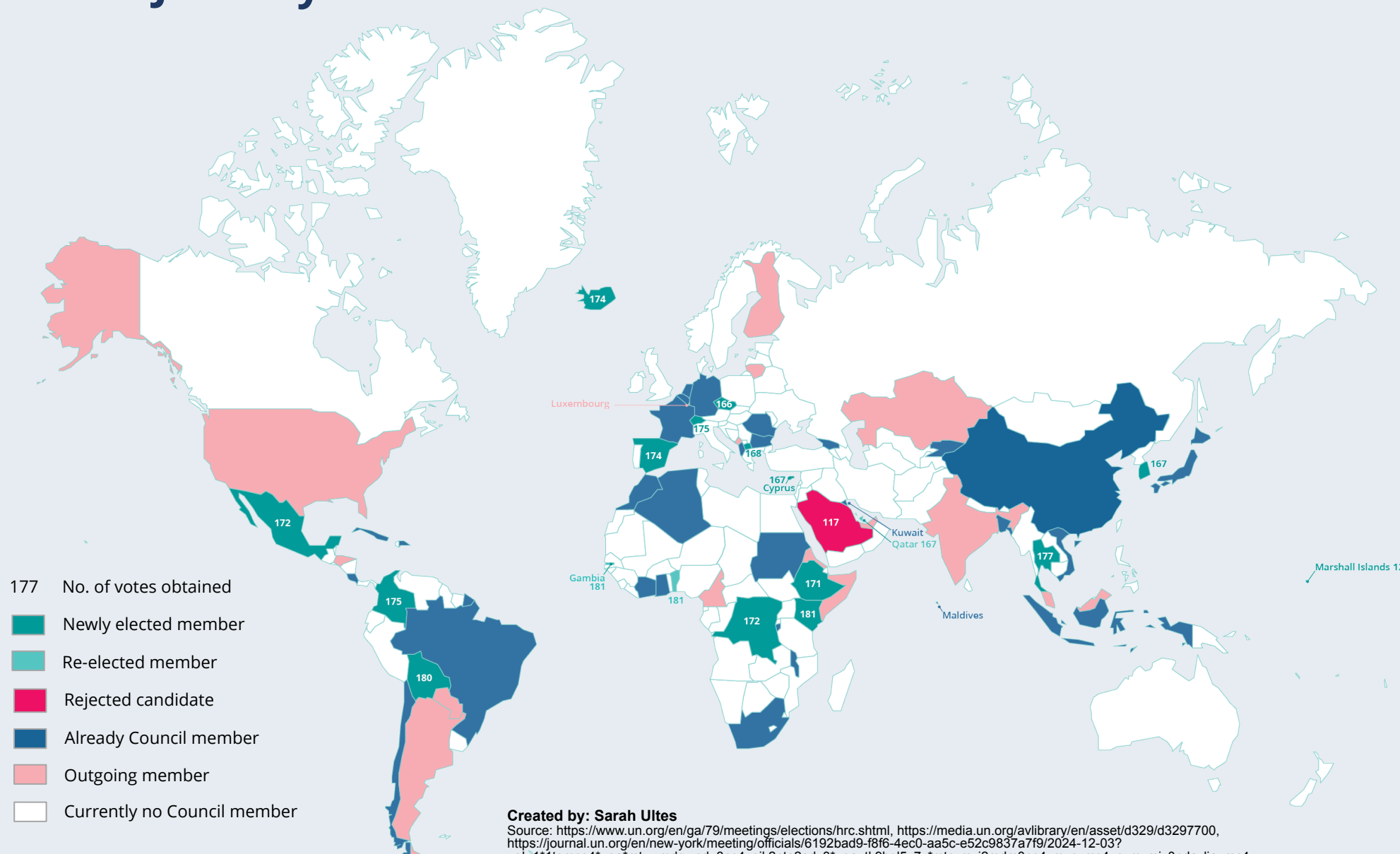


The new composition of the UN Human Rights Council as of 1 January 2025

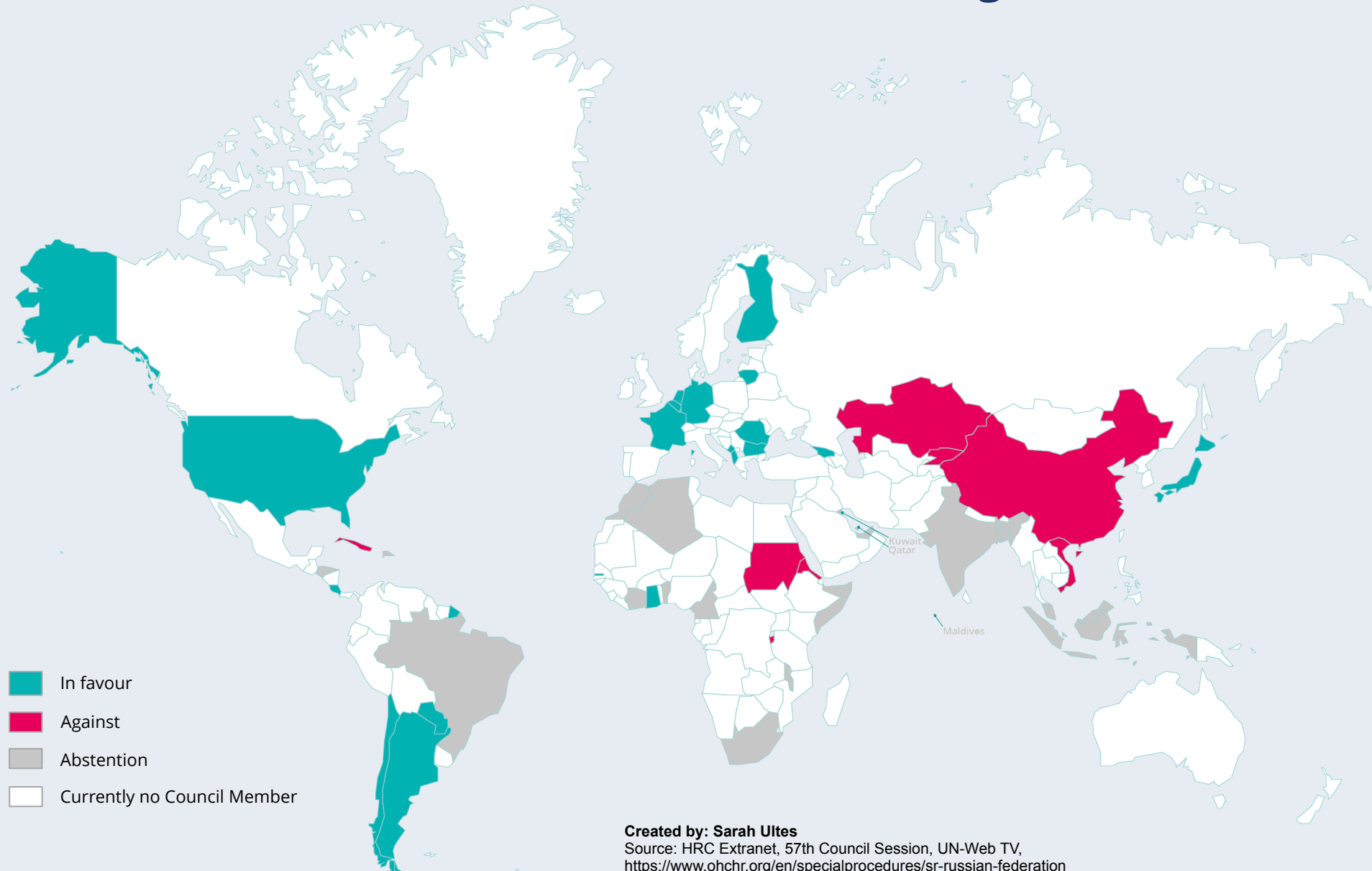
Map of the Month October 2024

- On 9 October, 2024, the UN General Assembly elected 15 new members and re-elected 3 members (Benin, Gambia, Qatar) from 5 regional groups by secret ballot to the 47-member UN Human Rights Council for the term 2025-2027.
- The only regional group that allowed for competition was the Asia-Pacific group. With only 117 votes obtained, Saudi Arabia came in sixth behind the Marshall Islands (124) and thus failed to be elected. All other regional groups pre-selected the exact number of states for the vacant seats, a so-called „clean slate“.
- In the group of Western European and other States, the US decided not to run for a second term. Back in June 2018, Trump in his first term had decided to withdraw from the Council, a decision that was reversed under Biden.



Vote on Special Rapporteur on situation of human rights in the Russian Federation in 57th UN Human Rights Council

Map of the Month October 2024



- During its 57th session, the UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution that extends the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Russian Federation, Ms. Mariana Katzarova for another year. This was the second extension since the creation of the mandate in 2022.
- The resolution was adopted under Item 4, which deals with the most serious country situations that require the Council's attention.
- 20 states voted in favour, 8 against (Burundi, China, Cuba, Eritrea, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Sudan and Vietnam), and 19 abstained. Cuba, Eritrea and China all asked for a recorded vote. Last year, only 7 states voted against with Sudan abstaining.
- While presenting her second report, Katzarova underlined that the Russian Federation is now governed by „a State-sponsored system of fear and punishment, including the use of torture, with absolute impunity.“

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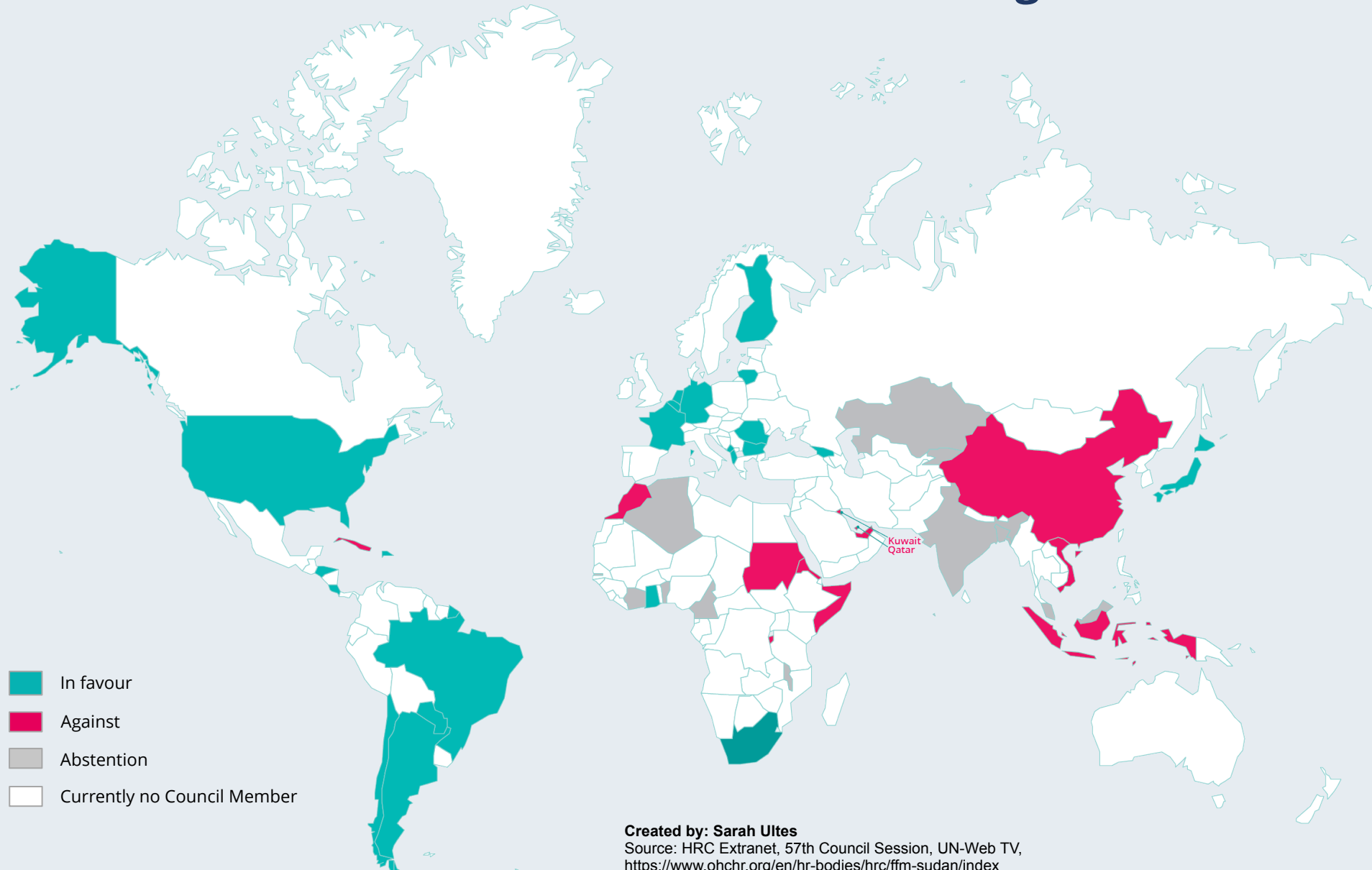
Source: HRC Extranet, 57th Council Session, UN-Web TV,
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/specialprocedures/sr-russian-federation>

Vote on resolution on human rights and humanitarian crisis in Sudan in 57th session of UN Human Rights Council

Map of the Month

October 2024

- During its 57th session, the UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution that extends the mandate of the Fact Finding Mission (FFM) on Sudan for another year. It was established in October 2023 to investigate violations committed in Sudan in the context of the conflict that erupted in mid-April 2023
- Compared to last year, the renewal received broader support: 23 states voted in favor (compared to 19 in 2023), 12 voted against (compared to 16) and 12 abstained. Changes occurred mainly in the African Group. While 7 out of 13 African States rejected the establishment last year, and all others abstained, South Africa and Ghana became supporters while Algeria and the Ivory Coast changed from rejection to abstention.
- The first report of the FFM states that both the Sudanese Armed Forces (SAF) and the Rapid Response Forces (RSF), and their respective allied militias, have committed large-scale human rights and international humanitarian law violations, many of which may amount to war crimes and/or crimes against humanity.

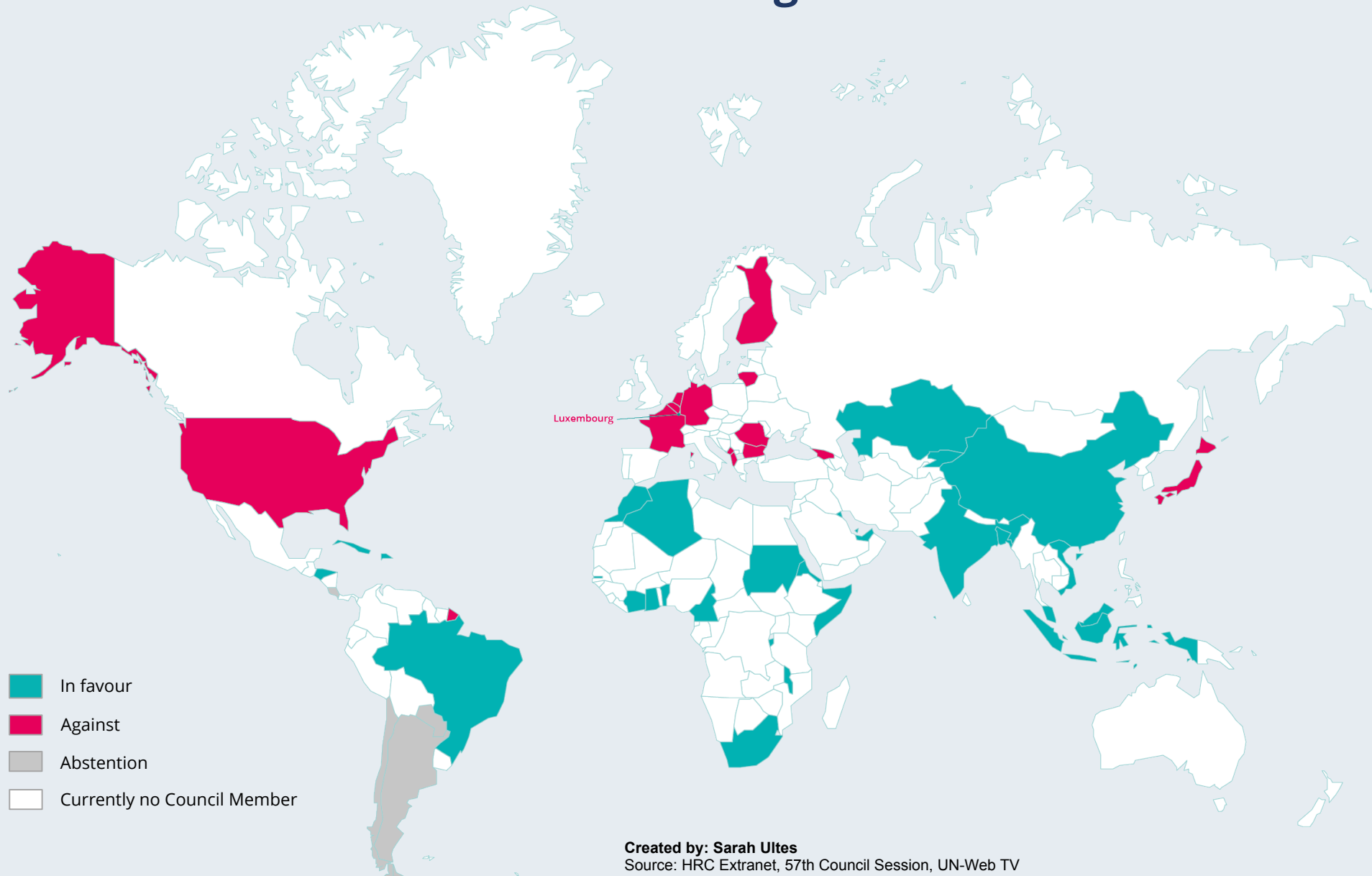


Created by: Sarah Ultes
Source: HRC Extranet, 57th Council Session, UN-Web TV,
<https://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/ffm-sudan/index>

Vote on resolution on the right to development in 57th session of the UN Human Rights Council

Map of the Month October 2024

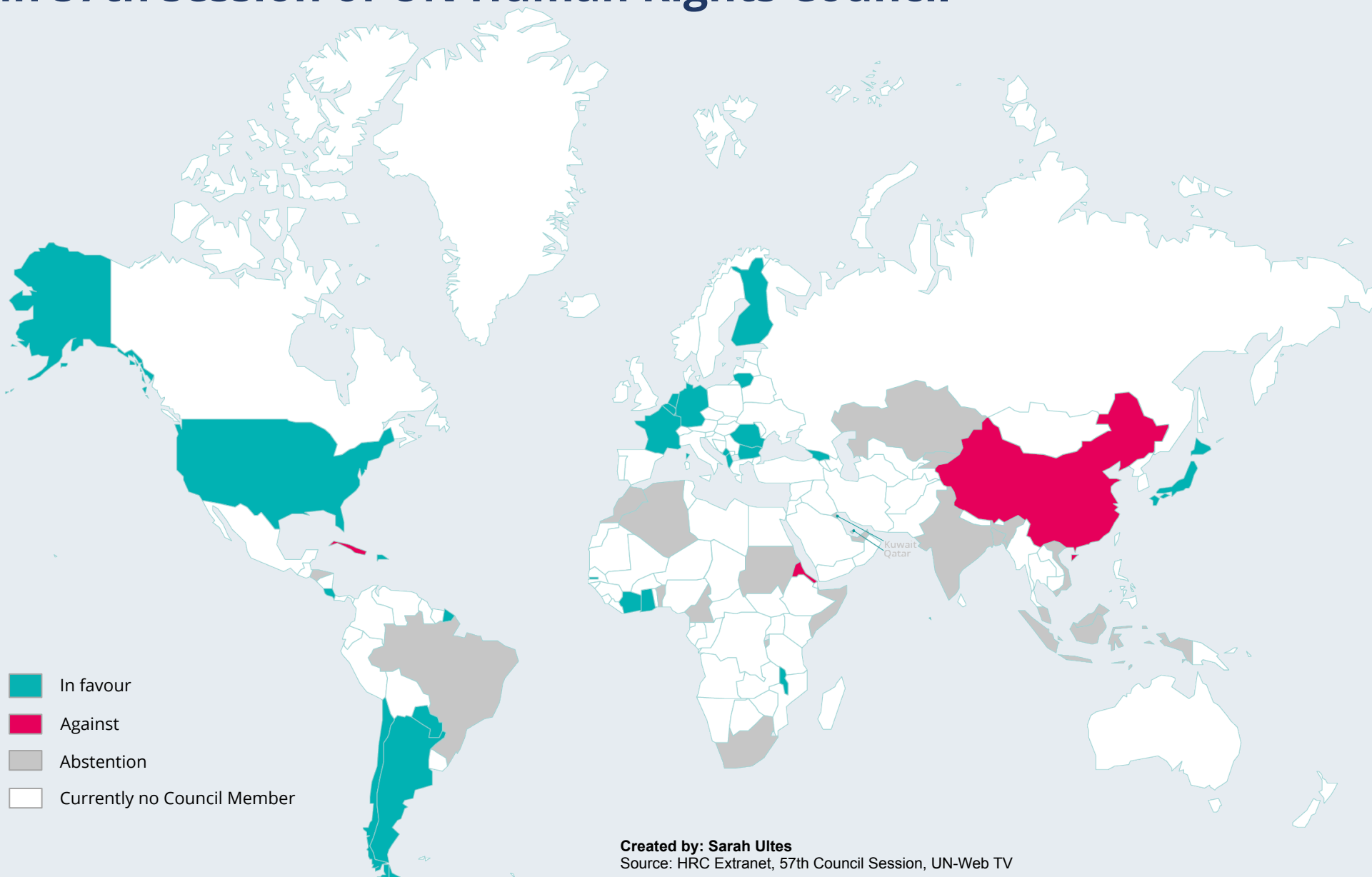
- During its 57th session, the UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on the „right to development“ submitted by Uganda on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement with 29 states in favour, 14 against and 4 abstentions.
- The previous resolution on the right to development from September 2023, contained a draft international covenant in its annex which was submitted to the General Assembly for its consideration, negotiation and subsequent adoption. It is currently still being negotiated. The new resolution mainly introduces several new paragraphs that request i.a. the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to further promote the right to development at the regional level.
- The US strongly criticised the text as putting development above human rights and as protecting states rather than individuals and called for a vote. Also the European Union saw the creation of a legally binding instrument as highly problematic and criticised the interference with the independence of the OHCHR.



Vote on resolution on cooperation with Georgia in 57th session of UN Human Rights Council

Map of the Month October 2024

- During its 57th session, the UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution on Georgia with 24 states voting in favour, 3 against (China, Eritrea and Cuba) and 20 abstaining.
- Georgia had submitted the text which underlines the „sovereignty, independence and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders“ and condemns „land seizures“ in Abkhazia as well as statements on „the intention to hold a so-called referendum in the Tskhinvali region/South Ossetia, Georgia, on the matter of joining the Russian Federation“. It further requests immediate and unimpeded access for staff of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) and other human rights mechanisms to the above-mentioned regions. In addition, it requests the High Commissioner to continue to provide technical assistance through the Office of the High Commissioner in Tbilisi.
- Eritrea had called for a vote stating that some of the issues fall outside the mandate of the Council which was partly echoed by Brazil and Honduras.



Vote on resolution „From rhetoric to reality“ in 57th session of UN Human Rights Council

Map of the Month October 2024

- During its 57th session, the UN Human Rights Council adopted a resolution entitled „From rhetoric to reality: a global call for concrete action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance“ with 30 votes in favour, 5 against (Albania, Germany, France, The Netherlands and the US) and 12 abstentions.
- The text was submitted by Gambia on behalf of the African Group. It encourages the General Assembly to proclaim a second International Decade for People of African Descent commencing in 2025 and underlines the importance of the Durban Declaration and Program of Action (DDPA). It also calls the slave trade a "crime against humanity" for which States are asked to make „reparations proportionate to the harms committed and to ensure that structures in society that are perpetuating the injustices of the past are transformed, including law enforcement and the administration of justice.“
- The US called for a vote referring to the antisemitism surrounding the Durban process and to the singling out of one specific region. Germany raised similar concerns.

