



Mandate-holders of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council meeting in Vienna in June 2013 to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. In 2013, these experts carried out 79 visits to 66 countries and territories and issued 528 communications to Governments on alleged violations of human rights.



Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

Relevance of the issue

Since the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (VDPA) over 20 years ago, the United Nations human rights system has significantly evolved towards meeting its objective: ensuring universal respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. The work of the United Nations human rights mechanisms in monitoring human rights globally and translating universal norms into guidance and practical measures to achieve social justice impacts upon all stakeholders – from rights-holders and victims of human rights violations to States as duty-bearers and other actors, including the private sector. The expansion of UN human rights mechanisms bears testimony to the global recognition of their primary importance. At the same time, this rapid growth has put significant strains on the system and created challenges for their work.

The core international human rights treaties form the cornerstone of all efforts to promote and protect human rights at the national and international levels. The increased ratification of these treaties provides a firm ground for human rights protection. Furthermore, the entry into force of individual complaints procedures related to the treaties has opened new avenues for individuals to pursue remedies and justice for violations of their rights. Nevertheless, ratification rates remain relatively low in regions such as Asia, the Caribbean and the Pacific or in relation to some treaties, such as the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICMW) in Europe. The acceptance rate of the individual communication and inquiry procedures of several treaties remains modest. Moreover, the full implementation of treaties continues to be hindered by reservations made by States Parties regarding key articles, in particular under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

Human rights treaty bodies play an important role in guiding States and other stakeholders towards the full implementation of the treaties through the monitoring process. Following the growth in the treaty body system over the past several years, there are now 10 human rights treaty bodies. Nine of these treaty bodies monitor implementation of the core international human rights treaties while the tenth treaty body, the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture, established under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, monitors places of detention in States Parties to the Optional Protocol. In the past biennium, these treaty bodies reviewed an average of 120 State Party reports each year and adopted a similar number of decisions under the individual complaints procedures. Also during this period, the Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture conducted 11 country visits, including follow-up and advisory visits. The chronic deficiency of resources faced by the treaty body system and OHCHR as its Secretariat has exacerbated the already unacceptable backlog of reports awaiting consideration and resulted in an excessive waiting time for individuals submitting complaints. Without a coherent, sustainable and periodically reassessed financing system, the work of the treaty bodies and the level of protection they offer will be significantly undermined.

Four years after the High Commissioner launched a consultative process of reflection on strengthening the treaty body system, in April 2014, the General Assembly concluded its intergovernmental process in this regard and adopted a substantial outcome which significantly improves the system.

The establishment of the Human Rights Council in 2006 was a milestone in the reform of the UN human rights system. As the main intergovernmental body dedicated to human rights, the Council addresses crises, country situations and thematic issues and is responsible for the mainstreaming of human rights in the UN system. The Council has continued to improve its practices and find innovative ways to respond to human rights challenges, including by establishing new mandates on commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions, exchanging views and strengthening institutional links with its subsidiary bodies and mechanisms and ensuring the increased participation of all stakeholders, including civil society and national human rights institutions (NHRIs).

The successful completion of the first four-year cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), in which all 193 Member States participated, firmly entrenched the notion of the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights. The UPR, now in its second cycle, is examining new developments and measures taken at the national level with a strong focus on the implementation of commitments undertaken by States during the first cycle. Significantly, the UPR process has opened new entry points for all national stakeholders to engage in dialogue, review progress and challenges and chart the way forward in the promotion and protection of human rights.

The continuing expansion of the Council's special procedures, which as of December 2013 stands at 51 mandates, including 13 country mandates, is another key element of the strengthened UN human rights framework. In 2013, these mandates carried out 79 visits to 66 countries and territories and issued 528 communications to 117 States and other entities on alleged violations of human rights, 84 per cent of which were issued jointly by two or more mandate-holders. Their thematic work covers a wide range of issues and contributes to the further development of international human rights standards. They also engage in advocacy and provide advice on legislative reform and technical cooperation. The independence and objectivity of special procedures mandate-holders is critical to their credibility and effectiveness. To this end, the selection process has been strengthened to ensure the professionalism of appointees.

Human rights treaty bodies and special procedures provide guidance on implementation and serve as early warning mechanisms for States and the international community. They also constitute an advocacy platform for engagement by national human rights institutions and civil society and provide a strong substantive grounding for the UPR and the mainstreaming of human rights in the work of the United Nations system. The work of the human rights mechanisms demonstrates that the primary challenge for the realization of human rights continues to be closing the implementation gap. More systematic and creative ways are needed to further enhance the quality and coherence of recommendations issued by the UN human rights mechanisms and ensure their dissemination and implementation in all countries.

OHCHR added value

Focus areas

- Improved visibility of and accessibility to the mechanisms
- Coherence and synergies among the mechanisms

The High Commissioner for Human Rights is mandated to support and improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the United Nations machinery in the field of human rights. As the guardian of the international human rights norms, and as a result of its expertise on human rights issues and experience at the national level, OHCHR is well placed to provide support to the human rights mechanisms. In its work with the Human Rights Council, its UPR and special procedures mechanisms, and also the treaty bodies, OHCHR fosters the notion of the universality, indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness of all human rights and therefore implements its mandate to promote and protect the full and effective enjoyment by everyone of all of their civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights.

Due to its expertise, OHCHR is in a privileged position to identify the challenges faced by the human rights mechanisms and propose potential solutions. For instance, OHCHR assists the Council to address emerging issues, such as freedom of expression on the internet, human rights and the environment and human rights and corruption. In its work with the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies and the Coordination Committee of the Special Procedures, the Office shares its accumulated experience to encourage cross-fertilization and cooperation within and between the different human rights mechanisms to improve their working methods, strengthen their coherence and effectiveness and promote comprehensive approaches to the implementation of their recommendations. Furthermore, the Office supported the ongoing intergovernmental process on treaty body strengthening that was launched by the General Assembly and followed the June 2012 report of the High Commissioner which outlined the outcome of three years of extensive consultations.

Through its substantive support to the human rights mechanisms, OHCHR identifies and documents best practices that in turn enable the Office to help States and other stakeholders to better engage with

the mechanisms. Information gathered on standing national reporting and coordination mechanisms will, for instance, enable OHCHR to assist States to meet their reporting requirements and follow up on recommendations in a more effective and efficient way.

OHCHR is also well situated to ensure the dissemination and implementation of recommendations issued by the UN human rights mechanisms in all countries. The Office facilitates dialogue and engagement of the UN human rights mechanisms with States, UN entities, national institutions and civil society, including at the Security Council and other intergovernmental fora. Through its New York Office and field presences, OHCHR actively promotes a human rights-based approach and provides States with policy guidance and support for the implementation of the recommendations of the mechanisms. This experience at the national level enables the Office to expertly assist the mechanisms in their normative work through the identification of gaps and best practices.

As the second cycle of the UPR has a strong focus on implementation, OHCHR will intensify coordinated efforts to support holistic approaches to the implementation of recommendations emanating from the UPR and other human rights mechanisms. The Office manages the Council's two Voluntary Funds aimed at facilitating the participation of developing countries in the work of the Council and the UPR. These are the Voluntary Fund for Participation of Developing Countries in the Universal Periodic Review and the Voluntary Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the Work of the Human Rights Council. OHCHR also manages the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review, which was established by the Council to provide, in conjunction with multilateral funding mechanisms, a source of financial and technical assistance to help countries implement recommendations emanating from the UPR.

While States have the primary responsibility for implementing the recommendations from UN human rights mechanisms, other stakeholders can play an important role in this process. For example, national human rights institutions and civil society actors should be encouraged to monitor and follow up on the conclusions and recommendations.

In addition, challenges remain in ensuring the systematic engagement of UN entities and United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) with the mechanisms and the integration of recommendations into their strategies and programmes. Strengthening partnerships with relevant UN entities, as well as research and academic institutions from both developed and developing countries, is also critical to providing effective and system-wide support to the work of these mechanisms.

The use of new technologies has gradually been promoted in several areas to increase the visibility and accessibility of the UN human rights mechanisms. The Human Rights Council and a number of treaty bodies have introduced webcasting to reach wider audiences at the national level and other measures to provide improved accessibility for persons with disabilities. OHCHR intends to further enhance this approach through a comprehensive social media and public information strategy.

OHCHR expected contribution

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS CLAIM THEIR RIGHTS	DUTY-BEARERS COMPLY WITH THEIR OBLIGATIONS
	[EA2] ▶ 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
[EA7] ▶ 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	[EA6] ▶ Establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms ▶ Increased compliance and engagement of Member States with international human rights mechanisms
	[EA8] ▶ Advances in the progressive development of international and regional human rights law in areas relevant to the thematic priorities
	[EA9] ▶ Enhanced synergies, complementarity and coherence within and between human rights mechanisms
[EA10] ▶ Early warning functions of human rights mechanisms are enhanced ▶ Increased interventions of the international community to promote and protect civil society actors, including against reprisals	
[EA11] ▶ Enhanced systematic engagement by UNCTs with international human rights mechanisms	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above. OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners and using the different strategic tools at its disposal (see Chapter 1 on OHCHR's Theory of Change). It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to strengthening the international human rights mechanisms. To illustrate the interrelated nature of the Thematic Strategies, the table shows all the results to which OHCHR is planning to contribute in this area, including relevant results from other strategies, which can be identified as follows: ▶ Democracy Strategy.



Theresa Degener, expert member of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, during a session of the Committee.

Ratification [EA2]

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

OHCHR intends to contribute to this change by:

- ▶ Increasing advocacy for ratification of human rights treaties and withdrawal of treaty reservations, including through the High Commissioner's public statements, press articles and bilateral meetings with governments and by using relevant recommendations of international human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Encouraging ratification of human rights treaties and the withdrawal of treaty reservations by working with State officials, parliaments, line ministries, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations and the media, including through visits by special procedures mandate-holders and in the context of the UPR.
- ▶ Providing advice and technical assistance to governments and lawmakers in relation to ratification of those treaties.
- ▶ Facilitating accessibility of updated public information materials on the status of ratifications and reservations, as well as on content and significance of the human rights treaties, in all six official UN languages and a variety of accessible formats to ensure their equal access to persons with disabilities.
- ▶ Developing advocacy packages, such as fact sheets and handbooks, as well as training materials to support national efforts in this area.



In addition to global efforts to increase ratification and the review of reservations, by 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the ratification of one of the two Covenants or the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination by Angola, Myanmar, Palestine**, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, South Sudan and other countries in the Caribbean and the Pacific. In Benin, Cambodia, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Gambia, Liberia, Madagascar, Tanzania and Zimbabwe, OHCHR will encourage the ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

In other countries, the emphasis will be on the ratification of the Optional Protocols, as in Burundi, Honduras, Libya, Madagascar, Mali, Mexico and countries in Central America. In Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Gambia and Senegal, OHCHR will support the ratification of the second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on the death penalty and in the Central African Republic and the Republic of Moldova of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

OHCHR will continue to encourage countries such as Kenya, Libya, Mauritania, Mexico and Tunisia to withdraw their reservations or interpretative declarations to the international human rights treaties.

State engagement with human rights mechanisms [EA6]

Establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms

OHCHR intends to contribute to this change by:

- ▶ Increasing awareness of the importance of participatory standing national coordination bodies for fulfilling reporting obligations, responding to individual communications and enquiries and ensuring integrated follow-up to recommendations from all human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Advocating for the establishment of standing national coordinating bodies, including through the High Commissioner's public reports, statements, press articles and bilateral meetings with governments. Advocating for effective and transparent participation of and cooperation with national human rights institutions and civil society in such bodies.

- ▶ Providing information and advice to governments and lawmakers in relation to the establishment of and operating modalities for such bodies and promoting the sharing of experience and good practices among countries.
- ▶ Assessing and responding in a timely manner to requests for technical assistance by Member States to enhance their capacity to put in place or strengthen efficient mechanisms.
- ▶ Developing information and awareness packages and tools and conducting and sharing a study on good practices in relation to establishing standing national coordination bodies.
- ▶ Encouraging resident coordinators, UNCTs and individual UN agencies to provide coordinated support to the establishment and/or strengthening of such bodies as a means of mainstreaming human rights in government programming and policies and ensuring timely responses by States to all human rights mechanisms.



By 2017, OHCHR hopes to have contributed to reinforcing participatory mechanisms for reporting and follow-up in 71 countries of engagement. OHCHR will support efforts to establish or strengthen participatory standing coordination bodies in Angola, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Barbados, Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Gabon, Gambia, Georgia, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mauritania, Mozambique, Nigeria, Panama, Rwanda, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Sudan, Tajikistan, the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, Zambia, countries in South Asia, the Pacific and Gulf States and Kosovo*. In countries such as Bolivia, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali, Mexico, Timor Leste and Togo, National Human Rights Action Plans will be developed with OHCHR support to implement the recommendations of the human rights mechanisms.

Increased compliance and engagement of Member States with international human rights mechanisms

OHCHR intends to contribute to this change by:

- ▶ Encouraging and supporting treaty bodies, special procedures and the Human Rights Council to develop recommendations that are targeted, measurable and prioritized in order to enhance their effective implementation.
- ▶ Improving dissemination and access to information relating to the human rights mechanisms by stakeholders at the international and national level and in a variety of accessible formats to enable persons with disabilities to access them on equal terms.
- ▶ Developing web-based tools to disseminate decisions and recommendations of human rights mechanisms, such as the Universal Human Rights Index and an enhanced treaty bodies database, which would enable States Parties and other stakeholders to better track the national implementation of recommendations and facilitate timely and quality reporting, as well as other advocacy and communication tools to provide information on the Human Rights Council and its subsidiary bodies and mechanisms, including the UPR and special procedures (mandates, mandate-holders, invitations, country visits, communications and responses).
- ▶ Strengthening national capacity for periodic reporting under the core human rights instruments, including by targeting parliaments, line ministries, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations and the media and by providing technical assistance at the request of Member States, and as appropriate, other national stakeholders.
- ▶ Facilitating the engagement of the Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States with human rights mechanisms through the use of the trust funds.
- ▶ Building regional capacity to provide technical assistance to States for reporting to treaty bodies, through training-of-trainers and exchange of experience in partnership with relevant regional human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Making the simplified reporting procedure available to States Parties.
- ▶ Encouraging States to issue standing invitations to the special procedures and facilitating their engagement.
- ▶ Strengthening partnerships with governments, UN entities and UNCTs, including for the thematic work/country visits undertaken by the special procedures and by promoting joint programmes and approaches and the sharing of best practices.

 During the programming cycle, OHCHR intends to contribute to the timely submission of quality reports to the treaty bodies and UPR in Afghanistan, Benin, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte D'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gambia, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Jamaica, Malawi, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Tunisia, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia and countries in South America, the Caribbean, South Asia and the Pacific.

Efforts will also be undertaken to ensure that Botswana, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Iraq, Jamaica, Malawi, Mali, Mauritius, Namibia, Niger, Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Zambia, Zimbabwe, countries in the Caribbean, the Pacific, and South Asia and Kosovo*, improve their engagement with special procedures, either through the issuing of standing invitations, the acceptance of their requests for visits or the response to their communications.

Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms [EA7]

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

OHCHR intends to contribute to this change by:

- ▶ Promoting and facilitating access to the work of UN human rights mechanisms and bodies by national human rights institutions and civil society actors, especially those representing individuals and groups at risk or exposed to discrimination, including migrants.
- ▶ Enhancing the accessibility of human rights mechanisms for rights-holders, including persons with disabilities, youth and older persons, by improving physical access to meetings held in Geneva and the use of information and communication technology (webcasting, videoconferencing, webpages, social media etc.).
- ▶ Disseminating public information on the human rights mechanisms through the OHCHR webpages, national human rights institutions, international and regional networks and civil society broadcasts (i.e., weekly notes, newsletters) in a variety of formats.

- ▶ Strengthening the capacity of national human rights institutions and civil society actors to effectively use human rights mechanisms and bodies, especially in addressing human rights issues prioritized in the other Thematic Strategies.
- ▶ Developing training materials, practical tools and resources on how to effectively engage with the mechanisms and specifically targeting rights-holders, civil society and national institutions.
- ▶ Organizing regional and cross-regional workshops for national human rights institutions and civil society actors on the work of UN and regional human rights mechanisms and bodies and good practices and lessons learned in engaging with them.
- ▶ Taking measures to protect human rights defenders, national human rights institutions and civil society and other actors who are engaging with UN human rights mechanisms and bodies, including through public statements of the High Commissioner, OHCHR representatives, independent experts and mechanisms and follow-up on alleged cases/situations of reprisals.
- ▶ Mapping stakeholders' submissions to human rights mechanisms to identify representation gaps as the basis for targeted outreach.
- ▶ Implementing the fellowship programmes for staff of national human rights institutions, minorities and indigenous peoples focusing on regions or countries with lower levels of engagement with UN human rights mechanisms and bodies.

 By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to an increase in the use of international human rights mechanisms by civil society actors in Angola, Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Comoros, Cote D'Ivoire, Djibouti, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Equatorial Guinea, Ethiopia, Gabon, the Gambia, Guatemala, Honduras, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malawi, Mauritania, Mexico, Moldova, Myanmar, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Paraguay, Peru, Rwanda, Senegal, Seychelles, Singapore, Sri Lanka, Swaziland, FYRM, Timor Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Tanzania, Uruguay, Venezuela, Zimbabwe, other countries of the Caribbean, Central America, Central Asia, Europe, North Africa, the Pacific, and South Asia and Kosovo*.

International and regional laws and institutions [EA8]

Advances in the progressive development of international and regional human rights law in areas relevant to the thematic priorities

OHCHR intends to contribute to this change by:

- ▶ Supporting the development of new human rights instruments and standards and the work of human rights mechanisms in this regard, including by assisting with and contributing to the development of general comments and jurisprudence by treaty bodies, as well as the normative work of the Human Rights Council, its Advisory Committee and special procedures.
- ▶ Providing advice and support to systematize the integration of a gender perspective in the work of human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Supporting the application and further elaboration of new standards developed by the human rights mechanisms such as: strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons and supporting the General Assembly's Open-ended Working Group on Ageing; contributing to the enhancement of accountability for business enterprises involved in human rights abuses and the effective implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on business and human rights, including by supporting the mandate of the Working Group on human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises and the Annual Forum on Business and Human Rights; developing and implementing follow-up initiatives to the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence, taking into account the Human Rights Committee General Comment No. 34 and CERD General Recommendation No. 35.
- ▶ Cooperating closely with regional human rights systems to strengthen and ensure consistency of international and regional human rights law, in particular through OHCHR biennial workshops on cooperation and annual consultations between UN and regional human rights mechanisms, thematic priorities and implementation of follow-up initiatives.

Coherence among human rights mechanisms [EA9]

Enhanced synergies, complementarity and coherence within and between human rights mechanisms

OHCHR intends to contribute to this change by:

- ▶ Supporting the activities of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies and the Coordination Committee of the Special Procedures to facilitate coordination within and between treaty bodies and special procedures.
- ▶ Strengthening synergies and linkages between human rights mechanisms and also with relevant intergovernmental processes, including by producing and promoting joint communications and thematic issue papers, particularly in areas relevant to the Thematic Priorities.
- ▶ Promoting a holistic approach for the implementation of and follow-up to recommendations emanating from international human rights mechanisms, including through the continuous updating and improvement of the Universal Human Rights Index and the treaty body and special procedures databases.
- ▶ Ensuring the implementation of the outcome of the treaty body strengthening process and continuing to seek avenues for harmonizing the working methods of treaty bodies with a view to enhancing their coherence, efficiency and effectiveness.
- ▶ Implementing the relevant outcomes of the Human Rights Council review in relation to the support provided to the UPR, including by acting as a clearing house and playing a catalytic role in assisting States to implement the UPR recommendations.
- ▶ Encouraging joint actions and a coordinated approach among special procedures mandate-holders while concurrently ensuring their independence and integrity.

Responsiveness of the international community [EA10]

Early warning functions of human rights mechanisms are enhanced

OHCHR intends to contribute to this change by:

- ▶ Supporting the work of human rights mechanisms (i.e., treaty bodies, special procedures and commissions of inquiry under the Council) in monitoring country/thematic situations.
- ▶ Facilitating the engagement of human rights mechanisms with State and other actors in situations of potential, emerging or ongoing human rights crises.
- ▶ Enhancing and maintaining existing human rights mechanism databases (treaty body database, special procedures database, UPR index, Human Rights Council complaints procedure database, Universal Human Rights Index) to facilitate the analysis of trends and patterns of human rights crises and provide early warning functions.
- ▶ Contributing to inter-agency early warning and crisis response mechanisms at national, regional and international levels, such as the United Nations Operations and Crisis Centre.
- ▶ Ensuring the consistent provision of human rights information and analysis to the international community to inform decision-making on possible interventions and options for responses, in accordance with the Secretary-General's 'Rights Up Front' Action Plan.
- ▶ Efforts will be undertaken to ensure that the human rights of migrants or migration in general are addressed in the context of Human Rights Council deliberations.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations [EA11]

Enhanced systematic engagement by UNCTs with international human rights mechanisms

OHCHR intends to contribute to this change by:

- ▶ Promoting the systematic engagement of UNCTs throughout all stages of the UN human rights mechanisms-related processes, including follow-up to their conclusions and recommendations, in close cooperation with governments, civil society and national human rights institutions.
- ▶ Supporting the development of updated inter-agency policy guidance and tools for Resident Coordinators and UNCTs regarding their

engagement during all stages of the UN human rights mechanisms-related processes.

- ▶ Developing capacity-building tools and undertaking training activities to enhance the quality and effectiveness of this engagement.
- ▶ Developing advocacy and communication tools on the UN human rights mechanisms and their respective conclusions and recommendations. Clustering conclusions and recommendations from the mechanisms by country and compiling best follow-up practices for use by the UNCTs.
- ▶ Encouraging UNCTs to facilitate the dissemination of information about the UN human rights mechanisms and their respective conclusions and recommendations to stakeholders, the general public and the media.
- ▶ Strengthening the capacity of UNCTs to provide technical assistance to relevant stakeholders, such as government authorities, civil society and national human rights institutions, with a view to enhancing the quality and effectiveness of their engagement throughout all stages of the UN human rights mechanisms-related processes.
- ▶ Supporting UNCTs to integrate conclusions and recommendations emanating from the UN human rights mechanisms into UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF), One UN Programmes and agency country programmes and activities in support of national development plans and priorities. Developing evaluation, policy and capacity-building tools for this purpose.



By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to various degrees of integration of the human rights recommendations from the human rights mechanisms in the operations of UNOCI in Côte D'Ivoire and key programmes of the UNCTs in Malawi, Mexico, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Serbia, Ukraine and Zambia. In other countries, the emphasis will be on the mainstreaming of human rights in the UNDAFs, including in Burundi, Guatemala, Madagascar and Sierra Leone, or on the engagement of the UNCTs with the human rights mechanisms in general, as in Paraguay and Tanzania.

The engagement of UNCTs with the international human rights mechanisms is an integral part of the United Nations human rights-based approach to programming, please refer to the Thematic Strategy on "Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere" for a complete overview of the results to which OHCHR intends to contribute in this area.