HIGHLIGHTS OF RESULTS

Students of the University of Bamako looking at OHCHR materials during a presentation of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali, April 2014.

Highlights of results

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OHCHR staff on mission to Chocó, Colombia.

This section highlights results, or progress made towards results, which were recorded in 2014 and to which OHCHR made a meaningful contribution. For a general overview of OHCHR's role in these developments, please refer to the end of the chapter, page 36. For a more detailed description of the results and OHCHR's specific role, please refer to the chapters by field presence and headquarter division which can be found on the CD attached to this report or on our website.

The results highlighted below are organized by OHCHR's thematic priorities as set out in the OHCHR Management Plan 2014-2017. The Office's work is grounded in OHCHR's theory of change and the thematic expected accomplishments (see annex I) which explain the intermediate results that the Office intends to contribute to in the pursuit of its long-term goal – all human rights for all. As the title of the OMP indicates, OHCHR's current planning cycle ends in 2017 and the majority of the expected accomplishments and targets set out in the OMP are thus forecasted to be achieved by the end of that year.

Nevertheless, considerable progress has already been achieved with an estimated 12 per cent of national expected accomplishments fully achieved in 2014 and good progress made on 56 per cent.

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

12 per cent of national expected accomplishments fully achieved, good progress made on 62 per cent.

Ratifications

In 2014, the number of ratifications and accessions amounted to 59. As a result, the total number of ratifications of and accessions to the international human rights treaties and protocols now stands at 2,258. This number includes the acceptance of amended articles relating to individual communications procedures.

Also during the year, the international human rights legal framework was strengthened as the Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure entered into force in April 2014. The Protocol outlines an international complaints procedure that will enable children from States that have ratified both the Convention and the Protocol to submit complaints about violations of their rights directly to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

The State of **Palestine**[1] became a party to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR). In addition, it acceded to five other conventions and one protocol, without reservations, namely the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict (OP-CRC-AC). A subsequent legislative review took place to identify laws that require amendment or replacement in order to fulfil Palestine's treaty obligations.

Viet Nam ratified CAT and the CRPD. Viet Nam is now party to seven core international human rights treaties and has one of the highest rates of treaty ratification in the subregion.

Cape Verde, Costa Rica and **Gabon** ratified the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (OP-ICESCR). **Angola** acceded to the CRPD and **Guinea-Bissau, the Republic of the Congo** and **Sao Tomé and Principe** ratified the Convention. **Guinea-Bissau** also ratified the OP-CRC-AC. **Angola** signed and **Togo** ratified the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPED). **Madagascar** signed the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW). **Cape Verde** ratified and **Mozambique** acceded to the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT).

Tunisia withdrew all four of its reservations to CEDAW. The **Mexican** Congress approved the withdrawal of reservations to seven international treaties.

A number of Universal Periodic Review recommendations were implemented in **Haiti**, including the signing of the Inter-American Convention against Racism, Racial Discrimination and Related Forms of Intolerance and the Inter-American Convention against All Forms of Discrimination and Intolerance in June. In the same month, the Trafficking in Persons Act was promulgated and the Paternity, Maternity and Filiation Act entered into force.

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[1] Reference to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.

State Engagement with human rights mechanisms

The second cycle of the UPR continued in 2014 with the full participation of all 42 States scheduled for consideration during the year, including a number of small island developing States (SIDS). Many of the national reports prepared for the second cycle made reference to the recommendations issued during the first cycle and reported on the implementation measures that were planned or in place. Increasingly, countries submitted midterm reports on the steps taken in this regard. To date, 54 States have submitted such reports.

The Republic of **Serbia** launched a national mechanism to monitor the implementation of recommendations issued by UN human rights mechanisms and another mechanism to monitor the implementation of the Action Plan related to the Strategy for the Prevention of and Protection against Discrimination (2014-2018). **Georgia** began implementing its National Human Rights Action Plan. In **Timor-Leste**, a National Directive Commission was established to draft the national human rights action plan. The Commission included the national human rights institution, civil society, religious organizations and the private sector. The Ministry of Justice in **Bolivia** sent a final proposal for a national human rights action plan for 2014-2018 to the Government's Human Rights Committee and OHCHR for feedback. **Senegal** established a technical committee to monitor the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan in line with UPR recommendations.

In **Paraguay**, the executive, legislative and judicial branches, the Attorney General and the Ombudsman collaborated to develop an inter-institutional mechanism to monitor, follow up and report on the recommendations issued by the regional and international human rights mechanisms in relation to Paraguay. As a result of this process, an online recommendations reporting system, named SIMORE, was developed to allow the uploading of recommendations received by Paraguay and to provide information on the follow-up to their implementation, including regarding the State institutions in charge of implementation, all relevant policies and programmes, actions, indicators and challenges. Efforts are ongoing to technically link this national database with the Human Rights Index, run by OHCHR, for the automatic transfer of recommendations into the national system. This database project, supported by OHCHR, is being documented for dissemination to other States as a good practice.

National coordination bodies were established to support national reporting and the implementation of recommendations in **Kiribati**, **Palau** and **Vanuatu**. Vanuatu also launched a National Implementation Plan for the implementation of the recommendations issued during the second cycle of the UPR.

Mauritania established a technical committee for the development of State Party reports which will be chaired by the Office of the Prime Minister. The technical committee has developed a workplan for the drafting of three periodic reports and its UPR report, which will be submitted in 2015. OHCHR holds observer status with the committee. In **Guinea**, an interministerial committee for the elaboration of State Party reports was established and its report to the UPR was prepared and submitted. **Liberia** drafted a national strategy on treaty obligations.

Iraq issued a standing invitation to special procedures mandate-holders to visit Iraq, but no visits took place in 2014.

The Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT) carried out three regular visits to **Azerbaijan**, **Nicaragua** and **Togo**. The visit to Azerbaijan was cut short during the mission. The SPT also carried out a visit to **Ecuador** and **Malta** in relation to their National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs), an advisory visit to **Nigeria** and a follow-up visit to the **Maldives**.

Rights-holders engagement with human rights mechanisms

Each year, the treaty bodies receive more than 1,000 written submissions from civil society organizations (CSOs), NHRIs and UN entities. In 2014, 1,256 stakeholder submissions were received by the treaty bodies and, in addition, over 1,000 observers attended treaty body public meetings.

Several CSOs and the Ombudsman's Office from the **former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** (FYRM), made submissions to the second UPR review of FYRM. In addition, submissions were made to the Human Rights Committee, which integrated many of their recommendations in its concluding observations.

Fellows bring human rights back home to small island developing States

In January 2014, a new Trust Fund was set up to help least developed countries (LDCs) and small island developing States participate in the Human Rights Council. The Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the work of the Human Rights Council has already been used to enable seven government officials from SIDS and LDCs to travel to and stay in Geneva while attending meetings of the Council. The representatives came from Ethiopia, Madagascar, Maldives, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Suriname and Vanuatu.

In addition, the Trust Fund was used to support two fellowships of three months for individuals from Barbados and Tuvalu. The fellows, Ricardo Kellman and Efren Jogia, arrived in Geneva before the Council's September session and immediately began an orientation programme that was organized by OHCHR and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research. Following their training, Ricardo and Efren served as representatives of their countries at the Council's 27th regular session from 9 to 26 September and at the 20th session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group from 27 October to 7 November. Although both Ricardo and Efren were familiar with international fora, they were affected by the experience. "It was impressive to see how the meetings were conducted, particularly the high level of decorum and respectful way in which sometimes differing views were articulated," stated Ricardo. "In Tuvalu, the issue of human rights is very important," Efren added. "Climate change, for example, is very pertinent to human rights issues back home and it's good to know that there is a good platform here in Geneva to discuss these important issues."

Ricardo and Efren agreed that one of the most positive aspects of their experience in Geneva was the chance to meet so many people with common goals from different backgrounds. They also saw their fellowships as a starting point for ongoing collaboration with OHCHR and others working on human rights issues. As Riccardo noted, "The fellowship provided an extraordinary opportunity to meet key people in the United Nations' human rights structure." Efren echoed this sentiment and added, "This is a very useful way to bring people together. There are great benefits to this type of networking. We cannot underestimate the importance of these engagements… [The fellowship] provided an opportunity to marry the academic approach with the practical approach to human rights. This would not have been possible back home."

A view of room XX during the 25th session of the Human Rights Council, March 2014.

Civil society organizations in **Cambodia** made eight submissions to the Human Rights Committee. In the **Maldives**, CSOs and the national human rights institution submitted a total of six stakeholder reports for the second cycle of the UPR. A coalition of CSOs in **Kuwait** submitted a report to the UPR and a number of NGOs in **Mauritania** submitted a joint report to the CEDAW Committee.

In **Panama**, several individual and joint contributions were submitted by NGOs to the second cycle of the UPR. This included the first contribution submitted by indigenous authorities. Two communications were also sent to the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples. Civil society organizations in the **Dominican Republic** submitted individual and joint reports to the country's second cycle of the UPR.

Civil society organizations in **Guatemala** contributed to the preparation of communications on individual cases sent to the special procedures and the Forum of International NGOs developed an agreement with the NHRI to systematically monitor the implementation of recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms. In **Honduras**, two Afro-Honduran organizations submitted reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and 18 UPR reports were submitted from local NGOs and the NHRI to the Human Rights Council (HRC). NGOs in Paraguay submitted a total of 11 reports to the human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and

the UPR, representing a significant increase over 2013 when seven reports were submitted.

In **Chad**, several CSOs collaborated and submitted a joint report to the Human Rights Committee. In **Côte d'Ivoire**, 13 submissions were made by NGOs for the second cycle of the UPR. Eleven NGOs submitted reports and information to the Human Rights Committee in relation to its review of **Malawi's** State Party report, in particular regarding the preparation of the list of issues. In **the Gambia,** 14 submissions were made by CSOs in anticipation of the second cycle of the UPR.

International and regional laws and institutions

Numerous mechanisms made important contributions to the development of international human rights law. For example, the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation published the *Handbook for realizing the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation*; the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children issued the *Basic Principles on the right to an effective remedy for trafficked persons*; the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention initiated the preparation of preliminary draft principles and guidelines on the right of anyone deprived of her or his liberty to bring proceedings before court; and the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity

presented the HRC with a draft declaration on the right of peoples and individuals to international solidarity.

Five general comments/recommendations were adopted by the treaty bodies:

- ▶ General Comment No. 35 on Article 9 of the ICCPR concerning liberty and security of persons;
- ▶ General Recommendation No. 32 of CEDAW on the gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness of women;
- ▶ Joint General Recommendation/General Comment No. 31 of CEDAW and No. 18 of CRC on harmful practices; and
- ▶ General Comment No. 1 on Article 12 of CRPD on equal recognition before the law and General Comment No. 2 on Article 9 of CRPD on accessibility.

Coherence among human rights mechanisms

In 2014, the General Assembly concluded the treaty body strengthening process and adopted resolution 68/268 (see box on page 13). At their annual meeting in June, the Chairpersons considered the implications of the resolution and formulated several recommendations for the treaty bodies in relation to the harmonization of their working methods. Most of the committees have now implemented a simplified reporting procedure, adopted a Guidance Note for States on the constructive dialogue and harmonized the format of their concluding observations.

Coordination between the special procedures improved with the adoption of several joint initiatives between mandate-holders. These initiatives advocated for the integration of human rights in the post-2015 development agenda and called for the elimination of inequalities, the provision of social protection floors and the establishment of a double accountability mechanism to hold countries accountable for their human rights commitments at both the national and international levels.

Responsiveness of the international community

With regard to the commissions of inquiry, the Human Rights Council extended the Commission of Inquiry in the Syrian Arab Republic; established a Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea to investigate all alleged human rights violations; a Commission of Inquiry to investigate all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in the Occupied Palestinian

Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly in the occupied Gaza Strip; requested the High Commissioner to undertake a comprehensive investigation into alleged violations of human rights by both parties in Sri Lanka during the period covered by the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission; to urgently dispatch a mission to Iraq to investigate alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law committed by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and associated terrorist groups; continue to support the Commission of Inquiry on the Central African Republic mandated by the Security Council; and asked the High Commissioner to report on the situation of human rights in Ukraine.

The special procedures addressed a number of emerging human rights issues, such as the use of drones in extraterritorial lethal counter-terrorism operations; the trend of remotely piloted aircraft or armed drones and emerging autonomous weapons systems; the use of mass digital surveillance for counter-terrorism purposes; implementation of the right to social security through the universal adoption of social protection floors; and the use of private military and security companies.

International human rights mechanisms increasingly formulated their recommendations in terms of indicators and disaggregated statistics. The recommendations of human rights treaty bodies, special rapporteurs and those issued in the context of the UPR specifically requested that States develop indicators and benchmarks using OHCHR's methodology for human rights indicators. This methodology provides concrete tools and its use is increasingly recognized as a good practice in strengthening a culture of transparency in the follow-up to recommendations issued by international human rights mechanisms and is considered essential to producing more results-based national human rights action plans.

Human rights integrated into UN policies and programmes

The United Nations Country Team in **Ukraine** drafted the *United Nations Strategy for Ukraine,* which is founded on a human rights-based approach. The UNCTs in **Armenia**, **Azerbaijan** and **Georgia** increased their awareness about the UN human rights mechanisms and included some of the recommendations in their programmes.

The UNCTs in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru and Uruguay provided support to the Governments

and civil society in these countries in analyzing and reviewing key UPR recommendations, defining roadmaps and identifying needs for capacity-building and technical assistance. This data has been integrated into the respective UN common country programming documents, such as the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

The UNDAF 2015-2019 for **Guatemala** includes an annex with the recommendations issued to them by human rights mechanisms and which are relevant to the five programmatic areas that are to be implemented by the UNCT. The document also includes the indicators proposed by OHCHR to measure the UNDAF's effectiveness.

In **Mauritania,** UPR recommendations were integrated into the UNDAF 2012-2016 midterm review and planning for 2015.

In **Cambodia**, the UNCT made its first joint submission to a treaty body, namely the Human Rights Committee, in anticipation of the adoption of the list of issues related to Cambodia's second periodic report. The UNCT in **Paraguay** submitted a report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR).

Treaty body strengthening process

Beginning in 2012, Member States engaged in a series of consultations related to the treaty body strengthening process that took place over a two-year period. At its conclusion, in April 2014, the General Assembly adopted resolution 68/268 on strengthening the human rights treaty body system. The resolution built on many of the proposals that were put forward by the High Commissioner in a report to the General Assembly (A/66/860).

To enhance the capacity of the treaty bodies to protect human rights, the General Assembly:

- Reaffirmed the independence and impartiality of the treaty bodies and their members;
- Approved a capacity-building programme to assist countries which need technical help in meeting their treaty obligations;
- Granted 30 per cent more meeting time to the treaty bodies to increase the number of State Party reports and individual complaints they are able to review each year and allocated more staff to support the work of the treaty bodies;
- Strongly condemned all reprisals against individuals and organizations that have cooperated with the treaty bodies;

- Reduced the amount of documentation produced for the treaty bodies by taking important steps towards more environmentally sustainable practices;
- Modernized modes of communication and enhanced its outreach by providing videoconferencing equipment;
- Encouraged the treaty bodies to harmonize their working methods to make them more efficient and accessible and empowered their Chairpersons to do so;
- Requested that the Secretary-General ensure that the treaty bodies are made progressively accessible for persons with disabilities; and
- Encouraged States to provide voluntary funds to help countries without representation in Geneva to engage with the treaty bodies.

Since April 2014, OHCHR has focused its efforts on the implementation of and follow-up to the resolution. It has done so by advocating for and facilitating the harmonization of working methods of the treaty bodies, in particular at the annual meeting of treaty body Chairpersons. Most treaty bodies have agreed to make the simplified reporting procedure available to States Parties and measures have been taken to harmonize the formats of their constructive dialogue and concluding observations.

In 2014, OHCHR worked closely with the United Nations Office at Geneva to ensure that the additional meeting time and other provisions in the resolution would be in effect as of January 2015. It prepared a 2015 calendar which includes the 99 weeks of meeting time planned for the treaty bodies and began working with the UN Department of Public Information on a study about the feasibility of webcasting the public meetings of the treaty bodies.

The General Assembly requested that the Secretary-General submit a report every two years about any progress made in the implementation of resolution 68/268. The first report will be submitted in 2016. In 2020, the General Assembly will undertake a review of the effectiveness of the adopted measures. If appropriate, it may decide to maintain the measures or suggest further action designed to strengthen and enhance the effective functioning of the treaty body system.

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Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

8 per cent of national expected accomplishments fully achieved, good progress made on 51 per cent.

Anti-discrimination laws, policies and institutions

Ukraine adopted amendments to the Law on the principles of preventing and countering discrimination, therefore bringing it in closer compliance with international standards.

In **Bolivia**, the National Committee against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination adopted a system to monitor the implementation of the 17 programmes included in the National Action Plan against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination. The **Colombian** Constitutional Court ordered the implementation of an ethnic protection road map for the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples and of Afro-descendants to territory and to make choices in relation to their own ways of life.

In **Honduras**, the Ministry of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-Honduran Affairs finalized the draft national policy against racism and racial discrimination and

presented it on 9 August, the International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples. The Government has not yet considered the draft for approval.

Mauritania elaborated a draft national action plan for legal reviews and reforms, the criminalization of racist acts, the revision of textbooks on civic education and educational measures targeting young people, the judiciary and law enforcement officers. In **Yemen**, a draft national human rights strategy was prepared in compliance with the Outcomes of the National Dialogue Conference and Yemen's international human rights commitments, including the UPR recommendations it had accepted.

The Gender Equality Act of **Malawi** entered into force, translating constitutional provisions and CEDAW commitments into domestic legislation. In addition, Malawi's abortion legislation and the Prevention of Domestic Violence Act are under review. In **Lebanon**, legislation was adopted on domestic violence. Despite some shortcomings, the legislation represents a decisive step forward and has already led to the arrest of perpetrators and improved the protection of women and children. In **Tunisia**, a draft law to combat violence against women was developed and presented to the Ministerial Council for adoption. In **Cape Verde**, following technical advice and inputs provided by OHCHR and UN Women, the National Action Plan to Combat Gender-Based Violence was

revised to integrate anti-discriminatory and equality provisions. In **Uganda**, the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development agreed to promote a two-year media gender mainstreaming strategy to provide the media with guidance on how to integrate a gender perspective into their programming and reporting.

In **Mexico**, the Congress of Coahuila adopted a Law to recognize same-sex marriage, making it the first Mexican state to approve such a law. In **Ecuador**, a public policy on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons was developed by an interministerial task force and its approval and implementation is planned for 2015. In **Kosovo**[2], following advocacy undertaken by the Office, as well as international and civil society organizations, an advisory and coordination group was established within the Prime Minister's Office to address the rights of LGBTI persons.

In the course of the year, the UN's global anti-homophobia campaign, **Free & Equal,** reached more than one billion people and attracted high-profile support from celebrities and public figures in all regions of the world. A video, entitled *The Welcome*, was launched in Mumbai and is one of the UN's most widely watched human rights videos with over two million online views and multiple television broadcasts.

As a result of numerous awareness-raising activities undertaken by OHCHR, the situation of **persons with albinism** received greater attention in the media and in recommendations issued by human rights mechanisms. On the recommendation of

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[2] Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

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The Deputy High Commissioner visits indigenous communities involved in the Maya programme in Guatemala, May 2014.

the Human Rights Council, the General Assembly proclaimed 13 June as International Albinism Awareness Day.

In **Tunisia**, the National Charter for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities was signed by Heads of political parties and presidential candidates. The Charter represents a covenant between persons with disabilities, the political parties and the candidates for the legislative and presidential elections, indicating their commitment to protecting the rights of persons with disabilities and ensuring the enjoyment of and respect for their fundamental freedoms after the elections. The Government of

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Parents in the Republic of Moldova get together to fight for inclusive education

In the Republic of Moldova, parents of children with disabilities formed a network to promote inclusive education. The network received support from OHCHR and experts on disability-related issues and met several times in 2014, particularly during the academic year, to claim the right of their children to attend mainstream schools. In addition, advocacy and awareness-raising campaigns were undertaken.
As a result of these actions, 22 children with disabilities began

the 2014/2015 school year in mainstream institutions.

One of the awareness-raising campaigns focused on the daily lives of the children with disabilities. OHCHR provided the children with disposable cameras and asked them to photograph their homes, environments and daily lives. The result was a vibrant photo exhibition called *My Life Seen in Pictures*, which was launched on the occasion of the International Day of Persons

with Disabilities. One of the young photographers, eight-year-old Marcel, began attending a mainstream class in Peresecina and noted excitedly: "I never liked staying alone, I am happy to be surrounded by my classmates, it is so good when you have friends who accept you!" The photo exhibition was also on display at the 2014 UN Human Rights Gala of Awards in the Republic of Moldova.

Work is underway to formalize the network as a civil society organization.

Children with albinism in the United Republic of Tanzania.

Haiti established an interministerial monitoring committee to ensure that the rights of persons with disabilities are taken into consideration in the development and implementation of public policies. The Office of the Secretary of State drafted two bills to this effect; one for the establishment of a solidarity fund and one for the amendment of the Labour Code. The draft bills have not been submitted to Parliament.

The **Republic of Molodova** adopted a Law on alternative civilian service and granted amnesty for those who were previously condemned for their conscientious objection to military service in Transnistria. The Government also adopted regulations to establish an Ombudsman for Psychiatry. These changes came about following recommendations made by the special procedures.

Niger adopted a national action plan against human trafficking to be implemented by the National Agency for Combating Trafficking in Persons.

Participation

The European Network of NHRIs launched a project on the **human rights of older persons** in long-term care. The project aims to introduce a human rights-based perspective into policies concerning older persons, particularly in institutional care – an area of social and health policy that remains largely outside the influence of the human rights community. In the **former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**, the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy agreed to work with OHCHR to address current shortcomings in the anti-discrimination legislation.

In **Guatemala**, 12 cases of litigation presented by indigenous organizations were selected to receive support from the second phase of the Maya Programme. The thematic areas of the cases include land and territory, right to prior consultation, right to water, transitional justice, indigenous women's rights, freedom of speech and cultural rights.

Awareness of discrimination and human rights was increased in **Paraguay** through various campaigns organized by CSOs. One such campaign integrated human rights with art and fashion to promote human rights issues among the population. Clothing products, featuring designs related to human rights, were produced by well-known local artists and distributed to more than 4,000 persons. The initiative was widely covered by the local media.

Liberia developed a national strategy for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its related monitoring tools, indicators and scorecards.

Human rights integrated into UN policies and programmes

The United Nations Network on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, which is coordinated by OHCHR, endorsed a four-year action plan to implement the recommendations contained in the 2013 Guidance Note of the Secretary-General on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.

At the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, States reaffirmed their support for the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and requested that the Secretary-General develop a system-wide action plan on indigenous peoples and propose ways to ensure the participation of indigenous peoples in meetings of relevant UN bodies.

Fighting for gender equality in the judiciary in Bolivia

In Bolivia, women have historically had limited access to judicial careers, especially in the highest courts. After the 2011 elections for judicial authorities, the situation changed when almost half of those elected to the highest courts were women. At the same time, however, there was an increase in the number of reported cases of violence and discrimination against female judges, primarily at the hands of their male colleagues.

Some of the affected judges approached OHCHR in order to develop a strategy to combat this serious problem. At the 14th Ibero-American Meeting of Female Judges, which took place in Bolivia, in November 2013, OHCHR took the opportunity to launch an awareness-raising programme with the female judges to promote group discussions about the problems they faced in the justice sector. After the meeting, OHCHR continued engaging with the judges and supported the creation of a gender committee that will focus on the full enjoyment of the rights of women within the judiciary. Most recently, the committee successfully advocated for the inclusion of women's rights in the discussions that took place at the 2014 Ibero-American Judicial Summit in Chile. This is the first time that women's rights were part of the agenda of the Ibero-American Judicial Summit.

It was also recognized that to effectively combat this problem, there is a need for a gender equality policy. OHCHR consequently promoted the exchange of good practices from other countries and arranged for a specialist on gender equality from the Supreme Court of Mexico to meet with the Bolivian female judges. After a number of meetings, including with civil society organizations, they prepared and presented the *Gender Equality Policy for the Bolivian Justice Sector* on 16 October 2014. Among other measures, the Policy proposes the creation of a Gender Equality Unit that would have responsibility for proposing policies for women in the justice sector and a Gender Observatory that would assess the decisions of the Supreme Court and their compliance with international human rights standards on gender.

As a result of these processes, the female judges of Bolivia have been empowered to envision and implement positive changes in their country. This has in turn prompted their male colleagues to support the implementation of the gender equality policy.
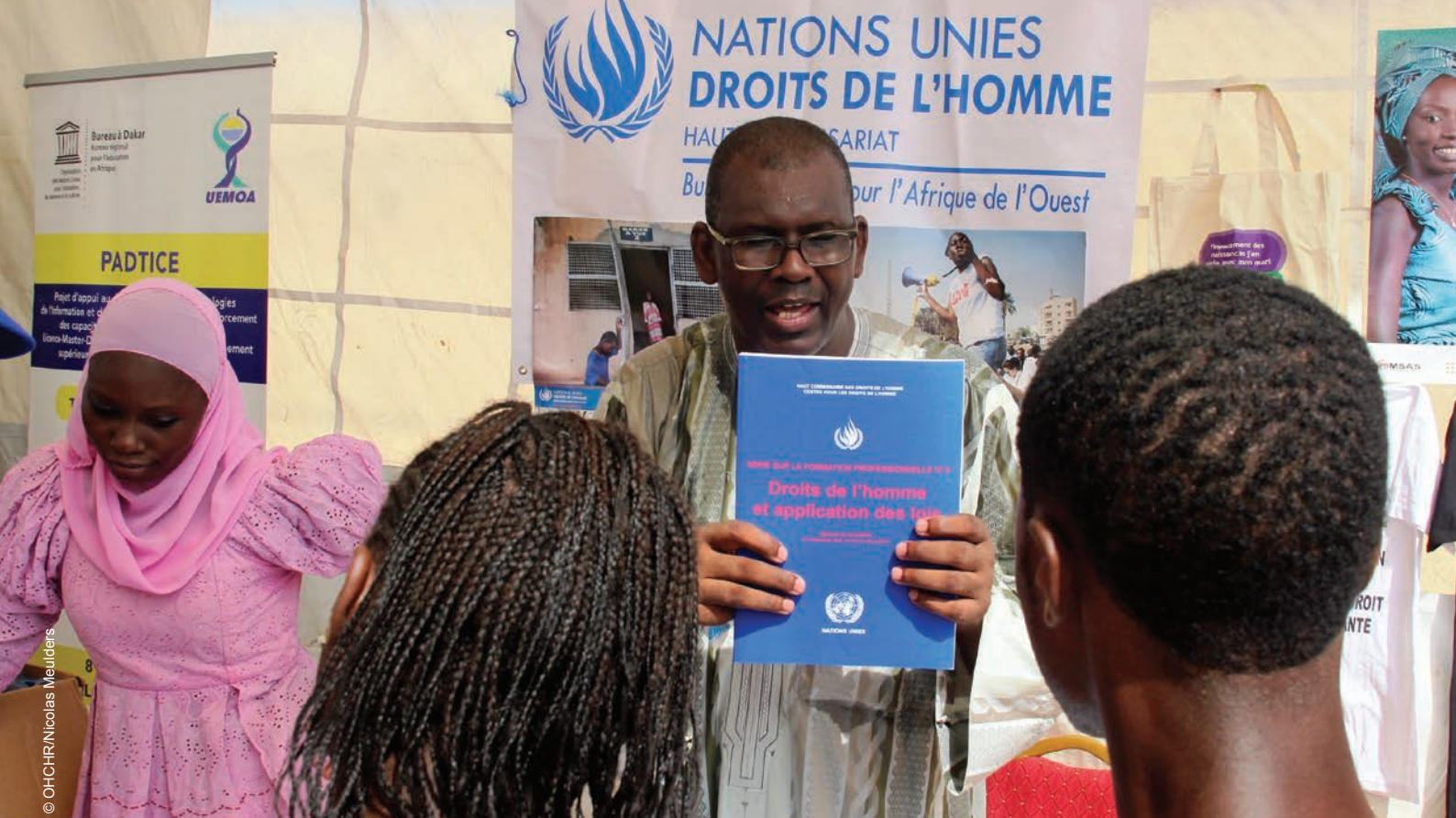
OHCHR staff during an awareness-raising event in Senegal.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

9 per cent of national expected accomplishments fully achieved, good progress made on 49 per cent.

Compliance of national laws, policies and institutions

Constitutions and laws

Despite the escalation of conflict in **Yemen**, the Constitution Drafting Committee finalized the first draft of the Constitution. The draft includes a provision establishing guarantees regarding the right to life and another on a quota for women's public participation.

Kyrgyzstan drafted a Criminal Procedure Code which is broadly in compliance with international standards. Six other laws related to the administration of justice were also drafted. Civil society representatives provided input on the drafts, which were submitted to Parliament at the end of December.

Death penalty

At its 69th session, the General Assembly adopted a resolution calling for a moratorium on the death penalty. Positive developments were also reported at the national level. For example, **El Salvador,**

Gabon and **Poland** acceded to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty; **Chad** and **Madagascar** abolished the death penalty; **Kiribati's** Parliament rejected a bill to introduce the death penalty; **Myanmar** announced the presidential commutation of all death sentences to life imprisonment; **India's** judiciary continued to commute death sentences to lesser punishments; **Thailand** announced its policy on abolition; **Equatorial Guinea** introduced a temporary moratorium; **Nigeria** confirmed its continuation of the federal moratorium; and **Afghanistan** announced a review of all death penalty cases. The **United States of America** commenced an executive review of execution procedures, an Appeal Court suspended the execution of a prisoner with psychosocial disabilities after the intervention of special procedures mandate-holders and the Governor of Washington State established a moratorium on the death penalty.

Privacy

In line with General Assembly resolution 68/167, OHCHR issued the first report of the High Commissioner on the right to privacy in the digital age (A/HRC/27/37). The report examines the protection afforded by international human rights law regarding privacy and provided recommendations to Member States and other stakeholders. The report generated interest from Member States, civil society, the private sector and the media and informed the subsequent

resolution on the right to privacy in the digital age. The resolution was adopted by the General Assembly in December (A/RES/69/166) and includes a number of commitments undertaken by States and proposed measures for follow-up.

Counter-terrorism

The Working Group on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights and the Rule of Law while Countering Terrorism, under the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), implemented a project on human rights capacity-building for law enforcement officials involved in counter-terrorism. Nine Member States expressed interest in receiving training under the project and the first training is envisaged to take place in Nigeria in early 2015.

Law enforcement and prisons

In **Madagascar**, representatives from the Ministry of Justice, the judiciary, police, gendarmerie, academia and civil society organizations adopted a revised draft law against torture. The draft law reflects concluding observations and recommendations issued by the Committee against Torture and the UPR.

In **Tunisia,** a working group was established by the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Transitional Justice and the Directorate General for Prisons and Rehabilitation to implement the recommendations outlined in OHCHR's report on the situation of prisons, entitled *Prisons in Tunisia: International Standards versus Reality*. Human rights training programmes were implemented for prison, rehabilitation and law enforcement officials. In the **State of Palestine**, unannounced access to detention facilities was granted to OHCHR and other organizations, such as the International Committee for the Red Cross and the National Independent Commission for Human Rights.

During OHCHR's monitoring visits to several prisons in **Cambodia**, an improvement was reported in the treatment of prisoners. Water and sanitation infrastructure was upgraded, hygiene supplies were distributed and secure rooms were created in several provincial hospitals so that prisoners can be admitted in a secure manner. Furthermore, the General Department of Prisons adopted a five-year Strategic Plan for 2014-2018, which incorporates human rights considerations.

In Karamoja, **Uganda**, the Uganda People's Defence Forces (UPDF) and the Uganda Police Force (UPF)

showed progress in their responses to human rights violations. For instance, in 2014, 95 complaints of violations were reported against the UPDF and the UPF compared to 125 in 2013. The UPF consolidated the UPF Human Rights and Legal Services Directorate with the deployment of 22 police human rights and legal officers to different regions. Furthermore, between 2013 and 2014, OHCHR noted a significant reduction in the number of complaints of incommunicado detention and torture committed by the Chieftaincy of Military Intelligence.

The judicial police in **Libya** conducted a census of detainees. As a result of the exercise, authorities had its first snapshot of data on detainees since the 2011 conflict, including their names, ages, gender, charges and legal status. The census also facilitated follow-up on specific cases. Nevertheless, the outbreak of violence in mid-2014 presented further security challenges for the judicial police. As a result, progress in the judicial screening of the detainees and the release of those who would not be prosecuted has been minimal.

Judiciary

In **Cambodia**, the Ministry of Justice undertook sustained efforts to reform the pre-trial detention process, notably by requiring judges to provide reasoning in decisions when defendants are remanded to pre-trial detention. Most judges and prosecutors in Phnom Penh and the provinces are now familiar with this new requirement. The Bar Association introduced a compulsory human rights course for all trainee lawyers. The first course was delivered to the 2014 class of trainee lawyers by OHCHR, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute and trainers from the Lawyers Training Centre. Furthermore, the President of the Cambodia Royal Academy for Judicial Professions agreed that OHCHR and the Institute could organize a human rights course for the next group of trainee judges, which will be recruited in the summer of 2015.

In **Georgia**, the Bar Association now allows its members to count a course provided by OHCHR as credit towards their compulsory continuing education. In **Bolivia**, the Judicial School incorporated a human rights course into its training curricula for judges and launched the first course in December. A human rights course for prosecutors was also developed. In **Guinea**, training modules on human rights for the gendarmerie and the police were drafted and are currently being validated. Their dissemination and institutionalization is planned for 2015.

The **Kenya** School of Law developed a curriculum on economic, social and cultural rights for State officials as a means of addressing some of the recognized challenges in implementing these rights.

Togo showed a commitment to the modernization of its justice system. Specifically, the Ministry of Justice held a series of training sessions on the use of information technology for magistrates, investigating judges and court clerks. In **Mexico**, the local tribunals in Tamaulipas and Nayarit and the University in Jalisco formally incorporated human rights into their training curricula.

In **Guinea-Bissau**, the Ministry of Justice sent its draft internal procedures to the Human Rights Section (HRS) of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau for its technical review and to determine its compliance with human rights standards. Following the revisions undertaken by the HRS, the Ministry validated the internal procedures in December. The Human Rights Training of Trainers Guide for the Armed Forces was validated by the Ministry of Defence and is currently being printed.

The first formal examination for the recruitment of magistrates took place in **Burundi**. By the end of the process, 66 magistrates, 20 of which were women, had been recruited through a fair and transparent process.

The **Colombian** Attorney General's Office decided to transfer all cases involving alleged threats against human rights defenders under its own jurisdiction, dedicate specific prosecutors to analyze the cases and identify patterns based on regional parameters, the types of persons and organizations being threatened and attacked and potential criminal structures behind the threats and attacks. In addition, the Supreme Judiciary Council adopted new criteria to decide on cases of conflict of jurisdiction between ordinary and military courts. As a result, the number of cases of extrajudicial executions that were transferred to military courts decreased from 47 in 2013 to zero in 2014.

The Supreme Court of **Mexico** declared that federal judges must accept any appeal against the figure of *arraigo,* a form of preventive detention, in Mexican states and that their rulings must recognize *arraigo* as unconstitutional. Since the 2002 adoption of federal legislation prohibiting enforced disappearance, 26 of Mexico's 32 states have included similar provisions in their criminal codes. Also in Mexico, the Ministry of Public Security of the Federal District developed 105 indicators on citizen security which were incorporated into the National Programme for Human Rights 2014-2018. More than

20 states have taken steps to define and integrate fair trial indicators into their work.

In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** (DRC), 225 convictions were reported for human rights violations in all 11 provinces during the year. In the absence of a comprehensive national judicial data reporting system, the UN Joint Human Rights Office (UNJHRO) monitors and provides monthly reports regarding judicial activity, including in relation to the convictions of State agents and members of armed groups for violations of international human rights or humanitarian law.

Protection systems and accountability mechanisms

The Human Rights Commissioner of **Mauritania** announced the establishment of a NPM. A working group developed draft legislation on the NPM, which is in full compliance with the guidelines provided by the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture. The draft is currently awaiting approval from the Prime Minister for transmittal to the Parliament for final adoption. In **Tajikistan**, the pilot NPM began functioning under the auspices of the Ombudsman Institution. During the year, it monitored six closed institutions in several regions of the country and presented its first report with its findings and recommendations. The Truth and Dignity Commission was launched in **Tunisia** and the Law on the Specialized Judicial Chambers was approved. **Burundi** adopted a Law on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC) and the President of the Republic formally nominated the members of the TRC in December. In the **Central African Republic**, the Government signed the Guidelines for the Urgent Temporary Measures to address impunity.

Mali established a Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission. The mandate of the Commission addresses some of the gaps identified by OHCHR with respect to the earlier transitional justice institution, although it does not fully meet international standards. Primarily due to the slow progress made in the ongoing peace negotiations, modest progress was achieved in terms of the functioning of the institution.

In **Togo**, the Council of Ministers took up a suggestion made by the Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission (CVJR) and formally adopted a White Paper which provides a road map for the implementation of the CVJR recommendations. The Government launched a

The long road in the fight against impunity in the Democratic Republic of the Congo

A sign, painted on a small red brick building in the village of Kalehe, South Kivu, in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, reads "Peace Tribunal of Kalehe." Since 11 August 2014, this tribunal has proven to be much more than a simple courthouse in a remote area. It has become the epicentre of the fight against impunity in the DRC.

In 2007, the UN Joint Human Rights Office took steps to fight impunity for serious crimes in the DRC and prompted the UN Security Council to send to the President of DRC a list of five senior officers of the Congolese armed forces (FARDC), including Lieutenant-Colonel Bedi Mobuli Engangela, suspected of serious crimes such as sexual violence. The Security Council asked that they be brought to justice. Proceedings began against Engangela, who had been detained in Kinshasa since 2007, when a warrant for his arrest was issued on 24 September 2011.

Since then, the UNJHRO has collaborated with local and international actors to provide assistance to the military authorities on this case. Investigations carried out by the UNJHRO in the village of Bunyakiri enabled the Prosecution to call to testify more than 200 victims and eyewitnesses of the crimes against humanity allegedly committed by Engangela between 2005 and 2006.

One of the biggest challenges for the UNJHRO has been setting up a mechanism that will enable victims and witnesses to access justice without fear of retaliation. Without adequate protection measures, the civilian population, which is still vulnerable and often exposed to violence, often feels that the price to pay is too high for testifying against a former member of an

Witnesses in the trial against senior officers of the Congolese armed forces.

illegal armed group and still-serving member of the FARDC. Since the Congolese judicial system has no specific programme to guarantee the safety of victims or witnesses who testify, UNJHRO has negotiated with the authorities to provide adequate protection measures on a case-by-case basis. The trial, which took place in Kalehe, has become emblematic in the fight against impunity and the protection of the victims and is therefore paving the way for new witness protection practices in the DRC.

A few days after the beginning of the hearing, a UNJHRO officer accompanied the first group of victims. "To ensure the effectiveness of the protection measures put in place, the logistics really become a major problem, especially in the run up to the trial," the staff member said. "But when you see these people that for so many years have been deprived of hope, finally exercising their rights, then you forget all the headaches."

In an unexpected scene at the trial, a white vehicle pulled up in front of the tribunal. Several people covered from head-to-toe in dark veils left the car and ran to a safe room in the back

of the building that was guarded by soldiers. The individuals were victims and witnesses who were being brought to the stand and were hiding their faces so that they could testify without fear of retaliation. In the hearing room, they were not referred to by their names, but were instead identified by a letter and a number. Once pieced together, their stories will create a more complete image of what has taken place in eastern DRC over the last 20 years.

"These people bring deep wounds because of what they had to suffer, so it is important to give them the confidence and the means to demand justice, but also to respect their sorrow. This is why we are guided in our work by the principle of 'do no harm': we carefully evaluate and avoid any circumstance that can create additional pain for the victims," said a UNJHRO officer.

"If I was not assured of anonymity," underlines one victim, "I would have never come to testify." But she was there, along with many others, in the midst of this long journey of many years, in a small building made of red bricks, fighting against impunity in the DRC.

dissemination campaign in June with copies in local languages. The Council of Ministers also adopted a presidential decree to formally create the High Commissioner for National Reconciliation and the Strengthening of National Unity, in compliance with a CVJR recommendation. The three members were appointed at the end of December. In **Guinea**, the Head of State inaugurated the provisional national reconciliation commission. Eight regional offices of the commission were established and are now almost fully staffed.

In **Côte d'Ivoire**, the three-year mandate of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission expired in 2014. The Commission presented its final report to the President of the Republic in a public ceremony that was attended by authorities and representatives of the international community. At the ceremony, the President confirmed his intention of setting up a special fund on reparations for victims of the conflict.

In **Yemen**, the Commission to Consider and Address Land Issues concluded approximately 30,000 cases and the Commission on Forcibly Dismissed Employees concluded approximately 20,000 cases for reparation. A Compensation Fund paid approximately US$500 to 5,500 dismissed individuals.

In **Libya**, the Council of Ministers issued a decree which provides for the establishment of a specialized committee to identify victims of sexual violence under the former regime and during the 2011 armed conflict. The Committee will make recommendations on reparations and provide legal aid for victims seeking accountability.

In **Ukraine**, OHCHR obtained lists of persons arrested in the regions of Donetsk and Luhansk during the outbreak of the conflict in the eastern part of the country and forwarded the lists to the NPM. The NPM verified the whereabouts of those listed and conducted ad hoc visits to detainees. This exercise resulted in the location of several previously unaccounted for individuals.

In **Afghanistan**, the Afghan People's Dialogue on Peace initiative completed 34 provincial road maps which are now being used as advocacy tools by local civil society groups. It also released a report which summarizes the views of the 4,648 participating Afghan women, men and youth from all 34 provinces and contains a 10-point national road map for peace.

In **Papua New Guinea**, the National Action Plan to Address Sorcery Accusation-Related Violence was finalized and the Department of Justice and the Attorney General will submit the Plan to the Cabinet

in 2015. The Plan was developed by the Committee Against Sorcery Accusation-Related Violence, which is led by the Department of Justice and the Attorney General and includes representatives of NGOs and academic institutions. Two cases of violence related to allegations of sorcery were filed and are under investigation by judicial authorities.

In **Uganda**, traditional justice authorities increasingly apply human rights standards when resolving conflicts in their communities. This was particularly evident through their recognition of the different roles that various actors play in the administration of justice and their willingness to transfer cases from the traditional justice system to the formal justice system.

Participation

CSOs in **Yemen** adopted a Bill of Rights which will be used as an advocacy tool to influence the Constitution drafting process. The Bill was subsequently endorsed by 650 organizations. Local communities in **Uganda** undertook advocacy activities with the Acholi Parliamentary Group, which resulted in the halting of planned forced evictions. The communities also pursued legal remedies with regards to the status of the disputed area. In Gulu, the Lakanga and Apaa communities approached OHCHR to register complaints regarding forced evictions, arbitrary arrest and detention, as well as degrading treatment.

Responsiveness of the international community

The Commission of Inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK) presented its report to the March session of the Human Rights Council. The report was hailed as a paradigm shift in the international response to the human rights situation in the country. In its resolution 25/25, the Human Rights Council mandated OHCHR to follow up on the recommendations in the report, including by establishing a field-based structure in the region. Following consultations, the Government agreed to host the structure, in Seoul, which is expected to open in 2015. Furthermore, the Human Rights Council referred the report to the General Assembly, which in turn referred it to the Security Council. The Security Council will review the report and consider a subsequent referral to the International Criminal Court and the possibility of targeted sanctions. In December, a total of 10 members of the Security Council initiated the first formal discussion of the human rights situation in the country. The issue will remain on the Security Council agenda.

An indigenous people representative holding up a copy of the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples during a meeting with OHCHR and other UN agencies in Cambodia to discuss land issues.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

15 per cent of national expected accomplishments fully achieved, good progress made on 66 per cent.

Compliance of national laws, policies and institutions

The Government of **Cambodia** established two joint working groups to coordinate efforts between different ministries regarding law enforcement for economic land concessions, natural resource management and the creation of a State land database. In addition, a new National Housing Policy was adopted which focuses on providing tenure security and adequate housing for poor and middle-income families. The Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction established a General Department on Housing to work with the Ministry of Interior to implement the policy.

Guatemala adopted an agricultural policy that takes into account international human rights standards on environmental issues. The Agricultural Ministry committed to preparing a guidance document on ensuring consultations

with indigenous peoples during the development of environmental impact studies related to the exploitation of natural resources. **Kenya** passed a mining bill that is compliant with human rights standards and benefited from public consultations with key stakeholders during the drafting process, including the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights and civil society organizations. In **Madagascar**, civil society organizations, members of the Government and representatives of mining companies adopted a charter aimed at better integrating human rights standards into mining sector-based policies.

Uganda's Second National Development Plan (NDP II) is in the final stages of completion and includes a stronger human rights perspective than the NDP I. It also incorporates human rights indicators in order to guide stakeholders in monitoring the Government's compliance with its human rights commitments and prioritizes the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan.

In **Ecuador**, the new Strategy for Inclusion and Equality, which is part of the Policy on Superior Education, includes international human rights standards on education, disabilities, gender and collective rights. Training modules were designed to facilitate the implementation of the policy and will be implemented in 2015.

general debate on the importance of a general law on the right to water.

Protection systems and accountability mechanisms

In **Colombia**, the Presidential Programme on Human Rights launched national guidelines on business and human rights which will serve as the basis for a related public policy. Furthermore, some companies increased the integration of human rights principles into their policies, guidelines and operations. In 2014, for instance, a mining company incorporated human rights principles into its business plan and social responsibility projects.

Also during the year, 12 cases of violations of economic, social and cultural rights, including violations of the right to free, prior and informed consent, were documented in **Mexico**. Authorities provided a positive response in six of those cases. The cases focused on the right to consultation and consent regarding the development of projects which require the use of water, the exploitation of gas and the building of waste disposal sites.

At the National Conference on Business and Human Rights in **Mozambique**, the Government committed to developing a national action plan on business and human rights. In addition, the Government and civil society agreed to establish a platform for dialogue on and the monitoring of the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Participation

Progress was achieved in enhancing the capacity of rights-holders and CSOs to participate in the design and monitoring of European Union (EU) development policies. The European Commission's Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development (DG DEVCO) elaborated its first toolkit on the practical implementation of a HRBA in relation to EU development programmes. DG DEVCO consulted with rights-holders and their representative organizations in the preparation of the toolkit.

Bolivia established 400 human rights indicators in relation to six prioritized rights, namely food, education, health, employment, housing and the right of women to live a life free of violence. Indicators are being developed on the right to live a life free of trafficking, the right to safe drinking water and sanitation and the right of access to justice and a fair trial.

In **Togo**, the Ministry of Prospective and Public Policy Evaluation (MPPPE) is developing the *Vision Togo 2030* programme that will guide public policies during the next 15 years. The MPPPE opted to use a human rights-based approach (HRBA) as the basis for its work. Similarly, the Ministry of Planning and Development applied a HRBA for the implementation and evaluation of Togo's Second Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP II).

In 2014, **Mexico's** Supreme Court of Justice handed down an historical sentence which indicates the minimum quantity of water a person needs to enjoy her or his right to safe water. The ruling added to the

In **Cambodia**, minority groups, including representatives of indigenous and informal communities from rural and urban areas, participated in two public consultation workshops on the new draft law on environmental impact assessment. In March, an indigenous Por community filed its application for communal land title with the

OHCHR staff during a monitoring mission with the Ombudsman's Office and the Indigenous Guard to a mining site in Cauca, Colombia.

General Department of Cadastre and Geography. In April, three indigenous Suoy communities filed applications for communal land titles.

Indigenous communities in **Colombia** elaborated consultation protocols which reflect their views on how consultations to the right to free, prior and informed consent must take place in their communities. The black communities of northern Cauca Department are already using their protocol in the consultation process related to the management plan of the Salvajina dam in the municipality of Suarez.

In **Guatemala**, a national network of NGOs working on issues related to economic, social and cultural rights was established. The Network held regular meetings to exchange information and drafted a shadow report to CESCR. Several of the issues mentioned in the report were incorporated into the Committee's final recommendations.

In Central Africa, significant improvement was reported in the capacity of rights-holders to claim their rights in relation to the activities of businesses. In **Gabon**, CSOs are monitoring the Government's compliance with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights within the framework of its social and economic development plan. In **Congo**, media professionals are undertaking important sensitization campaigns. The Government of **Guinea-Bissau** issued a moratorium on logging and took steps to review and regulate the

exploitation of natural resources, with an emphasis on community consultation.

The Ministry of Economy and Planning of **Madagascar** incorporated human rights and gender perspectives into the draft national development strategy.

In 2014, OHCHR and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation collaborated to develop the first list of human rights indicators on water and sanitation (A/HRC/27/55). The indicators were among those identified to measure the realization of civil, economic, political and social rights and were developed through the participation of a wide range of experts and organizations, including NGOs, in different participatory processes in **Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Morocco, Togo and Uzbekistan**.

Responsiveness of the international community

Key human rights messages are reflected in the Outcome Document of the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals (OWG SDGs) (A/68/970). For example, the Outcome Document is founded on a human rights-based approach and focuses on both freedom from want and freedom from fear. It includes strong goals and targets related to equality and non-discrimination, equal rights for women and men, the inclusion of marginalized groups and calls for disaggregated data, which

reflects the 'leaving no one behind' principle. It also reflects key human rights dimensions of accessibility, availability, affordability and quality of social services. Human rights messages and recommendations were similarly included in the Secretary-General's synthesis report, entitled *The Road to Dignity by 2030*.

A Civil Society Rule of Law Forum was established in northern **Kosovo**[3]. This Forum, composed of representatives from regional and international

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[3] Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

The post-2015 Development Agenda

An ongoing key priority for OHCHR is promoting the integration of human rights in the post-2015 development agenda. To this end, the High Commissioner has pledged to continue promoting the integration of human rights, including the right to development, in the post-2015 development agenda in all intergovernmental negotiations and thematic meetings of the President of the General Assembly in the lead-up to the September 2015 Summit. OHCHR has provided technical support to Member States, including through the UN System Task Team on the post-2015 development agenda.

Human rights are therefore integrated effectively into the OWG SDG's Outcome Document (A/68/970), which will serve as a foundational building block of the post-2015 development agenda. The document challenges the limited focus of the Millennium Development Goals on a narrow set of socio-economic indicators and acknowledges that freedom from want and from fear must be tackled together. With its goals and targets on equality and non-discrimination, equal rights for women and men, the inclusion of marginalized groups and a call for disaggregated data, the Outcome Document recognizes the imperative of 'leaving no one behind.' It also calls for the accessibility, availability, affordability and quality of social services. These expected outcomes are amplified in the recently published report of the Secretary-General, *The Road to Dignity by 2030*. The report, which includes significant contributions from OHCHR, offers a vision for a transformative, universal agenda built on the principles of human rights, equality and sustainability that is people-centred and planet-sensitive. The report also contains a strong set of recommendations on accountability, including in relation to the private sector, framed by the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

organizations as well as civil society, provides a space for the exchange of information and the coordination of activities to ensure synergies and prevent overlap. Also in **Kosovo**[4], the profiling of internally displaced persons (IDPs) was initiated in compliance with recommendations issued by the special procedures. An IDP Inter-Agency Working Group was established, composed of international and civil society actors. The Working Group worked with the Ministry for Communities and Returns to review the relevant existing legal framework and prepare for the IDP profiling exercise. The Working Group also developed individual and household questionnaires for the profiling exercise, which is anticipated to begin in early 2015.

Human rights integrated into UN policies and programmes

The United Nations Development Group Strategic Priorities 2013-2016 recognize the importance of promoting a human rights-based approach, which has become a well-established principle to be used in all UN country programming in order to achieve sustainable development. A 2014 guidance note on UNCT working relationships reflects the requirements of the Human Rights Up Front initiative and provides greater clarity on the roles and responsibilities of Resident Coordinators and UNCTs in relation to human rights.

Human rights issues were integrated into inter-agency processes on **migration**, such as the Global Migration Group and the Global Forum on Migration and Development. To facilitate the monitoring of the human rights situation of migrants, OHCHR collaborated with other UN agencies and CSOs to develop a set of human rights indicators on the situation of migrants and their families, with an initial emphasis on the rights to health, education and decent work.

The International Conference on Population and Development review process came to an end with the release of the Secretary-General's report which concludes that dignity and human rights must be a central focus if individual and collective development aspirations are to be met. The report makes specific recommendations for the respect, protection and fulfilment of all human rights in this regard.

The United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and the African Union incorporated

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[4] Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

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Civil society members during an OHCHR training session in the Republic of Moldova.

human rights into their strategy on the post-2015 development agenda. Together with the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights, they co-organized the first African Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights.

Human rights were integrated into the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks for **Chile**, **Ecuador**, **Guatemala**, **Iraq**, **Kenya**, **Liberia**, **Tunisia and Uganda**. In **Yemen**, the UNCT finalized the Peacebuilding Priority Plan, which mainstreams human rights. In **Serbia**, the draft Common Country Assessment integrates human rights elements, including the views of UN human rights mechanisms issued in relation to Serbia.

Human rights were increasingly integrated into the work of UN agencies in **Malawi**, including in projects related to food and maternal and child health. Likewise, UN agencies in **Tanzania** incorporated human rights concerns into various programmes. In **Bangladesh**, UNDP applied a human rights-based approach to undertake an internal review of its projects.

Due to the Ebola epidemic, the UN system in **Sierra Leone** suspended all ongoing activities to focus exclusively on the Ebola response. OHCHR formed part of this work by providing advice on human rights standards and principles and highlighting early warning indicators of violence.

Protestors during a demonstration in Dhaka, Bangladesh.

Widening the democratic space

*11 per cent of national expected accomplishments
fully achieved, good progress made on 52 per cent.*

Compliance of national laws, policies and institutions

Human rights education

With support from OHCHR, a number of countries
integrated or enhanced human rights in their
education systems. The **Rwandan** Government
developed a national strategy and human rights
education was included in the school systems in
Jamaica, **Timor-Leste** and **Tunisia**. Five universities
in **Russia** (in Moscow, Perm and Kazan) integrated a
Human Rights Master Programme into their curricula
and a human rights class was introduced as a
common course for all undergraduate students at the
Egerton University in **Kenya**. In **Colombia**, steps
were taken to begin implementing a national public
policy on human rights education and the training of
teachers and educational authorities now incorporate
a human rights-based approach in the curricula.
The Military Academy in **Madagascar** approved
the integration of human rights modules into the
curricula of the Academy. In each of these instances,
OHCHR helped to elaborate curricula and develop
teaching manuals on human rights; organized
workshops to train teachers and provided advice on
draft policy papers. In **Liberia**, some progress was
achieved, for instance, through the strengthening
of human rights clubs in schools. The education
sector was seriously affected by the Ebola crisis and
schools remained closed from June onwards. As a
result, no significant activities could be carried out.

National human rights institutions

Madagascar adopted legislation establishing an
independent national human rights commission
(INHRC). OHCHR provided technical advice and
assistance during the drafting process to ensure its
compliance with international standards. OHCHR
also advocated for its adoption. Furthermore, the
Office signalled the absence of a financial allocation
for the INHRC in the 2015 budget. As a result, the
Government committed to creating a budget line for
the INHRC in the amended financial legislation of
March 2015.

The **Iraqi** High Commission for Human Rights
(IHCHR), formally established in April 2012, began its
monitoring work in 2014. It now receives individual
complaints of human rights violations and is developing

thematic human rights priorities. In addition, the Iraqi High Judicial Council made a decision to establish an office within the General Prosecutor's Office that is mandated to investigate complaints of alleged human rights violations received from the IHCHR.

New legislation adopted in **Myanmar** provides the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission with a broad mandate to undertake promotion and protection activities. The NHRI in **Guatemala** strengthened its capacity to investigate human rights violations through a specific protocol that was elaborated with technical assistance from OHCHR. **Niger** adopted a four-year strategic plan for the National Human Rights Commission following a participatory and inclusive process. The **Mozambique** Human Rights Commission visited prisons and detention centres in the provinces, marking its first systematic monitoring mission undertaken in its capacity as a NPM.

Initial steps were taken towards the establishment of a NHRI in **Botswana**, **Kuwait** and **Vanuatu**.

The operations of the **South Sudan** Human Rights Commission (SSHRC) were interrupted in all 10 states due to the conflict that erupted in December 2013. Nevertheless, the SSHRC conducted field missions to the states in order to monitor and investigate human rights violations. By mid-2014, the SSHRC managed to re-open some of its field offices, including in Jonglei and Central Equatoria. In March, the Commission released a public report on the internal conflict in South Sudan.

OHCHR worked with relevant stakeholders to raise awareness about the added value of having a NHRI that is compliant with the Paris Principles. It also highlighted its role in promoting and protecting human rights. Moreover, the Office provided advice on the establishment of NHRIs to ensure their conformity with international standards and to support their interaction with the international human rights system.

Finally, staff from 'A' status NHRIs in **Albania**, **Egypt**, **Kenya**, **Malaysia**, **Mexico**, **Mongolia**, the **State of Palestine** and **Portugal** participated in a fellowship programme organized by OHCHR.

Freedom of speech and assembly

In **Uganda**, a reduction of human rights violations related to restrictions to public freedoms was reported. Police officers now tend to engage in dialogue with organizers of demonstrations and assemblies. Civil society organizations publicly acknowledged the rapid interventions of the Uganda Police Force's Directorate for Human Rights and

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Handprints make peace and a new world record

"The world record is a challenge that unites Tunisians for a common cause: to send a strong message to the world that Tunisians are actively committed to peace and human rights," said OHCHR's Representative in Tunisia. The new world record was set during the Tunisia Peace Festival, in September, for the world's largest handprint painting, measuring 10,336 square metres. The handprint painting surpassed the dimensions of the previous record-holding painting from Saudi Arabia by just over 200 square meters.

The idea for the painting came from Tunisian youth activist, Mootez Billah Oueslati, a medical student and director of the Association of Emel Tounes in Jendouba, who saw this as a way to help remind Tunisians about the important values of peace, tolerance and solidarity. The canvas was taken on a tour around Tunisia. To organize local events related to the painting, a group was formed that consisted of 24 peace ambassadors and more than 500 volunteers. Each ambassador, an activist or leader in their respective region of the country, was given a section of canvas to be decorated with the handprints of Tunisian citizens from all ages, backgrounds and walks of life.

The canvas was unveiled during the closing ceremony of the Peace Festival. Although it has yet to be submitted to the Guinness World Record officials, it has been measured and verified by

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Tunisian authorities. The canvas will be turned into eco-friendly bags that will be sold to finance the establishment of a national centre to fight drug abuse in Jendouba.

Legal Affairs to solve cases of human rights violations perpetrated by police officers against LGBTI persons. Subnational authorities in **Cambodia** are increasingly aware of their duties under the Law on peaceful demonstrations. OHCHR and the Ministry of Interior jointly and widely issued a pocket-sized information card outlining duties and rights in this respect.

In **Myanmar**, the Law on the right to peaceful assembly and peaceful procession was amended, resulting in the reduction of prison sentences related to unauthorized demonstrations. A new Law was adopted on the registration of associations/organizations. The drafting process was recognized as one of the most consultative processes in Myanmar's legislative history. There are still areas of concern in relation to both Laws and OHCHR remains engaged on the matter.

The new **Tunisian** Constitution, promulgated in January, includes a number of articles on the creation of national independent institutions, such as the High Independent Authority for Audiovisual Communication. In **Madagascar**, a media code was adopted which integrates human rights principles and standards, including the decriminalization of press-related offences. A steering committee was established to prepare the draft for adoption by mid-2015.

Two draft laws that would have reduced the space in which civil society actors work were rejected by the **Kyrgyz** Parliament. The Government of **Côte d'Ivoire** adopted the Law on the promotion and protection of human rights defenders.

OHCHR advocated for national legislation to be in line with international standards and advised national authorities to this effect by commenting on draft laws and policies and providing training where relevant.

Protection systems and accountability mechanisms

OHCHR enhanced the knowledge of State actors and civil society on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity by publishing a report on good practices related to the protection of journalists, the prevention of attacks and the fight against impunity for such attacks (A/HRC/24/23). Moreover, OHCHR contributed to the first report of the Secretary-General on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity (A/69/268). OHCHR, UNESCO and the Council of Europe co-hosted the 3rd Inter-Agency Meeting on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity. At the meeting, regional organizations

and civil society actors reviewed the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity.

Civil society organizations in **Cambodia** are well organized and work closely with OHCHR on a number of issues. On several occasions, OHCHR helped coordinate their interventions regarding specific situations, increased the capacity of new organizations working on the rights of LGBTI persons and the capacity of journalists by providing training on human rights monitoring and fact-finding.

Participation

A Law on urban development was amended in **Kyrgyzstan**, establishing that urban development plans should be made public. NGOs increased their understanding of monitoring and protecting human rights, particularly in relation to housing, land

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OHCHR supports human rights activists in Colombia

George, an indigenous person from Putumayo, one of the most violent regions in Colombia, arrived in the Amazon province after moving between various Colombian cities. This was not a free decision. Since 1998, George had been fleeing armed actors after a fateful day when 60 men arrived at his hair salon and asked for military haircuts. After he finished the task, he was told that he had to choose between staying with them or death. They considered that he had "too much information" and he took steps to go into hiding. He suffered three forced displacements and was subject to discrimination for being an indigenous person and for being gay.

One day, in the Amazon province, he spotted an OHCHR staff member wearing a UN vest and he approached the individual. One month later, George was collaborating with the Office. He had become the leader of the local LGBTI community and wanted to show people that they could be much more than their sexual orientation and identities. They could also be human right defenders. So George met women, youngsters, indigenous peoples, Afro-descendants and persons with disabilities and encouraged them to form a group that would focus on human rights in the Amazon province. The Office provided the group with materials and training as well as legitimacy and visibility.

George is now an empowered human rights defender who refuses the label of victim. He has worked hard to transform his life and now considers himself a survivor.

and property. This was particularly evident during public consultations being held for the preparation of the second report to the UPR during which NGOs advocated with State authorities for a more transparent and participatory approach to housing issues. The Ministry of Justice in **Tajikistan** agreed to hold a public hearing on the draft amendments to the Law on public associations. If amended, the legislation could undermine the financial independence of NGOs.

The Assembly of **Kosovo**[5] amended the Law on the status and the rights of the martyrs to recognize survivors of conflict-related sexual violence as a special category of civilian victims of war.

In **Bolivia**, indigenous peoples' organizations and other stakeholders developed a draft bill on the right of indigenous peoples to consultation, which was subsequently submitted to the Plurinational Legislative Assembly. Indigenous leaders in **Paraguay** submitted proposals related to land, governance and free, prior and informed consultation to relevant State authorities. These interactions led to the design of a protocol to ensure their full and active participation in the implementation of social policies on poverty eradication that have been approved by the Secretary for Social Action. Furthermore, the first public policy on the rights of persons with disabilities is under development in Paraguay, in consultation with civil society and persons with disabilities.

Throughout the year, OHCHR observed an increased number of reports, of improved quality, that had been prepared by CSOs in **Yemen** in relation to human rights violations, especially from conflict-affected areas. A number of CSOs in **Libya** highlighted concerns about the increasing number of human rights violations and attacks that have taken place since the outbreak of violence in mid-2014. As a result, numerous human rights defenders have curtailed their activism, gone into hiding or left the country.

In **Sierra Leone**, the Human Rights Working Group identified human rights concerns and priorities in relation to the Ebola outbreak. As a result, the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone focused on the monitoring of quarantine areas, the use of force by security personnel, the rights of vulnerable groups, access to justice and the protection of health workers.

The capacity of CSO networks in **Uganda** to monitor and report on, advocate for and claim human rights is progressively improving. The National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders compiled reports about the human rights situation throughout the country, which were in turn used to inform the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. The Civil Society Coalition on Human Rights and Constitutional Law published a report on violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity, demonstrating a qualitative improvement in the capacity of this coalition to report on human rights violations against LGBTI persons.

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[5] Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

An eight-year-old girl holds her brother at a school in Alqosh village, where their family found shelter after fleeing from Mosul, Iraq.

Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity

16 per cent of national expected accomplishments fully achieved, good progress made on 62 per cent.

Compliance of national laws, policies and institutions

Sexual and gender-based violence

A model protocol was launched in **Latin America** to guide investigations and prosecutions of femicide. In **Bolivia**, the Ministry of Justice and the police used the model protocol to develop a proposal for a manual on the investigation of crimes of femicide. A study by OHCHR on wrongful gender stereotyping by the judiciary in cases of sexual and gender-based violence formed the basis of work in **Guatemala** and the **Republic of Moldova** to undertake, respectively, a review of judgments to assess the impact of gender stereotypes and a review of prosecutors' guidance for the investigation of rape, with a view to removing harmful gender stereotypes.

The Secretary-General adopted the Guidance Note on Reparations for Conflict-Related Sexual Violence. The Guidance Note provides policy and operational guidance for UN engagement in relation to reparations for victims of conflict-related sexual violence. Discussions were held in **Colombia** and **Kosovo**[6] on its implementation and follow-up activities.

In **Afghanistan**, 302 cases of alleged violence against women were documented across the country. This documentation lent credibility to advocacy efforts and technical assistance vis-à-vis State authorities and was used to emphasize the importance of developing mediation guidelines. The Government initiated discussions on the use of mediation in cases of violence against women and a drafting committee was established and charged with developing detailed instructions for conducting mediations.

The President of the **State of Palestine** issued a Decree Law amending the Penal Code to ensure that perpetrators of so-called honour crimes cannot benefit from the defence of extenuating circumstances.

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[6] Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

Trafficking and slavery

In 2014, the National Assembly of **Seychelles** enacted the Prohibition on Trafficking in Persons Act. The Act penalizes the crime of trafficking in persons and makes provisions for the protection and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking in persons. It also establishes a national interministerial coordinating committee to harmonize the country's efforts to combat trafficking in persons and oversee the implementation and operationalization of a National Strategy and Action Plan on Trafficking in Persons. This development came about following a visit to the country by the special procedures which in turn led to the issuance of recommendations.

The Government of **Mauritania** adopted a road map to end slavery. The road map has legal, economic and social dimensions, is designed to bridge gaps in the application of the previous anti-slavery laws and provides a yardstick for measuring progress, including through concrete timelines and the appointment of responsible actors. The measures are in line with the recommendations issued by the special procedures.

Madagascar adopted a Law against trafficking in persons. The legislation provides protection for victims of human trafficking, refers to the punishment of perpetrators and outlines State responsibility with regard to the right of victims to compensation. An action plan to fight human trafficking and a chronogram were also adopted.

The European Agency for the Management of Operational Cooperation at the External Borders of the Member States of the European Union (Frontex) organized two training-of-trainer sessions on combating and preventing trafficking in human beings for border guards in the European Union

The High Commissioner addresses the Security Council meeting on the situation in Iraq, November 2014.

member states. The training was organized in collaboration with OHCHR, the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), IOM, UNHCR and national practitioners.

Police and military

In the **Republic of Moldova**, the first system of alternative civilian service for conscientious objectors was created in Transnistria. In addition, the first shelter for victims of domestic violence was established.

The Minister of Interior Affairs in **Afghanistan** endorsed a strategy for the integration of women in the police force which focused on creating a protective environment for women employed in the Afghan National Police. An implementation action plan was drafted by an interministerial commission and adopted by the Minister of Interior Affairs. The action plan outlines measures to improve the participation, protection and professionalization of women in the Afghan National Police.

The Inspector General in **Colombia** requested that OHCHR produce draft regulations on the use of force for the national police. The draft regulations contain protocols and procedures applicable to anti-riot police in the context of public demonstrations.

In **Mexico**, a significant amendment to the Military Justice Code was approved to reduce the scope of military jurisdiction. The amendment removed from military jurisdiction all cases relating to human rights violations of civilians that were allegedly perpetrated by military personnel. Although the amendment did not fully comply with international human rights standards, it represented an important step towards respecting the right to a fair trial and combating impunity.

In **Nigeria**, the National Human Rights Commission and the National Defence College developed a curriculum and manual for the training of security personnel working on internal security operations.

Protection systems and accountability mechanisms

Guinea established a national civilian and democratic oversight mechanism for defence and security forces. In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, nine missions were conducted by Joint Investigation Teams to support the judiciary and two mobile court hearings were held to try cases related to war crimes, crimes against humanity, murder

The United Nations Mission in Somalia delivers human rights training to the National Army in Somalia

Captain Barlin at one of the OHCHR trainings conducted for the National Army in Somalia.

"Joining the army is a tough decision. I've been through difficulties for 15 years. My family thought I was crazy and when I insisted, they broke off communication for an entire year. I have gained pleasure in my achievements. I'm now one of the senior officers which will inspire more women to join the army," said Captain Barlin.

"Human rights training has given me confidence in myself to train other Somali soldiers, male and female," she added. "In the army we lack human rights training. Previously it didn't exist at all. I'm sure the training enhanced our understanding of human rights and international humanitarian law to ensure respect and compliance with international law," she said. "The Somali National Army School Academy has now appointed me as a human rights instructor at Jazeera Training Camp. I'm very thankful to UNSOM who assisted me in delivering human rights sessions to the army."

As of February 2014, a total of 8,615 officers of the Somali National Army, 16 of which were women, have received training on human rights. In addition, 115 trainers (including three women) were trained. The UNSOM Human Rights Section continued to support the trainers during sessions at the Jazeera Training Camp in Mogadishu, in partnership with the African Union Mission in Somalia, to help build a stronger national army that protects civilians and respects human rights.

and sexual violence, including rape and torture. A National Committee for Genocide Prevention was set up in the **Central African Republic**. The Committee began its work at the national and regional levels to prevent genocide, war crimes and crimes against humanity. The West **Darfur** Minister of Social Affairs issued a decree to establish a High Committee to Support Homeless Children.

Responsiveness of the international community

The High Commissioner and other representatives briefed the Human Rights Council and the Security Council on the critical situations in **Burundi**, the **Central African Republic**, the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**, **Iraq**, **Libya**, **South Sudan**, the **Syrian Arab Republic** and **Ukraine**, as well as on thematic issues, such as the **protection of civilians** and **conflict prevention**. During briefings on the situation in a number of countries, the High Commissioner called for some of the situations to be referred to the International Criminal Court.

At its March session, the HRC adopted a resolution requesting that OHCHR conduct a comprehensive investigation of serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law in **Sri Lanka**.

During the conflict in **Gaza** in July, OHCHR provided figures of civilian casualties to the daily UN reports on the situation in Gaza. This provided the international community and the media with an up-to-date assessment of the impact of the conflict on civilians. OHCHR's regular reports formed the basis for the discussions in the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly on the issue.

During 2014, OHCHR deployed staff to respond to emergencies in the **Central African Republic**, **Mauritania**, **Myanmar**, the **Philippines,** the **State of Palestine**, **Syria** (from neighbouring countries), **Thailand, Ukraine** and **Yemen**. The Office engaged with inter-agency early warning processes, including the UN Operations Crisis Centre, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Task Team on Preparedness and Resilience and Human Rights Up Front mechanisms. Among other activities, the Office is leading an inter-agency task force to put forward recommendations to establish a common UN information management system on violations and broader threats to populations.

Human rights integrated into UN policies and programmes

Following the intensification of the crisis in **Ukraine**, the Human Rights Mission in Ukraine was deployed, in line with the requirements of the Secretary-General's Human Rights Up Front Action Plan. The High Commissioner published nine reports on the situation in Ukraine, which were recognized as an important source of credible information on the human rights situation in Ukraine. The reports

OHCHR colleagues interviewing the population in Gaza after the July conflict.

were cited by Member States, UN and human rights mechanisms, civil society and the international media. Intergovernmental mechanisms, such as the OSCE and the Council of Europe, used the reports as reference in shaping their responses to the situation.

Standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the implementation of the **Human Rights Due Diligence Policy** (HRDDP) were adopted in **Bangladesh**, **Liberia**, **Mali** and **Somalia**. HRDDP risk assessments were undertaken in the **Central African Republic, Mali** and were initiated in

Somalia. The United Nations Stabilization Mission in **Haiti** developed human rights guidelines for uniformed personnel to respond to violations. This was the first such guidance developed in a peace mission and it will be rolled out to all UN military and police units in 2015.

The mandate for the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the **Central African Republic** included strong provisions for the protection of human rights and combating impunity, as well as adequate human rights resources for the

Human Rights Up Front

In 2013, the Secretary-General launched the Human Rights Up Front initiative to ensure that the UN system takes early and effective action to prevent or respond to large-scale violations of international human rights or humanitarian law. Although the UN is mandated by the United Nations Charter and various resolutions to do so, this new initiative is strengthened by a six-point Human Rights Up Front Action Plan which places human rights at the heart of UN strategies and action.

In 2014, OHCHR was fully involved in the implementation of the Action Plan and took the lead in several areas:

- OHCHR contributed to the development of coordination and early warning mechanisms that were established by the Action Plan and shared its human rights analysis with UN partners.
- OHCHR is developing an online training course on the UN's human rights responsibilities, which will be mandatory for all UN staff at all levels. The course

will be launched in 2015 and will be followed by additional modules for senior staff and adaptations for agency-specific training.

- As co-chair of the United Nations Development Group Working Group on Resident Coordinator (RC) System Issues, OHCHR led efforts to further promote human rights mainstreaming. It contributed to the revision of the RC job description and the guidance note on UNCTs working relations, providing greater clarity on the human rights roles and responsibilities of RCs and UNCTs. As a result of the policy guidelines, human rights are fully integrated into the new RC Selection System and the revised RC Induction Programme, both of which were launched in 2014.
- The Office is leading the establishment of a UN common information management system on violations of human rights and international humanitarian law. The aim of the system is to ensure that relevant information

gathered from across the UN system promptly informs an appropriate response. In 2014, OHCHR initiated a full review of existing UN information management processes, which will form the basis of recommendations for the development of a new common system. OHCHR is also regularly providing reports on country specific human rights situations and early warning analysis, as set out in the Action Plan. In addition, OHCHR shared a series of country summary risk notes with RCs to help guide UN country strategies.

- OHCHR consistently advocated to ensure that human rights protection holds a central place in the humanitarian system and contributed to both the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's statement of commitment on the Centrality of Protection in Humanitarian Action and the roll out of an independent system-wide review of protection in humanitarian crises.

2014-2015 budget cycle. The strategic review process of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** resulted in upholding the Mission's focus on human rights and combating impunity and an acknowledgement that the Mission's Joint Human Rights Office required additional resources to carry out these critical tasks. UN agencies active in **Nigeria** integrated human rights into their programmes and interventions, for example, IOM did so in its migration policy; UNDP did so in its election support programme and peace and development initiatives; UNICEF did so in the establishment of the monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict; and the Protection Cluster did so in the development of a protection strategy.

The Global Protection Cluster Task Team, operating under the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, conducted an independent, system-wide review of protection in humanitarian crises.

The Humanitarian Needs Overview 2014 for **Mauritania** and its midterm review include a human rights analysis, recommendations from the UPR and references to other international human rights commitments and obligations undertaken by Mauritania. During the escalation of the hostilities in **Gaza**, accountability for violations of international law was a focus in policy discussions held by the Humanitarian Country Team and humanitarian donors and guided humanitarian advocacy. In **Colombia**, the Humanitarian Country Team's 2015 Strategic Response Plan includes human rights as one of its priorities. In **Haiti**, an agreement was reached between the National Identification Office, IOM and the Organization of American States to ensure mobile voter registration units are functioning in the most populated IDP camps to promote greater participation in the next elections.

OHCHR's role

OHCHR contributed to the results outlined above through extensive advocacy with government partners and CSOs, facilitating discussions and obtaining agreed solutions. More specifically, it engaged in advocacy to encourage States to comply with international standards; provided advice on the drafting of laws and policies; submitted legal briefs to the judiciary, where applicable; and undertook research and methodology for the elaboration and implementation of indicators. It provided technical assistance to indigenous communities on claiming and obtaining their rights and translated human rights materials for local populations. In the course of its work, OHCHR

The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights during his visit to refugee camps in Iraq, October 2014.

helped develop the capacity of relevant stakeholders through trainings, workshops and feedback processes. Furthermore, the Office undertook a range of monitoring and reporting activities in collaboration with governments, national institutions and civil society to further inform human rights work.

The Office actively promoted human rights in intergovernmental and inter-agency deliberations and processes, including through political advocacy, research, consultations and expert meetings. OHCHR also contributed to and participated in activities of the inter-agency bodies on measurability and indicators for the post-2015 development agenda.

In particular, OHCHR's work consists of the following:

Supporting standard setting

OHCHR provides substantive and technical assistance to the various human rights mechanisms and bodies as they undertake their standard-setting functions. It contributes to the normative work of the Human Rights Council, its Advisory Committee and special procedures. The Office also supports the progressive development of international law through legal research and by providing Secretariat assistance to the human rights treaty bodies for the development of general comments/general observations and jurisprudence related to individual complaints.

Monitoring and reporting

Human rights monitoring is a broad term describing the active collection, verification and use of information to address human rights concerns. It is a

key part of OHCHR's work which includes gathering information about incidents, observing events (elections, trials, demonstrations, etc.), visiting sites, such as places of detention and refugee camps and meeting with government authorities and relevant stakeholders to obtain information and pursue remedies and other immediate follow-up. The Office collects and analyses information on the basis of the international human rights standards, reports on its findings and supports corrective action.

OHCHR's monitoring serves as an early warning tool to assist national authorities and other relevant actors in taking steps to prevent or mitigate human rights violations.

Technical cooperation and advisory services

This type of cooperation takes the form of human rights needs assessments, expert advisory services, awareness-raising, training workshops and seminars, facilitated dialogue, fellowships and grants and the provision of advocacy and awareness materials and other forms of information and documentation. Projects are formulated and implemented with the broadest possible participation of all relevant stakeholders at the national level, including civil society, national institutions and representatives of parliaments and the courts.

Advocacy and awareness-raising

OHCHR speaks out objectively in the face of human rights violations around the world. The Office provides a forum for identifying, highlighting and developing responses to human rights challenges and acts as the focal point for human rights research, education, public information and advocacy activities in the United Nations system.

This involves the identification of emerging trends in human rights; speaking out on behalf of victims; developing and implementing appropriate responses to violations; documenting and sharing good practices and preparing learning tools; reaching out to multiple stakeholders; and facilitating the integration of a human rights perspective into the work of the United Nations as a whole. OHCHR fulfils its advocacy role by maintaining a continuous dialogue with Member States and relevant stakeholders. Public statements, speeches, opinion articles, country visits, high-level meetings and other key outreach activities, including cultivating civil society partnerships, all contribute to the visibility of the High Commissioner's leading role on human rights.

In recent years, OHCHR has attempted to further extend its global outreach through traditional media, the web and social media platforms to connect with a wide range of stakeholders at the national, regional and international levels and in order to increase their awareness about human rights issues.

Building partnerships

OHCHR works in close partnership with numerous stakeholders at the global, regional, national and local levels, both within and outside of the United Nations system. Many of these partnerships are of a strategic or operational nature and often involve collaboration between and the pooling of resources of relevant stakeholders with a shared interest in addressing specific human rights needs. Partners include Member States, NHRIs and CSOs at the international, national and local levels, the private sector, foundations, regional and international organizations, Secretariat departments and UN agencies, funds and programmes. In addition, the Office actively cooperates with the international human rights machinery to find effective ways to work together in order to address global human rights issues.

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Members of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment and OHCHR staff members visit Nicaragua, May 2014.