



Example of SE
* Army UPDF
* Police
* Judges
* Prosecutors
* Parliament / ACT
* Prisoners
* Person under

Human rights training of security forces in Uganda. A sound understanding of human rights standards among law enforcement officials is essential for access to justice.

A close-up photograph of a hand with a dark complexion pointing to a document. The document features the United Nations logo and the text 'Human Rights'. The background is a blurred image of a document with handwritten text in a non-Latin script.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

Relevance of the issue

Recent events around the world have provided stark reminders of how an absence of the rule of law leads to violations of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, as well as to oppressive rule and conflict. As a result, Member States came together at a General Assembly high-level meeting in September 2012 and reaffirmed their commitment to the rule of law, as well as the interlinked and mutually reinforcing nature of the rule of law and human rights, by adopting the Declaration on the Rule of Law at the National and International Levels. They further committed themselves to ensuring accountability for international crimes and other gross violations of human rights and supporting the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms.

As stated by the Secretary-General in his report on "peacebuilding in the aftermath of conflict," conflict drivers are often related to chronic impunity and lack of accountability. Combating impunity is essential to the restoration or preservation of the rule of law. Moreover, terrorism continues to fester where conflicts are endemic and where human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, are not protected and impunity prevails. Law enforcement and criminal justice responses to terrorism in violation of human rights have proved to be counter-productive.

Sustained efforts in many countries are required to build fair and effective administration of justice systems which are based on international norms and standards and uphold the rule of law and protection

of all rights, including economic, social and cultural rights. These systems must be made accessible to all, including women and girls.

According to recent statistics, more than 10.2 million people in the world are deprived of their liberty, and an important number among them are awaiting trial. The conditions of life for these persons, in all regions, remain alarming and their numbers are constantly increasing. Strengthened National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) remain an important priority to prevent and punish acts of torture and ill-treatment.

In a series of resolutions beginning in 2007, the General Assembly has called for a global moratorium on the death penalty with a view to its eventual abolition. Approximately 160 out of 193 States have abolished the death penalty or observe a legal or de facto moratorium on its use. Despite this, a number of States maintain the death penalty and several hundreds of executions continue to be carried out each year, including many in violation of provisions under international law, in particular, the obligation to limit the death penalty to the most serious crimes.

OHCHR added value

Focus areas

- Human rights in the administration of justice
- Transitional justice
- Torture, death penalty and deprivation of liberty
- Counter-terrorism and human rights
- Legal and judicial protection of economic, social and cultural rights

Combating impunity and promoting accountability and the rule of law is a challenging area in which sustainable progress requires long-term sustained efforts and resources. Institutional transformation can take at least a generation, even for rapidly-transforming countries. It is also an area in which a large number of actors, including UN actors, are involved. As the independent, authoritative and expert voice on human rights protection within the UN system, OHCHR combats impunity and promotes accountability and the rule of law at the global, regional and national levels. The Office's rule of law activities are based on strong normative grounds.

OHCHR's field presences provide the Office with an essential outreach capacity to advocate for rule of law and accountability issues and to support national stakeholders in the implementation of relevant norms and standards, particularly in relation to the implementation of the recommendations from the various human rights mechanisms. The role of OHCHR as Secretariat of these mechanisms places the Office in a unique position to respond to States' requests for technical assistance and legal advice to implement these recommendations.

Through its pivotal role vis-à-vis the Human Rights Council, its special procedures, and treaty bodies, OHCHR is well-placed to support the further development and implementation of human rights norms and standards. Moreover, the Office has a crucial role to play to ensure that these human rights norms and standards are duly reflected in and form the basis of the rule of law programmes, policies and activities throughout the UN system.

The Office has acquired considerable experience in the development of tools and guidance materials which outline international norms and best practices relevant to the rule of law, impunity and accountability, such as the "rule-of-law tools" series and the Secretary-General's Guidance Note on the United Nations Approach to Transitional Justice, which are disseminated through OHCHR's field presences.

Recognizing that transitional justice strengthens the rule of law and promotes sustainable peace, OHCHR also supports transitional justice processes that are consistent with international law and good practices. In doing so, OHCHR seeks to ensure an inclusive, participatory and victim-centred approach that would safeguard respect for and implementation of victims' rights to an effective remedy. In addition, the Office identifies gaps and responds by providing technical assistance to Member States, civil society and UN partners and engages in global and national advocacy directed at combating impunity. Increased focus should be placed on the implementation of recommendations resulting from transitional justice processes and strengthening of national capacity to investigate and prosecute international crimes.

OHCHR has a comparative advantage in supporting judicial reform efforts to strengthen the capacity of national justice systems to protect human rights. The Office works with States to ensure compliance with human rights standards relevant



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Participants look at an exhibition on torture organized by OHCHR in Papua New Guinea.

to the administration of justice, particularly with regard to due process, fair trial guarantees, and use of the death penalty. OHCHR continues to have an important advocacy role regarding the global abolition of the death penalty and provides technical assistance and advice to retentionist Member States to ensure compliance with international norms and standards.

OHCHR manages direct assistance provided to victims of torture through the Voluntary Fund established by the General Assembly and supports the preventive activities of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture as well as the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee against Torture and the Special Rapporteur on torture. Based on the relevant international normative framework and OHCHR's well-established experience in monitoring, reporting, advocacy and technical assistance, the Office has developed tools to assist Member States in combating torture and other forms of ill-treatment and strengthen protection of the rights of persons deprived of their liberty in line with international norms and standards.

OHCHR is well placed, in line with the comprehensive approach set out in the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, to assist Member States in their efforts to adopt and implement counter-terrorism policies and strategies that are compliant with their

international human rights obligations. The Office serves as the UN system-wide lead in this area, including through its role as chair of the Working Group on Protecting Human Rights while Countering Terrorism of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF). OHCHR also supports the work of the Special Rapporteur on human rights and counter-terrorism, who is also a member of the CTITF. In October 2012, the Working Group launched a project on human rights training and capacity-building for law enforcement officials involved in counter-terrorism-related activities aimed at assisting Member States in making their law enforcement policies and activities consistent with their obligations under international human rights law.

The entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights reinforces the importance of domestic remedies to deal with violations of these rights. Over the past two years, OHCHR has successfully advocated for the ratification of the Optional Protocol in countries such as Argentina, Bolivia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Spain and Uruguay. OHCHR's expertise, guidance materials and experience have proven to be instrumental in promoting the inclusion of economic, social and cultural rights in the public agenda and mobilizing an array of different actors and stakeholders with a view to affording better legal and judicial protection of these rights.

OHCHR's leadership role in this area has greatly benefited from its partnership with other institutions within the UN system. Such partnerships include, inter alia:

- Participation in the Rule of Law Coordination Resource Group which is led by the Deputy Secretary-General and has recently decided to co-locate staff from different parts of the UN in one office to facilitate the work of the Global Focal Point on Justice, Police and Corrections (established in 2012 by the Secretary-General).
- Partnership agreement with UN Women and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) to support comprehensive and coordinated law and justice sector reforms through the UN Global Women's Access to Justice Programme.
- Cooperation with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), UNDP and UN Women on transitional justice-related issues, including through joint projects, such as those in Tunisia and Yemen, and the participation of OHCHR trainers in rule of law trainings for DPKO Judicial Affairs Officers.
- Cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crimes (UNODC) on a wide range of matters, including issues relating to the right to legal aid, counter-terrorism, the revision of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment

of Prisoners, issues relating to cybercrime and human rights aspects of combating drugs and crime.

- Cooperation with DPKO in the elaboration and implementation of the Rule of Law Indicators Project which seeks to provide national authorities with guidance to assess and identify needs for reform of their criminal justice institutions so that they comply with relevant international standards.
- Active involvement in the Inter-agency Panel on Juvenile Justice (IPJJ) to contribute to the establishment of justice systems that fully respect the rights of the child. The IPJJ is a coordination panel on technical advice and assistance in juvenile justice consisting of 13 UN agencies and NGOs.
- Cooperation with UN partners in the area of human rights and counter-terrorism, in particular through its role as member of the CTITF and as chair of the CTITF Working Group on Protecting Human Rights while Countering Terrorism.

In light of the challenges faced and the large number of actors involved, pursuing a coordinated, coherent and responsive approach to combating impunity and strengthening the rule of law will remain a high priority on the agenda of OHCHR for the coming years.

OHCHR expected contribution

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS CLAIM THEIR RIGHTS	DUTY-BEARERS COMPLY WITH THEIR OBLIGATIONS
<p>[EA5]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Increased use of national protection system by rights-holders, especially through strategic litigation on economic, social and cultural rights ▶ Civil society, in particular youth and women, increasingly advocate and claim their rights and protect themselves more effectively from reprisals 	<p>[EA1]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ National justice systems, encompassing customary justice systems, established and functioning in accordance with international human rights norms and standards and increasingly applying them, including economic, social and cultural rights ▶ Increased compliance of national legislation, policies, programmes and institutions with international human rights norms and standards relating to the deprivation of liberty and the prohibition and prevention of torture and ill-treatment ▶ Increased number of States that have abolished the death penalty and/or, pending abolition, increasingly comply with relevant international human rights obligations ▶ Counter-terrorism legal frameworks, policies, strategies and institutions increasingly aligned with international human rights norms and standards ▶ Increased use of anti-discrimination and equality standards by judges and prosecutors ▶ Legal frameworks, public policies and institutions are in place and functioning to combat sexual and gender-based violence, trafficking and related exploitation
	<p>[EA2]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Increased ratification of international human rights instruments and review of reservations
	<p>[EA3]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Transitional justice mechanisms established and increasingly operating in accordance with international human rights norms, standards and good practices ▶ Protection systems and accountability mechanisms are established and functioning in compliance with international human rights norms and standards to monitor, investigate and redress acts of torture and ill-treatment and violations of the rights of persons deprived of their liberty ▶ National mechanisms provide for effective implementation of business and human rights standards by States and the private sector, including remedies for human rights abuses
<p>[EA7]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Increased number and diversity of rights-holders, and of NHRIs and civil society actors acting on their behalf, making use of UN and regional human rights mechanisms and bodies 	<p>[EA6]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Increased compliance and engagement of Member States with international human rights mechanisms
	<p>[EA8]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Progressive development of international and regional human rights law in areas relevant to the thematic priorities
<p>[EA10]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Increased responsiveness of the international community in ensuring accountability for gross human rights violations 	
<p>[EA11]</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ Enhanced coherence and effectiveness of the UN in supporting the rule of law and human rights-compliant counter-terrorism policies 	

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 Part I on OHCHR's Theory of Change). It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights, and thereby to combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law. 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: ▶ Mechanisms Strategy; ▶ Discrimination Strategy; ▶ Development Strategy; ▶ Democracy Strategy; ▶ Violence Strategy.

Compliance of laws, policies and institutions [EA1]

National justice systems, encompassing customary justice systems, established and functioning in accordance with international human rights norms and standards and increasingly applying them, including economic, social and cultural rights

OHCHR intends to contribute to this change by:

- ▶ Advocating for national justice systems functioning in accordance with international human rights norms and standards.
- ▶ Supporting judicial institution-building and reform efforts, in particular with the view to ensuring their independence, integrity, impartiality and effectiveness.
- ▶ Providing advice on the development and reform of normative and policy frameworks in relation to national justice systems.
- ▶ Developing guidance materials, tools and training packages for partners and national stakeholders (judges, prosecutors, lawyers, NGOs, civil society police, corrections officers and other security forces, including military forces) on the domestic implementation of international human rights law, including provisions related to women's rights and gender equality.
- ▶ Public monitoring and reporting on compliance of national justice systems with international human rights norms and standards, in particular with regard to due process and fair trial; and working with partners, national authorities and civil society to encourage and build their capacity to conduct such monitoring.
- ▶ Providing technical support to national authorities and other stakeholders to ensure that military justice systems and informal justice systems comply with international human rights norms and standards, in particular on women's rights and gender equality and developing publications on indigenous justice systems in Latin America and traditional justice systems in Africa to support these efforts.
- ▶ Supporting national authorities through technical cooperation in the establishment of victim and witness protection programmes and developing an OHCHR tool to this end.
- ▶ Providing advice to national authorities and other stakeholders on the establishment and functioning of national accountability mechanisms, including independent national commissions of inquiry.



By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to increasing the compliance of normative frameworks with international human rights norms and standards in relation to national justice systems in Cambodia, Iraq, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania, Myanmar, South Sudan, Togo and Yemen. In other countries, the focus will be on increasing the application of human rights norms and standards by judicial institutions, such as in Bolivia, Burundi, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Liberia, Libya, Maldives, Myanmar, Russian Federation, Togo, Tunisia and countries in the South Caucasus. In Uganda, it is expected that with the support of OHCHR, the customary justice system will increase its compliance with human rights standards.

Increased compliance of national legislation, policies, programmes and institutions with international human rights norms and standards relating to the deprivation of liberty and the prohibition and prevention of torture and ill-treatment

OHCHR intends to contribute to this change by:

- ▶ Advocating for increased compliance with international norms and standards relating to persons deprived of their liberty, including those pertaining to women and specific groups, such as: migrants; asylum-seekers; refugees; children, including children of incarcerated parents; persons with disabilities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons; persons on death row; and persons serving life sentences.
- ▶ Advocating for the absolute prohibition and prevention of torture and ill-treatment, the ratification and implementation of the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) and its Optional Protocol (OP-CAT); the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and its Optional Protocols; the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the acceptance of their respective individual complaint procedures.
- ▶ Delivering capacity-building and training activities on the implementation of international norms and standards relating to the protection of all persons deprived of their liberty and the prevention of torture and ill-treatment, in particular, to judges, prosecutors, lawyers, corrections officers, police, other security forces, including military forces, as well as medical and other personnel working in places of deprivation of liberty.

- ▶ Providing advisory services and technical cooperation to support national authorities and other stakeholders for the development and reform of normative, policy and institutional frameworks to ensure the protection of all persons deprived of their liberty and prohibit and prevent torture and ill-treatment, including gender-based forms of torture and ill-treatment, and developing a publication on the legal and institutional framework for the protection of all persons deprived of their liberty to support these efforts.
- ▶ Assessing and supporting national authorities and other stakeholders in the design of strategies, including through the identification of best practices, to effectively implement relevant recommendations of UN human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Supporting UN-led processes to develop new standards relating to the protection of persons deprived of their liberty, such as the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners, and where appropriate, developing training materials.
- ▶ Providing in-depth analysis of the underlying and structural causes and/or recurrent issues of concern for persons deprived of their liberty, including: lack of judicial oversight; overuse of detention; excessive length of pre-trial detention; conditions of detention, including overcrowding; death and serious injury in detention; and the protection of groups with distinct needs.



By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to national efforts to ensure that normative, policy and institutional frameworks regulating detention in Afghanistan, Cambodia, Libya, Madagascar, Mauritania, Myanmar, Palestine**, Paraguay, Sudan, Togo and Tunisia increasingly respect, protect and guarantee the rights of persons deprived of their liberty, including their protection from torture and other forms of ill-treatment.

In Kenya, Libya and Mexico it is expected that, with the support of OHCHR, legislation on torture will be improved so as to comply with international human rights norms and standards. In Bolivia, the focus will be on pre-trial detention.

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

OHCHR intends to contribute to this change by:

- ▶ Advocating for ratification and implementation of the Second Optional Protocol to the ICCPR, aiming at the abolition of the death penalty.
- ▶ Pursuant to relevant General Assembly resolutions, advocating and providing legal and policy advice to States, civil society and other stakeholders with regard to the establishment of a moratorium by States on the use of the death penalty, with a view to its abolition.
- ▶ Providing policy advice and technical support to enhance the capacity of national authorities, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), civil society and other stakeholders in States that still use the death penalty to support the application of international human rights norms and standards in death penalty cases and increase their awareness of the key human rights dimensions of the administration of the death penalty, including, for example, with regard to wrongful convictions and discrimination.
- ▶ Providing policy advice and technical support to national authorities, NHRIs, civil society and other stakeholders on the implementation of relevant recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Undertaking analytical studies and reporting on emerging issues related to the use of the death penalty, including on discrimination and deterrence.



In addition to global efforts to abolish the death penalty, by 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to a moratorium on the application of the death penalty or pending a moratorium, increased compliance with relevant international human rights obligations in countries such as Iraq, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Palestine**, Papua New Guinea, Somalia, South Sudan, the United States of America and other countries in Asia and the Americas.

Counter-terrorism legal frameworks, policies, strategies and institutions increasingly aligned with international human rights norms and standards

OHCHR intends to contribute to this change by:

- ▶ Promoting human rights and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of national, regional and international counter-terrorism policies and strategies, as per the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, including through monitoring, advocacy for and reporting on human rights compliance in the counter-terrorism context.
- ▶ Raising awareness about the preventive impact of human rights counter-terrorism measures, while enhancing support for measures to address conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and ensuring respect for human rights and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism.
- ▶ Enhancing understanding of the complex legal and policy issues related to security and counter-terrorism, such as surveillance and modern communications technologies, through analytical studies and reports with recommendations.
- ▶ Providing technical assistance and capacity-building to support the development and implementation of human rights-compliant national legislation, policies and strategies and national criminal justice systems based on human rights and the rule of law as the best means to effectively counter terrorism and ensure accountability.
- ▶ Providing policy guidance, practical recommendations and tools to Member States and other stakeholders, including addressing the needs of victims of terrorism and counter-terrorism policies and measures.
- ▶ Supporting the role of civil society in the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.



In addition to global efforts to ensure compliance of counter-terrorism measures with international human rights standards, by 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to an increased alignment of the specific counter-terrorism legal frameworks, policies, strategies and institutions of countries such as Iraq, Mauritania, the United States of America and Uganda.

Accountability mechanisms [EA3]

Transitional justice mechanisms established and increasingly operating in accordance with international human rights norms, standards and good practices

OHCHR intends to contribute to this change by:

- ▶ Advocating for the inclusion of transitional justice issues and accountability for past violations in peace negotiations and agreements.
- ▶ Providing support for the design and implementation of truth-seeking processes, national consultations on transitional justice, judicial accountability mechanisms and reparations programmes, including for victims of sexual violence and providing advice on relevant institutional reforms.
- ▶ Promoting and strengthening the capacity of NHRIs to participate in accountability and transitional justice processes.
- ▶ Providing advice and supporting capacity-building efforts of other stakeholders on transitional justice-related issues, including through the development of guidance materials in areas such as transitional justice and economic, social and cultural rights; reparations for conflict-related sexual violence; strengthening national capacities to investigate and prosecute serious crimes under international law; human rights-compliant vetting processes; and archives.
- ▶ Continuing to explore and consolidate expertise on the elements of the right to the truth, challenges faced by transitional justice processes and emerging areas of transitional justice, such as history teaching and memorials.



By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to transitional justice processes in accordance with international human rights standards and good practices in Afghanistan, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, Cote D'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Guinea, Iraq, Kenya, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Yemen, other countries in Eastern Africa and South Asia and Kosovo*.

In most countries, OHCHR will be supporting the establishment of truth commissions and reparation programmes for victims and national efforts to ensure the prosecution of perpetrators. In others, the focus will also be supporting vetting processes, such as in Afghanistan and Libya, memorialization initiatives to provide symbolic reparation, such as in Burundi or the derogation of amnesty laws, such as in Mauritania.

Protection systems and accountability mechanisms are established and functioning in compliance with international human rights norms and standards to monitor, investigate and redress acts of torture and ill-treatment and violations of the rights of persons deprived of their liberty

OHCHR intends to contribute to this change by:

- ▶ Providing technical assistance, including legal advice, to State institutions to ensure prompt and impartial investigations, prosecutions and accountability, in line with international human rights norms and standards, for acts of torture and other forms of ill-treatment, for violations of other rights of persons deprived of their liberty and to guarantee the right of victims to redress and the right to compensation.
- ▶ Providing technical assistance and monitoring the establishment and effective functioning of complaints procedures for persons deprived of their liberty, including those addressing allegations of torture and ill-treatment, and of internal oversight mechanisms of places of deprivation of liberty.
- ▶ Advocating for and providing advice and assistance to establish and strengthen National Preventive Mechanisms in accordance with the OP-CAT.

- ▶ Developing guidance materials and training packages to enhance the capacities of law enforcement personnel, lawyers, judges, medical staff and civil society organizations to protect the rights of persons deprived of their liberty and ensure accountability.
- ▶ Monitoring, documenting and reporting through field presence reports and reports to the Human Rights Council on allegations of torture and ill-treatment, as well as human rights violations of persons deprived of their liberty, including those due to lack of judicial oversight; overuse and excessive length of pre-trial detention; inadequate conditions of detention, such as overcrowding and its possible impact on the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, especially the right to health; death and serious injury in detention; and lack of due regard to the distinct needs of women and members of specific groups, such as migrants, asylum-seekers and refugees, children, persons with disabilities, LGBTIs and persons on death row or serving life sentences.
- ▶ Advocating for the right to judicial review for all instances of deprivation of liberty, with due attention to administrative detention, as well as promoting full respect for the right to a fair trial.
- ▶ Providing assistance to victims of torture and other forms of ill-treatment, including through humanitarian funds, to exercise their right to an effective remedy and full rehabilitation in conformity with international human rights norms and standards.



By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the establishment of National Preventive Mechanisms in Afghanistan, Bolivia, Cambodia, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania, Mexico, the Philippines, Togo and Tunisia. In Kazakhstan and Kosovo*, the emphasis will be on ensuring the effective functioning of existing mechanisms. With the support of OHCHR, countries which have not yet ratified the OP-CAT will establish or improve the functioning of an independent mechanism to visit places of detention (Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand) and prevent and investigate allegations of torture, arbitrary detentions or abuse of detainees (Iraq, Ukraine, Yemen and countries in the Middle East and North Africa). In South Asia, OHCHR will work towards increasing public opposition to torture and ill-treatment.

Participation [EA5]

Increased use of national protection system by rights-holders, especially through strategic litigation on economic, social and cultural rights

OHCHR intends to contribute to this change by:

- ▶ Promoting the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (OP-ICESCR) and raising awareness of the mutually reinforcing nature of national and international legal and judicial protection of economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR), including before courts. Developing a toolkit to this end.
- ▶ Raising awareness and enhancing the capacity of NGOs and lawyers to bring cases relating to ESCR to courts, including through advocacy, training and preparation of relevant materials.
- ▶ Compiling and disseminating good practices by national courts on gender-sensitive decisions in ESCR.
- ▶ Enhancing the capacity of the judiciary to apply international human rights norms and standards in decisions relating to ESCR, including the ESCR of women and migrants.
- ▶ Providing technical assistance to States to ensure that legislation provides for effective remedies to protect ESCR, including by producing national mappings of existing domestic remedies and sharing of good comparative practices in judicial protection of ESCR.



By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to an increase in the number of strategic cases on economic, social and cultural rights brought before the courts in countries such as Mauritania, South Africa, Togo, Tunisia and Uganda.

Responsiveness of the international community [EA10]

Increased responsiveness of the international community in ensuring accountability for gross human rights violations

OHCHR intends to contribute to this change by:

- ▶ Strengthening cooperation with the International Criminal Court (ICC) on the basis of the UN-ICC Relationship Agreement approved by the General Assembly.
- ▶ Advocating for States to ratify the Rome Statute; supporting civil society efforts to promote ratification and providing technical advice on national implementing legislation.
- ▶ Advocating for enhanced accountability through the Security Council, in particular with regard to countries facing critical human rights situations.
- ▶ Advocating against the endorsement of amnesties for genocide, war crimes, crimes against humanity or gross human rights violations.
- ▶ Supporting the work of human rights mechanisms and bodies and international justice and accountability mechanisms, such as hybrid tribunals, international commissions of inquiry (ColIs) and fact-finding missions (FFMs).
- ▶ Identifying, documenting and sharing experiences on the roles and work, good practices and lessons learned of international ColIs and FFMs, in investigating violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.
- ▶ Supporting the review of individual communications, urgent appeals and allegation letters issued by special procedures, treaty bodies and the Human Rights Council.
- ▶ Advocating for the use by national and international accountability mechanisms of the information and analysis produced by OHCHR, human rights components of peace operations and political missions, international ColIs and FFMs, as well as special procedures.
- ▶ Providing policy advice and technical support to Member States and other stakeholders on the implementation of relevant recommendations from UN human rights mechanisms and on increasing awareness of and follow-up by Member States to the findings of UN accountability mechanisms.
- ▶ Identifying, documenting and exploring options to address protection gaps in corporate liability for gross human rights abuses.



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Press conference by Ben Emmerson (at table, right, and on screen), Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism and Christof Heyns (at table, left), UN Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions at UN Headquarters in New York.

Human rights mainstreaming within United Nations [EA11]

Enhanced coherence and effectiveness of the UN in supporting the rule of law and human rights-compliant counter-terrorism policies

OHCHR intends to contribute to this change by:

- ▶ Fostering the integration of human rights in the work of the Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group and the Global Focal Point for Police, Justice and Corrections, including in the terms of reference and recommendations of assessment missions and monitoring and evaluation frameworks.
 - ▶ Promoting the further integration of human rights by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) and its entities throughout their activities in support of the implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by Member States.
- ▶ As Chair of the CTITF Working Group on Protecting Human Rights while Countering Terrorism:
 - Implementing a global long-term project on training and capacity-building of law enforcement officials on human rights, the rule of law and the prevention of terrorism;
 - Developing practical reference tools to guide national action, provide checklists for national assessment processes and address capacity-building needs; and
 - Supporting efforts to make human rights the fundamental basis for effective, comprehensive national and regional counter-terrorism strategies.
 - ▶ Enhancing cooperation with UN entities working on counter-terrorism, such as the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, with a view to deepening their human rights engagement and promoting human rights policy coherence and compliance.
 - ▶ Promoting the role of the United Nations system in supporting effective and human rights-compliant criminal justice systems.
 - ▶ Promoting further efforts by the Security Council to ensure counter-terrorism measures comply with international human rights law, including through further reforms to the UN individual sanctions regime.
 - ▶ Supporting the exchange of best practices to promote and protect human rights and the rule of law while countering terrorism.