

Source: <https://www.nbcccomedyplayground.com/who-invented-the-block-system/>
<https://egyankosh.ac.in/bitstream/123456789/32977/1/Unit-7.pdf>
<https://www.fao.org/3/t0231e/t0231e04.htm>

Q.30) Consider the following statements regarding ‘UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)’:

1. The member states of the council elected by the General Assembly of the UN through direct and secret ballot.
2. The council has the authority to carry out the Universal Periodic Review of all UN member states.
3. The rights and privileges of any council member can be suspended only by the resolution passed by UN Security Council.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- a) 1 and 2 only
- b) 2 only
- c) 2 and 3 only
- d) 1 and 3 only

Ans) a

Exp) Option a is the correct answer.

This question is based on the article “U.N suspends Russia from Human Rights Council; India abstains from vote” published in **The Hindu** on **7th April 2022**.

Statement 1 is correct: The Human Rights Council is an **inter-governmental body** within the ‘United Nations’ system. The UNHRC replaced the former United Nations Commission on Human Rights. The Council was created by the United Nations General Assembly in 2006 by a resolution. The Council is made of **47 Member States, elected by the General Assembly of the UN through direct and secret ballot**. The General Assembly takes into account the candidate States’ contribution to the promotion and protection of human rights, as well as their voluntary pledges and commitments in this regard.

Statement 2 is correct: The UN Human Right council carries out the **Universal Periodic Review** of all UN member states. This allows civil **society groups to bring accusations of human rights violations in member states** to the attention of the UN. The Council holds no fewer than three regular sessions a year, for a total of at least ten weeks. If one third of the Member States requests so, the Council can hold a special session to address human rights violations and emergencies.

Statement 3 is incorrect: As per the rules, the **United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) can suspend the rights and privileges of any Council member** that it decides has persistently committed gross and systematic violations of human rights during its term of membership. To suspend a member, one needs a **two-thirds majority vote by the General Assembly**. The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) has **voted to suspend Russia from the UN Human Rights Council (UNHRC)**.

Note: This is **only the second time the UNGA** has suspended a country from the 47-member UN Human Rights Council after its formation in 2006. In 2011, **Libya was thrown out** through a resolution adopted by UNGA through consensus.

Source: <https://blog.forumias.com/u-n-suspends-russia-from-human-rights-council-india-abstains-from-vote/>

UN Human Rights Council -ForumIAS Blog

Q.31) Consider the following pairs:

Irrigation Projects	State/UT
1. Sardar Sarovar Project	Gujarat
2. Panchet Project	Maharashtra