

Executive Direction and Management

The High Commissioner for Human Rights has a unique role as the chief advocate for human rights in the United Nations system and is a voice for victims around the world. This role is performed by maintaining a continuous dialogue with Member States and numerous stakeholders about the priorities and activities of the Office and addressing allegations of human rights violations and human rights challenges. The visibility and impact of the High Commissioner's lead role are ensured through participation in intergovernmental fora such as the Human Rights Council and the Security Council, public statements, speeches, opinion articles, country visits, high-level meetings and other key outreach activities. The High Commissioner, the Deputy High Commissioner and the New York-based Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights are supported in their engagement with Member States, the media, civil society and UN system partners by four substantive divisions and seven organizational units within Executive Direction and Management (EDM): the

Executive Office (EO), the New York Office (NYO), the Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Service (PPMES), the Programme Support and Management Services (PSMS), the External Outreach Service (EOS), the Safety and Security Section (SSS) and the Meetings and Documents Unit (MDU).

Executive Office

Background

The High Commissioner for Human Rights continued global advocacy for the promotion and protection of human rights by encouraging concrete partnerships between relevant stakeholders, building on the Office's expertise, at headquarters and in the field, and working to bring alleged violations to the fore and seeking their prevention.



The High Commissioner speaking at the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, September 2014.

The work of the EO took place in the context of crises, particularly in the Central African Republic, Iraq, Libya, Mali, Myanmar, the Sahel region, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine. The High Commissioner closely followed the developments in the North Africa and Middle East region, where the need for a human rights-based approach in transition processes leading to genuine democracy and respect for the rule of law remains of key importance. In addition, efforts were undertaken to ensure a human rights-based approach was applied to counter-terrorism initiatives and in dealing with the Ebola crisis.

OHCHR's expertise and advocacy shaped global approaches to development at the inter-agency and intergovernmental levels. Throughout the year, the High Commissioner advocated for mainstreaming human rights within the UN system, including in its role as chair of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Human Rights Working Group.

The visibility of the High Commissioner's lead role was also maintained through a consistent output of public statements, speeches and opinion articles, as well as during field missions and other outreach activities.

In performing these functions, the High Commissioner is supported by a Front Office which ensures quality and consistency control of all materials prepared in-house, provides strategic advice on present and upcoming human rights and geopolitical issues and liaises with various parts of the Office (Geneva, New York and the field) regarding follow-up to decisions undertaken by the High Commissioner. The Front Office also works closely with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and the wider UN system to ensure a mainstreamed approach to human rights. The Office regularly engages with Permanent Missions in Geneva, civil society, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and experts from the human rights mechanisms.

In 2014, the High Commissioner, the Deputy High Commissioner and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights undertook missions to Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, the Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Georgia, Germany, Guatemala, Iraq, Italy, Morocco, Nigeria, Norway, Republic of Moldova, Slovenia, South Sudan, Sweden, Togo, Ukraine and the United Kingdom.

Results

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Legislation, policies and practices increasingly comply with anti-discrimination and equality standards (EA 4)*

The High Commissioner exercised global leadership in supporting the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons through the Free & Equal campaign, which reached more than one billion people over the past year and received an award for its achievements at the World Pride 2014 in Toronto. The High Commissioner advocated with senior State officials to refrain from adopting discriminatory legislation and called for more concerted action at the global level to address violence and discrimination. As a result, the Office was recognized as a LGBTI Friend of the Year by the International Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Trans and Intersex Association.

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

- *Increased responsiveness of the international community to potential, emerging or existing human rights crisis situations, with human rights protection as an integral element of this response (EA 10)*

Following the proactive engagement of the Office and the deployment of a human rights monitoring mission, eight reports of the High Commissioner on the situation in Ukraine were published in 2014. Intergovernmental mechanisms, such as the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe (CoE), used these reports to shape their response to the situation.

The High Commissioner, in person or through representatives, regularly addressed the Human Rights Council (HRC) and the Security Council on critical situations. In 2014, briefings were conducted on the following country situations: Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), 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 the briefings on the situation in a number of countries, the High Commissioner called for the referral of violations of human rights to the International Criminal Court.

The High Commissioner's call for accountability in Sri Lanka led the HRC to adopt a resolution in March requesting that OHCHR conduct a comprehensive investigation of serious violations

of international humanitarian law and human rights law in Sri Lanka.

In cooperation with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, DPA and UNDP, the High Commissioner and his Office supported the Human Rights Up Front (HRUF) initiative, with a particular emphasis on the development of policies for engagement, including on Eritrea and Nigeria.

In August, at the High Commissioner's suggestion, the Secretary-General adopted a UN system-wide policy in relation to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) follow-up and implementation of recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms. On the ground, the UN system began implementing the policy in the second half of 2014 following two sessions of the Working Group on the UPR.

Global Management Outputs

OHCHR strategic decisions are implemented in a timely manner (GMO 1)

- ▶ The Deputy High Commissioner continued to support efforts to implement results-based management (RBM) principles across the Office.

Organizational work processes and structures are aligned for increased efficiency (GMO 2)

- ▶ The High Commissioner and the Deputy regularly sent all-staff messages on internal policy issues and key human rights issues and held all-staff meetings. They also chaired the meetings of the internal Senior Management Team (SMT) and the Programme Budget and Review Board (PBRB). The Front Office ensured that briefing materials submitted to the High Commissioner and the Deputy covered all relevant areas on which the Office works, and ensured effective and timely coordination across the UN system.
- ▶ The Office adopted a records management policy and held relevant trainings and briefing sessions for staff. It also began preparations for the implementation of Umoja.

A gender perspective is effectively integrated into all OHCHR policies, programmes and relevant processes (GMO 3)

- ▶ The High Commissioner and the Deputy ensured the integration of a gender perspective in their work. Specifically, the Deputy High Commissioner ensured that the composition of interview panels in OHCHR respected gender policies.



The Deputy High Commissioner speaks to community members while visiting a resettlement site in Oudong, Cambodia, May 2014.

Increased effectiveness in supporting human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- ▶ The High Commissioner and the Deputy took steps to increase the visibility of human rights mechanisms by promoting their added value for the promotion and protection of human rights. The High Commissioner's advocacy efforts led to the adoption of the General Assembly's resolution on the strengthening of the human rights treaty body system (A/RES/68/268). In their meetings with delegations (Member States, civil society and UN partners), the High Commissioner and the Deputy raised the importance of engaging with all human rights mechanisms and following up on their recommendations.

Increased effectiveness in supporting field operations (GMO 5)

- ▶ The High Commissioner and the Deputy supported the work of OHCHR in the field by visiting nine countries where OHCHR has a field presence. They also consistently emphasized the importance of country engagement with delegations, civil society and UN partners. Furthermore, due to the efforts of the undg Human Rights Working Group, operating under the joint leadership of the Deputy High Commissioner and the UNDP Assistant Administrator, 10 human rights advisers were deployed to various countries in 2014.

Improved awareness and understanding of and support to OHCHR's mission and programme by Member States and other stakeholders (GMO 7)

- ▶ The High Commissioner and the Deputy interacted with Member States and other stakeholders through bilateral and collective meetings to promote their increased awareness and understanding of OHCHR's mission and programmes and garner support for the work of

the Office. The meetings were held with Member States in Geneva and New York, regional and cross-regional groups, NGO coalitions in Geneva and New York and with NHRIs.

Efficient management of human and financial resources (GMO 8)

- The High Commissioner and the Deputy oversaw a prioritization exercise undertaken by the PBRB at the end of 2014 in order to align the Office's 2015 budget with the expected income.

New York Office

Background

The New York Office represents OHCHR in New York and is headed by an Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights. It comprises two sections which are dedicated to geographic, peace and security and global thematic issues, respectively, with cross-cutting intergovernmental and public information and outreach functions. The Office's principal objective is to integrate a human rights perspective into discussions and decisions made at UN Headquarters by engaging with other UN agencies and departments, Member States, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the media. The Office leads OHCHR's engagement on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity issues, including by coordinating the Free & Equal Campaign. The Office also leads OHCHR's engagement with the peacebuilding architecture and co-leads on issues related to the death penalty.

The NYO works closely with UN departments and agencies to inform and assist in the development of Secretariat and system-wide policies. It also provides direct support on human rights-related matters to the Secretary-General and his Office. In close liaison with OHCHR headquarters in Geneva, the NYO ensures the Office is actively engaged in the effective integration of human rights in the decision-making and operational activities of the intergovernmental and inter-agency bodies and of the mechanisms based at UN Headquarters in New York. OHCHR's heightened profile in New York led to a greater number of important exchanges in the context of Security Council discussions and high-level meetings held during the sessions of the General Assembly. This profile also resulted in greater attention being paid to the High Commissioner's annual interactive dialogue with Member States in the Third Committee.

The NYO facilitates the interactions of the relevant treaty body experts and special procedures mandate-holders in New York and supports OHCHR's outreach and communication initiatives through the planning, design and delivery of relevant activities such as briefings, side events, expert group meetings and the dissemination of materials and publications.

Results

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Legislation, policies and practices increasingly comply with anti-discrimination and equality standards (EA 4)*

The High Commissioner and the Secretary-General undertook high-level advocacy to urge States to do more to fulfil their obligations to address violence and discrimination against LGBTI persons. In particular, they advocated against the adoption and for the repeal of legislation that broadens criminal sanctions for same-sex relations and criminalizes the actions of human rights defenders working on the rights of LGBTI persons.

In the course of the year, the Free & Equal campaign reached more than one billion people and attracted high-profile support from celebrities and public figures in all regions of the world.

The video, *The Welcome*, launched in Mumbai, is one of the UN's most widely watched human rights videos with over two million online views and many more through television broadcasts.

In addition, Free & Equal campaign events took place at the national level in Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Honduras, India, Mexico, Paraguay and Peru, contributing to an increased understanding among national and local authorities, civil society organizations, NHRIs and the media regarding key human rights norms relevant to eliminating discrimination against LGBTI persons. The Office also provided analysis and advocacy materials for United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) and issued press releases, media briefing notes, statements, feature stories, op-eds and online blogs on LGBTI-related human rights issues.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Counter-terrorism legal frameworks, policies, strategies and institutions increasingly aligned with international human rights norms and standards (EA 1)*

The Office actively engaged in the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) to promote the mainstreaming of

human rights in its work. OHCHR co-chaired the CTITF Working Group on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights and the Rule of Law while Countering Terrorism. In 2014, the CTITF Working Group implemented its project on human rights capacity-building for law enforcement officials involved in counter-terrorism. Human rights training modules were developed on international legal and policy frameworks, special investigation techniques, detention, the use of force, interviewing techniques, countering violent extremism and community-oriented policing, all of which specifically focused on the counter-terrorism context. Nine Member States expressed interest in receiving training under the project and the first training is envisaged for early 2015 in Nigeria. Moreover, with the assistance of OHCHR, the Working Group published a series of reference guides to provide guidance for national action on human rights-compliant counter-terrorism measures, including on detention, conformity of national legislation and the right to a fair trial in the context of countering terrorism.

- *Increased number of States that have abolished the death penalty and/or, pending abolition, increasingly comply with relevant international human rights obligations (EA 1)*

The number of Member States supporting General Assembly resolution 62/149 on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty increased from 111 in 2012 to 117 in 2014. Throughout the year, the NYO maintained its advocacy campaign in support of a global moratorium on the use of the death penalty with a view to it being abolished. For instance, in preparation for the General Assembly's vote in 2014, the NYO organized a series of events for Member States to explore the human rights dimensions of the application of the death penalty. To do so, it drew on the experiences of senior government officials, academics and NGOs from various regions related to the outright abolition of the death penalty or the imposition of a moratorium. The discussions at these events formed the basis for an OHCHR publication, entitled *Moving Away from the Death Penalty: Arguments, Trends and Perspectives*.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *Human rights are integrated in the formulation of and follow-up to the post-2015 development agenda (EA 10)*

In close collaboration with OHCHR headquarters, the NYO provided substantive contributions

on integrating human rights into the post-2015 development agenda through the United Nations Technical Support Team and by supporting the intergovernmental Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals (OWG SDGs). The Outcome Document of the Working Group, adopted by the General Assembly, represents a significant improvement over the less human rights-sensitive framework of the Millennium Development Goals. In particular, the preamble reaffirms a commitment to be guided by the purposes and principles of the UN, including human rights principles.

The NYO represented OHCHR in multi-stakeholder discussions and dialogue on data and accountability for the post-2015 development agenda. It also facilitated the High Commissioner's participation in a high-level interactive dialogue hosted by the President of the General Assembly in May. The dialogue recognized the need to align the post-2015 accountability framework with human rights norms and standards. Moreover, as a result of the Office's advocacy, the report of the independent expert group on the data revolution reaffirmed the importance of the human rights perspective to collecting, analyzing and using data for greater accountability and to maximize its impact in implementation.

The NYO continued to represent OHCHR in its engagement with the new Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) and contributed to the inclusion of a human rights perspective in its vision and work.

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

- *Mechanisms and initiatives are adopted to increase human rights protection in contexts of conflict, violence and insecurity (EA 3)*

Through its cooperation with the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict, established under Security Council resolution 1888, the NYO facilitated the inclusion of a human rights perspective in response to conflict-related sexual violence in justice processes at the national level, including in Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Guinea, Liberia and Somalia. The NYO also supported justice reform initiatives in the Central African Republic and participated in joint missions to Guinea with the Global Focal Point for Police, Justice and Corrections Areas in the Rule of Law in Post-conflict and other Crisis Situations and to Liberia with UN Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict in order to bolster



The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights briefs the press after attending a Security Council meeting on the human rights situation in Ukraine, May 2014.

national efforts to strengthen the efficacy of the justice sector to address sexual violence. Input was provided in relation to draft legislation on sexual violence in Colombia and Somalia and to the United Kingdom's International Protocol on the Documentation and Investigation of Sexual Violence in Conflict.

- *Increased responsiveness of the international community to potential, emerging or existing human rights crisis situations, with human rights protection as an integral element of this response (EA 10)*

The Assistant Secretary-General's June visit to Burundi led to the increased awareness of the international community regarding the human rights situation in light of the upcoming elections. It also generated increased support for the re-establishment of an OHCHR Office following the December closure of the United Nations Office in Burundi. The NYO's sustained engagement with the peacebuilding architecture resulted in securing funds from the Peacebuilding Support Office for the OHCHR Office in Burundi. The Assistant Secretary-General's visit to South Sudan in January, supplemented by subsequent briefings to the Security Council, resulted in the increased awareness by the Council of the complex human rights situation in South Sudan and a call for the UN to identify accountability options for human rights violations that can be considered by the Council.

In the context of the HRUF initiative, OHCHR contributed to the development of a UN system-wide strategy for engagement with Eritrea and to the deployment of a team to Nigeria in advance of the elections.

The NYO engaged with Security Council Member States to ensure the strengthening of human rights mandates of peace missions, including that of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya. The Office succeeded in integrating important human rights considerations, such as the application of the human rights screening policy, in a UN system-wide lessons learned exercise on the transition from African Union peace operations to UN peacekeeping operations in the Central African Republic and Mali. The Office supported the briefings to the Security Council by the Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, which ensured that the conflict remained high on the Security Council's agenda.

- *The protection of human rights is an integral part of the international community's preparedness, response and recovery efforts in the context of humanitarian crises and is effectively integrated in the mandates, policies and actions of United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions (EA 11)*

The Office continued to contribute to the work of the Security Council's Informal Expert Group on the Protection of Civilians which informs the Security Council about the implementation status of the protection of civilian mandates of missions. The Office made specific human rights contributions to inter-agency processes working to develop country-specific crisis scenarios and strategies for the protection of civilians. The Office contributed to different inter-agency task forces (particularly on the Central African Republic, Iraq, Mali, Myanmar, Nigeria, South Sudan, the State of Palestine, Syria and in the context of Western Sahara) ensuring increased awareness of participating departments about relevant human rights issues.

- *Increased integration of human rights standards and principles into the UN's security policies and programmes, including the implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on UN support to non-UN security forces (EA 11)*
- OHCHR and DPKO co-chaired the Joint Task Force on the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy which advocated for a systematic inclusion of references to the Policy in Security Council resolutions. The Office also advocated for the implementation of the Policy in Somalia through the provision of inputs to the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia, which contributed to the operational application of the Policy on the ground.

Global Management Outputs

A gender perspective is effectively integrated into all OHCHR policies, programmes and relevant processes (GMO 3)

- ▶ The NYO-based Gender Adviser assisted UN partners in drafting a memo to the Senior Executive Board concerning the coordination of women's rights and gender equality matters within the UN system and ensuring the inclusion of these issues on the post-2015 development agenda.

Increased effectiveness in supporting human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- ▶ The Office participated in informal consultations on draft resolutions during the 69th session of the General Assembly and engaged with Member States to ensure coherence and consistency in the language of resolutions. A total of 43 resolutions on human rights were adopted, reflecting language consistent with HRC resolutions and recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Along with colleagues from Geneva, the NYO provided technical and substantive assistance to the intergovernmental process related to the human rights treaty body strengthening exercises. This was done by participating in two informal consultations with Member States in January and February, at a meeting of the Chairpersons of the Human Rights Treaty Bodies in Washington D.C. and at meetings with Member States not represented in Geneva that were held in order to explain the benefits of the treaty body strengthening process. The advocacy with Member States was undertaken to bridge the differences between regional group positions and resulted in the adoption by consensus of the comprehensive General Assembly resolution 68/268.
- ▶ The Office closely followed the intergovernmental negotiations related to modalities of participation in the follow-up to the General Assembly resolution on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and strongly advocated for the inclusion and participation of indigenous peoples in the process. The Office also played a key role in facilitating the participation and contribution of the relevant human rights mechanisms working on issues related to indigenous peoples. As a result, the World Conference Outcome Document reaffirmed the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; called for the ratification of ILO Convention No. 169; invited the HRC to review the mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; requested the Secretary-General to develop a system-wide action

plan on indigenous peoples; and committed itself to consider, at its 70th session, ways to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions at meetings of relevant UN bodies on issues affecting them.

- ▶ UN human rights mechanisms extensively addressed the human rights situation of LGBTI persons. Special procedures mandate-holders addressed violations through 11 urgent appeals and allegation letters as well as thematic reports, country visits and a landmark public statement that was jointly issued with regional human rights mechanisms to mark the International Day against Homophobia and Transphobia on 17 May. Treaty bodies also addressed violations in their concluding observations and general comments such as General Comment No. 35 of the Human Rights Committee on Article 9 (liberty and security of person) and General Recommendation No. 32 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the gender-related dimensions of refugee status, asylum, nationality and statelessness of women. OHCHR supported these efforts by raising awareness about the human rights mechanisms among LGBTI persons and organizations and providing expert guidance and analysis to human rights mechanisms on the human rights situation of LGBTI persons.

Increased effectiveness in supporting field operations (GMO 5)

- ▶ The Office ensured an improved and timely information flow between Geneva, New York and the field, especially regarding country-specific situations on the agenda of New York-based bodies.
- ▶ OHCHR and UN field presences increasingly addressed the human rights situation of LGBTI persons at the national level through advocacy, awareness-raising activities and by responding to incidents of violence, arrests and discrimination. The NYO supported this process by providing policy guidance, research, legal analysis, materials and assistance with advocacy and awareness-raising activities.

Improved awareness and understanding of and support to OHCHR's mission and programme by Member States and other stakeholders (GMO 7)

- ▶ In collaboration with Geneva, the NYO provided technical and substantive support to experts in the context of the intergovernmental negotiations on OHCHR's Strategic Framework. The Office organized bilateral meetings with a number of Member States and provided information and clarification on language elements behind the proposed Strategic Framework, which Member States adopted by consensus.

- ▶ In collaboration with UNITAR, the NYO conducted its annual two-day training workshop for new delegates on OHCHR's work and human rights in the intergovernmental processes in New York.
- ▶ The Assistant Secretary-General instituted background briefings for journalists in advance of and/or following his country missions, as well as on topical human rights issues.
- ▶ Several public information events with a wide range of participants were organized during the year, including the celebration of Human Rights Day 2014, as well as the launch of OHCHR's Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders with a focus on migration and human rights. In addition, the Office delivered 54 briefings to students, academic institutions, civil society organizations, visiting delegations and NGOs, at their request, either on country specific or thematic human rights issues and the work of the Office in general.

society, the Section works collaboratively to assist in monitoring trends and developments relating to civil society worldwide.

The Communications Section develops and implements strategies for public information outreach to a broad constituency about the work of OHCHR. This helps the High Commissioner and the Office to draw attention to critical human rights situations, advocate for the support of human rights standards and inform rights-holders about their human rights. The main functions of the Communications Section include the development and distribution of public information campaigns; the production of print, audio-visual and online materials; interaction with the media; engagement with the public through social media platforms; and the provision of relevant communication assistance for OHCHR Divisions and field presences. The Section coordinates with the UN Department of Public Information to mainstream human rights and strengthen coherence for increased visibility.

External Outreach Service

Background

The External Outreach Service is composed of three sections: the Civil Society Section, the Communications Section and the Donor and External Relations Section (DEXREL).

Civil society actors play a pivotal role in advancing the human rights agenda at the local, national and global levels, by contributing expertise, awareness-raising and monitoring and reporting on human rights issues and violations. These actors are frequently among the first to sound the alarm about emerging human rights crises, are essential to developing new and targeted human rights standards, mechanisms and institutions and can mobilize resources and public support for human rights issues. The participation of civil society effectively underpins the work of the UN human rights machinery. OHCHR's Civil Society Section works to inform and educate civil society actors about international human rights standards and the UN human rights programme by developing and sharing user-friendly tools and guidance; encourages civil society engagement with OHCHR and the human rights mechanisms while also addressing hurdles to participation; and works with partners to protect and expand the space for civil society to carry out its human rights work. In addition to providing policy advice to the High Commissioner and OHCHR colleagues about working with civil

The Donor and External Relations Section maintains primary responsibility within OHCHR for mobilizing sufficient financial resources to enable the Office to implement its global programme of work. In addition to appealing to existing and potential donors and negotiating and servicing a large number of contribution agreements, the Section serves as an entry point to Member States and others seeking general information on OHCHR's current work, future priorities and funding needs.

Results

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *Civil society, in particular youth and women, increasingly advocate for and claim their rights and protect themselves more effectively from reprisals (EA 5)*

The Civil Society Section contributed to the increased understanding of civil society actors about the work of the human rights mechanisms and the possibilities for engagement through the publication of a set of guidance materials, including the *Civil Society Space and the United Nations Human Rights System* guide, which was translated into the six official UN languages. A regional workshop on women's human rights defenders was organized in Phnom Penh, with the collaboration of other OHCHR sections and the field presence in Cambodia in order to promote a discussion on the issue of protecting civil society space among human rights defenders from South-East Asia.

1,392 communications issued to the media, including 247 relating to the work of the High Commissioner and the Office, and 1,135 news releases, media advisories and press statements were issued relating to the work of the special procedures and the treaty bodies.

24,345 print and electronic articles relating to the High Commissioner or the Office were recorded by the FACTIVA search engine.

158 stories were published on the “How we make a difference” section of the OHCHR homepage on a wide range of human rights subjects.

20.5 million visits to the OHCHR website in 2014.

More than **930,000** “likes” were registered on Facebook, up from 120,000 followers in 2013.

Over **750,000** users now follow OHCHR on Twitter, an increase of 500,000 followers when compared to 2013.

More than **1** million users now follow OHCHR on Google+.

46 short video interviews and video feature stories were produced featuring interviews with special procedures mandate-holders, as well as the work of the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and general news coverage of OHCHR press releases.

2 million views were registered on OHCHR's YouTube channel for a total of over 5 million views since the launch of the channel.

89 briefings on a variety of human rights topics were delivered to over 1,800 people, including university students, diplomats, lawyers and journalists.

Increased effectiveness in supporting human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- ▶ The Communications Section made full and effective use of a wide variety of communication tools to support the work of the human rights mechanisms, thereby contributing to their increased visibility. The missions and reports of the special procedures mandate-holders continued to be highly visible in the media and the visibility of the treaty bodies in the media was increased as a result of the support provided by a temporary media officer. In 2014, the Communications Section put out a total of 939 media communications relating to the work of special procedures, 196 related to the treaty bodies and 10 related to commissions of inquiry.
- ▶ The Donor and External Relations Section helped ensure the availability of additional funding for the human rights mechanisms through discussions with donors and Member States during annual consultations and at specific briefings on the substantive work of the Office.

Increased effectiveness in supporting field operations (GMO 5)

- ▶ The Communications Section supported field presences in the production of public information materials and the organization of campaigns such as Human Rights Day; provided advice on media issues; and disseminated their work through social media platforms.
- ▶ The Donor and External Relations Section supported field work by advocating for renewed and additional funding for activities implemented in the field. Field presences received assistance and advice on fundraising with donors on the ground, including on the negotiation of specific funding arrangements. This led to a significant increase in voluntary contributions for activities in Burundi, Colombia, Honduras, Kyrgyzstan, Myanmar, Republic of Moldova, Syria, Tajikistan, Tunisia and Ukraine.

Global Management Outputs

A gender perspective is effectively integrated into all OHCHR policies, programmes and relevant processes (GMO 3)

- ▶ Women's rights and gender equality are a prominent feature of the Communications Section's output. Cases of sexual violence are highlighted in press releases, feature stories and briefings. During 2014, the Communications Section issued 13 statements by the High Commissioner and Deputy High Commissioner, press releases relating to women's rights and an op-ed for International Women's Day. A special webpage was developed for the 16 Days of Activism campaign.

Improved awareness and understanding of and support to OHCHR's mission and programme by Member States and other stakeholders (GMO 7)

- ▶ The Civil Society Section prioritized outreach to civil society actors in order to improve their understanding about the work of the Office. Over 100 email queries were addressed to them each week and 358 messages were sent to a subscribership of 5,000 civil society actors (an increase of 16 percent in subscriptions from 2013). Additionally, almost 100 briefings were delivered to civil society about OHCHR and engagement with the human rights programme.
- ▶ In 2014, the Communications Section focused its campaign efforts on the issues of albinism,

women human rights defenders and OHCHR/ European Union (EU) cooperation. This included the development of special webpages, visual designs and public information materials. The Section also contributed to the organization of events and supported the communications components of events such as the Human Rights and Business Forum. In the context of Human Rights Day 2014, a campaign was launched, entitled *Human Rights 365*. It was primarily based on social media platforms such as Vine, Facebook, Twitter and Thunderclap. OHCHR field presences organized local events around this theme.

- ▶ The Communications Section produced 158 web stories which were published on the *How We Make a Difference* section of the OHCHR website on a wide range of human rights subjects. A series of special features were run on the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, the 16 Days of Activism and OHCHR's Minorities Fellowship Programme.
- ▶ The Communications Section worked to enhance the mainstream media's coverage of OHCHR's work on thematic and country-based issues, using video as a strong visual tool to reach wider global audiences and increase their awareness about human rights issues and OHCHR's thematic work. The Office produced a total of 46 short video interviews and packaged video news and feature stories that were drawn from campaigns, reports from Independent Experts and projects funded by the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture as well as general news coverage of OHCHR press releases. The short video interviews featured special procedures mandate-holders, treaty body experts and senior staff from the field and headquarters. In total, more than 11 video messages were recorded by the High Commissioner, the Deputy High Commissioner and other senior staff members.
- ▶ OHCHR's YouTube channel generated significant interest and now has a total of 5,113,065 views; an increase of more than 2,000,000 views in the past year. In total, 356 videos are available on the channel, including some contributions from field presences.
- ▶ In 2014, the OHCHR website received over 20.5 million page views. Progress was also made on the redesign of the OHCHR homepage, in consultation with focal points throughout the Office. The new homepage will provide an improved user interface and entry point to useful information contained on the website. It will go live in 2015 and the remaining pages of the website will be redesigned and updated on an ongoing basis.



In 2014, OHCHR developed a campaign on the rights of albinos.

- ▶ On the media front, the visibility of all human rights mechanisms and their media coverage greatly increased in 2014. The addition of a temporary media officer to cover the treaty bodies produced a significant increase in the coverage of their work. The report of the Commission of Inquiry on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea had substantial global media coverage and, after nearly one year, remains a major media reference point. Media coverage of major speeches delivered by the High Commissioner increased considerably after a professional speechwriter joined the Communications Section in March. In 2014, the Section put out a total of 1,392 media communications and according to the FACTIVE media search engine, the number of articles mentioning the High Commissioner or the Office increased by 64 per cent from 14,888 in 2013 to 24,345 in 2014.
- ▶ OHCHR established its presence on social media in 2011. The Office now boasts over 930,000 followers on Facebook, more than 750,000 on Twitter and over one million on Google+. In the context of Human Rights Day 2014, a social media campaign was developed to call for short video submissions explaining why human rights matter every day, with the hashtag #rights365. The campaign ran from 17 November to 10 December 2014. OHCHR's campaign-related tweets generated 98.3 million impressions. OHCHR also launched a Thunderclap campaign in order to spread one message to the world on Human Rights Day. The overall social reach of this initiative was 9.4 million people.
- ▶ A total of 89 briefings were organized in Geneva on a variety of human rights topics and were delivered to 1,873 people, including university students, diplomats, lawyers, journalists and individual groups.
- ▶ The Donor and External Relations Section disseminated information and generated broad-

based support for OHCHR among Member States and the wider donor community. The Section worked to increase understanding about OHCHR's programmes, objectives, priorities and implementation strategies as presented in the 2014-2017 OHCHR Management Plan. In addition to appealing to existing and potential donors, the Section negotiated new agreements, followed up on contributions received and served as a focal point for Member States and others seeking information on OHCHR's needs, activities and priorities. As in previous years, this work proved to be extremely challenging in 2014 in light of the global economic climate, which continued to impact OHCHR's income and ability to raise funds. The Section therefore focused on addressing the funding gap, despite a constant increase in requests for support and numerous additional mandates imposed on the Office.

- ▶ Under the leadership of the Donor and External Relations Section, and with an office-wide effort to reach out to donors, a total of US\$123.7 million was raised in extrabudgetary contributions in 2014, representing an increase of 2 per cent compared to the previous year (US\$121.2 million). While this could be considered a significant improvement given the current economic climate, it should be noted that some of the additional contributions were earmarked for new activities, such as some components of the Gender Strategy, the HRUF initiative and new field presences in Burundi, Honduras and Ukraine, rather than for the regular work of the Office as requested in the 2014 Annual Appeal.
- ▶ The proportion of unearmarked funding decreased to 47 per cent (down from 54 per cent in 2013) of the total income received. The Office received more earmarked contributions because of ongoing efforts to attract more local funding for field activities and to tap into non-traditional budget lines. For instance, the funding received through Multi-Partner Trust Funds increased to US\$7.8 million in 2014 from US\$5.7 million in 2013. In addition, the funding generated through OHCHR's participation in humanitarian funding processes slightly increased in 2014 (US\$783,497) from 2013 (US\$185,433).
- ▶ Contributions from Member States increased to US\$106.6 million, compared to US\$101.3 million in 2013. In 2014, 66 Member States made contributions to OHCHR, compared to 71 in 2013. Two governments pledged funds for the first time, whereas eight renewed their support after at least one inactive year. Another 15 Member States left the list of donors, despite the High Commissioner's repeated appeals to broaden the donor base and support the work of the Office.

While almost all countries from the Western Group contributed in 2014, only eight of the 33 States in the Latin American Group made a contribution. In the Asian and Eastern European Groups, 18 out of 53 members and 11 out of 23, respectively, pledged to the Office. Only 3 of the 54 members of the African Group made contributions.

- ▶ Further efforts were made in 2014 to secure private sector support. The design and development of a mobile application for fundraising purposes began in September and will continue in 2015. The app will allow individuals to make donations to OHCHR through their mobile operator or by using their credit card on a mobile-friendly webpage. In November, a new Memorandum of Understanding was concluded between OHCHR and Microsoft. The partnership includes collaboration on a number of areas. Microsoft will also provide a pro bono assessment of OHCHR's information technology infrastructure, with a focus on field work.
- ▶ The SMT approved a guidance document to enable OHCHR colleagues to better understand donor requirements and fundraising approaches.
- ▶ Together with DEXREL, Senior Management devoted time to regularly brief Member States on expected accomplishments, indicators of achievements and outputs and funding requirements. A technical briefing was organized on 3 July 2014 on the content of the OHCHR Report 2013.

Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Service

Background

The Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Service supports the development of a culture of results within OHCHR. It supports all parts of the Office, particularly the SMT, in facilitating the development of office-wide policies and programmes. In this context, PPME takes the lead in translating the High Commissioner's strategic vision into concrete priorities and operational programmes that focus on the achievement of results. It also ensures that programme implementation and results are effectively monitored and evaluated, thereby providing feedback to enable the incorporation of lessons learned into future programme design and implementation. Through an ongoing analysis of OHCHR's organizational environment, PPME helps to identify substantive or managerial gaps in the Office's results-based programming and policies and proposes actions to address these gaps.

Global Management Outputs

OHCHR strategic decisions are implemented in a timely manner (GMO 1)

- ▶ Progress made in previous years in RBM processes enabled the Office to use the data gathered through the Performance Monitoring System (PMS) to inform strategic decision-making. This was especially crucial in the planning stages for the preparation of the 2015 annual work plans and cost plans. This took place in the context of financial constraints and the need to apply budget cuts to bring it in line with income projections. Instead of applying standard budgetary cuts across the board, an evidence-based and participatory process was established which relied on existing data and knowledge gathered through the PMS and other means. PPMS defined the process, prepared guidelines, facilitated the gathering of data and organized the presentation of relevant documentation. Activities and programmes were re-prioritized and the Office's resources were allocated on that basis.
- ▶ Programmatic proposals submitted for PBRB review throughout the year showed the increased implementation of RBM principles. The use of a new web-based platform to provide a programmatic, funding and financial review of all past PBRB submissions contributed to this result.
- ▶ Improvements were also evident at the monitoring and reporting stages. The end-of-year reports submitted by field presences and headquarters focused more on results than activities. The OHCHR Report 2013 improved its results-based orientation with an assessment of the achievement of OHCHR's global targets by indicator. PPMS supported the preparation of OHCHR's reports, provided feedback and, where necessary, guidance to colleagues with regard to the formulation of results. Additionally, the midyear review reports were prepared for the first time using the PMS. This enabled the PBRB to undertake a financial and programmatic review in July on the basis of comprehensive and reliable data and an analysis of overall programme implementation.
- ▶ OHCHR staff are using the PMS to view and query information and all programming documents for 2014 were prepared using the system. PPMS supported the functioning and use of the system by preparing and updating relevant user guides and providing timely user support. In 2014, modules were developed to prepare the midyear review and the end-of-year report. Now that the system contains a significant amount of data, special efforts have been made to improve its capacity to generate reports to enable further analysis of programming documents.
- ▶ An evaluation vision, policy and plan for 2014-2017 was developed by PPMS, endorsed by the SMT and approved by the High Commissioner and significant progress was achieved in its implementation. For instance, an evaluation of the OHCHR Regional Office for Central Asia was conducted between June and October; a review of the Mexico Country Programme was initiated in December; and the preparatory work is complete for an evaluation of OHCHR's support to NHRIs which will get underway in January 2015. PPMS also prepared guidance, tools and templates, including a new tool for the review of country and regional programmes and model terms of reference for the evaluation of technical cooperation projects and lessons learned exercises. In addition, PPMS played a major role in the drafting of the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG) Handbook *Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality into Evaluations*.
- ▶ On the policy side, senior management decision-making was facilitated through the implementation of a decision tracking system which enabled users to search for all previous SMT meetings and related documentation, as well as other policy-related documents, in a more user-friendly way. A full review of SMT decisions was carried out and led to a compilation of recommendations that have not yet been implemented, which requires a briefing or further follow-up.
- ▶ On 27 June, the Committee for Programme Coordination (CPC) reached consensus on Programme 20 of the Secretary General's Strategic



OHCHR staff of the Regional Office for Southern Africa commemorating Human Rights Day, December 2014.

Framework for 2016-2017. For the first time, the High Commissioner made a formal presentation by videoconference. PPMES represented the Office at the 2014 CPC review and coordinated the input from different parts of the Office.

- In April, the 2014-2017 OHCHR Management Plan was launched and presented to Member States and civil society. The Plan included two new sections on OHCHR's theory of change and on monitoring and evaluation.

Organizational work processes and structures are aligned for increased efficiency (GMO 2)

- In July, the SMT held a retreat to review the proposals that had emerged during the functional review. PPMES supported the preparation, approval by the SMT and implementation of the functional review project. This included providing advice and information regarding OHCHR, extending the support of the Secretariat to a team of external consultants and coordinating the engagement of internal working groups and senior managers. It also included conducting, in cooperation with the consulting team, a series of missions to engage field presences in the process. As a result, areas for increased efficiency and effectiveness were identified in relation to recruitment, resource mobilization, internal workflow and organizational structures. The review and implementation of recommendations will be addressed by the SMT in 2015.

A gender perspective is effectively integrated into all OHCHR policies, programmes and relevant processes (GMO 3)

- A gender perspective is fully integrated into the work of PPMES. Guidelines produced by PPMES for the midyear review and end-of-year progress report were reviewed to strengthen their gender perspective. PPMES ensured the inclusion of gender issues as a standing item during programmatic reviews of the PBRB and SMT. For the first time, PBRB minutes included a separate section and specific recommendations on gender.
- UNEG Guidance to integrate gender on evaluation was applied in the different stages of the evaluations planned and carried out in 2014.

Increased effectiveness in supporting human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- Planning, monitoring and reporting processes and tools were defined with a view to supporting the work of the human rights mechanisms and follow-up to their recommendations. All OHCHR Divisions and field presences must now report through the PMS on the support they are providing to the human rights mechanisms. In

addition, all planned results at the country level must be linked to one or more recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms. Through the PMS, field presences can see relevant events that are planned by the mechanisms in their respective countries and the human rights mechanisms can determine which field-level activities are planned or in place to follow up on their recommendations.

OHCHR staff has the necessary competencies and skills to effectively implement the OHCHR programme (GMO 6)

- PPMES provided guidance to support planning and monitoring processes. It also conducted several briefings on the use of the PMS, including how to use the system to present summary results and prepare donor proposals and reports. In April, PPMES conducted a training workshop for colleagues of the Human Rights Division of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali. Scheduled training sessions for colleagues in Afghanistan, Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Libya had to be postponed due to the security situation and a reduction in the number of staff in PPMES.

Improved awareness and understanding of and support to OHCHR's mission and programme by Member States and other stakeholders (GMO 7)

- According to donor reviews, assessments and statements, there is increased recognition that OHCHR has made progress in the implementation of RBM. PPMES participated in donor assessments, such as the Multilateral Aid Review conducted by the United Kingdom Government's Department for International Development, as well as consultations to provide information on OHCHR's implementation of RBM.

Programme Support and Management Services

Background

As part of the United Nations Secretariat, OHCHR benefits from the common administrative services provided by the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG). Within OHCHR, administrative functions are provided by PSMS and staff members handle finance and budget, human resources management, information technology, staff development and general services (such as travel, logistics, procurement, recordkeeping and sustainable

management). For the majority of its field offices, OHCHR benefits from administrative services provided by UNDP. The primary objective of PSMS is to provide colleagues in Geneva and the field offices with the support and resources necessary to fulfil the mandates and priorities of the Office.

In 2014, the preparation for the 2015 implementation of Umoja was a major undertaking for PSMS. Although it is anticipated that Umoja will streamline and integrate management processes for the Secretariat's financial, human and physical resources, while also moving the Secretariat away from its current fragmented information legacy systems, the groundwork is both labour- and time-intensive.

Global Management Outputs

Organizational work processes and structures are aligned for increased efficiency (GMO 2)

- ▶ In 2014, PSMS began facilitating training sessions for the introduction of Unite Docs, the new system-wide records management system. The first Divisions are now using the system. It is anticipated that it will be fully implemented in 2015.

A gender perspective is effectively integrated into all OHCHR policies, programmes and relevant processes (GMO 3)

- ▶ OHCHR's online course on gender equality was integrated into the induction course for new OHCHR staff members. In addition, PSMS provided guidance and support on integrating a gender aspect into OHCHR recruitments and promotions, in line with Secretariat policies.

Increased effectiveness in supporting field operations (GMO 5)

- ▶ PSMS provided guidance and advice on all human resources, finance and general administrative issues concerning field operations. This included the support and development for the Human Rights Case Database and the MAYA management system for field presences. Progress was achieved in creating rosters for crisis situations, which were used for several commissions of inquiry.

OHCHR staff has the necessary competencies and skills to effectively implement the OHCHR programme (GMO 6)

- ▶ During 2014, the competencies and skills of more than 1,036 staff members increased as a result of trainings organized by PSMS. Moreover, access to learning opportunities, including for field colleagues, increased through the use of webinar technology. The knowledge of OHCHR staff

members was further strengthened through the coordination of 21 coffee briefings on substantive human rights issues. These briefings were also available to field-based staff through podcasts. Finally, 50 new staff members benefited from a two-day orientation programme on the mandate, strategies and functioning of the Office.

Efficient management of human and financial resources (GMO 8)

- ▶ With Umoja going live in Geneva in 2015, PSMS resources were tied up in its preparations, trainings, monthly readiness meetings, status reports, data cleansing and defining processes for Geneva. Umoja will streamline all administrative processes in the Secretariat through a self-service portal and aims to remove many bureaucratic procedures. This should in turn enable PSMS to focus on strategic support activities. In addition to preparations for Umoja, PSMS also concentrated on providing support to the Office with Inspira, the Secretariat's current recruitment and performance management portal.
- ▶ PSMS provided input into the new mobility framework, in particular as it relates to OHCHR.
- ▶ The new MAYA system was enhanced and rolled out to more field offices. MAYA provides for improved budget discipline and prudent financial management in the field and enables managers and staff with financial responsibilities to monitor their budget in order to review and correct information in a clear and transparent manner.
- ▶ PSMS contributed to the efficient management of human and financial resources within OHCHR. Due to current financial constraints, PSMS increased its efforts to explore innovative ways to save costs for the Office by looking into pro bono agreements for goods and services. No new resources were provided to PSMS to undertake additional tasks. While this may have led to some delays in supporting more routine activities, this has not generally disrupted regular operations. On the other hand, the requirement to support additional activities left PSMS with limited capacity to undertake proactive, strategic improvements.

Safety and Security Section

Background

The Safety and Security Section coordinates the security of OHCHR operations, staff and worldwide assets in accordance with established UN security risk management practices and in close coordination

with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security. The Section also provides support to the Human Rights Council mandated activities such as the fact-finding missions and commissions of inquiry. The Section is responsible for coordinating UN security management system coverage to officials and experts, including members of the human rights treaty bodies, working groups, commissioners and special procedures mandate-holders while travelling on behalf of OHCHR. It also participates in system-wide security policymaking fora to ensure that human rights are mainstreamed into staff security policies and procedures applicable to all UN agencies. At the operational level, the Section conducts risk assessments and analyses global and relevant field-location security situations; provides technical supervision and assistance on policies, procedures and minimum operating security standards for all staff, field presences and activities; and manages the global security clearance and travel advisory service.

Global Management Outputs

Increased effectiveness in supporting human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- ▶ During 2014, the Section supported 23 field visits by special procedures mandate-holders, 32 missions by members of commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions and those undertaken by the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture. Dedicated security support was provided for these missions based on the detailed security concepts of operations and security risk assessments developed in accordance with the UN security management system. The system has significantly contributed to ensuring a safe working environment.

Increased effectiveness in supporting field operations (GMO 5)

- ▶ In 2014, there were a total of 55 security incidents/situations (compared to 65 in 2013) which directly affected OHCHR staff. The Section deployed security officers on 74 occasions to conduct assessments and security coordination missions in connection with field operations. In addition, in order to ensure that staff travelling to the field fully complied with security procedures, the Section processed 2,702 security clearance requests in 2014. The Section also brought together a range of security information tools under one electronic

platform to provide real-time security information with the aim of ensuring security and efficiency in field operations.

Meetings and Documents Unit

Background

As the meeting and document focal point of OHCHR, the Meetings and Documents Unit is responsible for the coordination of the Office's annual programme of meetings and the planning, coordination and submission of all OHCHR official documents for processing, including OHCHR's efforts to improve its document submission compliance.

Global Management Outputs

Increased effectiveness in supporting human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- ▶ The Meetings and Documents Unit continued to discharge its functions in a more challenging environment in light of the growing number of special procedures mandates and the preparations for the implementation of the General Assembly resolution on treaty body strengthening and in light of the reduction in available human resources. In spite of these limitations, the Unit achieved a rate of 82 per cent of timely submission of documents (compared to 77 per cent in 2013). This was achieved by making contact with submitting officers and managers to suggest tailored solutions when delays were anticipated and as a result of a more active participation by senior management to support streamlined clearance processes.
- ▶ In collaboration with the Human Rights Treaties Division, the Unit finalized the overall calendar of meetings for 2015 by the deadline set by the Division of Conference Management (DCM) of the United Nations Office at Geneva. The challenge of having to accommodate 20 additional weeks of meetings was overcome by continued dialogue with DCM.
- ▶ The Unit successfully started the submission of documents through a new web-based database.

Research and Right to Development Division

Background

The Research and Right to Development Division (RRDD) conducts thematic research and contributes to policy development, encourages the mainstreaming of human rights across the work of the United Nations, develops tools and learning packages and provides expertise on human rights themes to many stakeholders, including mechanisms as mandated by the Human Rights Council (HRC), the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The Division is also leading efforts related to advancing the right to development, in accordance with the High Commissioner's mandate to "promote and protect the realization of the right to development and to enhance support from relevant bodies of the United Nations system for this purpose." RRDD undertakes human rights research and advocacy work and contributes to country-level implementation through the provision of advisory services, legal and policy reviews and capacity-development, often through OHCHR field presences.

The Division's main functions are:

- ▶ Providing expert advice on thematic issues and support in relation to the High Commissioner's global leadership role in advocacy on thematic human rights issues: RRDD responded to all of OHCHR's six thematic priorities for the period 2014-2017 in terms of research, advice, advocacy and capacity-development. RRDD took the lead in the implementation of Global Management Output (GMO) 3, which requires that a "gender perspective is effectively integrated in all OHCHR policies, programmes and processes" and contributed to the enhancement of staff skills (GMO 6) through human rights methodology.
- ▶ Undertaking policy and methodology development: This is the "how to" of human rights work; translating international human rights law and principles into practical methods, approaches, standards, procedures and tools to be applied in human rights work that is being carried out by OHCHR and other UN, international and national actors. In addition, human rights methodology is based on the integration of



Workshop for the development of human rights indicators based on OHCHR's methodology in Bolivia, June 2014.

lessons-learned into guidance tools. In 2014, RRDD continued to lead OHCHR's work on the development of UN policies and their follow-up. In addition, the Human Rights Up Front (HRUF) initiative required considerable OHCHR participation.

- ▶ Integrating all human rights into development, peace and security, humanitarian affairs and economic and social affairs: One of RRDD's functions is to encourage the integration of human rights in all policy, management and operational work of the UN. This is primarily done in the course of OHCHR's work with the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), in connection with the HRUF Action Plan, through participation with inter-agency groups and meetings (i.e., the United Nations Indigenous Peoples' Partnership, the Inter-Agency Security Sector Reform Task Force, the Inter-Agency Support Group for the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the UN Network on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities) and bilateral cooperation with agencies and programmes, including UN Women, UNESCO, FAO, WHO, ILO and United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs).

- ▶ Promoting and implementing human rights education and training: RRDD contributes to increased knowledge and understanding of human rights issues through education and training, the development of materials, policies, methodologies and programmes and the provision of training, advice and coordination under the Plan of Action for the Third Phase (2015-2019) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, adopted by the Human Rights Council in September.
- ▶ Providing support to mechanisms: RRDD supports human rights mechanisms and provides substantive input and organizational assistance to the HRC.

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Increased ratification of international human rights instruments and review of reservations, with a focus on instruments and regions with low ratification rates, including optional protocols (EA 2)*
UN agencies, governments and other human rights actors praised OHCHR's interactive maps on treaty ratification (<http://indicators.ohchr.org>). Civil society actors used the maps to advocate for treaty ratification and provide a reminder of human rights commitments undertaken by different countries. The interactive maps were launched on the OHCHR Facebook page, through human rights networks and at a side event held during the 26th session of the HRC.
- ▶ *Increased number and diversity of rights-holders, and of national human rights institutions and civil society actors acting on their behalf, making use of United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms and bodies (EA 7)*
International human rights mechanisms increasingly formulate 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 Universal Periodic Review (UPR) have 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 as essential to producing more results-based national human rights action plans. As part of the national training workshops conducted by RRDD on human rights indicators,

recommendations from the human rights mechanisms were used to support participatory processes to identify key indicators relevant to measuring their implementation and follow-up. Workshops on human rights indicators, which involved government agencies, national statistical offices, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), civil society organizations and UNCTs, were conducted in 2014 in Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Morocco, Togo and Uzbekistan.

Through its Indigenous and Minority Fellowship programmes, OHCHR trained 42 indigenous and minority representatives to use international human rights mechanisms to advocate for their rights. In addition, 10 residential indigenous and minority fellows received on-the-job training in OHCHR headquarters and field presences, including in Cameroon, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Nigeria and the Russian Federation.

- ▶ *Enhanced synergies, complementarity and coherence within and between human rights mechanisms (EA 9)*

Progress was reported in improving the complementarity and coherence between UN agencies that are working on indigenous peoples' issues, including by advancing the implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples at headquarters and in the field. As co-chair of the Inter-Agency Support Group on indigenous issues in 2014, OHCHR played a significant role in ensuring the active engagement of the Group in the processes leading up to the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, ranging from the delivery of joint statements in preparatory meetings and at the Conference to the submission of thematic papers on key themes such as the participation of indigenous peoples in decision-making and the recognition of indigenous peoples' land rights. The Outcome Document of the World Conference envisaged a number of initiatives and OHCHR convened an Inter-Agency Support Group coordination meeting in December to begin discussing concrete ways to contribute to their implementation.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- ▶ *Legislation, policies and practices increasingly comply with anti-discrimination and equality standards (EA 4)*

RRDD contributed to the increased compliance of national laws and policies on indigenous peoples and minorities with international standards through the provision of legal and policy advice on draft laws or draft plans of action, including in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Honduras and South Africa.

In terms of work related to national action plans

against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, a validation meeting was held in Benin which recommended the review of a number of laws with discriminatory effects, the integration of human rights education in the primary and secondary school systems and the organization of anti-discrimination awareness-raising campaigns at both national and communal levels. OHCHR also co-organized a validation workshop in Mauritania and the resulting draft national action plan addresses legal reviews and reforms, the revision of textbooks on civic education, the criminalization of racist acts and educational measures targeting young people, the judiciary and law enforcement officers.

► *Increased and effective use of national protection systems by individuals and groups faced with discrimination (EA 5)*

To enhance the support provided to women human rights defenders, RRDD compiled and disseminated recommendations issued by

human rights mechanisms related to women's discrimination. The Division also produced information sheets and material on women's rights and undertook capacity-building activities and exchanges regarding good practices on specific women's rights issues such as access to land and productive resources and sexual and reproductive health and rights. These activities were tailored to women human rights defenders in Cambodia, the Central African Republic, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Mali, Nicaragua, Sudan (Darfur), the Syrian Arab Republic and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. In the follow-up to capacity-building activities, OHCHR Regional Gender Advisers and field presences collaborated with women's groups and defenders and continued to provide advice and follow developments.

OHCHR, the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator and the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy of the former Yugoslav Republic of

In September 2014, the first World Conference on Indigenous Peoples was held in New York, representing a landmark event for the advancement of indigenous peoples' rights. OHCHR played an active role throughout the organization process by advocating for the robust participation of indigenous peoples in the Conference, calling for a strong outcome document rooted in human rights and making concrete proposals for improved action at the national and international levels. In addition, through the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations, OHCHR facilitated the participation of over 100 indigenous representatives in the World Conference and at its preparatory meetings. These efforts helped to ensure an inclusive World Conference which resulted in important commitments undertaken by Member States. More specifically, many of the commitments relate to the implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples through the development of national action plans and of other measures to prevent violence against indigenous



Aili Keskitalo, President of the Sami Parliament of Norway, addresses the press conference on the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, September 2014. She is joined on the podium by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and Rigoberta Menchú, Guatemalan indigenous leader.

women and to limit the impact of resource exploitation projects on indigenous peoples.

In its role as chair of the UN Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples' Issues, OHCHR also worked to ensure that the World Conference would stimulate a system-wide promotion of indigenous peoples' rights within the UN. This goal is reflected in the Outcome Document, which calls

for the development of an action plan and efforts to ensure that the UN human rights mechanisms increasingly promote respect for the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. OHCHR actively assisted with the follow-up to these and other commitments outlined in the Outcome Document and participated in a December 2014 meeting with UN agencies to advance their implementation.

Macedonia co-organized a workshop on *Ensuring Effective Mechanisms for Prevention and Protection from Discrimination*. The workshop aimed to enhance the capacities of national stakeholders, including the Commission for Prevention and Protection against Discrimination and civil society organizations, to address shortcomings in the current anti-discrimination legislation. The participants agreed on a set of recommendations on follow-up actions to be conducted in collaboration with OHCHR.

- *Implementation of the Secretary-General's Guidance Notes and Guidelines on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the UN Indigenous Peoples' Partnership (EA 11)*
As the coordinator of the United Nations Network on Racial Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities (the Network), OHCHR supported the implementation of all 19 recommendations contained in the 2013 Guidance Note of the Secretary-General. With a view to translating these recommendations into real change, the Network endorsed a four-year action plan in April, paying special attention to gender issues. In that context, the capacity of some UN presences was developed to support national authorities in guaranteeing respect for minority rights. One of these capacity-building activities was the convening of a regional consultation in the Middle East and North Africa in Tunis, in December 2014, during which representatives from NHRIs, NGOs, the media and the UN shared strategies and explored ways to promote the rights of minorities at the national and regional levels, with a specific focus on the situation of minority girls and women. A second activity was the organization of a training course in May on minority rights, including on the Guidance Note, for the UNCT in Pakistan. RRDD also provided assistance and guidance to a number of UNCTs on issues related to minorities by identifying appropriate entry points for their improved integration into programmatic interventions. For instance, a concise human rights profile was developed in relation to the Sandžak/Raška region of Serbia and contained recommendations on appropriate measures to be taken to protect minority women from discrimination.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Increased number of States that have abolished the death penalty and/or, pending abolition, increasingly comply with relevant international human rights obligations (EA 1)*
OHCHR's long-standing efforts in relation to the death penalty formed part of the background

of the vote in favour of a resolution calling for a moratorium on the death penalty adopted at the 69th session of the General Assembly (117 in favour, 37 against and 34 abstentions). OHCHR's activities also contributed to positive developments reported at the national level. For example, Gabon, El Salvador and Poland acceded to the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; 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; the United States of America commenced an executive review of execution procedures; and Afghanistan announced a review of all death penalty cases. In this context, RRDD prepared four reports to the General Assembly and the HRC in 2014, organized a high-level panel discussion in March on the abolition of the death penalty and towards the introduction of a moratorium on executions and held two regional meetings; one in Algiers on moving away from the death penalty in the Middle East and North Africa and one in Indonesia on the right to life and moratoriums on the death penalty in States of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

- *Counter-terrorism legal frameworks, policies, strategies and institutions increasingly aligned with international human rights norms and standards (EA 1)*

Following a request from the General Assembly in its 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 examined the protection afforded by international human rights law regarding privacy and provided recommendations to Member States and other stakeholders. Its preparation was based on the results of a research project, undertaken by OHCHR and the UN University on the application of international human rights law to national regimes overseeing governmental digital surveillance, and the outcome of an open consultation in February, during which stakeholders provided inputs on the basis of a questionnaire. The report generated the interest of Member States, media, civil society and the private sector and contributed to an increased appreciation of the need to respect the right to privacy and other human rights in the context of



The Secretary-General addresses the opening of the Global Forum on Migration and Development in Stockholm, Sweden, May 2014.

surveillance practices. It also served as the basis for discussion at the expert panel convened at the 27th session of the HRC and directly informed the resolution on the right to privacy in the digital age, adopted by the General Assembly in November (A/C.3/69/L.26/Rev.1), which included a number of commitments by States and proposed measures for follow-up.

- *Transitional justice mechanisms established and increasingly operating in accordance with international human rights norms, standards and good practices (EA 3)*

Regarding the use of archives as a means to guarantee the right to the truth, RRDD finalized the 10th Rule-of-Law Tool for Post-Conflict States. The tool provides guidance to UN field missions, transitional administrations and civil society on the management, reform, use and preservation of archives. Furthermore, pursuant to HRC resolution 21/7, an online database was launched on good practices related to the establishment, preservation and provision of access to national archives on human rights. RRDD provided relevant legal advice, such as commentaries on transitional justice legislation, to OHCHR field presences in Burundi, Côte d'Ivoire, Mali and Tunisia.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *Constitutions, laws and policies increasingly protect human rights, especially land and housing rights, with particular attention paid to non-discrimination and gender equality, in the context*

of development and the exploitation of natural resources (EA 1)

In 2014, OHCHR produced a report on good practices undertaken by governmental and non-governmental national institutions and international institutions to give effect to the 2012 Technical Guidance on the application of a human rights-based approach to the implementation of policies and programmes to reduce and eliminate preventable maternal mortality and morbidity (A/HRC/27/20).

In addition, RRDD published *Reproductive Rights: A Handbook for National Human Rights Institutions*, which was jointly developed with UNFPA and the Danish Institute for Human Rights, in order to equip NHRIs with tools and resources to strengthen their role in promoting and protecting reproductive rights. At the national level, an assessment of maternal health-related issues was undertaken in South Africa and another is underway in Malawi with the intention of informing national policy processes.

- *Rights-holders meaningfully participate in the design and monitoring of public policies, budgets and development projects particularly affecting their human rights, especially their rights to food, housing, water and sanitation and their access to natural resources such as land (EA 5)*

Based on OHCHR's methodology, the first list of human rights indicators on water and sanitation was developed by OHCHR and the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation (A/HRC/27/55). The list of indicators was developed through



Iraqi children from Mosul searching for water near the Garmava temporary camp.

the participation of a wide range of experts and organizations, including NGOs. Through in-country technical assistance provided by RRDD and OHCHR field presences, indicators were identified to measure the realization of civil, economic, political and social rights, through different participatory processes, in a number of countries, including Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Morocco, Togo and Uzbekistan.

► *Human rights are integrated in the formulation of and follow-up to the post-2015 development agenda (EA 10)*

In 2014, OHCHR was active in promoting human rights in intergovernmental and inter-agency deliberations and processes to define the post-2015 agenda, including through political advocacy, research, consultations and expert meetings. At the intergovernmental level, the High Commissioner addressed a number of high-level events organized by the President of the General Assembly such as accountability, human rights and the rule of law and a stocktaking event was held in relation to the post-2015 agenda. OHCHR actively participated in the sessions of the Open Working Group on the Sustainable Development Goals (OWG SDGs), including through bilateral engagement with Member States and the organization of side events on human rights aspects of the post-2015 agenda. As a result of these efforts, many of OHCHR's key human rights messages are reflected in the OWG SDGs Outcome Document (A/68/970) of July. For example, the OWG SDGs Outcome Document is founded on a human rights 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' message. It highlights the key human rights dimensions of accessibility, availability, affordability and quality of social services. The Outcome Document also reflects the results of OHCHR's efforts to ensure the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the post-2015 agenda.

At the inter-agency level, OHCHR contributed technical inputs to all joint UN submissions and activities as a member of the UN System Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda and the UN Technical Support Team. Since 2012, OHCHR's advocacy has been strongly reflected in all major UN consultations and reports on the post-2015 development agenda, including in the Secretary-General's synthesis report, *The Road to Dignity by 2030*, issued in December, which outlines human rights messages and recommendations. OHCHR also contributed to and participated in activities of the inter-agency bodies on measurability and indicators for the post-2015 agenda. OHCHR became a full-time member of the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities to ensure that the emerging work on indicators within the UN system reflects a human rights approach.

► *Global, regional and national actors increasingly integrate international human rights principles and standards, including the right to development, in their development, finance, trade and investment policies (EA 10)*

RRDD's engagement with civil society and other UN agencies regarding the right to development resulted in greater opportunities to influence the discussions on financing for development, further engage with civil society, States and UN agencies and refine its own position on these issues. Human rights impact assessments were evaluated in the area of trade and investment. The Office also focused on how to integrate human rights in investment dispute settlement procedures and in particular on access to remedies for third parties. Implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights was enhanced through advocacy, expert advice and participation in UN and other processes and meetings. A global multi-stakeholder consultative process was launched in February with the objective of enhancing accountability and access to remedies in cases of serious human rights abuses involving business. Training and guidance materials were produced to support the update of the Guiding Principles and activities relating to business and human rights undertaken by OHCHR field presences.

OHCHR contributed to global consultation processes to strengthen the environmental and social safeguard policies of UNDP, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the World Bank from a human rights perspective. Positive results were achieved in the first two cases, although as of early 2015, the World Bank's safeguard consultation process was still underway.

► *Human rights standards and principles are integrated into UN development frameworks and the work of UN agencies, particularly on housing, water, sanitation and land (EA 11)*

The undg Strategic Priorities 2013-2016 explicitly recognize the importance of promoting the human rights-based approach, which has become a well-established principle for all UN country programming for achieving sustainable development. OHCHR contributed to the latest guidance on the *Standard Operating Procedures for Delivering as One*, issued in 2014, which fully integrates human rights. As co-chair of the undg Working Group on Resident Coordinator System Issues, OHCHR led the process of revising the new job description of the Resident Coordinator and a guidance note on UNCT working relations. The guidelines were adopted in 2014 and reflect the requirements of the HRUF initiative, providing greater clarity on the roles and responsibilities of Resident Coordinators and UNCTs in relation to human rights. These guidelines enabled OHCHR to integrate human rights throughout the new Resident Coordinator's Selection System and Induction Programme, launched in 2014. In addition, the Multi-Partner Trust Fund supported the deployment of human rights advisers to UNCTs and Regional undg Teams.

In relation to the rights of migrants, OHCHR contributed to the mainstreaming of human rights in migration policies and activities within the UN system, including by ensuring the integration of human rights issues in inter-agency processes on migration such as the Global Migration Group and the Global Forum on Migration and Development. RRDD drafted the Secretary-General's report to the General Assembly on ways and means to protect the human rights of migrants, focusing on the human rights challenges faced by children and adolescents in the context of migration and the human rights of migrants at international borders. Tools and guidance materials were also developed, including a set of Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders. To facilitate the monitoring of the human rights situation of migrants, OHCHR partnered

with other UN agencies and civil society 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. A two-day expert meeting was convened in April to consult on the draft indicators and gathered together more than 50 experts, including human rights and statistical experts, local and national government representatives and civil society organizations with expertise in data collection.

RRDD also facilitated the integration of human rights standards in two instruments adopted in 2014 by FAO, namely the International Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication and the Principles for Responsible Investment in Agriculture and Food Systems. OHCHR participated in the intergovernmental consultations and negotiations and provided technical advice to FAO Member States, NGOs and other stakeholders on key human rights issues, standards and mechanisms.

One of the most important elements of the High Commissioner's work and mandate is human rights mainstreaming. In fact, because of the work that the Office has done over the last few years, significant progress has been seen in the integration of human rights in key policy discussions at the UN level. This resulted in positive contributions being made to Rio+20, the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review, the post-2015 development agenda and the Human Rights Up Front initiative. In addition, human rights are influencing the current discussions of the Chief Executives Board, which is working to ensure that the UN is "fit for purpose" in supporting Member States as they make the transition to a new development agenda.

As well, in order to better respond to new and emerging global priorities and the changing development context, the United Nations Development Group's Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism, chaired by OHCHR, was converted into the Human Rights Working Group. In 2014, the new Working Group achieved a number of its goals, including developing useful human rights guidance for Resident Coordinators who are based around the world, promoting policy coherence, undertaking joint advocacy and sharing system-wide knowledge about human rights issues.



Community members in Freetown, Sierra Leone, attend a briefing on the Ebola virus disease outbreak.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *Effective human rights education programmes, particularly for youth, established or strengthened (EA 1)*

In September, RRDD launched a web resource, entitled *The Right to Human Rights Education*. The resource compiles the international commitments undertaken by States at various international and regional fora in relation to human rights education and training and with regard to women's human rights. The resource was well received by NGO partners as it provides a quick reference to the legal background that is needed for human rights education advocacy. At the field level, RRDD and OHCHR field presences supported the Rwandan Government in the development of a national strategy for human rights education and helped to integrate human rights education in the school systems in Jamaica, Timor-Leste and Tunisia.

- ▶ *Effective protection mechanisms and measures for civil society actors, including at-risk human rights defenders and media actors established and strengthened (EA 3)*

RRDD worked to enhance the knowledge of State actors and civil society on the safety of journalists and the issue of impunity through the publication of a report on good practices on the protection of journalists, the prevention of attacks against them and the fight against impunity for such attacks (A/HRC/24/23). It also organized an expert panel discussion on the safety of journalists at the 26th session of the HRC. Moreover, RRDD 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 which the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity was reviewed with regional organizations and civil society actors. On the first International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists, the High Commissioner released a video statement to generate greater awareness about the issue and urge States to provide better protection for journalists.

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

- ▶ *Legal frameworks, public policies and institutions are in place and functioning to combat sexual and gender-based violence, trafficking and related exploitation (EA 1)*

The Office released a study on wrongful gender stereotyping by the judiciary in cases of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Subsequently, an agreement was reached with the judicial school in Guatemala for OHCHR to undertake a review of judgments handed down by ordinary and specialized courts in SGBV cases to assess the application of international norms and the influence of harmful gender stereotypes. In the Republic of Moldova, OHCHR supported a review of the prosecutors' guidance for the investigation of rape, as recommended by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), with a view to eliminating harmful stereotyping. A Model Protocol to guide investigations and prosecutions of femicide in Latin America was launched in August. It was presented in Bangkok in November and in Geneva in December. OHCHR contributed to the drafting of the Protocol.

In June, largely as a result of inputs and advocacy from OHCHR and UN Women, 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 on the implementation of the Guidance Note as well as follow-up activities. OHCHR also developed guidance on the integration of gender perspectives and the investigation of SGBV for commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions.

- *Increased responsiveness of the international community to potential, emerging or existing human rights crisis situations, with human rights protection as an integral element of this response (EA 10)*

OHCHR made the Human Rights Case Database available to an additional eight field presences (Bolivia, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Guatemala, Liberia, Mali, Yemen and the Regional Office for South-East Asia). The Database supports the recording and documentation of OHCHR's monitoring work. The findings are primarily used for advocacy and reporting purposes.

- *The protection of human rights is an integral part of the international community's preparedness, response and recovery efforts in the context of humanitarian crises and is effectively integrated in the mandates, policies and actions of United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions (EA 11)*

In the context of the Human Rights Up Front initiative, OHCHR regularly engaged with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and the network of Human Rights Up Front Focal Points to support the implementation of the Action Plan throughout the UN system. OHCHR led the development of a mandatory course for all UN staff on the UN's human rights responsibilities, and the review of UN information management systems on human rights violations. Inputs were also provided to develop key elements of the Plan such as the further definition of the newly established coordination mechanisms at headquarters; guidelines on early warning; and a monitoring and evaluation framework.

- *Increased integration of human rights standards and principles into the UN's security policies and programmes, including the implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on UN support to non-UN security forces (EA 11)*

The integration of human rights in support of security forces was enhanced. Support was provided by OHCHR to the Inter-Agency Security

Sector Reform Task Force, including by facilitating training sessions on the integration of human rights in UN support to security forces. In support of peace missions, OHCHR reviewed more than 20 DPKO policies and guidance documents (i.e., on the protection of civilians, the roles of UN military and police and the use of force) and supported the development of guidance in several UN peace missions. The capacity of peacekeeping personnel to appropriately respond to human rights issues was strengthened through the training of staff and provision of support to peacekeeping training centres. With assistance from OHCHR, the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti developed guidelines for uniformed personnel to respond to human rights violations. This was the first such guidance developed in a peace mission.

OHCHR supported, along with other UN entities, the implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) in Bangladesh, the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Lebanon, Liberia, Mali, Pakistan, Somalia, South Sudan and Yemen. These efforts led to the adoption of standard operating procedures in Bangladesh, Liberia, Mali and Somalia and the undertaking of several HRDDP risk assessments, especially in the Central African Republic and Somalia. This work enabled the cross-fertilization of HRDDP experiences between UN entities which are applying the policy in different contexts, including at a workshop organized in Uganda for 32 UN staff members from 14 different field presences. The HRDDP Guidance Note that was finalized by RRDD in 2014 also provided UN entities with a clear and comprehensive guidance tool for implementing the policy. A compendium of good practices is being developed.

Global Management Outputs

A gender perspective is effectively integrated into all OHCHR policies, programmes and relevant processes (GMO 3)

- RRDD has primary responsibility for facilitating and assessing the implementation of this management output. In February, a Gender Equality Strategic Plan covering 2014-2017 was adopted. Furthermore, as a result of guidance provided to headquarters divisions and field presences, a gender perspective is now included in their 2015 annual work plans, country and subregional notes and performance evaluations. On International Women's Day, 8 March, a mandatory online training was launched for



Celebration of International Women's Day in El Fasher, Sudan.

OHCHR staff, entitled *Gender Equality, Human Rights and Me*. As of December 2014, the training had been taken by 75 per cent of staff members. Moreover, according to staff self-assessments regarding their capacity to integrate gender into their work before and after taking the online course, the percentage of staff with a high capacity has more than doubled and is now at 92 per cent.

- ▶ At the inter-agency and global policy levels, OHCHR is recognized as one of the main partners of UN Women in the implementation of the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women.
- ▶ Gender considerations have been reflected in OHCHR's advocacy positions, key messages and substantive technical inputs for all debates and processes related to the post-2015 development agenda and its work on human rights indicators. OHCHR's guide to human rights indicators includes lists of indicators to measure violence against women, sexual and reproductive health, discrimination by sex and the participation of women in decision-making processes.

Increased effectiveness in supporting human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- ▶ The Division provided substantive and logistical support to human rights mechanisms, including: the Working Group on the Right to Development; the Social Forum; the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and the mechanisms established to follow up the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. RRDD also assisted open-ended intergovernmental working groups such as the Open-ended

intergovernmental working group to consider the possibility of elaborating an international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies and the Open-ended Working Group on a United Nations declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas.

- ▶ Of the 26 plenary panel discussions that took place during the 2014 sessions of the Human Rights Council, 20 were related to thematic human rights issues covered by RRDD. The Division provided conceptual, substantive and administrative support for the organization of panel discussions on issues such as the right of persons with disabilities to education; women's human rights; gender integration; the death penalty; and the right to privacy in the digital age. RRDD also prepared 65 reports to intergovernmental bodies.
- ▶ RRDD supported the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples, which in 2014 provided support to 170 indigenous representatives to receive training and attend sessions and participate in deliberations of the Human Rights Council, the UPR, the treaty bodies, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on Indigenous Peoples and the preparatory meeting of the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples and of the World Conference itself.

OHCHR staff has the necessary competencies and skills to effectively implement the OHCHR programme (GMO 6)

- ▶ Staff skills in human rights monitoring and investigations were enhanced through 14 courses (six in Geneva and eight in field locations) that were attended by 247 staff, 45 per cent of which were women. In addition, staff capacity to use the Human Rights Case Database was strengthened through 30 remote briefings attended by over 300 participants (half of which were women).
- ▶ RRDD facilitated, together with DPKO, DPA and the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, the first workshop for Women Protection Advisers.
- ▶ The OHCHR Human Rights Education and Training Database contains information on 1,202 institutions and 299 human rights training programmes.
- ▶ The OHCHR Library added 564 new items to its collection and 9,248 visits were made to the Library's online catalogue.

Human Rights Treaties Division

Background

The human rights treaty bodies are independent committees that were established under the international human rights treaties. They are composed of experts, serving in their personal capacity, who are elected by States Parties. Treaty bodies monitor the implementation of human rights treaties through a system that requires the periodic review of reports submitted by the States Parties to each treaty. All international core human rights treaties are supplemented by optional protocols or contain optional provisions that enable the committees to receive and consider individual complaints. The treaty bodies issue recommendations to States Parties in order to assist them with the implementation of their treaty-based obligations at the national level. The treaty bodies also adopt general comments on thematic issues and conduct inquiries regarding allegations of violations. The Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment undertakes visits to States Parties aimed at preventing torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

The 10 treaty bodies consist of:

- ▶ The Human Rights Committee (HR Committee)
- ▶ The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)
- ▶ The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
- ▶ The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- ▶ The Committee against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- ▶ The Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT)
- ▶ The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- ▶ The Committee on Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW)
- ▶ The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- ▶ The Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED)

The recommendations of the treaty bodies are used in a wide variety of contexts in the work of the Office, including as background documentation



A young participant at the interactive panel discussion organized in New York to mark the 25th anniversary of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, November 2014.

for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), reference material for thematic research undertaken by OHCHR and to support the work of the special procedures and activities of OHCHR field presences.

In addition to supporting the treaty bodies by facilitating their activities as outlined above, the Human Rights Treaties Division (HRTD) is responsible for:

- ▶ Continuously updating the Universal Human Rights Index (UHRI) (www.uhri.ohchr.org).
- ▶ Administering the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and the Special Fund of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.
- ▶ Promoting the continued improvement and harmonization of the work of the treaty bodies through the annual Meeting of Chairpersons of the Human Rights Treaty Bodies and consistent follow-up with the individual treaty bodies.

In recent years, the size of the human rights treaty body system has significantly expanded with the creation of four new treaty bodies (CMW, CRPD, SPT

and CED) and three new procedures for individual complaints (specifically under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)).

The Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure entered into force on 14 April 2014. As a result, all of the monitoring bodies of the core human rights treaties now have individual communications procedures. Only article 77 of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW) has not yet entered into force. This strengthening of the international human rights legal framework represents an important step forward in ensuring the availability of enhanced tools for the protection of human rights.

The total number of treaty body experts in 2014 amounted to 172 (versus 125 in 2010 and 97 in 2000). In addition, the allocated meeting time of the treaty bodies increased to 79 weeks in 2014 (versus 72 weeks in 2010 and 56 weeks in 2000).

The year 2014 saw the conclusion of the treaty body strengthening process (GA resolution 68/268). The outcome document proposed a series of measures, including, inter alia, granting more meeting time and human and financial resources from the regular budget to the treaty bodies. The resolution also put forward a capacity-building package, to be funded from the regular budget, to assist States Parties with fulfilling their human rights obligations. It further proposed measures to modernize the treaty body system, increase its accessibility and foster internal harmonization between the 10 treaty bodies. The outcome of the intergovernmental process constituted a model of rationalization and cost-effectiveness, since it identified savings and recommended their reinvestment in both improvements and capacity-building.

9 core international human rights treaties

10 treaty bodies

59 new ratifications and accessions in 2014

143 State Party reports considered in 2014

268 reports pending consideration as of the end of 2014

627 individual communications pending consideration as of the end of 2014

Approximately **15,000** pages of documentation processed annually (State Party reports, lists of issues, concluding observations, views and decisions)

Approximately **7,800** recommendations adopted annually

Final decisions adopted on **139** communications

79 weeks in session in 2014

172 treaty body experts within the 10 treaty bodies

7 missions of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture

Disbursement of more than **300** grants, representing more than US\$7.5 million, by the humanitarian funds and the Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Increased ratification of international human rights instruments and review of reservations with a focus on instruments and regions with low ratification rates, including optional protocols (EA 2)*

In the biennium 2012-2013, a total of 113 ratifications were deposited with the Secretary-General. In 2014, the number of ratifications and accessions was 59, representing a noticeable decrease from 70 ratifications deposited in 2012. The total number of ratifications of and accessions to the international human rights treaties and protocols currently stands at 2,258, which also refers to the acceptance of articles relating to individual communications procedures. Throughout 2014, OHCHR advocated for the ratification of all human rights treaties and the withdrawal of reservations, including through public statements delivered by the High Commissioner, the publication of press articles, during technical cooperation processes

and bilateral meetings with State officials, the highlighting of recommendations and issuing of encouragements by the treaty bodies and special procedures, during the UPR and at special anniversaries celebrated such as the 25th anniversary of the entry into force of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the 30th anniversary of Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT).

The Third Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (OP-CRC-IC) sets out an international complaints procedure for child rights violations and entered into force in April 2014. The OP-CRC-IC will enable children from States that have ratified both the Convention and the Protocol to bring complaints about violations of their rights directly to the CRC.

► *Increased compliance and engagement of Member States with international human rights mechanisms (EA 6)*

In 2014, HRTD supported the work of the 10 human rights treaty bodies, which met for a combined total of 79 weeks. The treaty bodies with a State Party reporting procedure received a total of 104 State Party reports and 13 common core documents. The treaty bodies adopted concluding observations on 143 States Parties. The Committee against Torture, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Human Rights Committee examined and adopted final decisions, including on discontinuation, in relation to 194 communications. These committees, as well as the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, registered 278 communications/cases, 127 of which contained requests for interim measures. The Committee on Enforced Disappearances registered 51 urgent actions and interim and protection measures were requested in 45 of these cases.

In 2014, the SPT carried out three regular visits to Azerbaijan, Nicaragua and Togo, although the mission to Azerbaijan was cut short during the visit. The SPT also carried out two National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) visits to Ecuador and Malta, one advisory visit to Nigeria and one follow-up visit to the Maldives. OHCHR provided substantive and organizational secretariat support to the SPT in the preparation for, conducting of and follow-up to the country visits.

Through capacity-building activities, HRTD contributed to increased reporting by States

Parties. This support included the organization of training sessions on the common core document and treaty specific guidelines, reporting, individual communications and follow-up to recommendations. Training activities also took place for the benefit of UN partners and national human rights institutions (NHRIs). The following training activities were carried out: reporting to the treaty bodies with a focus on CESC and CRPD (Namibia), CEDAW (Bahamas and Saint Martin); CAT (Tunisia), CAT, CESC and CRC, with a specific focus on the OP-CRC-AC (Myanmar); CESC and common core documents (Mali); general treaty body reporting (Viet Nam); and reporting by NHRIs (Sudan). In addition, a capacity-building workshop was held on the rights of migrant workers (United Arab Emirates); a human rights treaties course was held for magistrates (Angola) and a training on human rights mechanisms was organized for civil society representatives (Turkey).

In 2014, OHCHR continued to make the UHRI available as an updated and comprehensive tool for searching treaty body outputs. HRTD rolled out its new database for the treaty body system, accessible from the OHCHR website, which enabled users to refine their research and provided updated and accurate information regarding the ratification and reporting status of the treaties. In addition, HRTD worked towards the establishment of a jurisprudence database and signed an agreement to take over the existing database at the University of Nijmegen. The migration of data began in the second half of 2014 and the database became fully operational in January 2015.

► *Increased number and diversity of rights-holders, and of national human rights institutions and civil society actors acting on their behalf, making use of United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms and bodies (EA 7)*

Engagement of civil society and other stakeholders with the treaty bodies is well established. Each year, the treaty bodies receive more than 1,000 written submissions from civil society, NHRIs and UN entities. In addition, over 1,000 observers attended treaty body public meetings in 2014 and 1,256 stakeholder submissions were received by the treaty bodies. In 2014, OHCHR continued to develop and use online systems to facilitate the management of civil society participation in the sessions of various human rights mechanisms. OHCHR also trained staff members to use systems developed by other parts of the UN to manage the accreditation processes for sessions of CEDAW, CED and the HR Committee.

- *Advances in the progressive development of international and regional human rights law in areas relevant to the thematic priorities (EA 8)*
- OHCHR supported the progressive development of international human rights law, notably through studies and consultations and by supporting the treaty bodies in elaborating general comments. General comments are authoritative statements that provide States Parties and other stakeholders with detailed and expert clarification of treaty provisions to enhance understanding about the provisions and assist in the national-level implementation of treaty obligations. In 2014, five general comments/recommendations were adopted:
- General Comment No. 35 on Article 9 of the ICCPR concerning liberty and security of the person;
 - 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.

OHCHR supported a number of treaty bodies in organizing thematic debates with a view to improving understanding of the application of the instruments in specific areas. In a number of cases, preliminary information was gathered for the preparation of general comments and general recommendations. In 2014, the CMW and the ILO organized a day of general discussion on workplace exploitation and workplace protection and a thematic debate for the CED addressed the issue of military tribunals. Moreover, CEDAW organized a half-day discussion on the right to education for girls and women and CRC held a full-day general discussion on digital media and children's rights.

OHCHR worked with a number of treaty bodies to issue statements on particular issues or in the context of specific situations. In 2014, CEDAW issued statements on the situation of women and girls in Iraq and Syria, the situation in Gaza, the abduction of Nigerian schoolgirls and the post-2015 development agenda. CRPD issued a number of statements, including a joint statement with the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities and the Special Envoy of the Secretary-General on Disability and Accessibility, a statement on disability inclusion in the Third World Conference on Disaster Risk



View of the room during the review of the report from the Holy See by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, January 2014.

Reduction and beyond, a statement on article 14 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and a statement on the Sustainable Development Goals and the inclusion of the rights of persons with disabilities in the post-2015 agenda on disability and development. Finally, CERD issued a statement on the situation in Iraq.

- *Enhanced synergies, complementarity and coherence within and between human rights mechanisms (EA 9)*

In April 2014, the General Assembly concluded the treaty body strengthening process and adopted resolution 68/268. OHCHR is working closely with States, treaty bodies and the United Nations system to ensure the smooth and effective implementation of the resolution. For instance, work was carried out with the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) to prepare the 2015 calendar. During the year, the treaty bodies will benefit from an additional 20 weeks of meeting time, which represents a 30 per cent increase over the 2014 calendar year, resulting in a total of 100 weeks of meeting time. During 2014, HRTD extensively briefed all treaty bodies about resolution 68/268 and the measures being taken to harmonize working methods across the treaty body system. States Parties have been repeatedly informed about the new page limitation for their reports to the treaty bodies.

At their annual meeting in June 2014, the Chairpersons considered the implications of General Assembly resolution 68/268 on treaty body strengthening and formulated several recommendations to the treaty bodies for the harmonization of working methods. Most of the committees have subsequently taken steps to ensure the availability of the simplified reporting procedure, adopted a Guidance Note for States on the constructive dialogue and harmonized the

format of their concluding observations. During 2014, OHCHR continued its cooperation with the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights regarding individual cases. During the eighth annual meeting of the cooperation between OHCHR and the Secretariat of the Council of Europe, participants discussed the issue of the implementation of treaty body decisions and judgments of the European Court.

To kick off celebrations for the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Committee on the Rights of the Child dedicated the entire day of 24 September 2014 to an online dialogue with groups of children in 14 countries so that the Committee could hear their views on the state of children's rights. During the day, four different sessions were held (two in English, one in Arabic and one in Spanish), involving children from Australia, Belgium, Dominican Republic, Gambia, Japan, Lebanon, Nepal, Peru, the Philippines, Tunisia, Turkey, Tanzania, Uruguay and Yemen.

Global Management Outputs

A gender perspective is effectively integrated into all OHCHR policies, programmes and relevant processes (GMO 3)

- ▶ HRTD assisted in the office-wide elaboration of a gender strategy in relation to the treaty bodies, implemented relevant parts of the strategy and provided training for staff. The Division also encouraged the Secretariat to integrate a gender perspective in its inputs into the work of the treaty bodies to ensure it was fully reflected in their outputs, including in lists of issues, concluding observations, views and decisions and reports of SPT field visits. In 2014, the HRTD gender focal point assisted staff members from the Division to integrate gender issues in their performance appraisal documents and to this end, initiated the revision of internal guidelines, checklists and forms.
- ▶ The evaluation forms for the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, the Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and the Special Fund of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture have been amended to include sections on the consultation and participation of women in the implementation of the funded projects.
- ▶ A section on gender integration was included in the Handbook for treaty body members and

in the manual on reporting to human rights treaty bodies. With the support of the Division's gender focal point, secretaries of the committees reviewed the relevant guidelines and checklists of their respective committees with a view to integrating a gender perspective.

Increased effectiveness in supporting human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- ▶ OHCHR continued to use an online survey to solicit feedback from treaty body members and members of the humanitarian funds on the servicing and support it receives from OHCHR in relation to all human rights treaty body activities. OHCHR is using similar online surveys to get feedback from staff in order to generate statistical data that can be used to assess and enhance the synergies in the Office related to its work with the human rights mechanisms. In 2014, HRTD initiated the collection of statistics on its interactions with OHCHR field presences, geographic desk officers and United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs), which helped the Office evaluate the synergy between its divisions and its impact on the work of the treaty bodies.
- ▶ HRTD continued to publish quarterly newsletters that are available to all treaty body experts, special procedures mandate-holders, Member States, NHRIs, UN partners and civil society. HRTD also updated training materials and shared weekly updates with treaty body experts to ensure each committee was aware of the work being carried out by the other nine committees. Numerous stakeholders acknowledged the usefulness of these tools, which are essential to ensuring the efficiency and coherence of the treaty body system. Furthermore, HRTD organized regular meetings between the committee secretaries to stimulate the sharing of experiences and optimize support provided to the treaty bodies.
- ▶ In its resolution 68/268 on treaty body strengthening, the General Assembly decided to begin webcasting the public meetings of the treaty bodies, with the aim of enhancing their accessibility and visibility. The General Assembly requested that the Department of Public Information report on the feasibility of providing, in all official UN languages, live webcasts and video archives of the meetings. In this context, OHCHR worked with various entities, including the Department of Public Information, the Engineering Unit, the Department of Conference Services and the Procurement and Transportation Section of UNOG, to determine the specifications of the feasibility study. Several steps were then undertaken to identify a suitable company to carry out the study in 2015.

- ▶ In 2014, OHCHR managed the Special Fund of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, which supported seven projects in six of the seven eligible countries. The Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture awarded a total of 264 projects in more than 90 countries. A number of emergency grants were allocated and implemented throughout the year, notably in Jordan, Lebanon and Mali. The Board of Trustees of the Fund devised, after a comprehensive stocktaking of the first three decades of the Fund's work, new policy orientations that would enable it to maintain a fair balance in terms of geographic distribution of projects and between projects focused on emergency and longer-term responses. In 2014, the Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery awarded 35 grants in 33 countries (12 projects in Asia, nine in Africa, four in Eastern Europe, five in Latin America and the Caribbean and five in the Western European and Others Group of countries). It also conducted a number of assessment missions to evaluate the work of first-time and ongoing grantees.

Increased effectiveness in supporting field operations (GMO 5)

- ▶ The Division's regional and thematic focal points regularly interacted with other parts of the Office to ensure the integration of a treaty body perspective across the organization, including in the context of country visits undertaken by the High Commissioner.
- ▶ The participation of field presences in the treaty body reporting process was enhanced through the submission of written inputs and the participation of field presences via videoconferencing or their physical presence at meetings when possible. HRTD requested as much information as possible from field presences to feed into the work of treaty bodies and engaged with them in the preparations for country reviews and the follow-up to recommendations.

Improved awareness and understanding of and support to OHCHR's mission and programme by Member States and other stakeholders (GMO 7)

- ▶ In 2014, increased awareness, understanding and visibility of the regular work of the treaty bodies among Member States, UN partners, NHRIs and civil society was ensured through the organization of more than 50 briefings on treaty bodies and



Estela de Carlotto, president of the Argentinian human rights organization Abuelas de Plaza de Mayo, attends a joint session of the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, October 2014.

the work of the Office. Furthermore, social media platforms, including Twitter and Facebook, were used to share the meeting summaries and concluding observations of the treaty bodies to ensure their recommendations were widely available and to contribute to their follow-up and implementation.

On 4 November 2014, the 30th anniversary of the Convention against Torture was celebrated at the Palais des Nations in Geneva. More than 100 representatives of States and NGOs attended the event, providing an important networking opportunity to many of the main stakeholders who are working on the fight against torture, including treaty body experts and special procedures mandate-holders. Participants highlighted the achievements that had been made over the past 30 years, while acknowledging the ongoing challenges being faced in the promotion of universal ratification and the implementation of the Convention. To this end, participants also stressed the urgent need to ensure qualitative legal and institutional reforms, refocus attention on accountability and institutional cultures and reinforce the role of civil society actors.

Overview of treaties, committees and competences

| Treaty body | No. of States Parties | No. of weeks in session annually | Periodicity of obligation to report | Reviews, reports and issues/recommendations to States Parties | Considers individual complaints | Conducts visits to countries | Urgent action procedure |
|---------------------|---|----------------------------------|--|---|---|---|-------------------------|
| CESCR | 163 | 9 | 5 years | Articles 16-17 Number of reports examined in 2014: 18 Number of reports pending examination: 30 | Optional Protocol Number of registered communications pending examination: 4 | Article 11 Optional Protocol Confidential inquiries on systematic violations | No |
| HR Committee | 168 | 13 | 3, 4 or 5 years as per the Committee's decision | Article 40 Number of reports examined in 2014: 18 Number of reports pending examination: 29 | Optional Protocol Number of registered communications pending examination: 403 | No | No |
| CERD | 177 | 6 | 2 years Allows merging two reports into one. De facto periodicity of 4 years | Article 9 Number of reports examined in 2014: 15 Number of reports pending examination: 25 | Article 14 Number of registered communications pending examination: 6 | No | No |
| CEDAW | 188 | 14 | 4 years | Article 18 Number of reports examined in 2014: 25 (including Hong Kong and Macau) Number of reports pending examination: 48 | Optional Protocol Number of registered communications pending examination: 33 | Articles 8-10 Optional Protocol Confidential inquiries on systematic violations | No |
| CRC | 194 OP-CRC-AC: 159 OP-CRC-SC: 169 | 13 | 5 years | Article 44 Number of reports examined in 2014: 34 (including OP-CRC-AC and OP-CRC-SC reports) Number of reports pending examination: 78 (including OP-CRC-AC and OP-CRC-SC reports) | Optional Protocol (entered into force on 14 April 2014) | Articles 13-14 Optional Protocol Confidential inquiries on systematic violations (entered into force on 14 April 2014) | No |
| CAT | 156 | 8 | 4 years | Article 19 Number of reports examined in 2014: 16 Number of reports pending examination: 23 | Article 22 Number of registered communications pending examination: 161 | Article 20 Confidential inquiries on systematic violations | No |
| SPT | 76 | 3 | N/A | N/A | N/A | Articles 11-16 Subcommittee visits places of deprivation of liberty and communicates its recommendations by confidential report (7 country visits) | No |
| CMW | 47 | 3 | 5 years | Articles 73-74 Number of reports examined in 2014: 6 (including non-reporting State Parties) Number of reports pending examination: 1 | Article 77 (not yet entered into force) | No | No |

| Treaty body | No. of States Parties | No. of weeks in session annually | Periodicity of obligation to report | Reviews, reports and issues/recommendations to States Parties | Considers individual complaints | Conducts visits to countries | Urgent action procedure |
|-------------|-----------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| CRPD | 151 | 7 | 4 years | Articles 35-36 Number of reports examined in 2014: 9 Number of reports pending examination: 51 | Optional Protocol Number of registered communications pending examination: 18 | Article 6 Optional Protocol Confidential inquiries on systematic violations | No |
| CED | 44 | 4 | As per Committee's decision | Article 29 Number of reports examined in 2014: 4 Number of reports pending examination: 9 | Article 31 Number of registered communications pending examination: 1 | Article 33 Visit on serious violations | Article 30 Urgent Actions being considered: 61 |

Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division

Background

The Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division (FOTCD), through its three geographic branches and two specialized sections (the National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section and the Peace Missions Support and Rapid Response Section), supports the work of OHCHR field presences in addressing human rights challenges and opportunities in given country contexts, prioritizing key needs and gaps while also identifying areas for engagement and responsive strategies in close cooperation with national, regional and international partners. The Division coordinates OHCHR's activities at the national, regional and subregional levels.

In close collaboration with UN partners, government actors, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and civil society organizations, and with the assistance of other parts of the Office, the Division supports implementation efforts on the ground. Priority is placed on efforts to strengthen national

human rights protection systems; enhance and implement international human rights norms at the country level; and prevent and reduce human rights violations. In addition, the Division supports national-level follow-up action to recommendations issued by the international human rights system, including the human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Specifically, FOTCD, in cooperation with other parts of the Office, seeks to ensure that national authorities and civil society actors have the capacity to address human rights concerns and are well informed about international human rights standards and how to practically translate these standards into laws, regulations and policies. The objective of this work is to ensure that rights-holders are better empowered and protected. In 2014, the Division continued to assist with the establishment and/or strengthening of NHRIs in close cooperation with OHCHR's country and regional offices, human rights components of UN peace missions and human rights advisers, including through the provision of legal



The Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic, supported by OHCHR staff, visits Bangassou, April 2014.



Human rights officers monitoring municipal elections in Nebaj, Guatemala.

advice and capacity-building. Cooperation between NHRIs and their networks and their engagement with the international human rights system was a priority area of work.

Throughout the year, the Division consolidated progress in the fields of humanitarian action, peace mission support, early warning and information management. It extended support to the human rights components of peacekeeping and special political missions, including through technical advice for the development and implementation of policies and operational guidance for these missions. FOTCD advanced OHCHR's capacity to ensure the integration of human rights protection in all humanitarian planning, preparedness, response and recovery efforts around the world. The Division deployed human rights officers to crisis regions where a rapid response was needed, led OHCHR's engagement in the UN Operations and Crisis Centre and contributed to the follow-up to the implementation of the Human Rights Up Front Action Plan.

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- *Increased compliance and engagement of Member States with international human rights mechanisms (EA 6)*

FOTCD contributed to increasing the compliance of Member States with international human rights mechanisms through regular advocacy during meetings with State representatives and capacity-building activities. For example, OHCHR provided technical assistance to the Government of Namibia through the facilitation of a training workshop on the international human rights

system and reporting to the UN treaty bodies from 17-18 February. The training workshop brought together more than 30 representatives from the Government, the United Nations Country Team (UNCT), the Ombudsman's Office and civil society. Following the workshop, the Government submitted its initial report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, as well as its outstanding reports to the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

- *Enhanced synergies, complementarity and coherence within and between human rights mechanisms (EA 9)*

Increased cooperation and engagement between the UN human rights system and the regional human rights mechanisms were achieved through a workshop on regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights from 8-9 October (as mandated by Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/24/19), as well as a meeting on the focal points of the regional human rights mechanisms held on 10 October to take stock of any new developments since the 2012 workshop. The High Commissioner's report on the workshop will be published in 2015.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- *Legislation, policies and practices increasingly comply with anti-discrimination and equality standards (EA 4)*

OHCHR organized a number of events to raise awareness regarding discrimination faced by persons with albinism. In collaboration with the NGO Under the Same Sun, a side event was organized during the 25th session of the Human Rights Council. In addition, an expert meeting was organized in September to assess the situation of persons with albinism and identify appropriate responses to ensure the promotion and protection of their rights. OHCHR also launched an awareness-raising campaign on albinism, including the organization of a Google+ Hangout in July. Furthermore, in August, an OHCHR mission to Tanzania took place to meet with survivors of attacks and to visit two centres that are currently housing hundreds of children with albinism who fled their homes for fear of attacks or were abandoned by their families. These efforts contributed to increased attention paid to the situation of persons with albinism. Most notably, concerns about the rights of persons with albinism were raised during the UPR review of Côte d'Ivoire and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), included in the list of issues adopted by the Committee on the Rights

Christopher Dube comes from a San indigenous community in the Tsholotsho District in Zimbabwe. He says there are only 13 individuals left in his community who can still speak their mother tongue and only a few written records of the language exist. The community is making an effort to keep a written record of the language for teaching to the younger children, with the hope that they will keep the language alive. This was only one example of the information shared between participants at a launch of the publication *United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples: A Manual for National Human Rights Institutions*, which took place at a regional workshop in Cape Town, South Africa. The publication was a joint effort of OHCHR and the Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions.

"I will now bring all the information on the rights of indigenous peoples

back home to my community," said Dube. "I will show the material we received to the village's Heads and I will read to them, trying to explain what I learned. I learned a lot but there is still so much that needs to be done."

During the workshop, participants were trained on how to better address indigenous peoples' rights, including by learning how to strengthen cooperation with national human rights institutions. "National human rights institutions have the duty to understand with whom they are working and to what purpose, when they are working with indigenous peoples. If they have no sensitivity and understanding, they might work against these communities, even if they had the best of intentions," emphasized Eileen Rakow from the Office of the Ombudsman of Namibia. In fact, when her office undertakes activities focusing on the indigenous peoples of Namibia, their motto is "put yourself in the

shoes of the indigenous peoples and then you can start to begin to understand their issues."

In addition to increasing their knowledge about who is considered indigenous and what their specific rights are, participants learned about good practices of awareness-raising related to the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, which was adopted by the General Assembly in 2007. "National human rights institutions have a critical responsibility to advocate for the rights of indigenous peoples and to promote knowledge, understanding and implementation of the Declaration," stressed Samia Slimane of OHCHR. "This consultation provided the opportunity to share our knowledge and experience and identify ways we can work most effectively to better promote and protect the rights of indigenous peoples in Southern Africa and the wider region."

of the Child in relation to Tanzania and were raised during the review of the State Party reports of Burundi by the Human Rights Committee and of Swaziland by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Finally, on the recommendation of the Human Rights Council,

the General Assembly decided on 18 November 2014 to proclaim 13 June as International Albinism Awareness Day.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- *Increased number of States that have abolished the death penalty and/or, pending abolition, increasingly comply with relevant international human rights obligations (EA 1)*

OHCHR, in partnership with the Algerian National Consultative Commission for the Promotion and Protection for Human Rights, organized a two-day Regional Expert Meeting in December, in Algeria, on moving away from the death penalty in the Middle East and North Africa. The objective of the meeting was to contribute to steps being taken to move away from the death penalty, including by limiting executions; reducing the number of offences for which the death penalty can be imposed; and guaranteeing international safeguards protecting the rights of those facing capital punishment. More than 60 persons



Tribunal of Kalehe, South Kivu, Democratic Republic of the Congo, where the trial of senior officers of the Congolese armed forces took place.



Rohingya community members in an IDP camp.

participated in the event, including representatives of governments, NHRIs and civil society, as well as international experts. A follow-up event will take place in piloting countries in the region, including in countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council and Iraq.

Based on input from FOTCD and other OHCHR divisions, the High Commissioner publicly condemned several executions that took place in the United States of America. In 2014, executions decreased to 35 from 39 in 2013. In February, the Governor of Washington State established a moratorium on the death penalty and, in December, an Appeal Court suspended the execution of a prisoner with psychosocial disabilities after the intervention of special procedures mandate-holders.

- *Increased responsiveness of the international community in ensuring accountability for gross human rights violations (EA 10)*

The Commission of Inquiry on the human rights situation 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 through the establishment of a field-based structure in the region. Following consultations, the Republic of Korea agreed to host the structure and as of the end of 2014, recruitment and logistics preparations were nearly complete. The office is expected to open in Seoul in the first half of 2015. Furthermore, the Human Rights Council referred the report to the General Assembly, which in turn referred it to the Security Council to consider a subsequent referral to the International Criminal Court and the possibility of targeted sanctions. A total of 10 members of the Security Council

initiated the first formal discussion of the human rights situation in the country in December 2014. The discussion will remain on the Security Council agenda.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *Constitutions, laws and policies increasingly protect human rights, especially land and housing rights, with particular attention paid to non-discrimination and gender equality, in the context of development and the exploitation of natural resources (EA 1)*

From 16 to 18 September, OHCHR and the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights convened an African Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Building on a regional workshop organized in 2013 on the prevention of conflict and the exploitation of natural resources, the 2014 Forum contributed to increasing awareness about the human rights issues at stake and building consensus on the need to review State policies/legislation to ensure their compatibility with human rights standards in line with the UN Guiding Principles on Human Rights and Business. As a result of the Forum, the African Union established a task force to develop specific guiding principles which will take into account the specificities of the continent.

Widening the democratic space

- *National human rights institutions established and effectively functioning in accordance with the Paris Principles and other relevant international standards and recommendations (EA 1)*

OHCHR supported the establishment or strengthening of a number NHRIs. It assisted relevant stakeholders with raising awareness regarding the added value of having a Paris Principles-compliant NHRI and its role in complementing governmental activities in promoting and protecting human rights. As the secretariat of the International Coordinating Committee, OHCHR provided substantial support for the Sub-Committee on Accreditation's review of 26 NHRIs. The Office also provided advice to support NHRIs in their interaction with the international human rights system. As a result, more than 60 NHRIs interacted with the treaty bodies by submitting reports and 31 participated in sessions of the Human Rights Council. FOTCD offered a fellowship programme for staff of NHRIs and in 2014, fellows participated in the programme from a variety of 'A' status NHRIs, including from Albania, Egypt, Kenya, Malaysia, Mexico, Mongolia, the State of Palestine and Portugal.

In 2014, a total of 75 Master students, senior undergraduates and postgraduate students were selected from the Russian Federation to attend the second Summer School on Human Rights. The Summer School was organized within the framework of the Human Rights Master Programme that was implemented by the Consortium of Russian Universities, with the support of OHCHR and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Russian Federation.

The Summer School provided participants with interdisciplinary training to help expand their practical knowledge about international human rights standards and the international and regional human rights protection mechanisms, including the European Court of Human Rights. In addition to the Consortium's professors, the Summer School brought together experts from the federal and regional representatives of the Ombudsman's Office, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, representatives of the European Inter-University Centre for Human Rights and Democratization, prominent Russian human rights activists, NGO representatives and staff members of OHCHR.

Based on their successful experiences, a third edition is planned for 2015 in Kazan.

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

- *Legal frameworks, public policies and institutions are in place and functioning to combat sexual and gender-based violence, trafficking and related exploitation (EA 1)*

FOTCD supported the planning for and the deployment of Women Protection Advisers to human rights components in the start-up of UN peacekeeping operations in the Central African Republic and Mali to monitor and report on conflict-related sexual violence in accordance with Security Council resolution 1960. In addition, it assessed the suitability of 125 candidates to fill future Women Protection Adviser vacancies in UN peace missions. The Division also provided guidance to the human rights component of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) for the preparation of the Secretary-General's 2014 report on conflict-related sexual violence, which ensured that the human rights component's activities to combat sexual violence in conflict were reflected and that progress and challenges were reported on. A consultative meeting between OHCHR and the African Union took place from 1-3 October to

discuss cooperation on human rights in the peace and security context. OHCHR also contributed to reviewing the implementation of the Addis Ababa Road Map on cooperation between the Special Procedures of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the UN Human Rights Council at a meeting which took place on 27 April in Angola. These activities contributed to maintaining dialogue between the two entities and encouraged the development of common strategies designed to ensure greater respect for human rights in the region. Furthermore, an outcome document was adopted at the October event with recommendations on how OHCHR and the African Union can strengthen their collaboration in the field of human rights in peace operations, including by ensuring the early integration of human rights in planning processes and the compliance of African Union and host government security forces with international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law standards. As a result of the April meeting, mandate-holders from the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Human Rights Council agreed on a set of actionable points which included contributing to early warning through joint engagement on peace and security issues.

- *Increased responsiveness of the international community to potential, emerging or existing human rights crisis situations, with human rights protection as an integral element of this response (EA 10)*

In 2014, OHCHR continued its work in the context of protracted conflicts in Europe, including through continued participation in the Geneva International Discussions. In May, the



Members of the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea at a press conference after the presentation of the Commission's report to the Human Rights Council, March 2014.



OHCHR activity with indigenous children in Colombia, November 2014.

former High Commissioner visited Georgia where, inter alia, she stressed that de facto authorities bear the responsibility to ensure protection in the context of a protracted conflict. She also offered OHCHR's assistance in contributing to this protection through increased monitoring. OHCHR's efforts to follow up the High Commissioner's 2011 mission to the Republic of Moldova, including to the Transnistrian region, resulted in the 2014 establishment of Transnistria's first system of alternative civilian service for conscientious objectors, as well as its first shelter for victims of domestic violence. The Office continued reporting on an annual basis to the Human Rights Council on the human rights situation in Cyprus and stressed that the division of the island continues to constitute an obstacle to the full enjoyment, by the entire population of Cyprus, of all human rights and fundamental freedoms.

In the context of the crisis in the Central African Republic, the Office supported the Department for Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic (MINUSCA) to ensure a robust human rights mandate. In planning processes for both MINUSCA and MINUSMA, the Office contributed to the development of indicators on the protection of civilians. The Office also contributed to Security Council briefings on the DRC, Iraq and South Sudan.

During 2014, through its Rapid Deployment Roster, OHCHR deployed staff to respond to emergencies in the Central African Republic, Lebanon, Palestine, the Philippines, Thailand and Ukraine. The Roster is composed of 144 human rights officers and 19 administrative staff.

Work is underway to establish an Emergency Response Roster, aimed at providing a pool of internal and external candidates for all types of human rights-related emergency deployments. The Office engaged with inter-agency early warning processes, including the UN Operations Crisis Centre, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) 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.

- ▶ *The protection of human rights is an integral part of the international community's preparedness, response and recovery efforts in the context of humanitarian crises and is effectively integrated in the mandates, policies and actions of United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions (EA 11)*

The Office maintained its role as a key protection actor in humanitarian action and ensured that the protection of human rights was firmly placed on the humanitarian system's agenda. This was primarily done through its active participation in decision-making and operational fora, particularly with the IASC, at the Principal, Working Group and Emergency Directors Group levels, as well as with Humanitarian Coordinators, Humanitarian Country Teams and Protection Clusters at the field level. OHCHR fulfilled its co-chair role on the Global Protection Cluster Task Team responsible for facilitating the implementation of the IASC Protection Priority, resulting in the roll out of an independent, whole-of-system review of protection in humanitarian crises. In addition

to maintaining the leadership of the Protection Clusters in Haiti, Palestine and the Pacific (jointly with UNHCR), OHCHR maintained a leadership role in Liberia (during the Ebola crisis) and in Ukraine and in two regional Protection Clusters in the Philippines.

OHCHR closely followed developments in Ukraine since the onset of the unrest. The former High Commissioner publicly voiced her concerns regarding human rights violations, urged inclusive and sustainable dialogue and called for an investigation into cases of alleged killings, disappearances and other violations. Following the intensification of the crisis in February 2014, a Human Rights Mission in Ukraine (HRMU), in full compliance with the requirements of the Secretary-General's Human Rights Up Front Action Plan, was deployed to the country. Through this deployment, OHCHR introduced a critical element to the UN presence in Ukraine, including through the publication of monthly public reports on the human rights situation that were based on monitoring and documentation of the human rights situation. The reports of the HRMU are recognized as an important source of

credible information on the human rights situation in Ukraine and have been cited by Member States, UN human rights mechanisms, civil society and the international media.

In terms of peace missions, the Office contributed to strategic planning for new and transitioning peace operations by providing advice on mandate design and concepts of operations, the identification of resource requirements and budget discussions and by undertaking staffing analysis and mandate reviews. The Office engaged with Member States to secure resources from the UN Peacekeeping Support Account. As a result, MINUSCA's mandate included strong provisions for the protection of human rights, combating impunity and ensuring adequate human rights resources for the 2014-2015 budget cycle. The strategic review process of the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) resulted in upholding the mission's focus on human rights and combating impunity and the acknowledgement that the mission's Joint Human Rights Office required additional resources to carry out these critical tasks.

On 30 June 2014, 22 civilians, including a 15-year-old girl, were killed during a clash between the military and alleged members of organized crime gangs in Tlatlaya, Mexico. A member of the army was injured.

Three women who had allegedly been kidnapped were present during the raid and were freed during the military operation. Two of them were immediately detained, however, then imprisoned for more than five months in a federal prison. They were investigated for a series of crimes, including association with organized crime and possession of weapons.

In the months after the clash, the press began to run stories indicating that extrajudicial killings had taken place during the military

operation. Investigations carried out by federal authorities were initiated several weeks after the killings. Investigations undertaken at the state level did not indicate any type of abuse committed by the army.

Following its own investigation of the Tlatlaya case, the National Human Rights Commission issued its findings on 21 October. In its report, the Commission established that at least 12 of the 22 persons had been extrajudicially killed by the army and the crime scene had been altered. The two women who were interrogated by state-level prosecution authorities had been tortured. The witnesses were forced to sign statements in which they made no mention of excessive use of force by the army.

OHCHR closely followed the case from the outset. Days after

the event, staff from the Office visited the site and undertook interviews with authorities and three witnesses. Based on the information gathered, OHCHR called for an impartial investigation into the alleged extrajudicial executions and acts of torture and for accountability for human rights violations committed by military personnel. OHCHR also advocated for protection measures for the three witnesses.

On 15 December, a federal judge ordered that the two witnesses under investigation for possession of weapons be freed and that all charges be dropped. OHCHR welcomed this development and continues to advocate for the prosecution and sanctioning of all those involved in the human rights violations committed in Tlatlaya.

Global Management Outputs

A gender perspective is effectively integrated into all OHCHR policies, programmes and relevant processes (GMO 3)

- Gender considerations were integrated into all rapid deployment activities, including in the drafting of the concept of operations, selection of staff and identification of violations to be investigated. All emergency response teams had female staff members and monitoring activities included those related to the specific human rights violations of women. For all commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions, a gender advisor was seconded by UN Women. As per the OHCHR strategy on engagement in humanitarian action, specific attention was paid to the needs of certain groups of persons affected by humanitarian crises who may be more vulnerable to protection risks. This required a systematic analysis of the specific needs of women, girls, boys and men. In addition, it was mandatory for all participants undertaking the annual OHCHR training programme on human rights in humanitarian action to take the IASC Online Course on Gender and Humanitarian Action: Different Needs - Equal Opportunities. Furthermore, the review of draft public reports by human rights components of UN peace missions in Iraq, Liberia, Libya, Mali, South Sudan and Sudan led to the enhancement of gender analysis and the inclusion of sex-disaggregated data.

Increased effectiveness in supporting human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- In addition to assisting the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in the completion of its mandate, OHCHR supported the extension of the Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic and the establishment of five new commissions or fact-finding missions related to the Central African Republic, Eritrea, Iraq, the occupied Palestinian territories and Sri Lanka. This included developing programme budget implication documents and concepts of operations; assisting in the identification of high-level members; identifying and recruiting staff; requesting the activation of OHCHR's contingency fund as needed; tailoring information management systems and training staff on their use; conducting briefing sessions and providing technical and professional backstopping and support. OHCHR developed a standard operating procedure to regulate the process leading to the selection of members of commissions of inquiry to increase transparency and strengthen quality control over such sensitive appointments.

Increased effectiveness in supporting field operations (GMO 5)

- The Division continued to deliver policy and operational support to field presences, including through guidance in relation to specific areas of fieldwork, such as technical cooperation



Awareness-raising event organized by the OHCHR Regional Office for West Africa to commemorate Human Rights Day.

and protection and with regard to the policy frameworks for the functioning of different types of field presences.

- ▶ The annual meeting in Geneva of Heads of OHCHR field presences was cancelled due to financial constraints. Nevertheless, online consultations took place through web conferencing tools. The consultations between the newly appointed High Commissioner and the Heads of field presences enabled the sharing of views on a number of current issues such as the OHCHR fundraising strategy and engagement in the field as well as challenges related to protection in crisis situations.
- ▶ FOTCD, with the involvement of field presences and the advice of the Board of Trustees for the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation, developed further guidance for technical cooperation in the field of human rights which resulted in the strengthened capacity of the field presences to design and implement technical cooperation work.
- ▶ FOTCD continued contributing to the operationalization of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Strategy for the Deployment of Human Rights Advisers and ensured the timely and effective recruitment for these deployments. In 2014, FOTCD facilitated the deployment and/or extensions of human rights advisers to 10 UNCTs and to UNDG regional teams for Latin America and Asia and the Pacific.



Participants of an OHCHR regional consultation on minority rights in the Middle East and North Africa region carried out in Tunisia, December 2014.

OHCHR staff has the necessary competencies and skills to effectively implement the OHCHR programme (GMO 6)

- ▶ Only 18 members of the Rapid Deployment Roster could be trained due to financial constraints. Four members benefited from the Inter-Agency Protection Capacity Training. Given that training sessions were conducted in previous years, an important number of Roster members were already equipped with the necessary competences and experience.

Human Rights Council and Special Procedures Division

Background

The Human Rights Council and Special Procedures Division (HRCSPD) is the OHCHR Division with a core mandate to support the Human Rights Council and its subsidiary mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and the special procedures. It also supports the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism, the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review and 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. Since 1 January 2014, the Division, which previously consisted of two branches, the Human Rights Council Branch and the Special Procedures Branch, also hosts the Universal Periodic Review Branch.

The Human Rights Council (HRC) is an intergovernmental body comprising 47 Member States, elected by the General Assembly for a three-year period, which is responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe. It was established by and is a subsidiary body of the General Assembly. During the reporting period, the Human Rights Council continued to address various urgent and chronic human rights situations. It further extended the mandate of the Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic. The Council also established two commissions of inquiry, one to investigate all alleged human rights violations in Eritrea and another 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, in the context of the military operations conducted since 13 June 2014, whether before, during or after.

In addition, the Council requested OHCHR to conduct an investigation into alleged serious violations of human rights by both parties in



Baudelaire Ndong Ella, President of the Human Rights Council, addresses the opening of the Council's 26th session, June 2014.

Sri Lanka, during the period covered by the Lessons Learnt and Reconciliation Commission and 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. The Council furthermore asked the High Commissioner to report on the situation of human rights in Ukraine. Based on the final report of the Commission of Inquiry to investigate the systematic, widespread and grave human rights violations committed in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Council mandated OHCHR to set up a field-based structure to follow up on the work of the Commission.

The UPR is an intergovernmental mechanism which provides for the consideration of the human rights situation in all 193 Member States of the United Nations on the basis of the principles of equality of treatment and full involvement and cooperation of the State concerned. The review takes place in the framework of a working group, which has the same composition as the HRC, through an interactive dialogue of three and a half hours between the State under review and other States. Recommendations

are put forward by States for the consideration of the State under review for its follow-up. The first cycle of the UPR was concluded in 2012 with a 100 per cent record of participation of States in their review. The second cycle, which is currently ongoing, focuses on the implementation of the recommendations put forward during the first cycle. As part of its support, OHCHR organizes the holding of 42 interactive dialogues annually, prepares two out of the three background documents used for the interactive dialogues, provides assistance to the State under review and the troika -the three States drawn by lot to support the reviewed State- in the drafting of the working group report and extends assistance to States in the follow-up process.

The special procedures are mandates given to independent experts requesting them to address thematic human rights issues or human rights situations in specific countries. Mandate-holders engage with States, civil society organizations or other relevant actors with a view to examining, publicly reporting and making recommendations in relation to the issues falling under their mandates. Special procedures conduct country visits; send communications to States, and sometimes other actors, about human rights issues and individual cases; undertake awareness-raising activities; contribute to the development of international human rights standards; undertake thematic studies and provide advisory services. All mandate-holders submit reports to the HRC and, when mandated, to the General Assembly on questions relating to their mandate and activities. In 2014, the Human Rights Council established two thematic mandates, namely on the rights of persons with disabilities and on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights and one country mandate on capacity-building and technical cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire in the field of human rights. As of the end of 2014, there were 53 special procedures (39 thematic mandates and 14 mandates relating to countries or territories) with 77 mandate-holders. Furthermore, 109 States and one non-Member Observer State had issued standing invitations to special procedures to undertake visits. During 2014, special procedures conducted 80 country visits to 60 States and sent 553 communications to 116 States in which they described allegations of human rights violations or general concerns relating to laws, policies and practices, and urged relevant State authorities to take steps to investigate them and, where they proved to be well-founded, provide redress. The special procedures submitted 135 reports to the Human Rights Council and 36 to the General Assembly. They also issued 379 news releases and public statements in 2014.

Results

The following results were achieved following key interventions undertaken by the HRC and its mechanisms, with the support of OHCHR.

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

► *Increased compliance and engagement of Member States with international human rights mechanisms (EA 6)*

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), namely Comoros, Dominica, the Dominican Republic, Fiji and Vanuatu. States under review sent high-level representatives and the national reports prepared for the second cycle frequently included references to previous cycle recommendations and reported on implementation measures. Likewise, recommending States tended to refer more systematically to the recommendations made in the first cycle when asking questions and making new recommendations. Increasingly, countries submitted midterm reports on the measures taken to implement the recommendations received during the first cycle. To date, 54 States have submitted such reports.

A partnership was formalized with the Inter-Parliamentary Union to strengthen the involvement of parliamentarians in the work of the HRC, in particular the UPR. Regional seminars were organized in Bucharest, Montevideo and Rabat, bringing together over 200 parliamentarians from different regions, to familiarize them with the UPR process and encourage its use to advance human rights promotion and protection at the national level.

HRCSPD contributed to advocacy and awareness-raising activities on the rights of persons with disabilities through the provision of advice and support to the Facilitator of the Task Force on accessibility for persons with disabilities. The Division also contributed to the organization of a workshop on the recently issued Secretary-General's Bulletin on employment and accessibility for staff members with disabilities, with the understanding that improving accessibility for staff members with disabilities will also enhance accessibility for participants in the Council sessions. HRCSPD further ensured that a website for applications to vacant positions of special procedures mandate-holders and the Expert Mechanism for the Rights of Indigenous Peoples was fully accessible to persons with

disabilities to ensure non-discrimination, equality of opportunity and full and effective participation of persons with disabilities in all areas of the Council's work. Finally, an accessibility guide to the Human Rights Council was prepared to enable the participation of persons with disabilities in the work of the Council on an equal basis with others.

From 9-11 December 2014, a two-day interregional seminar was held in Casablanca, Morocco to facilitate the participation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and SIDS in the HRC and its UPR. Thirty-seven delegates (including eight women), representing 20 countries, participated in the event. The seminar was the second of its kind in that its primary aim was to improve the engagement with and inclusion in the Human Rights Council and the UPR mechanism of LDCs and SIDS. The success of the seminar gave way to suggestions by delegations to establish a more stable training facility for LDCs and SIDS.

- *Increased number and diversity of rights-holders, and of national human rights institutions and civil society actors acting on their behalf, making use of United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms and bodies (EA 7)*

OHCHR facilitated the participation and engagement of civil society and national human rights institutions (NHRIs) with the Council and its mechanisms and subsidiary bodies, including through the continuous collection and dissemination of information on measures taken to support and protect civil society actors and their space to work with the Council. Following the 26th session of the Council in June, a document on frequently asked questions was prepared, which also enabled the recording of lessons learned that would assist participants at forthcoming HRC sessions. Regular briefings for civil society actors were held on the rules of procedure governing their participation in the work of the Council. In cooperation with other sections of the Office, the Division served as a point of contact for allegations of reprisals against persons who have cooperated with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights, which are then documented and monitored in accordance with internal procedures. Cases of allegations of reprisals were brought to the attention of the HRC President and the Bureau as well as other mechanisms, as appropriate, for further action. OHCHR pursued the active and improved participation of NHRIs in the UPR process. The

NHRIs provided information for the preparation of the pre-session reports of the UPR and made statements during the adoption of the outcome documents. The possibility for making video statements was pursued and NHRIs from Bosnia and Herzegovina and El Salvador made video statements during the HRC's plenary session. The new online UPR submissions system, which OHCHR introduced in 2013 for the registration of submissions for the UPR documentations from stakeholders, made the processing of stakeholders' submissions more organized and transparent and enhanced the responsiveness of the Office towards stakeholders. In addition, all information and deadlines for the effective and timely participation of stakeholders in the different phases of the UPR process were made available on the website well in advance of the sessions. Furthermore, the electronic inscription system for the list of speakers was used and contributed to improving the accessibility of information for NGO participation in the UPR, including for those not based in Geneva.

- *Advances in the progressive development of international and regional human rights law in areas relevant to the thematic priorities (EA 8)*
- Numerous mechanisms made important contributions to further developing international human rights law, with the support of OHCHR. For example, the Special Rapporteur on the human right to 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 effective remedy for victims of trafficking in persons*; the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention initiated the preparation of draft basic principles and guidelines for remedies and procedures on the right of anyone deprived of her or his liberty to bring proceedings before the 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. The Division provided substantive support to Advisory Committee members and its drafting groups on a variety of issues, including human rights in post-disaster and post-conflict situations; the negative impact of corruption on human rights; promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal; local government and human rights; human rights and unilateral coercive measures; and attacks against persons with albinism. In doing so, the Division facilitated the development of standards by the Committee in the aforementioned areas, thus contributing to the



The Special Rapporteurs on the independence of judges and lawyers and on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, brief the Human Rights Council during its 26th session, June 2014.

progressive development of international human rights law and standards.

- *Enhanced synergies, complementarity and coherence within and between human rights mechanisms (EA 9)*

The coherence among human rights mechanisms was strengthened in terms of improved coordination between special procedures and the increased visibility of the system. OHCHR supported several joint initiatives between mandate-holders advocating for the integration of human rights in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda and calling 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 national and international levels. Through the Chairperson of the Coordination Committee, the special procedures participated in Special Sessions of the Human Rights Council, specifically on the human rights situation in the Central African Republic on 20 January and on the human rights situation in Iraq in light of abuses committed by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant on 1 September. The Chairperson also delivered statements on behalf of the Coordination Committee.

The special procedures fostered cooperation with regional mechanisms. For example, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions identified regional human rights systems as strategic entry points for advancing the protection of the right to life and stressed the need to engage with these systems. In this connection, he attended the 55th session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in April and the Continental Conference on

the Death Penalty in July. In addition, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences participated in a series of events to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women.

- *Early warning functions of human rights mechanisms are enhanced (EA 10)*

Throughout the year, the HRC Secretariat supported the Human Rights Council in its effort to address chronic, emerging or ongoing human rights crises in any part of the world by providing legal, substantive and procedural advice to relevant Member States on options and modalities of implementing such initiatives. This was the case when States began considering calling for a special session on the Central African Republic in January, for a special debate on South Sudan in June or a special debate on Iraq in September. It also provided options to States interested in initiatives to respond to the crisis in Ukraine, the series of terrorist attacks in Africa and the Ebola epidemic. Consequently, the Council established (or extended in the case of the Syrian Arab Republic) commissions of inquiry and requested OHCHR to conduct investigations. Specifically, at its 26th session in June, the Council decided to establish a commission of inquiry to investigate all alleged human rights violations in Eritrea. At a special session held in July, the Council established a commission of inquiry to investigate all violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, particularly in the occupied Gaza Strip, in the context of the military operations conducted since 13 June 2014, whether before, during or after. Moreover, at its 25th session, the Council

requested that the High Commissioner 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. Finally, the Council 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, including 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.

In 2014, the Council held 25 panel discussions on subjects ranging from the rights of the child; women's human rights; gender-based violence and discrimination; protection of the family; the rights of indigenous peoples; the rights of persons with disabilities; the integration of a gender perspective; the role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights; civil society space; the rights of persons deprived of their liberty; history teaching and memorialization processes; the right to privacy in the digital age; the safety of journalists; the question of the death penalty; the prevention and punishment of the crime of genocide; the use of remotely piloted aircraft or armed drones in



Webcast of Bolivia's second cycle Universal Periodic Review, October 2014.

counter-terrorism and military operations; and the human rights situation in South Sudan. These panel discussions, organized by OHCHR, provided an opportunity for the international community to focus on new and emerging thematic human rights issues while increasing awareness about these issues from a human rights perspective.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- ▶ *Legislation, policies and practices increasingly comply with anti-discrimination and equality*

One of OHCHR's priorities is to strengthen the human rights mechanisms and the progressive development of human rights law, as outlined in its Management Plan 2014-2017. To make this priority a reality, OHCHR took steps to promote the engagement of Member States and stakeholders with the mechanisms and supported the national-level implementation of and follow-up to recommendations that have been issued by the human rights mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review.

During 2014, OHCHR received many requests for assistance with follow-up to the UPR process,

including from Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Niger, Panama, Paraguay, Republic of Moldova, Vanuatu and Uganda. To support these States, which bear primary responsibility for implementation of the recommendations, the Office developed a strategic framework for the Voluntary Trust Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the UPR. This framework defines guiding principles for the operation of the Trust Fund and prioritizes requests from Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States, enabling it to respond

to requests in an orderly, fair, universal and transparent manner. The Office submitted its second report on the operation of the Trust Fund (A/HRC/26/54) to the Human Rights Council in June 2014.

Another element of OHCHR's work in this area involved the updating of the Universal Human Rights Index to ensure that the recommendations from both the first and second cycles would be publicly available. The Office also worked to strengthen partnerships between the UN system and regional human rights mechanisms through various forms of engagement and cooperation.

standards (EA 4)

In May 2014, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief conducted a visit to the Republic of Moldova to follow up on his 2011 mission and noted positive developments related to his prior recommendations, including the adoption of the Law on Ensuring Equality (Law 121/2012) and the establishment in 2013 of the Council for Preventing and Eliminating Discrimination and Ensuring Equality.

This represented a positive step taken towards the promotion of diversity as well as strengthening protection against discrimination. Further, the adoption of a law on alternative civilian service in February 2014 and the granting of amnesty for those who were previously condemned for their conscientious objection to military service in Transnistria were other examples of the implementation of his recommendations. Following the visit of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights to the Republic of Moldova in September, the Government adopted regulations in October to formally establish a position of Ombudsman for Psychiatry in accordance with her recommendation.

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

- *Legal frameworks, public policies and institutions are in place and functioning to combat sexual and gender-based violence, trafficking and related exploitation (EA 1)*

During her visit to the Seychelles from 27-31 January 2014, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, recommended that the Government develop and adopt anti-trafficking legislation. A Prohibition on Trafficking in Persons Act was subsequently enacted which penalizes the crime of trafficking in persons and makes provisions for the protection and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking in persons. In addition, based on the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur, the Act establishes a formalized National Inter-Ministerial 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. On 6 March, the Government of Mauritania formally adopted a road map for the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, to end slavery in Mauritania. These recommendations were made during her country visit to Mauritania in 2009 and were

reiterated through working visits and during a follow-up visit in February 2014. 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.

80 country visits carried out by special procedures mandate-holders to 60 countries.

553 communications sent to **116** different countries and territories. **81** per cent of these were issued jointly by two or more mandate-holders.

As of the end of 2014, the response rate by States to special procedures' communications remained low at **42.7** per cent.

135 reports submitted by mandate-holders to the Human Rights Council and **36** to the General Assembly.

110 standing invitations issued by Member States and a non-Member Observer State (compared to 108 at the end of 2013).

Global Management Outputs

A gender perspective is effectively integrated into all OHCHR policies, programmes and relevant processes (GMO 3)

- In 2014, HRCSPD continued to include sessions on gender in induction sessions for new mandate-holders and in training activities for new staff supporting the special procedures.
- The Division continued to compile a statistical report, which includes the number and percentage of women delegates who attended sessions of the Council, the number and percentage of women delegates who delivered statements at the Council and the gender ratio of experts participating in panel discussions. The analysis of the statistical data collected for 2014 showed that little progress was made in terms of gender balance in many aspects of the work of the Council. The Office continued its outreach efforts towards potential candidates for special procedures mandate-holders to ensure a gender balance among mandate-holders. As of the end of 2014, 38 per cent of mandate-holders were women (in 2008, only 26 per cent of mandate-holders were women).

- ▶ In the context of the regional seminars organized by OHCHR with the Inter-Parliamentary Union on the role of parliaments in the work of the HRC and particularly the UPR, specific reference was made to the integration of gender. This contributed to an increasing number of gender-related recommendations put forward during the interactive dialogue. In UPR briefings for States, the importance of providing gender-disaggregated data was consistently highlighted. Nevertheless, references to women's rights and gender in national reports remained uneven.

Increased effectiveness in supporting human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- ▶ OHCHR provided advice and briefings to delegations on the Council's procedures and practices and constantly updated them on the HRC's programme and meetings of the Bureau through notes verbales and the extranet.
- ▶ OHCHR made progress in enhancing the visibility of the Council through various online tools and information technologies. In particular, the proactive use of social media resulted in an increase in the number of Facebook "likes" from approximately 15,500 at the end of 2013 to 85,000 by December 2014 and an increase from 14,000 Twitter followers at the end of 2013 to 33,800 by December 2014. Three videos were produced and posted on YouTube, highlighting the activities for each of the Council's regular sessions. The videos were made accessible for persons with disabilities.
- ▶ Efforts were undertaken to reduce the volume of hard copy documents circulated in the meetings of the Council and its subsidiary bodies. The session reports no longer include resolutions and decisions adopted by the HRC and instead provide hyperlinks to the relevant webpage. A number of documents, such as minutes of the Bureau, communications to and from the President, different versions of draft resolutions and oral statements delivered at the HRC are no longer being printed. OHCHR has also taken steps to produce and disseminate a USB key containing pertinent documents that are relevant to delegations and a calendar of the main meetings of the year.
- ▶ The Division also undertook a number of steps to facilitate the engagement of LDCs and SIDS with the HRC, including by supporting the newly established Voluntary Trust Fund to facilitate their participation in the work of the Council. As part of its outreach efforts, HRCSPD regularly provided briefings on the Trust Fund to targeted missions and regional organizations in New York and Geneva. A dedicated webpage was created to disseminate information, application procedures and activities supported by the Trust Fund in order to reach out to States which do not have permanent representation in Geneva and to potential donors.
- ▶ OHCHR provided advice and assistance to the Consultative Group to the President of the HRC for the review of candidates in light of the unprecedented number of special procedures vacancies (30), including for the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Significant outreach and awareness-raising efforts were undertaken through print and online media channels to increase the number and quality of applications.
- ▶ OHCHR provided support to the Coordination Committee of the Special Procedures to strengthen the coherence of the special procedures system. The 21st annual meeting of



The Special Rapporteurs on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions and on freedom of religion or belief, brief the press in New York, October 2014.



Opening meeting of the Third Annual United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights in Geneva, December 2014.

special procedures was held from 29 September to 3 October in Geneva, during which mandate-holders exchanged views with the High Commissioner, the Deputy Secretary-General, the President of the Human Rights Council and representatives of United Nations entities, among others.

- ▶ In terms of information tools, HRCSPD updated the Directory of Special Procedures Mandate-Holders twice in 2014 and produced weekly updates for mandate-holders to ensure improved coordination and knowledge-sharing. The Office supported the production of joint communication reports, which have been issued since 2011. In addition, OHCHR issued press releases and web-based stories relating to country visits, thematic issues, country situations and regarding individual cases of human rights violations in relation to the special procedures.

Increased effectiveness in supporting field operations (GMO 5)

- ▶ In 2014, HRCSPD worked closely with OHCHR's Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division to facilitate contributions from the field presences to the work of the HRC and its subsidiary bodies by providing information on programmed activities and mandates of the HRC relevant to field operations.
- ▶ The Division also worked closely with OHCHR field presences to design capacity-building and technical assistance projects. Through the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the UPR, assistance was provided to States to build their capacities in a variety of areas to enable more effective follow-up. Emphasis was placed on supporting national inter-institutional structures to implement recommendations and establishing tracking systems to facilitate monitoring of implementation. The Division enhanced the capacity of field presences to support the effective participation of governments and civil society in all phases of the UPR process. For example, HRCSPD staff liaised with field colleagues in Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania and Tunisia to provide timely and reliable information for the preparation of the interactive dialogue of the UPR.
- ▶ HRCSPD worked with OHCHR field presences to verify information relating to allegations as well as to prepare country visits by mandate-holders. Regarding the latter, the Office cooperated with field presences from the early planning stages of the country visits until the follow-up to the mandate-holders' recommendations. In several cases, special procedures reports were used by field presences for awareness-raising and advocacy purposes.

Human Rights Council – Outcomes of sessions held in 2014

20th special session (20 January 2014)

The Council adopted a resolution on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic and technical assistance in the field of human rights.

25th session (3 - 28 March 2014)

The Council adopted resolutions, decisions and President's Statements on:

- Human rights in a number of thematic areas, including the right to education of persons with disabilities; access to justice for children; ending violence against children; the right to food; promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests; combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons based on religion or belief; protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism; freedom of religion or belief; adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living; human rights and the environment; the promotion of the enjoyment of the cultural rights of everyone and respect for cultural diversity; and the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights;
- Mandate of the Special Rapporteurs on the situation of human rights defenders, on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, and on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;
- Mandate of the Independent Experts on minority issues and on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights;
- The negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin to the countries of origin on the enjoyment of human rights and the importance of improving international cooperation;
- Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka;
- The situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Haiti, Myanmar, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, the occupied Syrian Golan, the Syrian Arab Republic and South Sudan;
- Assistance to Guinea, Libya and the Republic of Mali in the field of human rights;
- Follow-up to the report of the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict;
- Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan;
- Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination;
- Promotion of a democratic and equitable international order;
- Integrity of the judicial system;
- Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights;
- The role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights;
- Panel on the right to privacy in the digital age;
- Ensuring use of remotely piloted aircraft or armed drones in counter-terrorism and military operations in accordance with international law, including international human rights and humanitarian law;
- International Decade for People of African Descent;
- Postponement of the renewal of the mandate of the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances;
- Outcomes of the Universal Periodic Review in relation to Belize, the Central African Republic, Chad, China, the Republic of the Congo, Israel, Jordan, Malaysia, Malta, Mauritius, Mexico, Monaco, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia and Senegal.

26th session (10 - 27 June 2014)

The Council adopted resolutions, decisions and President's Statements on:

- Human rights in a number of thematic areas, including the elimination of discrimination against women; accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: violence against women as a barrier to women's political and economic empowerment; promotion and protection of the human rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas; climate change; extreme poverty; protection of the family; arbitrary deprivation of nationality; the right of migrants to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises; protection of Roma; the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health: sport and healthy lifestyles as contributing factors; the regulation of civilian acquisition; possession and use of firearms; the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights; and the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet;
- The right to education: follow-up to Human Rights Council resolution 8/4;
- Mandate of the Special Rapporteurs on the independence of judges and lawyers, on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, on the rights of persons with disabilities, on the human rights of migrants, and on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions;

- Mandate of the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity;
- The question of the death penalty;
- International Albinism Awareness Day;
- The Social Forum;
- Promotion and protection of human rights in post-disaster and post-conflict situations;
- Implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent: draft programme of activities;
- Elaboration of an international legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights;
- Contribution of parliaments to the work of the Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review;
- The situation of human rights in Belarus and Eritrea;
- The continuing grave deterioration of the human rights and humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic;
- Assistance to Côte d'Ivoire, South Sudan and Ukraine in the field of human rights;
- Outcomes of the Universal Periodic Review in relation to Afghanistan, Cambodia, Chile, Comoros, Cyprus, the Dominican Republic, Eritrea, New Zealand, Slovakia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Uruguay, Vanuatu, Viet Nam and Yemen.

21st special session (23 July 2014)

The Council adopted a resolution on ensuring respect for international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.

22nd special session (1 September 2014)

The Council adopted a resolution on the human rights situation in Iraq in light of abuses committed by the so-called Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant and associated groups.

27th session (8 - 26 September 2014)

The Council adopted resolutions, decisions and President's Statements on:

- Human rights in a number of thematic areas, including enforced or involuntary disappearances; the right to development; local government; the safety of journalists; the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation; intensifying global efforts and sharing good practices to effectively eliminate female genital mutilation; preventable maternal mortality and morbidity; preventable mortality and morbidity of children under five years of age; the right of the child to engage in play and recreational activities; indigenous peoples; human rights and unilateral coercive measures; human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity; equal participation in political and public affairs; promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal; protection of the human rights of migrants at sea; and the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination;
- World Programme for Human Rights Education: adoption of the plan of action for the third phase;
- Effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights: the activities of vulture funds;
- Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence;
- Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes;
- Mandate of the Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order;
- Mandate of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent;
- Panel discussion on realizing the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl;
- Twenty-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Convention on the Rights of the Child;
- Reports of the Advisory Committee;
- The Ebola epidemic;
- National policies and human rights;
- Promotion of the right to peace;
- Civil society space;
- National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights;
- Enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights;
- Assistance to the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan and Yemen in the field of human rights;
- The continuing grave deterioration of the human rights and humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic;
- Outcomes of the Universal Periodic Review in relation to Albania, Bhutan, Brunei Darussalam, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Nicaragua, Norway, Portugal and Qatar.

| Special Procedures Mandate-Holders 2014 | | |
|---|------------------------|---|
| Mandate | Established | Mandate-holder |
| Country mandates | | |
| Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus | 2012 | Mr. Miklós Haraszti (Hungary) since October 2012 |
| Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia | 1993 | Mr. Surya Prasad Subedi (Nepal) since May 2009 |
| Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic | 2013 | Ms. Marie-Therese Keita Bocoum (Côte d'Ivoire) since January 2014 |
| Independent Expert on capacity-building and technical cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire in the field of human rights | 2014 | Mr. Mohammed Ayat (Morocco) since December 2014 |
| Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea | 2012 | Ms. Sheila B. Keetharuth (Mauritius) since October 2012 |
| Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea | 2004 | Mr. Marzuki Darusman (Indonesia) since August 2010 |
| Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti | 1995 | Mr. Gustavo Gallón (Colombia) since May 2013 |
| Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran | 2011 | Mr. Ahmed Shaheed (Maldives) since August 2011 |
| Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali | 2013 | Mr. Suliman Baldo (Sudan) since October 2013 |
| Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar | 1992 | Ms. Yanghee Lee (Republic of Korea) since June 2014 |
| Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967 | 1993 | Mr. Makarim Wibisino (Indonesia) since June 2014 |
| Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia | 1993 | Mr. Bahame Nyanduga (United Republic of Tanzania) since June 2014 |
| Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan | 2005 (SR) 2009 (IE) | Mr. Aristide Nononsi (Benin) since December 2014 |
| Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic | 2012 | Mr. Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro (Brazil) will start once the mandate of the Commission of Inquiry ends |
| Thematic mandates | | |
| Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context | 2000 | Ms. Leilani Farha (Canada) since June 2014 |
| Working Group of experts on people of African descent | 2002 | Ms. Verene Shepherd (Jamaica), Chair-Rapporteur, since April 2010 Mr. Michał Balcerzak (Poland) since December 2014 Mr. Ricardo III Sunga (the Philippines) since December 2014 Ms. Mireille Fanon-Mendès-France (France) since May 2011 Mr. Sabelo Gumedze (South Africa) since August 2014 |
| Working Group on arbitrary detention | 1991 | Mr. Sètondji Roland Jean-Baptiste Adjovi (Benin) since June 2014 Mr. Seong-Phil Hong (Republic of Korea) since August 2014 Mr. Vladimir Tochilovsky (Ukraine) since May 2010 Mr. Mads Andenas (Norway) since August 2009 Mr. José Guevara (Mexico) since June 2014 |
| Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography | 1990 | Ms. Maud De Boer-Buquicchio (the Netherlands) since June 2014 |
| Independent Expert in the field of cultural rights | 2009 | Ms. Farida Shaheed (Pakistan) since November 2009 |
| Independent expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order | 2011 | Mr. Alfred de Zayas (USA) since May 2012 |
| Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities | 2014 | Ms. Catalina Devandas Aguilar (Costa Rica) since December 2014 |

| Mandate | Established | Mandate-holder |
|---|-------------|--|
| Special Rapporteur on the right to education | 1998 | Mr. Kishore Singh (India) since August 2010 |
| Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances | 1980 | Mr. Bernard Duhaime (Canada) since December 2014 Ms. Houria Es-Slami (Morocco) since June 2014 Mr. Ariel Dulitzky (Argentina/USA) since August 2010 Ms. Jasminka Dzumhur (Bosnia and Herzegovina) since May 2010 Mr. Osman El-Hajje (Lebanon) since August 2009 |
| Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment | 2012 | Mr. John Knox (USA) since August 2012 |
| Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions | 1982 | Mr. Christof Heyns (South Africa) since August 2010 |
| Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights | 1998 | Mr. Philip Alston (Australia) since June 2014 |
| Special Rapporteur on the right to food | 2000 | Ms. Hilal Elver (Turkey) since June 2014 |
| Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights | 2000 | Mr. Juan Bohoslavsky (Argentina) since June 2014 |
| Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association | 2010 | Mr. Maina Kiai (Kenya) since May 2011 |
| Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression | 1993 | Mr. David Kaye (USA) since August 2014 |
| Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief | 1986 | Mr. Heiner Bielefeldt (Germany) since August 2010 |
| Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health | 2002 | Mr. Dainius Pūras (Lithuania) since August 2014 |
| Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders | 2000 | Mr. Michel Forst (France) since June 2014 |
| Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers | 1994 | Ms. Gabriela Knaul (Brazil) since August 2009 |
| Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples | 2001 | Ms. Victoria Lucia Tauli-Corpuz (the Philippines) since June 2014 |
| Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons | 2004 | Mr. Chaloka Beyani (Zambia) since November 2010 |
| Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity | 2005 | Ms. Virginia Dandan (the Philippines) since August 2011 |
| Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination | 2005 | Mr. Anton Katz (South Africa), Chair-Rapporteur, since August 2011 Mr. Saeed Mokbil (Yemen) since June 2014 Ms. Patricia Arias (Chile) since August 2011 Ms. Elzbieta Karska (Poland) since August 2011 Mr. Gabor Rona (USA/Hungary) since August 2011 |
| Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants | 1999 | Mr. François Crépeau (Canada) since August 2011 |
| Special Rapporteur on minority issues | 2005 | Ms. Rita Izsak (Hungary) since August 2011 |
| Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons | 2013 | Ms. Rosa Kornfeld-Matte (Chile) since June 2014 |
| Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees on non-recurrence | 2011 | Mr. Pablo De Greiff (Colombia) since May 2012 |
| Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism , racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance | 1993 | Mr. Mutuma Ruteere (Kenya) since November 2011 |
| Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery , including its causes and consequences | 2007 | Ms. Urmila Bhoola (South Africa) since June 2014 |
| Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism | 2005 | Mr. Ben Emmerson (United Kingdom) since August 2011 |

| Mandate | Established | Mandate-holder |
|--|-------------|--|
| Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment | 1985 | Mr. Juan Ernesto Méndez (Argentina) since November 2010 |
| Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes | 1995 | Mr. Baskut Tuncak (Turkey) since June 2014 |
| Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons , especially women and children | 2004 | Ms. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro (Italy) since August 2014 |
| Working Group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises | 2011 | Mr. Puvan Selvanathan (Malaysia) since November 2011 Mr. Michael K. Addo (Ghana) since November 2011 Mr. Pavel Sulyandziga (Russian Federation), Chair-Rapporteur, since November 2011 Ms. Alexandra Guaqueta (Colombia/USA) since November 2011 Ms. Margaret Jungk (USA) since November 2011 |
| Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights | 2014 | To be appointed at the 28th session of the Human Rights Council |
| Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation | 2008 | Mr. Léo Heller (Brazil) since December 2014 |
| Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice | 2010 | Ms. Kamala Chandrakirana (Indonesia) since May 2011 Ms. Emna Aouij (Tunisia) since May 2011 Ms. Alda Facio (Costa Rica) since June 2014 Ms. Frances Raday (Israel/United Kingdom), Chair-Rapporteur, since May 2011 Ms. Eleonora Zielinska (Poland) since May 2011 |
| Special Rapporteur on violence against women , its causes and consequences | 1994 | Ms. Rashida Manjoo (South Africa) since August 2009 |