

Executive Direction and Management

The High Commissioner for Human Rights, as the principal advocate for human rights in the United Nations system, continued to be the voice for victims of human rights violations worldwide. His global advocacy for the promotion and protection of human rights for all included engaging in dialogue and fostering partnerships with Member States and other relevant stakeholders, such as civil society actors, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), other United Nations system entities and regional organizations. Through his country visits, participation in high-level meetings, briefings to the Human Rights Council (HRC) and the Security Council and his public outreach activities (speeches, statements, opinion articles and interviews), the High Commissioner brought attention to the most egregious human rights violations and warned of critical situations. Building on the expertise of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), both at headquarters and in the

field, the High Commissioner ensured that human rights were mainstreamed across the United Nations system. The High Commissioner's leadership role is reinforced by the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights and the New York-based Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights.

The Executive Direction and Management (EDM) provides support to the High Commissioner, the Deputy High Commissioner and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights in their endeavours. It is composed of the Executive Office, the New York Office (NYO), the Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Service (PPMES), the Programme Support and Management Services (PSMS), the External Outreach Service (which includes the Communications Section, the Donor and External Relations Section (DEXREL) and the Meetings, Documents and Publications Unit (MDPU)) and the Safety and Security Section.



The High Commissioner talks at the opening of the Human Rights Council's 29th regular session, June 2015.

Executive Office

Background

The Executive Office supports the daily work of the High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner in their leadership and management of the Office and all of their interactions with relevant stakeholders. The Executive Office ensures coordination between all parts of OHCHR regarding the preparation, quality and consistency control of the documents issued by the High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner. It also guarantees the timely processing of their reports and briefing materials and ensures that all documents follow established workflows and that other Sections, Branches and Divisions of OHCHR are properly consulted. The same applies to the correspondence and invitations of the High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner. Moreover, the Executive Office plays a coordination role within OHCHR vis-à-vis other UN departments, programmes and agencies, including in relation to the preparation of meetings and the elaboration of joint UN system responses, policies and other documents.

In 2015, the High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner undertook missions to Austria, Brazil, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Germany, Italy, Mexico, Republic of Korea, Sweden, Tunisia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America.

the High Commissioner's advocacy efforts with Member States, the UN system and other relevant stakeholders. In addition, in line with the recommendations and subsequent follow-up to the report of the former Secretary-General's Special Adviser on "a comprehensive strategy to eliminate future sexual exploitation and abuse in United Nations peacekeeping operations," the High Commissioner strongly advocated for accountability for sexual exploitation and abuse committed by international forces or UN peacekeeping forces. Special protocols for immediate reporting of such allegations were put in place.

During 2015, the High Commissioner participated in numerous panel debates and informal public discussions and delivered more than 90 formal speeches and briefings, both in person and via video recordings, including to the Security Council and the Human Rights Council. His statements included an address on preventing atrocities that was delivered at Washington's Holocaust Museum in May; a speech on the United Nations at 70 that was delivered at London's Guildhall in October; a speech on the migration crisis in Europe that was given at the Carnegie Council for Ethics in June; and the opening speech on the occasion of Sweden's Global Child Forum in November.

Results

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

The High Commissioner, supported by the Executive Office, received and responded to a steadily increasing number of requests from national, regional and international judicial institutions, including the International Criminal Court, to use OHCHR information in investigations and/or court proceedings. As a follow-up to the OHCHR Investigation Report on Sri Lanka and the recommendation to adopt legislation establishing an ad hoc hybrid special court, the Executive Office supported

Global Management Outputs

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

- The High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner continued to hold regular all-staff meetings to brief staff members and exchange views on organizational matters, internal policy issues and key human rights concerns. They also chaired the meetings of the internal Senior Management Team (SMT), the Policy Advisory Group (PAG) and the Programme and Budget Review Board (PBRB).
- During an all-staff meeting in March, the High Commissioner announced the launch of a Change Initiative to implement functional and organizational changes within the Office. One of the objectives of the Initiative is to decentralize some of the human rights expertise of OHCHR from its headquarters to the field in order to provide more targeted support to rights-holders and duty-bearers on the ground. Throughout the year, the Executive Office supported the High Commissioner, the Deputy

High Commissioner and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights in their advocacy efforts for the Initiative through briefings for Member States, staff members and other stakeholders. At the end of 2015, the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly did not approve the regional restructuring component of the Change Initiative and requested that the Secretary-General present a revised proposal to the General Assembly at its 71st session.

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

- ▶ The High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner continued to ensure the integration of a gender perspective in their work. In October, the High Commissioner adopted an “action plan to improve on key areas of OHCHR gender and organizational culture” which was circulated to all staff members. The High Commissioner also committed to be a “Geneva Gender Champion” and pledged that he would no longer take part in any panel that does not include female experts, that he would meet with at least one women’s rights organization during each of his country visits and that he will endeavour to improve gender parity in the Office.
- ▶ The Executive Office supported the High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner to ensure that general temporary assistance funds would be pooled to guarantee consistent maternity leave coverage and that gender equality and equal opportunities would be integrated in all regular recruitments to OHCHR.

Increased effectiveness in supporting human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- ▶ In all of their meetings with delegations, the High Commissioner and the Deputy raised the importance of engaging with the human rights mechanisms and following up on the implementation of their recommendations. They also underlined the need to cooperate with the mechanisms in order to achieve positive change on the ground. The Executive Office supported the High Commissioner’s dialogue with the human rights mechanisms on a regular basis.

Increased effectiveness in supporting field operations (GMO 5)

- ▶ The staff of the Executive Office assisted the High Commissioner and the Deputy in their support for the work of OHCHR field presences by preparing



The former Deputy High Commissioner, Flavia Pansieri, addresses the 28th session of the Human Rights Council, March 2015.

for their visits and through meetings and regular interactions with those working in the field.

- ▶ The Executive Office continued to provide advice to OHCHR field presences on a range of legal and policy questions, including on international humanitarian and criminal law. It also provided legal and policy inputs to and cleared reports from OHCHR field presences.

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

- ▶ Supported by the Executive Office, the High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner continued to interact with Member States and other stakeholders, including civil society actors, through bilateral and collective meetings and regular briefings. The Executive Office ensured that briefing materials were well prepared, timely and reflected appropriate inputs from across the Office.

The first UN meeting specifically dedicated to the human rights of intersex persons took place in Geneva, in September. Intersex persons are starting to gain greater visibility and international, regional and national human rights mechanisms are now beginning to promote and protect their rights to prevent the specific forms of violence to which they are often subjected. The meeting was opened by the High Commissioner and brought together experts from international and regional human rights mechanisms, intersex civil society organizations and experts to reflect on recent developments and challenges in the protection of the rights of intersex persons.

During his opening remarks, the High Commissioner admitted that when he started in his position a year ago, he knew little about intersex persons. “Too many people assume, without

really thinking about it, that everyone can be fitted into two distinct and mutually exclusive categories,” he said. “But in fact, human beings – like most living beings – are more diverse and complex than that. Our diversity – the differences between our experiences and perspectives, as well as the shapes of our bodies – is something that we should celebrate and protect, in all of its forms,” he added.

Kimberly Zieselman, Executive Director of Advocates for Informed Choice, didn’t find out the truth about being intersex until she was 41 years old. Throughout her life, Kimberly had a profound sense that something was different about her. “I felt free when I found out,” she said. She added that this meeting gave her an opportunity to share her experience with other intersex persons and with international and regional organizations and

that it was a historic moment for the intersex community. “Intersex has arrived, but the hard work lies ahead,” she said.

The High Commissioner noted there is progress being made in advancing the rights of intersex persons due to the tireless work of intersex organizations and human rights defenders. He added that there have been a number of recommendations urging Member States to take steps to address these violations and that in some States, recent court judgments have been handed down and new laws have been adopted to protect the rights of intersex persons.

He stressed, however, that more awareness needs to be raised to prevent violations. “We need to bridge the gap between legislation and the lived realities of intersex persons,” he stated.

New York Office

Background

OHCHR’s New York Office (NYO) is headed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and is composed of two sections. The first section is dedicated to geographic and thematic issues and the second section focuses on cross-cutting intergovernmental and public information and outreach functions. The Office’s principal objective is to integrate a human rights perspective into the discussions taking place and decisions being made at United Nations Headquarters, including by engaging with UN agencies and departments, Member States, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the media. In recent years, a concerted effort has been undertaken to increase OHCHR’s input into intergovernmental discussions in New York, including in the Security Council and in the General Assembly and its various committees. The NYO works closely with other UN departments and agencies to inform and assist in the development

of UN Secretariat and system-wide policies. It also provides direct support on human rights-related matters to the Secretary-General and his Office. The New York Office leads OHCHR’s global engagement on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity issues, including the coordination of the UN Free & Equal Campaign. The Office also leads OHCHR’s engagement with the peacebuilding architecture and co-leads on death penalty and counter-terrorism issues.

During the reporting period, OHCHR continued to consolidate its capacity to support peace missions under the Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division in New York, which resulted in a redefined division of labour between OHCHR’s Geographic Section and the Peace Missions Support Section in New York. This enabled the Office to provide strengthened coverage, increase its participation in geographic interdepartmental meetings and task forces and more effectively follow the country situations on the Security Council’s agenda. In addition, due to the increased implementation of the Secretary-General’s Human Rights Up Front (HRUF) Action Plan, the NYO

strengthened its engagement with UN system partners on country and regional situations in terms of prevention, early warning and crisis management. Activities included negotiations related to and participation in the deployment of multi-disciplinary light teams to support UN capacity on the ground.

In 2015, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights undertook missions to Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Kenya, Nigeria, Somalia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Ukraine. He also joined the Secretary-General's delegation to the African Union Summit, Belgium (to meet European Union institutions), Central Asia and Ireland.

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

OHCHR worked closely with the Group of Friends of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, which was led by Portugal and Uruguay, to organize a special event, in May, to celebrate the 2nd anniversary of the Optional Protocol's entry into force and to encourage its ratification by all countries that have not yet done so. The NYO also co-sponsored the organization of a panel discussion to mark the 25th anniversary of the International Convention for the Protection of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, in cooperation with the Permanent Missions of Argentina, El Salvador and Mexico. The event provided participants with an opportunity to address ways to increase ratifications of the Convention.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

As a result of several initiatives undertaken by OHCHR, Member States, civil society and the general public were made aware of UN standards and key concerns relating to the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons. These initiatives included: the presentation



The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, speaking during the launch of the book "Moving Away from the Death Penalty: Arguments, Trends and Perspectives" in New York, November 2015.

of a report by the High Commissioner to the Human Rights Council in June, which provided an update of developments in international law, an overview of current human rights violations, as well as positive developments in key areas; the issuing of the first inter-agency statement on ending violence and discrimination against LGBTI persons; the continuation of the UN Free & Equal campaign, which reached millions of people through the release of campaign videos highlighting the positive contributions made by LGBTI persons to their communities; and a high-level event on the linkages between the inclusion of LGBTI persons and progress made towards the achievement of global development goals.

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 New York maintained its leading role in the UN's advocacy campaign to support a global moratorium on the use of the death penalty. During 2015, the Office organized two regional seminars in Doha (Qatar) and Addis Ababa (Ethiopia) to reflect on the human rights dimensions of the application of the death penalty. In November, the Office organized an event to launch a new edition of the OHCHR publication, *Moving Away from the Death Penalty: Arguments, Trends and Perspectives*. The Secretary-General delivered opening remarks at the launch.

- *Enhanced coherence and effectiveness of the UN in supporting the rule of law and human rights-compliant counter-terrorism policies (EA 11)*

The UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force's Working Group on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights and the Rule of Law While Countering Terrorism, co-chaired by OHCHR, continued implementing its project on human rights training for law enforcement officials involved in counter-terrorism. These efforts included developing and finalizing five human rights training modules on the international legal and policy framework, special investigation techniques, detention and the use of force and interviewing techniques. Initial training courses were held in Iraq, Jordan, Nigeria and Tunisia.

The OHCHR Office in New York continued leading the UN's advocacy campaign in support of a global moratorium on the use of the death penalty. Since 2012, OHCHR has held a series of events on the human rights dimensions of the application of the death penalty, focusing on lessons learned from national experiences. During 2015, the Office organized two such events in Doha (Qatar) and Addis Ababa (Ethiopia). In November, the Office launched a new edition of the OHCHR publication, *Moving Away from the Death Penalty: Arguments, Trends and Perspectives*. In addition to being sold at the UN Bookshop, the book is being distributed to Permanent Missions, international and regional organizations, NGOs and law schools.

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)*

OHCHR continued its close engagement with intergovernmental and interdepartmental processes related to development, in particular the post-2015 agenda process leading to the Sustainable Development Goals and the Financing for Development Agenda leading to the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. OHCHR successfully mainstreamed human rights in the outcome documents of both events through various advocacy initiatives, including the organization of side events to raise the awareness of Member States and civil society organizations. In collaboration with UN Women, the NYO encouraged the inclusion of women's rights in

the Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality and women's empowerment. It was also closely involved in the process to develop the post-2015 indicators, including through participation in the inter-agency and expert group meetings.

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)*

As a result of OHCHR's support to the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict, established under Security Council resolution 1888, a human rights perspective was a core element of the support provided to justice processes at the national level, including in Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Guinea, Mali, Somalia and South Sudan. Through its support to the Team of Experts, OHCHR contributed to justice reform initiatives in the Central African Republic and the development of draft legislation on sexual violence in Somaliland.

- *Increased number and variety of stakeholders engaged in conflict prevention, peacebuilding and other violence reduction processes (EA 5)*

Through its participation in inter-agency task forces and ad-hoc inter-agency/interdepartmental meetings under the Human Rights Up Front Initiative, the New York Office ensured the integration of a human rights perspective in the consideration of countries in conflict or undergoing political transition and in the development of common messaging and system-wide strategies for engagement. This approach was applied with regard to Myanmar in the context of the November elections and Eritrea regarding follow-up on recommendations to ensure a firm response to human rights violations. The Office contributed to discussions and efforts that led to the deployment of a light team to Burkina Faso, in October, and was part of the light team deployed to Lesotho from November 2015 to January 2016.

- *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 country visits undertaken by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights provided the international community, including the Security Council, with important opportunities for advocacy. The visit to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, for example, resulted

in a first-hand assessment of the human rights situation and allowed for the formulation of recommendations that were addressed to the Government, the UN system and the international community. The mission to Ukraine was instrumental to highlighting human rights concerns, including the impact of the conflict on civilians, which resulted in recommendations for follow-up by the Government and UN partners. The NYO continued to lead on integrating human rights issues in the work of the Security Council by providing inputs to briefings by the High Commissioner and the Assistant Secretary-General at formal meetings and informal consultations, including on Burundi, Myanmar, Ukraine and Yemen. OHCHR regularly engaged with the Security Council on draft resolutions, particularly regarding mandate renewals to ensure the full integration of human rights, and on thematic issues, such as migration.

Global Management Outputs

Increased effectiveness in supporting human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- ▶ During the 70th session of the General Assembly, the NYO provided substantive and technical support to the Third Committee for its consideration of 72 reports on human rights-related issues, including 46 reports submitted by special procedures and/or treaty bodies. The Office also supported the participation of 42 special procedures mandate-holders, nine chairpersons of treaty bodies and the chair of the Commission of Inquiry on Eritrea in the work of the Third Committee.
- ▶ At its 70th session, the Third Committee adopted 60 resolutions, 48 of which were related to human rights issues. OHCHR worked with Member States to ensure the integration of human rights perspectives in the General Assembly. Specifically, the Office encouraged the adoption of strong human rights language in several resolutions, for example, on violence against women migrant workers, the elimination of discrimination against women, the improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas and gender-related killings.
- ▶ The New York Office supported meetings of the States Parties to the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. It also supported the Conference of States Parties of

the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which included the availability of documentation in an accessible format.

- ▶ The New York Office's Gender Adviser conducted preparations and accompanied the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and the Rapporteur on Women's Human Rights of the Inter-American Commission during a regional visit to the Caribbean (Barbados, Dominica, Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago) and contributed to the sharing of their recommendations with UN entities on the ground. The Gender Adviser undertook a training session in the Caribbean on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and reporting to human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ OHCHR supported UN human rights mechanisms to address violations faced by LGBTI persons through inputs to urgent appeals, allegation letters, general comments and concluding observations and by co-coordinating a joint statement on the rights of LGBTI children that was issued by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, six special procedures mandate-holders, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the Council of Europe and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children.

Increased effectiveness in supporting field operations (GMO 5)

- ▶ The New York Office assisted field presences to engage in UN Headquarters processes, discussions and coordination mechanisms, including as part of the HRUF Action Plan. This ensured the integration of a human rights perspective in the consideration of country situations and the development of strategic assessments, common and system-wide strategies and common messaging.
- ▶ Through its work at UN Headquarters, the New York Office contributed to the return of the OHCHR Office to Sana'a, Yemen, in November.
- ▶ The NYO advocated for the inclusion of human rights considerations in the possible establishment of a UN mission that would help support the implementation of a peace agreement that is expected to be signed by the Colombian Government and the FARC in 2016.
- ▶ Progress was made in supporting OHCHR field presences to address and respond to human rights challenges faced by LGBTI persons, including through the finalization of an electronic training module on the human rights of LGBTI persons. The training module will be uploaded into a UN Women's e-learning platform course in 2016. Support was also extended to field presences



Special event on “The Economic Cost of LGBT Exclusion” held in New York, December 2015.

in relation to monitoring and responding to violations of the human rights of LGBTI persons, including the Regional Offices for Southern Africa, West Africa, Central America, Central Asia and Europe and the Human Rights Advisers (HRAs) in Jamaica, Malawi and Zambia.

- ▶ The Office supported Member States in the drafting of the resolution to renew the mandate of the UN Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region by providing relevant information on activities undertaken by the Centre and discussing possible changes to reporting requirements.

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

- ▶ The New York Office developed and implemented an outreach strategy targeting the following key audiences: media correspondents, civil society actors, representatives of Member States and UN staff from New York-based departments and offices. The Office also maintained and updated its home page on the OHCHR website by posting news stories, statements and press releases issued by OHCHR senior officials and other public materials issued by the Office. Since August, a weekly online newsletter has been published and disseminated to over 700 subscribers.
- ▶ As part of its lobbying and outreach efforts on the issue of the death penalty, the NYO launched two

dedicated social media platforms which attracted nearly 500,000 views between September and December.

- ▶ In collaboration with UNITAR, the New York Office held three day-long briefing sessions for Member States on current human rights issues. This provided an opportunity for recently accredited diplomats to learn about the work of the Office, including in relation to intergovernmental bodies, such as the Security Council, the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council. The Office also organized three briefings with representatives of civil society organizations and hosted six background briefings for New York-based media correspondents on current human rights issues and OHCHR priorities. In addition, the Office arranged approximately 40 media interviews, primarily with the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, and responded to hundreds of inquiries from the media and the Office of the Spokesperson for the Secretary-General.
- ▶ In commemoration of Human Rights Day, the Office in New York organized two public events. The first event was a panel discussion on the HRUF Initiative at UN Headquarters and the second event was a flower-laying ceremony at the Four Freedoms Park on Roosevelt Island. Both events were well attended, including by senior UN staff members, officials representing the City of New York, diplomats, civil society organizations, media correspondents and students.

In October, the United Nations Office at Geneva celebrated the 70th anniversary of the creation of the United Nations, and its symbolism of hope for a fairer and more peaceful world, by opening its headquarters in Palais des Nations to over 19,000 people.

The day was a celebration filled with activities for the younger and older public. Guided tours of the Palais des Nations and its 46-acre Ariana Park were favoured by those who seldom have an opportunity to visit. At the park, a new monumental sculpture by Italian artist Michelangelo Pistoletto, entitled *Rebirth*, was unveiled.

OHCHR was present throughout the celebrations and set up a large stand displaying publications and promotional materials. The Office invited visitors to use a special human rights photo booth where visitors had their pictures taken with a choice of human rights messages in the background, including in relation to universal rights, freedoms and equality; freedom from torture; the right to education; and access to justice for all. The Office also hosted a puppet show on human rights for children.

During a lecture on 9 October at Guildhall in London, England, the High Commissioner recalled that after 70 years, the UN is universal in membership and that its agenda now focuses on much more than the prevention of war; it also seeks to eliminate disease, poverty, ignorance and inequality. The programmes and activities of the United Nations are interdependent and the core goal of human rights is connected to development and peace.

attention on critical human rights situations, advocate support for 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 outreach materials; interaction with the media; engagement with the public through social media; and the provision of communications support to OHCHR Divisions and field presences. The Section also coordinates with the United Nations Department of Public Information to mainstream human rights and strengthen coherence for increased visibility.

The Donor and External Relations Section has the primary responsibility for mobilizing adequate financial resources to enable OHCHR to implement its programme of work by building robust relationships with existing donors and exploring further funding opportunities with potential donors. In addition to mobilizing funds, negotiating and managing a large number of contribution agreements and organizing and servicing numerous meetings, briefings and consultations with donors, 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.

The Meetings, Documents and Publications Unit prepares the calendar of official OHCHR meetings, monitors the implementation of the Office's reporting obligations, prepares the documents forecast and channels all OHCHR documents for onward processing, including for editing. MDPU is also responsible for the OHCHR publications programme. It organizes the meetings of the Publications Committee, advises on publishing and design, processes manuscripts and distributes publications around the world.

External Outreach Service

Background

The External Outreach Service is composed of three sections, namely the Communications Section, the Donor and External Relations Section and the Meetings, Documents and Publications Unit.

The Communications Section develops and implements strategies for public information outreach to a broad constituency about the work of the United Nations human rights programme. Public information output from the Section assists the High Commissioner and the Office to focus

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 feature prominently in the communications output produced by OHCHR, including in press releases, feature stories and briefings. For instance, a special communications initiative was developed for the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence Campaign and a number of feature stories focused on women's rights, such as one drafted on contemporary forms of slavery.

- In addition to seeking funding in support of OHCHR's gender work, DEXREL aimed at mobilizing resources to support a number of projects that were specifically focused on gender issues. Funding was secured, for instance, from: Canada for a project on countering sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) in Iraq and Syria; Finland for the deployment of a regional gender adviser to East Africa; and the United Kingdom to support OHCHR's fieldwork on countering SGBV.

Increased effectiveness in supporting human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- In 2015, OHCHR issued approximately 900 media communications, including advisories and press releases relating to the work of the special procedures and the human rights treaty bodies. In particular, a media officer was added in October to cover the treaty bodies, which led to a significant increase in media coverage of their work.
- Through discussions and briefings with donors and Member States, DEXREL helped to secure additional funding for the human rights mechanisms. As a result, the contributions to the broad support provided by the Office to the human rights mechanisms and those earmarked to specific special procedures mandate-holders increased from US\$5.3 million in 2014 to US\$6 million in 2015.
- MDPU provided support to the Human Rights Council during its 28th, 29th and 30th sessions and engaged with submitting officers in an effort to move towards a target of 90 per cent for the timely submission of documents.
- Closer cooperation with the Editing Section of the United Nations Office at Geneva led to the implementation of a training session on editorial practices for OHCHR staff members supporting the treaty bodies.
- Templates of documents were developed and agreed upon for specific treaty body and HRC documentation.

Increased effectiveness in supporting field operations (GMO 5)

- The Communications Section supported OHCHR field presences in the production of public information materials and the organization of campaigns, such as Human Rights Day, and in their engagement with the media. The Section also engaged with field presences to better coordinate global social media efforts and social media platforms in languages other than English.
- DEXREL continued to support fieldwork by advocating for renewed and additional funding for activities being implemented in the field.

OHCHR field presences received advice on fundraising with donors in the field, including on the negotiation of specific funding arrangements. This contributed to an increase of 32 per cent in funds received for fieldwork. Specifically, US\$51.6 million was received in 2015 compared to US\$39 million in 2014. Out of this total amount, approximately US\$20.5 million was raised directly in the field, compared to US\$16.5 million in 2014 and US\$12 million in 2013.

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

- The Communications Section launched a year-long campaign to mark the 50th anniversary of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The campaign was launched on Human Rights Day with a photo exhibition and a performance by Hollywood actor, Daniel Brühl. It also includes a microsite with a quiz, the photo exhibition, several short films and various publications. Other campaigns were developed for the 50th anniversary of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence, the International Decade of People of African Descent,

892 communications issued to the media, including 203 relating to the High Commissioner and the work of the Office, and 689 press releases, media statements and advisories relating to the activities of the special procedures and the treaty bodies.

20,134 print and electronic articles relating to the High Commissioner or the Office were recorded by the FACTIVE search engine.

150 stories were published on the OHCHR home page on a wide range of human rights subjects.

79 videos were produced for news, features and video messages from the High Commissioner and other senior managers. OHCHR's YouTube channel now hosts **356** videos with a total of 6,280,000 views.

At least **4.25** million followers on all OHCHR social media accounts, including 1.7 million followers on Twitter, 1.4 million on Facebook and 1.2 million on Google Plus.

In July 2014, OHCHR launched a communication campaign to raise awareness among the general public about the human rights abuses that are perpetrated against persons with albinism on a daily basis. The campaign also aimed to support the advocacy work of OHCHR to achieve consensus on the importance of promoting and protecting the rights of persons with albinism and combating impunity for violent attacks against them.

In March 2015, in parallel to the 28th session of the Human Rights Council, OHCHR organized a photo exhibition at Palais des Nations based on an essay, entitled *Blanc ébène* (White Ebony) that was created by Congolese photographer,

Patricia Willocq. The exhibition showed persons of all ages with albinism, appearing to be fully integrated in their communities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, being protected and cared for by their loved ones and neighbours. The photos presented a positive image that is rarely associated with albinism in many parts of Africa.

A special website (<http://albinism.ohchr.org/>) was developed for the awareness campaign. The website showcases inspiring personal stories told by persons with albinism, the supporters who assist them medically and those who advocate for their human rights. The site also contains a wealth of resource materials on albinism and human



PEOPLE
WITH ALBINISM:
NOT GHOSTS
BUT HUMAN BEINGS

rights to inform visitors about the main issues affecting persons with albinism.

On the occasion of the first International Albinism Awareness Day, observed on 13 June, a feature documentary film, *In the Shadow of the Sun*, was screened at the Palais des Nations with the film's director, Harry Freeland, as a special guest. Filmed over six years, the film tells the story of two men with albinism as they attempt to follow their dreams in the face of prejudice and fear in Tanzania.

the 30th anniversary of the Indigenous Peoples Fund and the 70th anniversary of the United Nations, which included an Open Day event at the Palais des Nations in Geneva.

- ▶ OHCHR continued working on a campaign to raise awareness on albinism and launched a microsite, in May, in the lead-up to the first International Albinism Awareness Day on 13 June. By the end of June, the microsite, which includes personal stories and videos of 13 persons with albinism, had registered 30,000 page views from 9,600 visitors from 172 countries.
- ▶ The Communications Section coordinated briefings in Geneva on the work of OHCHR and human rights for nearly 80 groups and a total of more than 1,700 people. Most of the briefings were attended by university students, diplomats and civil society organizations.
- ▶ Since the introduction of a media strategy in 2008, the visibility of the Office in the media has more than quadrupled (from approximately 4,500 articles in 2007 to approximately 20,000 articles which reference the High Commissioner, his spokespeople and OHCHR senior staff). Furthermore, nearly 900 media communications were produced during the year, including 203 media products (i.e., press briefing notes, comments and news releases) for the High Commissioner, 440 for the special procedures and 230 for the treaty bodies. OHCHR's

speechwriter also produced 171 statements, including for the High Commissioner, the Deputy High Commissioner and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and contributed to speeches by the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General.

- ▶ The redesign of OHCHR's home page was concluded in 2015. The new home page features a more streamlined layout with greater accessibility for persons with disabilities, easier access to the website's key pages through a new navigation bar and a design that adapts to a user's devices (laptop, tablet or mobile device). A redesign of the interior pages is planned for 2016.
- ▶ In relation to its social media outfit, OHCHR has 1.7 million followers on Twitter, 1.4 million on Facebook, 1.2 million on Google Plus and a new presence on Instagram. Some of the hashtags created by the Office are widely followed. As an example, on Human Rights Day, the hashtag #HumanRightsDay was launched and was the number one global trending topic for most of the day. The Communications Section is optimizing the positioning of OHCHR on social media platforms by, for instance, developing a strong referral network of key influencers (human rights experts, celebrities, city municipal accounts) who share OHCHR's messages and bring its content to their followers.
- ▶ DEXREL continued its work to disseminate information and generate broad-based support

for OHCHR among Member States and the wider donor community. The Section worked to increase understanding of OHCHR's programme, objectives, priorities and implementation strategies as presented in the 2014-2017 OHCHR Management Plan (OMP). Under its leadership, and with an office-wide effort to reach out to donors, a total of US\$125.8 million was raised in extrabudgetary contributions in 2015, representing an increase of 1.7 per cent compared to the previous year (US\$123.7 million). While this can be considered a significant improvement in the current economic climate, it should be noted, however, that some of the contributions received during the year were earmarked for new and/or additional activities, such as the HRUF Action Plan, as well as new field presences in Burundi and Ukraine, rather than for the regular work identified in the 2015 Annual Appeal.

- ▶ OHCHR received more earmarked contributions in 2015 (US\$79.3 million compared to US\$65.1 million in 2014) due to ongoing efforts to attract more local funding for field activities and by tapping into non-traditional budget lines from which donors can only provide earmarked funds.
- ▶ Contributions from Member States represented 84.2 per cent of the income received by the Office in 2015 with 62 Member States making voluntary contributions in comparison to 65 in 2014 (and 70 in 2013). One Member State pledged funds for the first time, seven renewed their support after at least one inactive year and 11 others disappeared from the list of donors, despite the High Commissioner's repeated appeal to broaden the donor base. In total, 71 institutional donors were registered, compared to 74 in 2014 (78 in 2013). While almost all countries from the Western Group contributed in 2015 (a total of 24), only seven of the 33 States in the Latin American Group made a contribution. In the Asian and Eastern European groups, 19 of the 54 members and nine of the 23 members, respectively, pledged to the Office. In the African Group, only three of the 54 members contributed.
- ▶ In relation to digital fundraising, work continued in 2015 to develop a mobile app for outreach and fundraising purposes. The app, which will allow individuals to become familiar with OHCHR's work and make donations to the Office in a streamlined and user-friendly manner, is due to be released in 2016. In addition, two new Donate Now pages were created on the OHCHR website for specific fundraising campaigns (torture and women human rights defenders).
- ▶ New funding avenues continued to be explored with existing and potential donors. DEXREL was

successful in securing additional resources for the implementation of the HRUF Initiative, in particular for the deployment of light teams, by tapping into a previously unexplored budget line of the Government of the United Kingdom. Joint submissions with UN partners and participation in pooled funds, normally carried out through the UNDP-managed Multi-Partner Trust Funds (MPTFs), were used to access additional funding. Total funds received through MPTFs in 2015 amounted to US\$6.3 million (compared to US\$7.9 million in 2014 and US\$5.8 million in 2013).

- ▶ Supported by DEXREL, Senior Management and other OHCHR staff members briefed Member States on the Office's programmes, plans and achievements, as well as on funding requirements during 33 donor consultations and briefings of Member States, including at the launch of the 2014 Annual Report by the High Commissioner on 28 May and a technical briefing on the Annual Report on 13 July.
- ▶ OHCHR continued to produce high-quality publications in accordance with the UN's publications policy and internal quality standards. In 2015, OHCHR's Publications Committee held 10 meetings and considered 16 concept notes for new projects, 13 manuscripts and 16 peer reviews. Moreover, OHCHR produced six English titles and 21 publications in translation.
- ▶ In 2015, over 71,000 publications and other materials were distributed to a wide variety of audiences worldwide in all official UN languages. Of these, almost two thirds were publications, while the remaining third were public information/promotional materials and research reports. Web analytics revealed that over 116,370 online publications were downloaded. The Office also exhibited and disseminated its publications at a number of events and fora, including the United Nations Forum on Business and Human Rights, the annual Book Fair in Moscow, the Regional Conference on the International Decade for People of African Descent in Brazil, the NGO Forum and Book Fair in the Gambia, the eighth session of the Forum on Minority Issues and the 2015 UN Open Day in Geneva.
- ▶ Partnerships with IPU, ILO, UN Women and UNFPA enhanced the visibility of OHCHR publications and led to reduced production costs, increased language diversity, reinforced networks and a wider global reach. Moreover, OHCHR publications, which are for sale via UN Sales and Marketing, are now available through

print on demand, thereby reducing their carbon footprint.

The OHCHR website is a critical outreach and communication tool and more than 6 million visits have been made to the website since the start of 2014. Yet, the last time this critical resource was redesigned was in 2007.

While the entire site needs improvement, the home page was selected for renewal to give it a much needed “face lift,” and to undertake a complete structural overhaul to ensure that it is user-friendly, accessible, mobile-friendly and clearly communicates OHCHR’s mission and priorities.

The redesign was concluded in 2015 and the new home page was launched on 1 December. The new home page features a more balanced and streamlined layout, making it easier and more user-friendly. Other improvements include: greater accessibility for persons with disabilities; a responsive design that adapts to a user’s devices (laptop, tablet or mobile device); and easier access to the key pages of the website through a new navigation bar. A redesign of the interior pages is planned for 2016.

Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Service

Background

The Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Service works to support the development of a culture of results within OHCHR. It supports all parts of the Office, and particularly the senior leadership, 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 an effective feedback loop to incorporate lessons learned in future programme design and implementation. Through an ongoing analysis of OHCHR’s organizational environment, PPME helps to identify substantive or managerial gaps in OHCHR’s results-based programming and policies and proposes responsive actions.

Global Management Outputs

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

- ▶ With the support of PPME, a midyear review of the 2014-2017 OMP was undertaken and expected results and targets were revised to ensure that they remain relevant and realistic.
- ▶ As the Secretariat of OHCHR’s Programme and Budget Review Board, PPME revised its terms of reference to improve its functioning on the basis of experience and existing practices. The form that is used to submit requests to the PBRB was also modified to ensure that the Board is able to make informed decisions based on more detailed submissions.
- ▶ OHCHR’s Policy Advisory Group, a forum for senior managers to exchange views on policy-related matters, met on eight occasions since its establishment in April. As part of its support to the PAG, PPME drafted and proposed terms of reference and other materials to support its establishment.
- ▶ As a result of a capacity-building programme facilitated by PPME, programmatic proposals submitted for PBRB review showed increased implementation of results-based management (RBM) principles. The application of RBM principles in OHCHR monitoring has continuously progressed. The OHCHR Report of 2014 improved its results-based orientation by providing an indication of progress made towards the achievement of the thematic results and global management outputs. PPME continued to support the preparation of this and other OHCHR reports by providing feedback and guidance to colleagues related to the formulation of results.
- ▶ Data gathered through the Performance Monitoring System (PMS) is now being used to inform decision-making. PPME analyzed and presented data on the progress made towards the achievement of outputs and thematic expected accomplishments across the Office in 2014. This information has been essential to PBRB meetings, most notably during the midyear review in July. In addition, PPME prepared an analysis of cross-cutting topics (gender and migration) in OHCHR’s programme for senior management information.
- ▶ With the technical support of PPME, the PMS is being used by OHCHR staff members to view and query information and to prepare all programming documents. In 2015, efforts were dedicated to consolidating the system’s database and improving other features, such as the assignment to users of multiple roles and multiple offices. Furthermore, a number of screens and

modules were created or updated, including a module to facilitate the midterm review of the OMP and modules to prepare monthly reports and the midyear review.

- ▶ The results of the evaluation of the Regional Office for Central Asia were presented in January and a follow-up plan to their recommendations is being implemented. The final report of the evaluation of OHCHR's support to NHRIs was received in October and the evaluation team submitted the first draft report of the evaluation of HRAs in December. Other assessments are being conducted, such as the review of the Country Programmes in Mexico and Uganda, a study of the impact of technical assistance and capacity-building in the DRC and evaluations of technical cooperation projects in the Regional Office for Central Asia and in the Republic of Moldova.

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

- ▶ Following the endorsement by the SMT, a reviewed internal clearance process was developed and its implementation began in November. An electronic document management system is now being developed to support the process and PPMEs participated, throughout the year, in evaluating options for the system.
- ▶ PPMEs has had a leading role in coordinating the implementation of the High Commissioner's Change Initiative. This has included convening and coordinating the steering group and developing proposals to implement its decisions; drafting communication materials for internal and external audiences; briefing external interlocutors, such as Member States; and facilitating the implementation of steering group decisions, in particular the development of the initiative to establish regional hubs.

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

- ▶ PPMEs promoted the integration of a gender perspective in the Office's activities by: providing guidance on how to integrate a gender perspective in OHCHR's programming documents; integrating a gender marker in the PMS to allow for the identification of OHCHR activities where gender equality is the main focus; ensuring that sufficient time is provided for discussions on gender during any programmatic review in the PBRB; and revising the terms of reference for conducting evaluations in order to strengthen the integration of gender issues in the assessments undertaken in the Office.

Increased effectiveness in supporting human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- ▶ In the context of the High Commissioner's Change Initiative, PPMEs is supporting a working group to identify areas for increased collaboration and more efficient use of resources among the three OHCHR Branches that are supporting human rights mechanisms. This work is ongoing and several areas are being explored for increased efficiency.

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

- ▶ Following capacity-building sessions facilitated by PPMEs, a total of 130 staff members (71 from headquarters and 59 from the field) acquired RBM knowledge and increased their capacity to apply RBM principles to their programmes. More specifically, PPMEs conducted RBM trainings for the Regional Office for Central Asia, the UPR Branch, staff working with the Trust Funds administered by OHCHR, the External Outreach Service, the Treaty Body Capacity-Building Programme Team and staff of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan.
- ▶ The RBM online training was finalized and tested and feedback is being collected to determine how best to launch the tool as part of OHCHR's mandatory capacity-building tools.

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

- ▶ PPMEs contributed to the preparation of the Office's response to the Joint Inspection Unit's report on the management and administration of OHCHR by highlighting the Office's approach to RBM and the strength of its governance system. These inputs were featured in the Secretary-General's official response to the report.

Programme Support and Management Services

Background

Within OHCHR, administrative functions are provided by the Programme Support and Management Service. Staff members handle budget and financial management, recruitment and human resources management, procurement, asset management and general logistical support to field activities, information technology and staff

development and training. PSMS has an overall view of the resources of the Office and is consequently in charge of monitoring, coordinating and maximizing the use of those resources.

In 2015, the transition to Umoja has presented great challenges for PSMS, in particular in relation to finance, budget and human resources processes. Considerable effort was invested in providing PSMS staff members with training on how to use the new system and assisting OHCHR staff members in the processes under their individual responsibilities. A great deal of effort is being spent on resolving pending issues, creating workaround solutions and adapting to the new arrangements.

This year, support was provided to ensuring the successful opening of the OHCHR field-based structure to strengthen the monitoring and documentation of the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, located in Seoul. Assistance was also extended for the closing of offices in Ecuador, Kosovo⁸ and Togo.

Global Management Outputs

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

- ▶ PSMS has been directly affected by the introduction of Umoja as its implementation has meant an enormous investment of time in necessary training programmes and adapting to the comprehensive changes to the way the work is done. All of the processes that were previously handled through the IMIS system have been comprehensively re-structured in the Umoja system, which is not entirely adapted to the specific requirements of OHCHR. While the long-term expectation is that this will bring about greater efficiency, the immediate impact has proven to be the opposite. Ongoing efforts are required, therefore, to find solutions to the implementation issues as they arise.
- ▶ While the Special Procedures Branch has started using Unite Docs to manage its records and files, the plan to have the whole Office using the system by the end of 2015 suffered some delays due to the sheer volume of data to be migrated. PSMS continued providing trainings for the introduction of Unite Docs and supporting the migration process. It has also developed a quick troubleshooting guide and a user-friendly training page for Unite Docs.

⁸ Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

- ▶ A new OHCHR Digital Registry system was introduced to facilitate the work of the Registry Team which receives, registers and distributes thousands of pieces of incoming correspondence each year. In addition, PSMS provided support for the implementation of the OHCHR file plan to achieve a well-structured, organized and clean filing system for electronic records.

Increased effectiveness in supporting field operations (GMO 5)

- ▶ PSMS has continued to provide guidance and advice on all human resources, finance and general administrative issues concerning field operations. In particular, PSMS began working with OHCHR field offices to progressively integrate OHCHR field activities into the Umoja system.
- ▶ In 2015, PSMS staff members undertook several field missions to provide direct help and advice on the opening or closing of field presences, most notably the opening of the Seoul-based OHCHR field structure to document the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the closing of the presences in Ecuador, Kosovo⁹ and Togo.
- ▶ Progress has been achieved in creating a roster of qualified staff members to quickly respond to crisis situations, which has already been used for several commissions of inquiry.
- ▶ As in previous years, specific training sessions were organized for field staff. For instance, PSMS facilitated consultations on administrative matters, specifically on Umoja, by using webinar technology. The briefings are available as podcasts on the OHCHR Intranet site to ensure their accessibility to field colleagues.

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

- ▶ During the period under review, more than 1,000 staff members attended trainings organized by PSMS. Access to learning opportunities for field-based staff members was increased through the use of webinar technology on topics such as performance management and general administrative support. OHCHR staff members enhanced their knowledge through Coffee Briefings on current substantive human rights issues, which were made available to field-based staff through podcasts. Furthermore, 50 new staff members benefited from a two-day orientation programme on the mandate, strategy and functioning of the Office.

⁹ Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

Efficient management of human and financial resources (GMO 8)

- ▶ In anticipation of Umoja going live in Geneva, in November, PSMS resources were tied up in preparations, which included a huge number of trainings, monthly readiness meetings, status reports, data cleansing and the definition of processes. As a result, several PSMS staff members are now Umoja Local Process Experts and Umoja Trainers. Once the system becomes fully functional, Umoja should provide a much more efficient capacity to provide detailed financial reports and analysis to support senior management decision-making.
- ▶ The system for financial management in the field (MAYA system) has been enhanced and all field offices in Latin America are using it, except for the newly created Honduras Office. PSMS is currently investigating if the system can continue to be used in the long-term or if it will be replaced by Umoja as it becomes more operational in the field.
- ▶ PSMS has been heavily involved in providing input to and preparing for the new Mobility and Recruitment Policy of the UN Secretariat, which is due to begin in 2016. Human rights, as a function, will be part of the first phase of the new Recruitment Policy.

Safety and Security Section

Background

The Safety and Security Section coordinates the security of OHCHR's global operations, staff and assets in close cooperation with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security and in accordance with established UN Security Management System policies, guidelines and security risk management practices. At the operational level, the Section provides technical supervision and assistance

on policies, procedures and minimum operating security standards for all staff, field presences and activities. The Section is an integral part of the OHCHR support mechanism to the activities of the Human Rights Council, such as fact-finding missions and commissions of inquiry. To that end, it is responsible for coordinating UN security management system coverage for officials and experts, including representatives of the human rights treaty bodies, working groups, special rapporteurs and commissioners who are travelling on behalf of OHCHR. It further participates in system-wide policymaking fora on security to ensure that human rights are mainstreamed into staff security policies and procedures that are applicable to all UN agencies, funds and programmes.

Global Management Outputs

Increased effectiveness in supporting human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- ▶ During the year, the Section supported 16 field visits of the special procedures and 28 missions undertaken by members of commissions of inquiry, fact-finding or monitoring missions. Dedicated security support was provided based on detailed security concepts of operations and security risk assessments and was developed in accordance with the UN security management system policies. This security support has contributed to ensuring a safe working environment.

Increased effectiveness in supporting field operations (GMO 5)

- ▶ In 2015, the Section directly supported 50 elevated risk field missions by either involving or deploying security officers to provide substantial advice or conduct security assessment missions. The Section further handled 60 security incidents with direct implications to staff and processed 2,634 security clearance requests in order to ensure compliance with UN security policies and procedures.

Research and Right to Development Division

Research and Right to Development Division

Background

The Research and Right to Development Division (RRDD) conducts thematic research and contributes to policy development and 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 also leads efforts to advance 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, which is often undertaken by 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 of spearheading 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 also 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



A voter casts her ballot in Bangui during the Constitutional referendum, December 2015.

rights work, namely translating international human rights law and principles into practical methods, approaches, standards, procedures and tools for application in the 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 lessons-learned into guidance tools. The Human Rights Up Front (HRUF) Action Plan required considerable OHCHR participation.

- ▶ Integrating all human rights into the work related to development, peace and security, humanitarian affairs and economic and social affairs: One of RRDD's functions is to encourage the integration of human rights into 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, and through participation with inter-agency groups, during meetings and through 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.

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

In 2015, the dissemination of interactive world maps, which identify the ratification of international human rights instruments, substantially increased the visibility of key human rights commitments. This was demonstrated through additional media coverage (i.e., Facebook, New York Times webpages, statements issued by the High Commissioner and other human rights mechanisms) and more than 140,000 visits to concerned webpages.

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

Over 30 new treaty body members and special procedures experts were briefed on how to integrate a gender perspective in their work. This is key to ensuring that all human rights mechanisms pay specific attention to the realization of the rights of both women and men by identifying specific issues and needs. A checklist on gender integration in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) was prepared and disseminated among delegates.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

OHCHR successfully supported a number of Member States in elaborating and implementing their national action plans against racial discrimination, pursuant to the recommendations of the World Conference against Racism and the Durban Review Conference. At the request

of the Argentinean National Institute against Discrimination, the Office helped to assess the implementation of the previous plan and assisted with the elaboration of an updated action plan. Substantive and financial support was also provided to the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia for the development of an online form and the creation of an email address that was posted on the website of the Commission for Protection against Discrimination in order to enable victims and the general public to send emails regarding their concerns.

In the context of the International Decade for People of African Descent, the first regional meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean was held in Brazil, in December. In his role as the Coordinator of the International Decade, the High Commissioner attended the meeting and advocated for tangible actions for the benefit of Afro-descendants. The government delegates adopted a declaration that recalls the Decade's Programme of Activities and reaffirms their commitment to the full implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action at the national, regional and global levels.

- *National human rights institutions and civil society create and support participatory mechanisms to enhance equality and counter discrimination (EA 5)*

The 2015 annual fellowship for people of African descent took place from 5 March to 23 October and included the participation of 11 fellows from Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Germany, Ireland, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Moldova and the United States of America. It is expected that the insights gained by the fellows during the programme will enable them to contribute to national efforts for enhancing equality and countering discrimination.



Voters queuing to participate in the elections in Burkina Faso.

► *Increased integration of human rights in international and regional processes relevant to migration (EA 10)*

OHCHR has developed guidance materials on the protection of the human rights of migrants within mixed migration movements and has brought greater clarity to the situation of migrants in transit, including through the development of background documentation for the Global Forum on Migration and Development and a study requested by the Human Rights Council. The Office has widely disseminated OHCHR's Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders in both international and regional settings. The Guidelines have been broadly welcomed and applied by a wide range of stakeholders. OHCHR has further submitted an amicus brief to the European Court of Human Rights on the issue of collective expulsion and the right of access to an effective remedy.

OHCHR's advocacy efforts to include migrants in the new sustainable development agenda is reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which recognizes the need to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration with full respect for human rights and the humane treatment of migrants, regardless of their legal status.

During 2015, the Office remained an active member of the inter-agency Global Migration Group (GMG) and promoted and mainstreamed a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to migration within the United Nations system, including in its role as co-chair of the GMG Working Group on migration, human rights and gender.

► *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 contributed to the work of UN mechanisms dealing with minority issues and the capacity of the UN, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and other actors to advance minority rights at the country level. The Network contributed to the report of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues, *Comprehensive study of the human rights situation of Roma worldwide, with a particular focus on the phenomenon of anti-Gypsyism*, which was presented to the Human Rights Council in June. In November, the Network attended the 8th Session of the Forum on Minority Issues and submitted a paper entitled, *The challenges of criminal justice*

systems and practical measures in addressing the needs and demands of minorities. The theme of the session was *Minorities in the Criminal Justice System*. The Office also organized training courses for UNCTs, bearing in mind their work on anti-discrimination and their role in the protection of minorities at the country level. Workshops were organized for the UNCTs in Myanmar, the Philippines and the Pacific Islands (Fiji and Vanuatu) to discuss the rights of indigenous peoples and minorities and to strengthen the implementation of the Secretary-General's Guidance Notes and Guidelines on the issue.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

► *Increased compliance of national legislation, policies, programmes and institutions with international human rights norms and standards relating to torture and ill-treatment and to the deprivation of liberty (EA 1)*

OHCHR participated in the 4th Intergovernmental Expert Group Meeting on the revision of the Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners that took place in Cape Town, in March. At the meeting, OHCHR advocated for the inclusion of references in the revised Rules regarding the protection of the right to health of persons deprived of their liberty and their access to legal aid. OHCHR also provided guidance on human rights in relation to the investigation of deaths, disappearances or serious injury while in prison and the scope of the use of solitary confinement. The General Assembly adopted the Revised Standard Minimum Rules on 17 December.

► *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 continued to provide legal and policy advice on death penalty-related issues with regard to a number of States. Examples of progress in this area include: five States (Republic of the Congo, Fiji, Madagascar, Mongolia and Suriname) and the US State of Nebraska abolished the death penalty; China and Viet Nam reduced the number of crimes punishable by death; the Central African Republic adopted legislation establishing a special court for international crimes that excluded the death penalty as punishment; the governments of Burkina Faso, Comoros and South Korea submitted draft bills to their respective legislative bodies for the abolition of the death penalty; Bangladesh abolished the mandatory death penalty; India, Malawi and Zambia commuted the death penalty to a lesser punishment; and



The High Commissioner attended the first Regional Meeting for Latin America and the Caribbean organized under the Programme of Activities of the International Decade for People of African Descent, Brasília, December 2015.

the Togo Parliament adopted a bill approving the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights.

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

OHCHR developed position papers on accountability and transitional justice in the context of South Sudan and Syria and provided advice on Burundi, the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Libya, Mali, Nepal, Sri Lanka, the Sudan and Uganda.

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

OHCHR coordinated the preparation of the United Nations amicus brief in the *Prosecutor v. Germain Katanga* case that is currently before the International Criminal Court. On 14 May, the UN filed a Submission on Reparations¹ which outlined the relevant international norms and standards, as well as the jurisprudence and lessons learned regarding forms and modalities of the distribution of reparations.

In 2015, the provision of methodological guidance, advice, training or support to seven independent commissions of inquiry or fact-finding missions led to increased coherence in approaches and methodologies and a more thorough documentation of violations. This contributed to overall efforts to ensure accountability for human rights and international humanitarian law violations. Furthermore, OHCHR published the *Commissions of Inquiry*

and Fact-finding Missions on International Human Rights and Humanitarian Law: Guidance and Practice, which is available in English, French and Spanish.

- ▶ *Enhanced coherence and effectiveness of the UN approach to supporting the rule of law and human rights-compliant counter-terrorism policies (EA 11)*

OHCHR continued to co-chair the Working Group on the protection of human rights while countering terrorism. It is also in the process of implementing a long-term project on training and capacity-building for law enforcement officials on human rights, the rule of law and the prevention of terrorism. To date, trainings have been conducted in Iraq, Jordan and Tunisia.

In 2015, in the context of the COP21, the High Commissioner strongly advocated for the integration of human rights in the climate change response and negotiations. The first-time inclusion of human rights language in the preamble of the agreement represents an important step forward. In the run-up to the COP 21, OHCHR: organized a high-level panel at the Human Rights Council on human rights and climate change; co-organized with the Mary Robinson Foundation-Climate Justice a series of events leading to the establishment of the Geneva Pledge for Human Rights in Climate Action; and produced a number of advocacy materials. OHCHR also carried out advocacy as an observer in the negotiations; worked closely with civil society organizations and UN agencies to raise the profile of human rights during negotiations; participated in several side events; and provided support to several special procedures mandate-holders who were engaged on this issue.

¹ UN's Submission on Reparations Issues in the Case of The Prosecutor v. Germain Katanga, International Criminal Court, 12 May 2015 (<https://www.icc-cpi.int/iccdocs/doc/doc1977022.pdf>)

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)*

OHCHR promoted the implementation of the technical guidance on applying a HRBA to the issue of maternal morbidity and mortality. Specifically, support was extended to country-led processes to help identify the main barriers to the enjoyment of sexual and reproductive health and rights. In this regard, multi-stakeholder dialogues were convened in Malawi and Zambia and a future dialogue is foreseen for Tanzania. As a result of the dialogue, sexual and reproductive health rights are a key part of the National Human Rights Action Plan and of the joint workplan between the Malawi Human Rights Commission and the United Nations.

- *National mechanisms for the effective implementation of business and human rights standards with provisions established for remedies for human rights abuses (EA 3)*

Government officials in Malawi were trained on how to manage human rights risks related to business. Similarly, the National Human Rights Institution of Malawi was trained on how to respond to business-related human rights abuses and members of the business community were trained on how to implement the corporate responsibility to respect human rights in accordance with the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. As a result of these efforts, the Malawi National Action Plan on Human Rights incorporates business and human rights in accordance with the UN Guiding Principles.

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

In September, Member States adopted and launched the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development after three years of intergovernmental negotiations and one of the most consultative processes in the history of the UN. OHCHR provided active support and technical assistance to Member States during the intergovernmental negotiations and contributed extensive technical inputs to the work of the inter-agency UN System Task Team and Technical Support Team. The 2030 Agenda is strongly grounded in international human rights standards and reflects OHCHR's advocacy priorities that were articulated in the High Commissioner's

open letters to Member States in June 2013 and July 2015. OHCHR played an active role in the development of data and statistics for the 2030 Agenda to ensure that indicators and data sources help to measure freedom from fear and freedom from want. It also strongly advocated for expanding the disaggregation of data in line with the grounds of discrimination in order to enable the identification of progress made in combating inequalities and discrimination. While the final list of indicators is not yet available, it is expected that many of those recommended by OHCHR will be included in the measurement of the 2030 Agenda, including on Sustainable Development Goals 5 (gender equality), 10 (equality) and 16 (governance).

- *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)*

In 2015, OHCHR's engagement in the Secretary-General's Zero Hunger Challenge contributed to the adoption by the High-Level Task Force on Global Food and Nutrition Security of the policy entitled, *100 per cent access to adequate food all year round*. The policy, which reflects the normative content of the right to food, became a fundamental pillar of the Zero Hunger Challenge and includes important guidelines concerning programmes on inclusive food access. Additionally, OHCHR's inputs to the Global Strategy on Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health contributed to the reflection of important human rights considerations in the final strategy document, which recognizes a central role for human rights, including accountability, gender equality and non-discrimination in health settings. The Office also participated in a multi-stakeholder



Participants during a workshop on human rights and peacebuilding held in Mogadishu, Somalia, August 2015.

workshop in Addis Ababa where it presented a paper on a potential human rights impact assessment of the Continental Free Trade Area in Africa. This work, jointly undertaken with the Economic Commission for Africa, aims at providing human rights and right to development perspectives to support the intergovernmental negotiations for the establishment of a regional free trade agreement.

- ▶ *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)*

OHCHR led inter-agency efforts to mainstream human rights in the work of the UN development system under the undg. OHCHR chaired the undg Human Rights Working Group (undg-HRWG) and actively contributed to the work of other working groups and processes. OHCHR and UNDP co-led the development of a new Guidance Note on Human Rights for Resident Coordinators and UNCTs, which the undg adopted in June. The Office also helped to strengthen the leadership capacities of resident coordinators and UN leaders by delivering human rights leadership dialogues as part of the undg's *Leadership Seminars on Delivering Together in a Post-2015 World* that were facilitated in Geneva, Kuala Lumpur and New York.

OHCHR has been leading UN system-wide efforts to promote a deeper analysis of discrimination and inequalities in the development work of UNCTs in the field in order to advance the mainstreaming of human rights. As a result, in November, the United Nations System Chief Executive Board requested that OHCHR and UN Women lead a task force to develop a system-wide framework on tackling inequalities and discrimination to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Furthermore, under the auspices of the undg, OHCHR helped to develop policy guidance and technical tools to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. These tools include the Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) initiative and an interim reference guide for UNCTs on *Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. OHCHR also co-led an inter-agency task team to develop new guidance on the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and common country programming, which situated human rights at its core.

Following OHCHR's guidance, UN-Habitat released a programmatic note for UN-Habitat Staff on the integration of human rights in their work, including through training for all of its staff. In

addition, UN-Habitat projects are now screened for human rights compliance.

OHCHR also participated in the negotiations of the Paris Agreement on Climate Change and worked with other UN agencies to ensure that the right to development was included in the summit outcomes.

One of OHCHR's central priorities is to mainstream human rights across the UN system and to strengthen the capacity of all UN staff members, particularly at the country level, to support national efforts for the realization of human rights across the world. As part of this effort, OHCHR co-led the development of the 2015 undg Guidance Note on Human Rights for Resident Coordinators and UNCTs, which seeks to guide Resident Coordinators and UN leaders at the country level to fulfil their human rights responsibilities.

The Guidance Note raises awareness about the leadership role that Resident Coordinators and UNCT leaders have in supporting national efforts to realize human rights on the ground, including in the context of development and humanitarian action. It also emphasizes the UN's responsibilities to promote and protect human rights in all countries. The Guidance Note provides a practical "how to" guide for human rights advocacy, integrated analysis, early warning and prevention, supporting engagement with human rights mechanisms and implementing human rights on the ground. Finally, it includes additional guidance on specific human rights issues for Resident Coordinators and UNCTs.

The overriding purpose of the Guidance Note is to enable the UN system to better support Member States in strengthening the promotion and protection of people's human rights in all countries through the application of a coherent and coordinated approach and ensuring that UN staff members - in the field and in headquarters - are aware of and ready to proactively respond to human rights challenges in their countries and regions.

Widening the democratic space

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

Based on national reports submitted by States, OHCHR evaluated the implementation of the second phase (2010-2014) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education and presented its report to the Human Rights

Council. The evaluation reveals that States have undertaken an impressive amount of activities to implement and support human rights education in higher education and human rights training for civil servants, law enforcement officials and the military. It also indicates that human rights education tools and resources are becoming increasingly available and that there is increased attention being paid to the use of appropriate training methodologies that are both practical and relevant to the learners and their work context.

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

In July, OHCHR issued a study on good practices, experiences and challenges to the right to participate in public affairs. The report was launched during the September session of the Human Rights Council and contains a number of findings and recommendations aimed at increasing the participation of civil society, including women and marginalized groups.

Capacity-building activities were facilitated for key actors on sexual and reproductive health and rights and on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons in El Salvador, Panama, Senegal, and Uganda. As a result of these efforts, coalitions of defenders were established and their strategic engagement with human rights mechanisms was strengthened. Moreover, due to this engagement, the recommendations issued by the mechanisms better responded to concrete realities on the ground. The early engagement of the civil society organizations with the mechanisms in turn helped to ensure their subsequent support and advocacy for the implementation of the recommendations. Through OHCHR's Indigenous Fellowship Programme, which is offered in English, French, Spanish and Russian, 31 indigenous representatives, including 18 women, increased their capacity to effectively use the international human rights mechanisms to advocate for their rights. In addition, five fellows were given the opportunity to further their knowledge by contributing to OHCHR activities in Geneva and with OHCHR field presences in Cambodia, Colombia and Tanzania. The 2015 Minority Fellowship training programme helped to develop the capacity of 12 minority representatives, including seven women. Since returning home, many of the former fellows have organized training and capacity-building activities at the national level. For example, a former fellow from Iraq cooperated with OHCHR to organize a regional training on international minority rights standards.

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)*

OHCHR provided technical assistance for the development or revision of legislation on violence against women in several countries, including Barbados, Belarus, the Gambia, Liberia, Myanmar, Senegal, Somalia, Tunisia and Yemen. In addition, the OHCHR Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women, launched in 2014, has been progressively integrated into the policies and capacity-building efforts in the region. In 2015, the Attorney General's Offices in Argentina (La Pampa province), Costa Rica and Panama endorsed the Protocol. General Assembly resolution 70/176 of December 2015 recommended that States use the Protocol.

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

In the context of the Inter-Agency Review Group on the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy, OHCHR drafted, published and disseminated a Guidance Note on the Policy, provided clarifications and recommendations based on validated good practices and developed formats, templates, checklists and training modules. While some of these were stand-alone tools, others were integrated into materials and programmes for UN staff and mission leaders. This advocacy and technical work has resulted in increased consistency and coherence in the application of the Policy at headquarters and the country level.

As part of its advocacy for the integration of human rights in the Addis Ababa Action Agenda adopted in July, OHCHR: distributed key messages on Financing for Development (FFD) to States, international organizations, civil society organizations and other relevant stakeholders; organized a side event on integrating human rights in FFD; and participated in several other side events. The High Commissioner issued an open letter to all States and a statement was delivered on his behalf to the plenary session of the 3rd International Conference on FFD. As a result of this advocacy, the International Conference's outcome document includes numerous references to human rights and civil society and Member States are increasingly adopting a rights-based approach to FFD.

Global Management Outputs

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

- ▶ OHCHR's performance on gender integration is assessed through the UN system-wide gender mainstreaming accountability framework (UN-SWAP). The 2015 UN-SWAP report noted that OHCHR is meeting or exceeding the requirements for 87 per cent of the indicators, compared to an average of 51 per cent for the UN system as a whole. According to the report, OHCHR is highly likely to meet the 2017 deadline for full UN-SWAP compliance and may be among the first entities to do so. The Office led the way on several indicators related to financial tracking and organizational culture and provided guidance and technical support to other UN entities at the request of UN Women.
- ▶ As a result of an internal survey and workshop on unconscious bias and gender, the High Commissioner approved an action plan to foster more gender-sensitivity in the areas of leadership, hiring practices and informal culture within OHCHR's organizational culture.
- ▶ Efforts continued to strengthen the capacities of staff and human rights mechanisms to ensure the integration of a gender perspective, including in emergency responses and situations of conflict and crisis. Guidance was provided by RRDD to a number of accountability mechanisms, such as commissions of inquiry, fact-finding and monitoring missions. Support was also provided to ensure that reports by OHCHR field presences integrate a gender perspective and devote specific attention to human rights issues. The Ukraine Office, for instance, showed a strengthened capacity to integrate a gender analysis in its

reports, including disaggregated data on incidents and violations affecting both women and men.

- ▶ Capacity-building on gender issues was provided to eight OHCHR staff supporting treaty body reporting in regional offices and to 30 new staff during two introductory orientation sessions.
- ▶ Gender considerations have been reflected in OHCHR's advocacy positions, key messages and substantive technical inputs to all debates and processes on the post-2015 development agenda, including an advocacy position for a stand-alone gender goal and target in the post-2015 development framework. As a result, the final 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes Goal 5 on gender equality and gender integration as a cross-cutting feature for other goals and targets that seek to 'leave no one behind'.

Increased effectiveness in supporting human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- ▶ The Division provided substantive, secretariat and logistical support to a number of 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 on 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; the open-ended intergovernmental working group on a United Nations declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas; and the open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights.
- ▶ Of the 20 plenary panel discussions that took place during the 2015 sessions of the Human Rights Council, 17 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 various issues, including: the death penalty; child rights; climate change and human rights; a human rights-based approach to good governance in public service; women's rights and gender integration; rights of indigenous peoples; unilateral coercive measures and human rights; the effects of terrorism on the enjoyment by all persons of human rights and fundamental freedoms; and the impact of the world drug problem on the enjoyment of human rights. RRDD also prepared 45 reports to the Human Rights Council.



During a march to mark International Women's Day in New York, thousands of people rallied for gender equality, March 2015.



Panel Discussion on the Human Rights Up Front Initiative held in New York, December 2015.

- ▶ RRDD's support to the work of the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples helped to raise the profile of indigenous peoples' issues in meetings and discussions of the treaty bodies, the Human Rights Council and the UPR. Through the Fund, indigenous peoples were given the opportunity to engage more actively and raise their issues during sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. In 2015, the Voluntary Fund supported the participation of 99 indigenous representatives in these meetings and gave priority to indigenous women, youth and indigenous persons with disabilities. The Fund also allocated resources to build the capacity of the selected grantees to ensure their effective participation in the meetings.

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

- ▶ Staff skills in human rights monitoring and investigation were enhanced through nine courses

(one in Geneva and eight in field locations, seven of which were in Africa) that were attended by 178 staff members, 43 per cent of whom were women. For the first time, remote training on human rights monitoring was tested for OHCHR staff members based in Burundi as the security situation did not allow for onsite training.

- ▶ The ability of staff members to use the Human Rights Case Database improved through 46 remote briefings (held in English, French and Spanish) that were attended by 210 participants (42 per cent of whom were women).
- ▶ The new Integrated Library System was successfully implemented and 26 new translations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights were added to the system. In 2015, a total of 408,771 visits were registered on the library's online catalogue.
- ▶ The OHCHR Human Rights Education and Training Database contains information on 1,207 institutions and 322 active human rights training programmes.

Human Rights Treaties Division

Background

The human rights treaty bodies are independent committees that were established under the international human rights treaties. The treaty bodies are composed of experts, serving in their personal capacity, who are elected by States Parties. They monitor the implementation of human rights treaties through a reporting process that requires the periodic review of reports that are 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 and publish general comments/general recommendations and statements 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 are:

- ▶ 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)

In 2015, the number of treaty body experts totalled 172 (versus 125 in 2010 and 97 in 2000). In addition, the allocated meeting time of the treaty bodies was increased to 99 weeks (versus 72 weeks in 2010 and 56 weeks in 2000).

The recommendations issued by the treaty bodies are used in a wide variety of contexts in the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), including as background documentation for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), as reference material for thematic research undertaken by OHCHR and to support the work of the special procedures and the activities of OHCHR field presences.

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

- ▶ 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 CAT.



Training activities organized by OHCHR in Samoa (October), Nauru (September) and Barbados (December) as part of the Treaty Body Capacity-Building Programme.

- ▶ 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.
- ▶ Managing the Treaty Body Capacity-Building Programme that was established by General Assembly resolution 68/268 of 9 April 2014.

In recent years, the size of the human rights treaty body system significantly expanded with the creation of four new treaty bodies (CMW, CRPD, SPT and CED) and three new procedures for individual complaints 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).

All of the monitoring bodies of the core human rights treaties 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 entered into force. In 2015, CESCR adopted its first “views” on an individual communication since its Optional Protocol entered into force in May 2013. The CRC is now receiving its first complaints under the third Optional Protocol on a Communications Procedure (OP-CRC-IC), which entered into force in April 2014. The urgent action procedure under the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED), which has been in force since December 2010, has faced a substantial increase in registered requests for urgent actions; from 50 in 2014 to over 200 in 2015. The number of registered individual communications to the treaty bodies has increased from 170 in 2013 to 250 in 2015.

As one of the outcomes of the treaty body strengthening process, the General Assembly adopted resolution 68/268 which granted 20 weeks of additional meeting time to the treaty bodies to enable them to review more State Party reports and individual petitions. Recognizing that many States Parties find it challenging to fulfil their multiple reporting obligations, the resolution also established a comprehensive capacity-building programme, led by HRTD, to promote the ratification of the human rights treaties and support States Parties in their timely reporting.

9 core international human rights treaties

10 treaty bodies

51 new ratifications and accessions in 2015

173 State Party reports considered in 2015

147 reports received during the year and **251** reports pending consideration

Approximately **7,800** recommendations adopted annually

99 weeks in session in 2015

307 individual communications received in 2015, final decisions adopted on **183** communications and **787** communications pending consideration

8 country visits by the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture.

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

In 2015, there was a total of 51 new ratifications of or accessions to the human rights treaties. OHCHR worked to promote ratification and the withdrawal of reservations through various means, including by: celebrating special anniversaries, such as the 50th anniversaries of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) and ICESCR; participating in the annual treaties event in September in New York; taking part in the Steering Committee of the Global Campaign for Ratification of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; and regularly releasing updated information on the status of ratification of treaties and their optional protocols and of reservations to the treaties.

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



The Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families meets to mark the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families, September 2015.

As a result of technical assistance provided by OHCHR, Lesotho, Mauritius and Seychelles responded to the lists of issues prepared by CMW and the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Angola provided input to CESCR. In addition, State officials from a number of countries increased their knowledge of the human rights treaties through OHCHR training and other capacity-building activities that were conducted at the field level in Belgium, Chile, El Salvador, Gabon, the Gambia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Lao PDR, Liberia, Mauritania, Mauritius, Nauru, Rwanda, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tonga and Vanuatu. Moreover, following two OHCHR training-of-trainers events in Samoa for the Pacific region and in Barbados for English-speaking Caribbean countries, State officials became trained trainers on treaty body reporting and undertook commitments to conduct their own trainings at the national and subregional levels in order to stimulate peer-to-peer learning and the exchange of good practices.

- ▶ *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)*

The CESCR adopted its first “views” on an individual communication and the CRC received its first complaints under its communications

procedure. The number of registered individual communications increased from 170 in 2013 to 307 in 2015 while the number of registered requests under CED’s urgent action procedure quadrupled from 50 in 2014 to 211 in 2015.

At their annual meeting in Costa Rica, the Chairpersons of the 10 treaty bodies endorsed guidelines on preventing reprisals and enhancing protection for the individuals and groups who engage and cooperate with the treaty bodies. OHCHR encouraged the adoption of these guidelines which have been implemented by CAT, CED, CERD, CRPD and SPT. Both CAT and SPT established working groups on reprisals, CED appointed a rapporteur on reprisals and CEDAW is undertaking a study on how it will respond to the issue.

- ▶ *Advances in the progressive development of international and regional human rights law in areas relevant to the treaty bodies (EA 8)*

With the support of OHCHR, work proceeded on various general comments/general recommendations, including women’s access to justice (CEDAW); the right to life (Human Rights Committee); sexual and reproductive health and rights, just and favourable conditions of work and business in human rights (CESCR); children, media and social networking, parental responsibilities, children in street situations and the rights of adolescents (CRC). Additionally, OHCHR continued to analyze and reply to all

individual communications submitted under the different treaties (approximately 9,500 per year). It also ensured the adoption of final decisions in 183 cases, compared to 139 final decisions adopted in 2014.

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

During the 27th annual Meeting of Chairpersons of the Human Rights Treaty Bodies, that was held in Costa Rica, in June, treaty body experts met with representatives of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Commissioners and Secretariat of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights. The meeting was organized to explore further means of strengthening the cooperation between international and regional human rights mechanisms. One of the key outcomes was the formulation of a set of proposals for strengthened cooperation of the treaty bodies with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

A number of activities took place to celebrate the 25th anniversary of the adoption of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. During the Committee's 23rd session, a half-day event was organized to mark the anniversary and discuss current challenges in protecting the human rights of migrant workers, including the irregular migration flows in the Mediterranean, migrant workers in the Gulf and undocumented children in the Americas. Another anniversary event took place in New York, on 30 September, at the Church Center. The event featured speakers, including OHCHR, who focused on the rights of migrant children and families in the context of international migration, in particular with respect to detention. Furthermore, ILO and OHCHR, along with other partners, organized a global competition, entitled Reporting Fairly on Labour Migration, to recognize exemplary media coverage in accurate reporting of labour migration issues. OHCHR also organized a social media campaign from 10 to 18 December which focused on key human rights issues affecting migrants in transit, at borders and upon arrival in conjunction with the International Detention Coalition. The campaign provided a platform for migrants, migrants' rights advocates, human rights experts and practitioners from around the world to share their support for migrants' rights.

Global Management Outputs

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

- The HRTD gender focal point assisted staff members from the Division to integrate gender issues in their performance appraisal documents. As a result, the performance appraisal documents of all HRTD staff members now include the goals of ensuring the equal representation of women and men in all capacity-building activities and integrating a gender perspective in draft lists of issues, concluding observations, statements, briefing notes and talking points.
- Equal representation of women and men was ensured in most capacity-building activities undertaken by HRTD. For instance, at the training-of-trainers events for English-speaking Caribbean countries that took place in Barbados, there were four female trainers and one male trainer and 26 female and 12 male participants.

Increased effectiveness in supporting human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- In 2015, HRTD provided secretariat, logistical and substantive support to the 10 treaty bodies for the organization of 99 weeks of meetings, the consideration of 173 State Party reports, the drafting and adoption of approximately 7,800 recommendations and the adoption of final decisions on 183 communications.
- In line with General Assembly resolution 68/268 on treaty body strengthening, HRTD continued to provide live webcasts of treaty body meetings. The necessary equipment was procured at the end of the year and it will be installed in OHCHR's conference rooms in Geneva in 2016.
- In 2015, OHCHR supported the Special Fund of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture, which provided financial assistance to seven projects. The funding is being used to contribute to a variety of initiatives, including the establishment and operationalization of National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) and the development of training and educational programmes on the monitoring of torture and investigation techniques. The Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture awarded grants of US\$6.5 million to support the redress and rehabilitation of over 47,000 victims in more than 80 countries. It also extended immediate support through emergency grants for projects providing assistance in Burundi, Iraq, Jordan and Ukraine and to refugees in Hungary and Serbia. With the support of OHCHR, the Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery awarded grants



The Chair of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (centre) greets the representative of the Government of the Cook Islands at the occasion of the review of the country's initial report by the Committee.

to 44 projects in 35 countries, which helped approximately 10,000 victims to receive redress and access rehabilitation services after being freed from slavery.

Increased effectiveness in supporting field operations (GMO 5)

- ▶ HRTD established the Treaty Body Capacity-Building Programme and 12 out of the 16 advertised positions were filled in 2015, including 10 which are based in OHCHR's regional presences. The main objective of the programme is to build the capacity of States Parties to implement their treaty obligations.

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

- ▶ Staff members integrating the Treaty Body Capacity-Building Programme increased their knowledge and skills on the work of the treaty bodies, became trained trainers and applied their newly acquired training and knowledge management techniques in approximately 40 activities carried out in 2015. Based on the early success of the programme, a concept note regarding a training tools package was approved. This will guide the development of a general manual on treaty body reporting, specific manuals on training and guidelines for trainers.

On 26 November, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination held a day of celebration at Palais des Nations in Geneva to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the oldest international human rights treaty, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination. The event enabled the Committee to substantively engage with States Parties and other stakeholders and take stock of the Convention's achievements, while also identifying current challenges that need to be addressed. It also stimulated thinking on how contemporary issues can be tackled, including those related to racism and xenophobia against migrants and asylum-seekers, the impact of populist politics and media and integrating the Sustainable Development Goals into the Committee's work.

A communications campaign was developed to mark the anniversary, which included the use of social media, the development of a short film on 50 years of fighting racism, the preparation of web stories, information graphics, postcards and a dedicated webpage.

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	164	10	5 years	Articles 16-17 Number of reports examined in 2015: 17 Number of reports pending examination: 21	Optional Protocol Number of registered communications pending examination: 11	Article 11 Optional Protocol Confidential inquiries on systematic violations	No
HR Committee	168	14.7	3, 4 or 5 years as per the Committee's decision	Article 40 Number of reports examined in 2015: 20 Number of reports pending examination: 26	Optional Protocol Number of registered communications pending examination: 545	No	No
CERD	177	10	2 years Allows merging two reports into one De facto periodicity of 4 years	Article 9 Number of reports examined in 2015: 20 Number of reports pending examination: 18	Article 14 Number of registered communications pending examination: 4	No	No
CEDAW	189	15.3	4 years	Article 18 Number of reports examined in 2015: 27 Number of reports pending examination: 44	Optional Protocol Number of registered communications pending examination: 43	Articles 8-10 Optional Protocol Confidential inquiries on systematic violations	No
CRC	196 OP-CRC-AC: 162 OP-CRC-SC: 171	15	5 years	Article 44 Number of reports examined in 2015: 44 (including OP-CRC-AC and OP-CRC-SC reports) Number of reports pending examination: 56 (including OP-CRC-AC and OP-CRC-SC reports)	Optional Protocol Number of registered communications pending examination: 1	Articles 13-14 Optional Protocol Confidential inquiries on systematic violations (entered into force on 14 April 2014)	No
CAT	158	12	4 years	Article 19 Number of reports examined in 2015: 17 Number of reports pending examination: 19	Article 22 Number of registered communications pending examination: 156	Article 20 Confidential inquiries on systematic violations	No
SPT	80	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	48	3.6	5 years	Articles 73-74 Number of reports examined in 2015: 7 (including non-reporting State Parties) Number of reports pending examination: 2	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	161	8.5	4 years	Articles 35-36 Number of reports examined in 2015: 14 Number of reports pending examination: 52	Optional Protocol Number of registered communications pending examination: 26	Article 6 Optional Protocol Confidential inquiries on systematic violations	No
CED	51	4	As per Committee's decision	Article 29 Number of reports examined in 2015: 5 Number of reports pending examination: 13	Article 31 Number of registered communications pending examination: 1	Article 33 Visit on serious violations	Article 30 Urgent Actions being considered: 243

Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division

Background

The Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division (FOTCD) is composed of three geographic branches and three specialized sections (the National Institutions, Regional Mechanisms and Civil Society Section (NIRMCSS), the Peace Missions Support Section (PMSS) and the Emergency Response Section (ERS)). The Division leads the activities of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) at the national, regional and subregional level and supports the work of human rights field presences as they address human rights challenges and seize opportunities to encourage positive change. This work is carried out in close cooperation with national, regional and international partners, including UN partners, government actors, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and civil society organizations. The Division also aims to strengthen national human rights protection systems, promote 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 treaty bodies, special procedures and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). FOTCD, in cooperation with other parts of the Office, seeks to ensure that national authorities and civil society actors are aware of international human rights standards, know how to translate these standards into laws, regulations and policies at the national level and have the capacity to address human rights concerns. The ultimate objective of this work is to ensure that rights-holders are better protected and empowered.

The ERS plans and supports rapid and effective responses to ongoing, emerging or potential crisis situations, including through the deployment of human rights officers from a roster it maintains. This may be in the context of mandated activities, such as commissions of inquiry or fact-finding missions, due to complex emergencies or natural disasters, or through undertaking preventive action. ERS leads OHCHR's engagement in the UN Operations and Crisis Centre and contributes to the follow-up to the implementation of the Secretary-General's Human Rights Up Front (HRUF) Action Plan. The ERS leads in the development



Female Police Advisers from UNAMID interact with a Darfuri women's group at the Abu Shouk camp for internally displaced persons, May 2015.



The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia meets with prisoners in Koh Kong province, September 2015.

of new initiatives under the Action Plan, such as the Common UN Information Management System and, in partnership with the Department of Political Affairs (DPA), in the conceptualization and deployment to the field of multidisciplinary “light teams.” The PMSS, now located in OHCHR’s New York Office (NYO), ensures that the UN peace and security agenda integrates human rights at the political, strategic and operational levels. It also provides strategic advice on human rights in peace operations to OHCHR leadership. The PMSS facilitates the gathering of good practices and the sharing of information among human rights components, including through the maintenance of a resource centre on the integration of human rights in peace missions. The Office’s capacities to support NHRIs, regional mechanisms and civil society around the world have been consolidated into the NIRMCCSS. This enables the Office to provide coordinated and strategic policy guidance and advice with regard to these areas. Throughout the year, NIRMCCSS 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 (HRAs), including through legal advice and capacity-building activities.

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

OHCHR provided technical assistance, advice and capacity-building to governments, NHRIs, civil society and United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) in order to support their implementation of and follow-up to recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. For instance, the Office facilitated the organization of a human rights orientation programme for 14 participants from various ministries and courts

from the Russian Federation. The programme took place in Geneva, from 9 to 13 November, and increased the awareness of participants about the functioning of the UN human rights mechanisms and strengthened their ability to more effectively follow-up on their recommendations.

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

From 2 to 7 November, in the Gambia, OHCHR participated in a dialogue between representatives of the African, Inter-American and UN human rights systems on sexual orientation and gender identity. The dialogue was held in parallel to the 57th ordinary session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights and provided a forum for a candid exchange on sensitive issues as well as the sharing of experiences and good practices on advancing protection of the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons. African Commissioners noted that the strategies and approaches used by the UN and Inter-American mechanisms would be very helpful in their work on LGBTI rights.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

Significant advocacy was undertaken by OHCHR on human rights situations related to discrimination, including on cases concerning caste, gender equality and religious identity. As an example, OHCHR supported the UNCT in Nepal to better integrate the human rights issues of Dalits, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples in their work, including through a technical workshop and round table discussion during which the Secretary-General’s Guidance Note on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities was shared and discussed. As a result, there has been an improvement in the extent to which policies and practices in Nepal address discrimination. Additionally, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 28/6 on 26 March to establish the mandate of the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights of persons with albinism. In accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 26/10, OHCHR prepared a background paper on the initiatives that have been taken to raise awareness and promote the protection of the rights of persons with albinism. It also launched an information campaign to raise awareness about the issue and spearheaded the organization of a number of events to mark the celebration of the first International Albinism Day on 13 June.

- *National human rights institutions and civil society create and support participatory mechanisms to enhance equality and counter discrimination (EA 5)*

In the context of the deployment of a light team to Burkina Faso under the HRUF Action Plan, the Office promoted the increased participation of women in decision-making processes by partnering with a coalition of women's organizations to monitor gender-related issues and women's participation in political life and elections.

- *Increased integration of human rights in international and regional processes relevant to migration (EA 10)*

OHCHR has been closely following developments in the context of the migration crisis in Europe. On several occasions, the High Commissioner has publicly voiced concerns about the human rights of migrants and refugees. The Office has engaged with Member States and other stakeholders, both from Geneva and its field presences across the region, to address migration concerns. In November, OHCHR proposed to deploy a mission to conduct human rights monitoring, protection, needs assessment and reporting activities, in partnership with all relevant UN system partners and other actors. Following these discussions, advance missions were dispatched to Greece from 8 to 11 November and Bulgaria from 29 November to 2 December.

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)*

The High Commissioner addressed the issue of the death penalty on several occasions and in various fora. In the United States of America, there has been a steady decline in the number of executions over the past six years; from 52 executions in 2009 to 28 in 2015. In May, the Congress of Nebraska decided to abolish the death penalty and, in a decision adopted in August, the Connecticut Supreme Court ruled that the death penalty violates the state Constitution. OHCHR also engaged with the Mongolian Government on the abolition of the death penalty. On 3 December, the Parliament of Mongolia voted to adopt a new Criminal Code that abolishes the death penalty for all crimes, in accordance with the Government's commitments undertaken during its second UPR cycle in 2015. Furthermore, in Bangladesh, the Supreme Court declared the mandatory imposition of the death penalty under section 6 (2) of the Women and Children Repression Prevention Act 1995 to be unconstitutional.

During 2014 and 2015, OHCHR assisted Panama's Electoral Tribunal to promote the registration of births in the indigenous Ngäbe-Bugle communities of the Mama Tata religion in Panama. Through a project that was funded by the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review to support the implementation of recommendations issued by human rights mechanisms to Panama, the Office and the Electoral Tribunal conducted an investigation to understand why many Mama Tata followers are reluctant to register births in their communities. Some of the reasons given included erroneous beliefs about the potentially negative consequences of registration and a deep-seated distrust of the State based on the long-standing situation of abandonment felt by the indigenous population. In the context of the project, trust-building activities were undertaken between the Electoral Tribunal and the Mama Tata religious leaders which led to a series of registration missions to the communities. Eight communities in the Chiriqui and Bocas del Toro areas have now been reached by members of the Electoral Tribunal.

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

In Nepal, OHCHR's technical analysis of the legislation establishing the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Commission on the Investigation of Disappeared Persons was taken into consideration and referenced in the decision of the Supreme Court to strike down



The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights meets with representatives of civil society during a visit to Baidoa, Somalia, November 2015.

At the end of 2015, the Guatemalan authorities entered the final phase of developing a protocol for the exercise of the right to food, which provides for an administrative complaint procedure and an inter-institutional process when the right to food is violated. Both the complaint procedure and the reparation measures will be coordinated at the local level, ensuring that the mechanism is available to everyone. This is the result of a struggle initiated in 2011 when four indigenous Maya Ch'orti' families, whose children were suffering from acute and chronic malnutrition, submitted a judicial complaint arguing that this constituted a human rights violation.

In 2011, civil society organizations working on the "Guatemala without Hunger" campaign assisted the four indigenous families to submit the complaint on the grounds that a number of their children's human rights had been violated. OHCHR provided technical assistance to the judiciary on international human rights standards related to the right to food.

In an unprecedented decision that was handed down in 2013, a court held that the State of Guatemala was responsible by omission for the violation of the children's rights to food, life, health, education, adequate housing and work. The court ordered 13 State institutions to

comply with 20 measures in order to prevent further violations of the rights of the child. The Secretariat of Food and Nutritional Security, for example, was tasked with elaborating and implementing the abovementioned protocol for the exercise of the human right to food.

OHCHR collaborated with the Secretariat to support the elaboration of the protocol and ensure that human rights standards were duly integrated. On 9 November, OHCHR and the Secretariat to the Vice-Presidential Cabinet on Food and Nutritional Security presented the final version of the protocol. It is expected that it will be approved and implemented in 2016.

the amnesty clauses in these laws. Subsequently, OHCHR closely collaborated with the UN and civil society in Nepal to provide guidance on their engagement with the transitional justice process, thereby ensuring clarity on international norms and standards and the adoption and application of a coherent approach. The report of the OHCHR Investigation on Sri Lanka, mandated by the Human Rights Council, led to a resolution that was adopted by consensus on accountability for the human rights violations that were allegedly committed during the Sri Lankan civil war. OHCHR worked closely with the Government,

civil society and the UNCT to develop and implement a credible transitional justice process.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- *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)*

As a result of the support provided by OHCHR from headquarters and its field presences in Asia, the capacity of UNCTs to apply a human rights-based approach (HRBA) was enhanced in countries that began the roll-out of their United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) in 2015, including Bangladesh, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Iran, Lao PDR, Mongolia, Thailand and Viet Nam. In Europe and Central Asia, OHCHR provided inputs for the finalization of UNDAF documents in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo¹¹, Tajikistan, Turkey and Uzbekistan. It also helped prepare road maps for the new UNDAF roll-outs in Albania and Montenegro, including through the provision of advice on a HRBA and inputs to country analyses and other documents.



Participants of a workshop on the promotion and protection of human rights for journalists and human rights defenders in South Sudan, April 2015.

¹¹ Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

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 and/or strengthening of 71 NHRIs by working with relevant stakeholders to emphasize the added value of having a NHRI that is compliant with the Paris Principles and outline the roles and responsibilities of an NHRI in promoting and protecting human rights. As the Secretariat of the International Coordinating Committee, FOTCD provided substantial support to the review of 24 NHRIs by the Sub-Committee on Accreditation. It also provided expert advice to support NHRIs in their interaction with the human rights mechanisms. As a result, 49 written statements and 50 oral statements were delivered by NHRIs at sessions of the Human Rights Council. A total of 19 of these statements were video statements. Moreover, 55 alternative reports were submitted by NHRIs to various treaty bodies. In addition, FOTCD continued to offer a fellowship programme for staff of NHRIs. During 2015, fellows from NHRIs in Albania, Egypt, Indonesia, Portugal and the Russian Federation participated in the programme, thereby contributing to building their national capacities.

In April, the OHCHR Regional Office for West Africa organized a training event on the education of girls at the Lycée CEM des Martyrs of Thiaroye, a high school in the suburbs of Dakar. Following this engagement, a human rights club was created, which currently has 20 active student members who are greatly involved in the promotion of human rights at the school through a number of means, such as painting, the production of texts, plays and poems on diverse human rights topics. The Regional Office is promoting the creation of similar clubs in other schools that will get involved with the promotion and protection of human rights in Senegal.

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

- *Legal frameworks, public policies, State institutions and non-State actors that are engaged in or regulating situations of conflict, violence and insecurity increasingly comply with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

In the context of potential electoral violence, OHCHR deployed four human rights officers to



Members of the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation visit a resettlement site in Cambodia, February 2015.

Guinea to monitor the human rights situation throughout the October presidential elections. The human rights officers worked in cooperation with 115 local election monitors who were trained and coordinated by the OHCHR country office in Guinea.

- *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)*

Significant support was provided by FOTCD to investigations that were carried out pursuant to resolutions of the Human Rights Council on Iraq and Libya. This reflected an increased responsiveness of the international community to ensure greater accountability for gross human rights violations. These initiatives have led to a better understanding and awareness of the human rights concerns that are at stake in both crises. The Office deployed more than 80 staff members to provide support in relation to various crises and mandates, including commissions of inquiry (Eritrea, Gaza and Syria), fact-finding missions (Central African Republic, Iraq, Libya and South Sudan), and humanitarian missions (Mauritania, Nepal, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen). In the case of Syria, OHCHR's engagement with humanitarian actors led to the inclusion of human rights concerns in the Strategic Response Plan and the Humanitarian Process Cycle.

In coordination with DPA and in the context of the HRUF Action Plan, OHCHR developed the idea of deploying light teams as part of a new mechanism to get capacity on the ground in response to emerging or actual crisis situations. In 2015, the first light teams were deployed to Burkina Faso, Lesotho and Nigeria. In responding

to unrest in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, a joint OHCHR-DPA mission was deployed, in May, to undertake a first-hand assessment of the situation in the country and formulate recommendations for follow-up by the Government, the UN system and the international community. Also, under the HRUF Action Plan, the Office led an Inter-Agency Task Force on the development of a comprehensive proposal for the establishment of a common UN information management system on violations. The final report, which was presented to the Deputy Secretary-General in November, promotes UN preventive action and early response and offers concrete suggestions to significantly improve the manner in which human rights early warning information is managed.

- ▶ *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 into the mandates, policies and actions of United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions (EA 11)*

The establishment of the Peace Missions Support Section in New York positively contributed to OHCHR's efforts to encourage the integration of human rights considerations in the UN's preparedness and response to conflict, notably in the context of peace operations. OHCHR's regular participation in integrated task force meetings directly impacted on mission planning processes by ensuring that human rights considerations and analyses were incorporated in decision-making processes. This engagement also resulted in a significant improvement in the early and systematic inclusion of human rights considerations in planning, the development of mission concepts, staffing discussions and budgetary processes of DPA, the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Field Support.

Global Management Outputs

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

- ▶ Gender considerations were integrated in the work of the Division and information on gender-related issues was regularly shared with field presences. A gender perspective has been mainstreamed in the Office's interventions in the context of elections, security sector reform, human rights monitoring and the implementation of the HRUF Action Plan. As an example, transitional justice work in Nepal and Sri Lanka included a gender focus to ensure that OHCHR's

work includes and reflects the voices of women when preparing for concrete transitional justice outcomes.

Increased effectiveness in supporting human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- ▶ In March, the Human Rights Council requested that the High Commissioner dispatch a mission to investigate all violations and abuses that have been committed in Libya since the beginning of 2014. FOTCD provided substantive, logistical and administrative support for the deployment of the mission and closely coordinated with the OHCHR Office in Tunisia and the United Nations Support Mission in Libya.

Increased effectiveness in supporting field operations (GMO 5)

- ▶ Work for the development of guidance to strengthen the capacity of OHCHR field presences to plan and implement technical cooperation projects continued throughout 2015. The tool is being developed by FOTCD with the advice of the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation and in close cooperation with field presences.
- ▶ FOTCD ensured the timely recruitment and deployment of HRAs in line with the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) Strategy for the Deployment of Human Rights Advisers. In 2015, OHCHR supported 28 HRAs across multiple regions.
- ▶ The Division managed the deployment of more than 80 staff members in response to various crises and to support a number of special procedures mandates, including in the context of commissions of inquiry, fact-finding missions and humanitarian response.



OHCHR monitored the peaceful protests against corruption and impunity in Guatemala, April 2015.

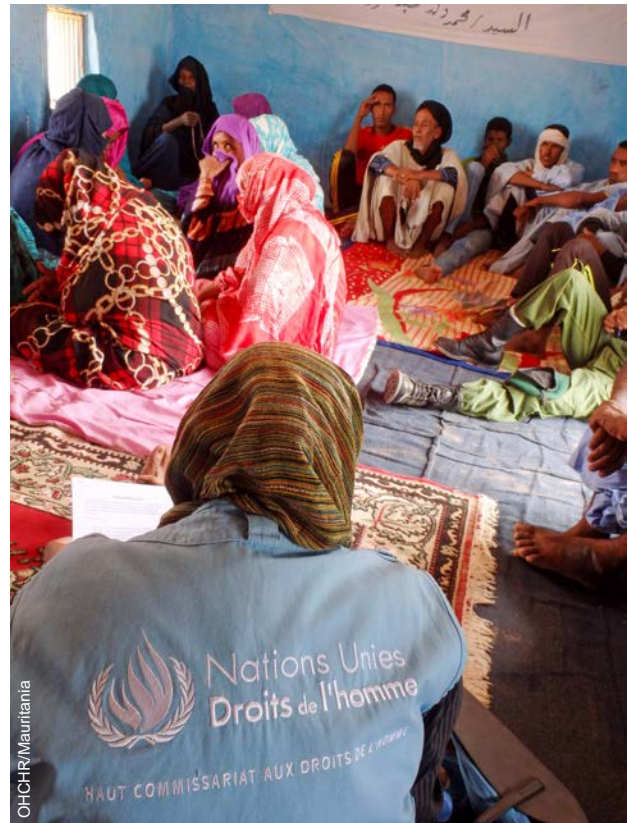
- ▶ A meeting of the Heads of field presences was organized in Geneva from 1 to 5 June to discuss the overall vision, priorities and agenda for the coming years. The meeting was also called to ensure that the Heads of field presences were updated on major policy developments, in particular the HRUF Action Plan and the post-2015 development agenda.

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

- ▶ FOTCD facilitated a series of tailor-made workshops on protection strategies for a number of field presences (Bolivia, Burundi, Cambodia and the Regional Office for South-East Asia). The workshops were adapted according to country-specific circumstances and requirements and were designed to strengthen their capacities on the ground to engage with State actors and civil society in all activities. The training focused on making practical use of their knowledge and analysis about their respective human rights situations to develop sound support programmes at the national level, including through technical cooperation and advisory services. Particular emphasis was placed on the strengthening of local capacities to ensure the sustainability of the programmes.

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

- ▶ Together with the country office in Tunisia, FOTCD supported the High Commissioner's visit



OHCHR staff member meeting with villagers in the south of Mauritania to assess their protection needs, April 2015.

to Tunis from 19-20 April. During the mission, the High Commissioner highlighted Tunisia's achievements and promoted the positive aspects of the Tunisian experience as a model for other countries in the region. Several national interlocutors noted their strong cooperation with OHCHR and welcomed its support.

Human Rights Council Mechanisms Division

Background

The Human Rights Council Mechanisms Division (HRCMD) is the Division of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) with a core mandate to support the Human Rights Council (HRC) and its subsidiary mechanisms, including the special procedures and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). It also supports the Voluntary Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States (LDCs/SIDS) in the work of the Human Rights Council; the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review and the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review. The Division consists of an Office of the Director, the Human Rights Council Branch (HRCB), the Special Procedures Branch (SPB) and the Universal Periodic Review Branch (UPRB).

The Human Rights Council is an intergovernmental body that is composed of 47 Member States which are elected by the General Assembly for a three-year period. The HRC was established by and is a subsidiary body of the General Assembly that is responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe. During its annual regular and special sessions in 2015, the HRC continued to address a number of urgent human rights situations, such as on the human rights violations and abuses against Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar, the atrocities committed by the terrorist group Boko Haram and the volatile situations in Burundi, Libya, South Sudan, Sudan, Ukraine and Yemen. In addition, in the context of a number of panel discussions, the Council considered issues of importance to the international community, including: the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights; the effects of terrorism on the enjoyment by all persons of human rights and fundamental freedoms; the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), including the issue of international abductions, enforced disappearances and related matters; a human rights-based approach

(HRBA) to good governance in public service; and the impact of the world drug problem on the enjoyment of human rights.

The special procedures are mandates given to independent experts, through Human Rights Council resolutions, to address thematic human rights issues or human rights situations in specific countries. Special procedures conduct country visits; send communications to States or 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. The special procedures system currently consists of 55 mandates (41 thematic and 14 country specific), two of which were established in 2015, namely an Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights of persons with albinism and a Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy. In addition, there are currently 79 mandate-holder positions. In 2015, OHCHR assisted the mandate-holders to: conduct 76 country visits to 53 States and territories; transmit a total of 532 communications to 123 States and 13 to non-State actors; submit 134 reports to the HRC, 53 of which were country mission reports; and submit an additional 39 reports to the General Assembly. The Office also organized two major annual forums in 2015: the Forum on Minority Issues and the Forum on Business and Human Rights. The fourth annual Forum on Business and Human Rights brought together more than 2,300 participants from 130 countries.

The second UPR cycle continued to focus on progress made since the previous cycle. OHCHR provided full support to the 21st, 22nd and 23rd sessions of the UPR Working Group, during which 42 State reviews were conducted, by preparing pre-session reports, summaries and other documentation. The Office also encouraged and supported the involvement of civil society actors in the UPR process by circulating information relating to the UPR in a timely manner and facilitating regular briefings to representatives of civil society prior to each session of the HRC.



The Human Rights Council holds its 30th regular session in Geneva, October 2015.

76 country visits carried out by special procedures mandate-holders to **53** States and territories

532 communications sent to **123** different States and **13** non-State actors. 83 per cent of these communications were jointly issued by two or more mandate-holders. The response rate of States to these communications remained unchanged at **42** per cent

134 reports submitted by mandate-holders to the Human Rights Council and **39** to the General Assembly

2 new special procedures mandates established by the Human Rights Council

6 more Member States extended a standing invitation to the special procedures. A total of **115** Member States and 1 non-Member Observer State have now extended a standing invitation to thematic mandates

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)*

Member States increasingly engaged with international human rights mechanisms

and complied with their findings and recommendations. In relation to the HRC, States were involved in no less than 150 meetings, including interactive dialogues and panels, representing a 30 per cent increase over the number of meetings held in 2010. In addition, 21 LDCs/SIDS Member States participated in regular sessions of the HRC and in the Fellowship Programme supported by the Voluntary Trust Fund to Support the Participation of LDCs/SIDS. Member States also increased their engagement with the Working Groups on Situations and the Working Group on Communications. The response rates to communications were higher than 80 per cent.

In relation to the special procedures, mandate-holders transmitted a total of 532 communications to 123 States and 13 communications to non-State actors, including business corporations, in relation to at least 846 individuals. A total of 318 replies were received, 222 of which were related to communications sent in 2015 (a reply rate of 42 per cent), varying from acknowledgements of receipt to substantive replies. The Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances transmitted information to States on 603 new cases of enforced disappearance, 73 of which were clarified. The Working Group on arbitrary detention issued 56 opinions in 2015. As a result of numerous opinions issued by the Working Group, which identified the detention of a complainant as arbitrary, nine individuals were released.

A total of 115 Member States and one non-Member Observer State extended a standing invitation to the special procedures. Responses were received in relation to 42 per cent of the 532 communications sent by the special procedures. States also responded to a number



Joachim Rücker, former President of the Human Rights Council, delivers a statement at the opening of the 28th session of the Council, March 2015.

of findings and recommendations of the special procedures. For example, the Special Rapporteur on torture's 2011 report on solitary confinement was cited in a unanimous decision of the United Kingdom's Supreme Court in 2015 (*Shabid v. Scotland*) that solitary confinement in the case was illegal. In another example, the Special Rapporteurs on the right to food and on extreme poverty sent a joint urgent appeal to the Government of Guatemala expressing concern that plans to reduce the minimum wage in four provinces would have a negative impact on the right to an adequate standard of living. In September, the Constitutional Court of Guatemala issued a decision declaring the proposed minimum wage to be unconstitutional. Furthermore, following a communication issued by the Working Group on discrimination against women in law and in practice, in November, the Belfast High Court referred to the jurisprudence of the treaty bodies in its ruling that legislation in Northern Ireland which denied exceptions to the prohibition of abortion in cases of rape, incest or fatal foetal abnormalities violates the human rights of all citizens of Northern Ireland under the European Convention on Human Rights. In addition, following a joint communication issued by several mandate-holders, the Syrian Government released Mazen Darwish, Director of the Damascus-based Syrian Centre for Media and Freedom of Expression. States continued to engage with the second UPR cycle and, during 2015, 42 States had their human

rights records reviewed by the mechanism. Important results have been achieved as a consequence of the active participation of States in this process, such as: the abolition of the death penalty in Fiji; the adoption of legislation in Angola to prevent, combat and punish those who commit acts of domestic violence; the amendment of the Australian Criminal Code to criminalize forced marriage, forced labour and organ trafficking; the adoption by Bolivia of legislation on the prevention and elimination of all forms of racial discrimination, on the establishment of a National Preventive Mechanism (NPM) and on discrimination on the grounds of sexual orientation; the adoption by Bulgaria of legal amendments to ensure the independence of judges; and, in Honduras, the amendment of the Constitution to include the right to water and sanitation, and the approval of the law on the protection of human rights defenders, journalists, social communicators and operators of justice. A number of the outcomes of the UPR were achieved with the support of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the UPR. In 2015, a total of 29 projects were supported, including for the establishment of an inter-institutional mechanism in Paraguay to follow up, monitor and report on the recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms; and for updating the National Action Plan on the implementation of recommendations in Afghanistan.

- *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)*

The participation of NGOs in the HRC was enhanced in 2015, as evidenced by an increase of 25 per cent in the number of statements delivered at HRC sessions and of 27 per cent in the number of side events organized by NGOs. They also submitted nearly 60 per cent more written statements than in 2014. In relation to the UPR, NGOs continued to hold information meetings on States under review and actively participate in the UPR sessions. OHCHR provided support and advice prior, during and after Council sessions to those NGOs that wished to engage with the Council. The number of national human rights institutions (NHRIs) participating through video messages also increased in 2015. There was an average of three video messages for each segment of the HRC.

- *Advances in the progressive development of international and regional human rights law in*

areas relevant to the thematic priorities (EA 8)

A number of mandate-holders contributed to the development of international human rights law and good practices through the preparation of reports and guidelines. In September, the Working Group on arbitrary detention presented the United Nations Basic Principles and Guidelines on Remedies and Procedures on the Right of Anyone Deprived of His or Her Liberty by Arrest or Detention to Bring Proceedings Before Court (A/HRC/30/37), which are intended to provide States with guidance on fulfilling their obligation to avoid the arbitrary deprivation of liberty. The Special Rapporteur on torture contributed to the revised Standard Minimum Rules for the treatment of prisoners, which were adopted at a meeting in Vienna of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, in May, and were subsequently reflected in the text of the *Revised Standard Minimum Rules for the Treatment of Prisoners* adopted by the General Assembly in December.

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

The special procedures strengthened their engagement with regional human rights mechanisms and undertook several joint activities in 2015. For example, in April, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences, undertook a joint working visit to the Caribbean with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights' Rapporteur on the rights of women. Moreover, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions provided assistance to the African Commission's Working Group on death penalty and extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary killings in Africa. This contributed to the drafting and adoption by the African Commission of a General Comment on the right to life under the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights.

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

In 2015, the HRC continued to address chronic, emerging or ongoing human rights crises in a number of situations. Under its resolution 28/30, the HRC requested that the High Commissioner urgently dispatch a mission to investigate violations and abuses of international human rights law committed in Libya since the beginning of 2014. The HRC also addressed atrocities committed by the terrorist group Boko Haram and its effects on human rights in the affected States and requested that OHCHR submit a report on violations and abuses of human rights and atrocities committed by the group. Through its



The Chair of the Commission of Inquiry on Human Rights in Eritrea briefs the Human Rights Council, June 2015.

resolution 29/13, the Council further requested that OHCHR urgently undertake a mission to engage with the Government of South Sudan to monitor and report on the situation of human rights. Additionally, following the special session of 17 December, the Office was requested to urgently dispatch a mission to Burundi to undertake an investigation regarding violations and abuses of human rights. During the regular sessions, the Council took action on the human rights violations and abuses against Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar and in relation to the volatile situations in Sudan, Ukraine and Yemen. In February, in light of the escalating global migration crises, the Council took the extraordinary decision to hold an enhanced interactive dialogue on the human rights of migrants without the adoption of a formal resolution in advance.

The Working Group met in Buenos Aires, Argentina, from 2 to 6 March, to mark the 35th anniversary of its creation as a response to the disappearances committed by the then-dictatorship. The Group held its 105th session at the former site of one of the largest detention and torture centres that was operating in the country at the time, the Escuela Superior de Mecánica de la Armada. The site currently houses the Remembrance and Human Rights Centre of the National Archive of Memory.

Since its inception in 1980, the Working Group has transmitted 54,557 cases to 105 States. As of the end of 2015, 43,563 cases concerning 88 States had not yet been clarified.



The Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities and other participants of a UN event to mark the International Day of Persons with Disabilities pose for a group photo around the “Broken Chair” sculpture outside the Palais des Nations in Geneva, December 2015.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

Through its Task Force on Accessibility, the HRC adopted practices to improve physical access to the Council and its work for persons with disabilities. One panel per session was made more accessible for persons with disabilities through international sign interpretation, captioning, webcasting and availability of oral statements in braille format. The Council’s website is accessible and electronic documents are now available in an accessible Word format.

Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere

- *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)*

Efforts undertaken by the Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, UN agencies and other stakeholders led to the adoption of a stand-alone goal on water, sanitation and hygiene as well as detailed targets reflecting most of the normative content of the human rights to water and sanitation in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The principle of equality and non-discrimination, one of the crucial issues that the Special Rapporteur has advocated for since 2013, was more fully integrated in the 2030 Agenda than in the Millennium Development Goals. In addition, the monitoring framework and all of its goals and targets now require disaggregated data, including on

persons with disabilities and ethnic minorities. The Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights and the Independent Expert on foreign debt and human rights engaged with international financial institutions to promote the inclusion of human rights in their policies and safeguard procedures. Outputs of these engagements included a report by the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty on the World Bank (A/70/274) and a joint submission issued by mandate-holders on the draft environmental and social framework of the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank. The Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment presented a compendium of good practices relating to the use of human rights obligations and commitments to inform, support and strengthen environmental policymaking, especially in the area of environmental protection (A/HRC/28/61).

The fourth annual Forum on Business and Human Rights took place from 16 to 18 November under the guidance of the Working Group on Business and Human Rights. The Forum was the largest to date, with 2,300 participants from 130 countries from the private sector, governments and civil society. The Forum is now the world’s foremost multi-stakeholder gathering for constructive dialogue and action on business and human rights, and is attracting a growing interest from business, traditionally absent from international human rights fora.

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 Malaysia from 23 to 28 February, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, reviewed the country's legislative, policy and institutional framework to combat trafficking and made a number of recommendations. Following her visit, the Government took a number of steps to tackle the issue of trafficking, including through the revision of its anti-trafficking law as it relates to freedom of movement of victims of trafficking who are living in shelters, the opportunities for employment and the regularization of the migration status of victims who fulfil certain criteria and the payment of compensation and unpaid salaries to victims.

- ▶ *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 follow-up report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants related to the management of the external borders of the European Union and its impact on the human rights of migrants had a significant international impact and influenced the terms of debate regarding effective solutions to deal with the unprecedented number of migrants and asylum-seekers arriving in the European Union. The Special Rapporteur's recommendations have been instrumental in influencing the European Agenda on Migration.

holders. The Consultative Group adopted new working methods to better integrate gender in its work and ensure its consideration at all stages of the selection process.

- ▶ Due to active outreach efforts undertaken in 2015, the Trust Fund to support the participation of LDCs/SIDS in the work of the HRC increased the number of women beneficiaries from three in 2014 to 11 in 2015.
- ▶ A session on gender in the work of the special procedures was included in the 2015 induction session for new mandate-holders.
- ▶ In the context of the UPR, OHCHR included a section dedicated to gender and women's human rights in the template for all UPR pre-session documents. OHCHR also included specific reference to HRC resolution 6/30 on integrating the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system in its correspondence inviting States to submit funding requests to the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the UPR.

Increased effectiveness in supporting human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- ▶ In 2015, OHCHR assisted the HRC to hold its three regular sessions and two special sessions. A total of 150 fully serviced meetings were organized, prepared and followed-up on by OHCHR; representing a 30 per cent increase over the number of meetings held in 2010. In addition, OHCHR serviced 70 per cent more interactive dialogues and 50 per cent more panels on a wide array of topics than in 2010.
- ▶ The percentage of documents that were submitted on time for consideration by the HRC reached 76 per cent. Over the year, OHCHR assisted the special procedures to submit 134 reports to the HRC. For the UPR, OHCHR prepared 84 pre-session reports relating to the consideration of 42 States. It also processed 42 national reports and 40 addenda to working group reports that were submitted by States.
- ▶ OHCHR continued to provide advice and briefings to State delegations on the Council's procedures and practices. It also used the Extranet to regularly provide them with updated information on the programme of work, draft resolutions and the minutes of the Bureau's meetings. A brochure on the Human Rights Council Complaint Procedure was disseminated to various stakeholders to raise awareness about the availability of the Procedure. Moreover, a second briefing was held in February for representatives of civil society in order to contribute to their increased engagement with the Procedure.
- ▶ With the financial support of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Participation in the UPR,

Global Management Outputs

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

- ▶ OHCHR made special efforts to promote gender equality in the context of the HRC. For example, disaggregated data was made available to delegations in order to increase their awareness about gender balance in the number of interventions and speaking time during each HRC session. During the process of selection and appointment of special procedures mandate-holders, gender-related statistics were prepared for the Consultative Group and the President of the Council to sensitize them to the gender and geographic distribution of current mandate-

which is administered by OHCHR, a total of 17 States (Armenia, Guinea-Bissau, Grenada, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Micronesia, Myanmar, St. Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Sao Tomé and Príncipe) participated in the sessions of the Working Group at which they were reviewed or during the HRC plenary sessions when the UPR outcomes were adopted.

- ▶ OHCHR organized two parallel events during the June and September sessions of the HRC. The events brought together, for the first time, beneficiaries of and donors to the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of LDCs and SIDS in order to assess the impact of the increased participation of the beneficiaries on the discussions and decisions taking place in the Council.
- ▶ The Office also facilitated seminars for LDCs/SIDS, which provided them with an opportunity to share their experiences in preparing for their second UPR cycle. In 2015, three such seminars were organized in Barbados for English-speaking Caribbean States, in Brazil for Portuguese-speaking States and in Fiji for Pacific Island States. A total of 122 participants, including NHRIs, attended the seminars.
- ▶ Prior to each session, information meetings were organized to brief delegations on the modalities of the UPR process and on the overall work of the Council. Social media was used to keep stakeholders informed of actions and developments. Indeed, the HRC's social media accounts on Facebook and Twitter were used to effectively disseminate information about the HRC in a timely and accurate manner. The success of this approach is evident from the considerable increase in the number of Facebook "likes" which increased from 85,500 at the end of 2014 to 112,500 at the end of 2015. The number of Twitter "followers" has likewise increased from 33,800 at the end of 2014 to 54,400 at the end of 2015. Furthermore, live webcasts were broadcast and archived for the HRC's three regular sessions in 2015, the special sessions on Boko Haram and Burundi and the three sessions of the UPR Working Group.
- ▶ OHCHR's outreach efforts also significantly heightened the visibility of the Council. A record number of 22,000 original media articles (in English, French and Spanish) made specific reference to activities of the Council, marking an 18 per cent increase over the number recorded in 2014.
- ▶ OHCHR supported mandate-holders to issue 323 press releases, 53 media statements and 75 media advisories, either individually or jointly.



The Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order (centre) and the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples (right) brief journalists in New York, October 2015.

These activities enabled the mandate-holders to raise awareness and express their concerns over a wide array of issues related to their mandates. In addition, OHCHR assisted the Coordination Committee of the Special Procedures to issue eight press releases and public statements in relation to attacks against a mandate-holder; human rights abuses and violations committed by Boko Haram; the migrant crisis; the 50th anniversary of the International Covenants on Civil and Political Rights and on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; and the situation of human rights in Burundi.

- ▶ Throughout 2015, approximately 100 HRC-dedicated webpages were created or regularly updated with new content. These included pages for the Advisory Committee and the HRC Complaint Procedure, the commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions and the Council's 28th, 29th and 30th regular sessions and special sessions. The webpage of the Voluntary Trust Fund to support the participation of LDCs and SIDS in the work of the Council has been upgraded and is now available in English and French. The pages of States undergoing their second UPR cycle were updated and all pre-session documents were posted, including the advanced questions, the Working Group reports and any additional information submitted by States.
- ▶ A database to streamline the information related to country visits by special procedures was developed, tested and deployed in a staggered way. All historical information related to country visits was verified and recorded. The database has assisted OHCHR staff members in their daily work and is a valuable source of information on country visits. The internal OHCHR database, which stores and processes special procedures

communications, has been updated. An online questionnaire for the submission of cases to the special procedures has been finalized after consultations with civil society organizations and mandate-holders. The questionnaire is expected to be launched in 2016.

Increased effectiveness in supporting field operations (GMO 5)

- ▶ Through the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the UPR, a total of 29 projects in the field were funded to support States in: establishing and/or strengthening inter-institutional bodies to coordinate follow-up to recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms; mainstreaming those recommendations into national human rights action plans; implementing key priority human rights recommendations; and providing support in the context of United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs).
- ▶ Cooperation with OHCHR field presences helped to effectively prepare country visits by special procedures mandate-holders and enabled the verification of information related to allegations. A significant number of the 76 country visits that were undertaken by special procedures mandate-

holders in 2015 took place with the logistical and substantive support of OHCHR field presences.

The 2015 Human Rights Council Social Forum was devoted to a human rights issue that, although it impacts on the lives, health and well-being of millions of people, has received insufficient attention in the past, namely access to medicines in the context of the right to health. The Forum saw an unprecedented number of participants (approximately 300), including representatives of States, international organizations, civil society organizations, pharmaceutical companies, medical professionals, patients and other relevant stakeholders. Access to medicines was addressed as a cross-cutting theme involving human rights, health, development, trade and investment, intellectual property, science, technology and innovation, international cooperation and financing and the strengthening of health systems. Discussions touched on laws and policies and a number of recommendations were proposed in relation to areas such as research on neglected diseases and access to generic drugs.

Human Rights Council – Outcomes of sessions held in 2015

28th session (2 - 27 March 2015)

The Council adopted resolutions, decisions and President's statements on the following subjects:

- International cooperation in the field of human rights; use of remotely piloted aircraft or armed drones in counter-terrorism and military operations; effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of human rights; rights of the child; rights of persons with disabilities; albinism; world drug problem; combating intolerance, discrimination and incitement to violence against persons based on religion or belief; environment; economic, social and cultural rights; birth registration; democracy and the rule of law; right to food; right to work; right to privacy; freedom of religion or belief; prevention of genocide; effects of foreign debt; negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin; international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies; and composition of staff of OHCHR;
- The 20th anniversary of the Fourth World Conference on Women and of the adoption of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action; and the 70th anniversary of the end of the Second World War;
- The continuing grave deterioration of the human rights and humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic; the situations of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Haiti, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Myanmar, the occupied Syrian Golan, the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem; right of the Palestinian people to self-determination; technical assistance and capacity-building in Guinea, Iraq (in light of the abuses committed by Daesh and associated terrorist groups), Libya and Mali;
- Outcomes of the Universal Periodic Review in relation to Angola, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Egypt, El Salvador, Fiji, the Gambia, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Italy, Kazakhstan, Madagascar, San Marino and Slovenia.

23rd special session (1 April 2015)

The Council adopted a resolution on the atrocities committed by the terrorist group Boko Haram and its effects on human rights in the affected States.

29th session (15 June - 3 July 2015)

The Council adopted resolutions, decisions and President's statements on the following subjects:

- Protection of the human rights of migrants, including migrants in transit and unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents; international solidarity; elimination of discrimination against women and against persons affected by leprosy and their family members; efforts to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage and to eliminate all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence; climate change; independence and impartiality of the judiciary, jurors and assessors and the independence of lawyers; the right to education; the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism; human rights and the regulation of civilian acquisition, possession and use of firearms; negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights; protection of the family; contribution of the family to the realization of the right to an adequate standard of living for its members; the Social Forum; incompatibility between democracy and racism; and enhancing the efficiency of the Human Rights Council;
- The 50th anniversary of the adoption and the 40th anniversary of the entry into force of the International Covenants on human rights;
- The grave and deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic; the situations of human rights in Belarus and Eritrea; the situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar; ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the occupied Palestinian territory, including East Jerusalem; cooperation and assistance to Ukraine in the field of human rights; capacity-building and technical cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire; and the mission by OHCHR to improve human rights, accountability and reconciliation in South Sudan;
- Outcomes of the Universal Periodic Review in relation to Armenia, Grenada, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Spain, Sweden and Turkey.

30th session (14 September - 2 October 2015)

The Council adopted resolutions, decisions and President's statements on the following subjects:

- The right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health by enhancing capacity-building in public health against pandemics; unilateral coercive measures; indigenous peoples; the question of the death penalty; the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination; human rights in the administration of justice, including juvenile justice; equal participation in political and public affairs; the right to development; the right to peace; democratic and equitable international order; the human rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas; preventing and countering violent extremism; a global call for concrete action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; forum on people of African descent in the diaspora; national policies and human rights; promoting international cooperation to support national human rights follow-up systems and processes; regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights; and enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights;
- Contribution of the Human Rights Council to the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on HIV/AIDS in 2016; review of the mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; contribution of parliaments to the work of the Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review; reports of the Advisory Committee; and follow-up to President's statement PRST 29/1;
- The grave and deteriorating human rights and humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic; promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka; technical assistance and capacity-building for Burundi, Cambodia, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen in the field of human rights;
- Outcomes of the Universal Periodic Review in relation to Andorra, Belarus, Bulgaria, Croatia, Honduras, Jamaica, Liberia, Libya, Malawi, Maldives, Marshall Islands, Mongolia, Panama and the United States of America.

24th special session (17 December 2015)

The Council adopted a resolution on preventing the deterioration of the human rights situation in Burundi.

Special Procedures Mandate-Holders 2015		
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	Ms. Rhona Smith (United Kingdom) since May 2015
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in 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 on 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		
Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent	2002	Mr. Ahmed Reid (Jamaica) since November 2015 Mr. Michał Balcerzak (Poland) since December 2014 Mr. Ricardo III Sunga (the Philippines) since December 2014 Ms. Mireille Fanon-Mendes-France (France) since May 2011 Mr. Sabelo Gumedze (South Africa) since August 2014
Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism	2015	Ms. Ikponwosa Ero (Nigeria) since August 2015
Working Group on arbitrary detention	1991	Mr. Sètondji Roland Jean-Baptiste Adjovi (Benin) since May 2014 Mr. Seong-Phil Hong (Republic of Korea) since May 2014 Mr. Vladimir Tochilovsky (Ukraine) since May 2010 Ms. Leigh Toomey (Australia) since August 2015 Mr. José Guevara (Mexico) since June 2014
Working Group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises	2011	Mr. Puvan Selvanathan (Malaysia) since November 2011 - resigned December 2015, position vacant Mr. Michael K. Addo (Ghana) since November 2011 Mr. Pavel Sulyandziga (Russian Federation) since November 2011 Mr. Dante Pesce (Chile) since May 2015 Ms. Margaret Jungk (USA) since November 2011
Independent Expert in the field of cultural rights	2009	Ms. Karima Bennoune (United States of America) since November 2015
Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities	2014	Ms. Catalina Devandas Aguilar (Costa Rica) since December 2014

Mandate	Established	Mandate-holder
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 Mr. Henrikas Mickevicius (Lithuania) since November 2015 Mr. Tae-Ung Baik (Republic of Korea) since August 2015
Special Rapporteur on the right to education	1998	Mr. Kishore Singh (India) since August 2010
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 the right to food	2000	Ms. Hilal Elver (Turkey) since June 2014
Independent Expert on 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 promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression	1993	Mr. David Kaye (USA) since August 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 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 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
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. Mónica Pinto (Argentina) since August 2015
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 the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order	2011	Mr. Alfred de Zayas (USA) since May 2012
Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity	2005	Ms. Virginia Dandan (Philippines) since 1 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 extreme poverty and human rights	1998	Mr. Philip Alston (Australia) since June 2014
Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy	2015	Mr. Joseph Cannataci (Malta) since August 2015
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism , racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance	1993	Mr. Mutuma Ruteere (Kenya) since November 2011

Mandate	Established	Mandate-holder
Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief	1986	Mr. Heiner Bielefeldt (Germany) since August 2010
Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	1990	Ms. Maud De Boer-Buquicchio (the Netherlands) since June 2014
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 of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) since August 2011
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 trafficking in persons , especially women and children	2004	Ms. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro (Italy) since August 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 the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights	2014	Mr. Idriss Jazairy (Algeria) since May 2015
Special Rapporteur on violence against women , its causes and consequences	1994	Ms. Dubravka Šimonović (Croatia) since August 2015
Special Rapporteur on the human rights obligations related to environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes	1995	Mr. Baskut Tuncak (Turkey) since June 2014
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