

Research and Right to Development Division

Background

OHCHR provides guidance, advice and applied research, develops learning packages and shares expertise on a wide range of human rights themes with Member States, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), civil society organizations (CSOs), United Nations partners and international human rights bodies and mechanisms.

The key roles of the Research and Right to Development Division are to:

- ▶ Develop policy positions and strategies on thematic human rights issues for the UN and OHCHR;
- ▶ Support the High Commissioner's global leadership role in advocacy on thematic human rights issues;
- ▶ Advance the promotion and protection of all human rights and further integrate all human rights, including gender dimensions, into the UN system's activities in relation to development,

- humanitarian efforts, economic and social affairs, peace and security and rule of law programmes;
- ▶ Integrate all human rights into all relevant areas of work of the United Nations system;
- ▶ Enhance technical cooperation through advisory support and capacity strengthening; and
- ▶ Increase knowledge and understanding of human rights issues through the codification of lessons learned into guidance tools for OHCHR and the translation of international human rights law into approaches, procedures and tools to be applied in the conduct of human rights work by OHCHR and other UN, international and national actors.

RRDD also provides support to a number of human rights mechanisms, including: the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and the Forum under the guidance of the Working Group; the Independent Expert on international solidarity; the Working Group on the right to development; the High-level Task Force on the implementation of the right to development; the



OHCHR training of Heads of field presences and gender focal points in the MENA region.

Social Forum; the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the follow-up mechanisms established by the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA); the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the DDPA; and the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent. Other intergovernmental working groups are also supported, such as the open-ended intergovernmental Working Group to consider the possibility of elaborating an international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies and the open-ended Working Group to draft a United Nations declaration on the rights of peasants.

The Division leads four of the six thematic strategies defined in the 2012-2013 OHCHR Management Plan: discrimination; impunity and rule of law; poverty and economic, social and cultural rights; and migration. RRDD also ensures the implementation of Global Management Output 3 which requires that a “gender perspective is effectively integrated in all OHCHR policies, programmes and processes.”

RRDD is headed by a Director who reports to the High Commissioner through the Deputy High Commissioner. The Division is organized into two branches. The Development and Economic and Social Issues Branch consists of the Human Rights and Economic and Social Issues Section; the Millennium Development Goals Section; the Right to Development Section; and the Methodology, Education and Training Section which review the Office as a whole. The Rule of Law, Equality and Non-discrimination Branch consists of the Rule of Law and Democracy Section; the Women’s Human Rights and Gender Section; the Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section; and the Anti-discrimination Section.

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ Legislation and national action plans, in compliance with international standards, on gender equality, women, peace and security and violence against women, were adopted or implemented in a number of countries following technical advice and support provided by OHCHR. In Kosovo, a national action plan in relation to Security Council resolution 1325 was adopted. In Papua New Guinea, following sustained advocacy by OHCHR and its UN partners, the country’s Law Reform Commission proposed a repeal of the country’s sorcery act.



OHCHR training on human rights education methodology for Ombudsman's staff in Tajikistan.

In Afghanistan, Timor-Leste, the Kurdistan region of Iraq and the Maldives, OHCHR supported the formulation and implementation of laws on violence against women in accordance with international standards. Since the enactment of the Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women in 2009 in Afghanistan, UNAMA and OHCHR human rights officers have closely monitored its implementation and found both positive advancement and continuing gaps that need to be addressed.

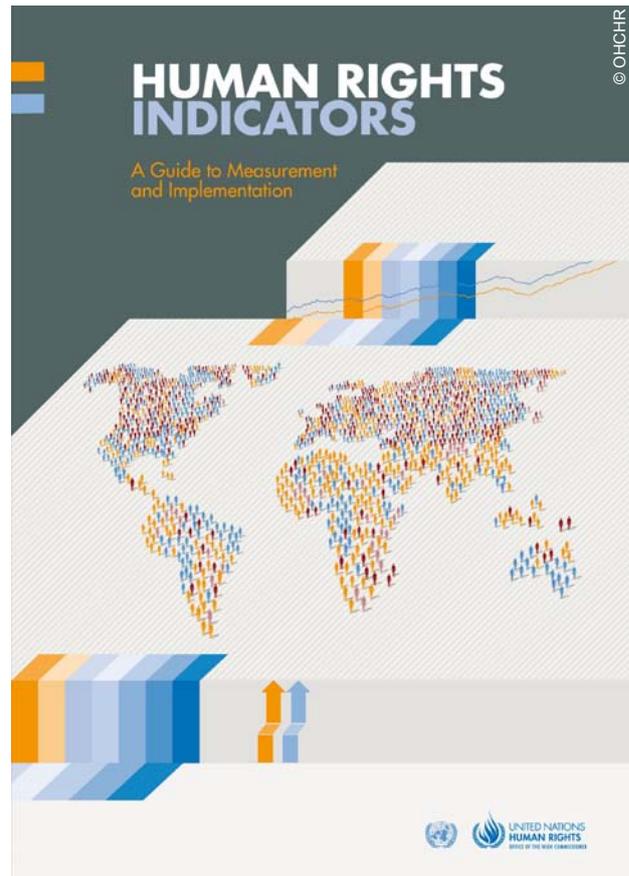
- ▶ OHCHR continued to support Member States in developing national action plans (NAPs) to eradicate racism, discrimination and promote equality in Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guinea, Mauritania, Nigeria and Uruguay. OHCHR-assisted processes have, for example, contributed to the draft NAP in Burkina Faso that is currently under finalization. In Mauritania, the Office commenced a project with the national authorities to draft a NAP to combat racial discrimination.
- ▶ Following a series of regional consultations, OHCHR issued guidelines in May 2012 on indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact in the Amazon Basin and El Chaco. These efforts are aimed at supporting the formulation of national policies that are rooted in non-discrimination and other rights of indigenous peoples. Further to several high-level launching events, a number of initiatives are now being implemented with OHCHR field presences and in cooperation with the authorities concerned to promote this new tool and its practical implementation.
- ▶ OHCHR contributed to increased awareness regarding the importance of aligning national anti-discrimination legislation with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Headquarters and over 20 field presences provided assistance and support to States Parties

in reviewing national legislation and policies in this regard. Following a seminar on CRPD implementation organized by the OHCHR Regional Office for Southern Africa in Lusaka, Zambia in October 2012, representatives of governments, CSOs and NHRIs from 11 countries adopted the “Southern African Declaration of 2012 on the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.” The Declaration commits signatories to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in the political, legislative and development processes in their respective countries and recommends that governments review their domestic legislation in order to effectively implement the CRPD. Furthermore, OHCHR has reviewed its draft Legislation Handbook on the CRPD in light of comments received from the disability community and other reviewers. The Handbook will be made available in 2013 to guide stakeholders in aligning national legislation with the CRPD.

- ▶ OHCHR continued to assist States Parties in implementing their obligations under the CRPD. A new training package developed by the Office on the CRPD and its Optional Protocol was made available online in October 2012. It includes modules on the steps to be taken by States Parties to ensure effective national-level implementation and monitoring of the Convention and guarantee that civil society, in particular persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, are involved and participate fully in the monitoring process. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, a National Coordination Body for the Implementation of the CRPD was established in November 2012, with the support of the OHCHR human rights adviser.
- ▶ OHCHR finalized the publication *Developing National Action Plans against Racial Discrimination: A Practical Guide*, which provides Member States and other stakeholders with a tool to assist in the strengthening or establishment of national mechanisms for the promotion, protection and monitoring on issues relating to combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. The publication will be released in 2013.
- ▶ OHCHR developed guidance for NHRIs on how to advance the principles of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. A draft handbook on this topic was circulated to NHRIs in all regions and “road-tested” in practice, including through training for NHRI officials in Namibia. Scheduled for release in 2013, the Guide will be widely disseminated amongst NHRIs and OHCHR field presences and used for capacity-building activities targeting NHRIs and indigenous peoples.
- ▶ The 11th International Conference of National Human Rights Institutions, held in November 2012 in Jordan, entitled *The human rights of women and girls: Promoting gender equality – the role of national human rights institutions*, adopted the Amman Declaration and Programme of Action, along with regional action plans with a firm commitment by NHRIs to undertake increased work on women’s human rights. OHCHR provided substantive and logistical support to the Conference and the coordination of the Drafting Committee, as well as advice on relevant human rights standards pertaining to women’s rights.
- ▶ The production and dissemination of the documentary film *A Path to Dignity: The Power of Human Rights Education*, undertaken in partnership with two civil society organizations, significantly contributed to raising awareness about human rights education and training among States, civil society and the general public.
- ▶ OHCHR and UNESCO co-published a self-assessment guide for governments to help develop national capacities to integrate human rights education in primary and secondary schools. During 2011-2012, a pilot version of the Guide was used to support governments in these efforts. For example, in Paraguay, the Guide was used by an intra-ministerial group composed of various directorates of the Ministry of Education which prepared a situation analysis to serve as a baseline study for the subsequent national plan of action for human rights education. In Armenia, the Guide was used by UNDP to develop an assessment report with findings and recommendations which also served as a basis for the development of a human rights education action plan by the Ministry of Education.
- ▶ The OHCHR Human Rights Case Database (HRDB) was rolled out in three additional human rights field presences (Guinea-Bissau, Haiti and Tunisia) and 60 human rights officers were trained on its use. A new training course combining human rights monitoring skills and the use of the HRDB was designed and delivered and resulted in harmonized methods to document human rights violations. Additionally, a new complaint management module was launched and an entirely revised concept of the HRDB was designed, taking into account the needs and suggestions expressed by users during training sessions and an evaluation workshop.
- ▶ OHCHR continued to provide methodological advice to commissions of inquiry/fact-finding missions (CoIs/FFMs) which resulted in an increased coherence in approaches and methodologies. This included the provision of methodological support to the Syria Commission

of Inquiry and the Fact-finding Mission on Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in drafting an undertaking of confidentiality by staff and consultants that will help ensure security of information and protection of interviewees, in accordance with existing OHCHR guidance and methodology.

- ▶ Following a lessons learned exercise and review, internal guidance notes related to the COIs/FFMs have been revised and a public version will be produced for future members of CoIs/FFMs and others. This decision came about following a workshop of former Coordinators of Secretariats of CoIs/FFMs (September) to share their experiences and identify challenges and a meeting of former members of CoIs/FFMs (October). The latter, hosted by the High Commissioner, was the first meeting of this kind, aimed at reflecting on several strategic issues to improve the operation and impact of CoIs/FFMs; share experiences that will assist in further shaping guidance, methodology and practice to enhance the effectiveness of CoIs/FFMs as well as OHCHR support; identify challenges in the role of Members of CoIs/FFMs and any additional support needed and define possible ways in which these challenges could be addressed. The proposals put forth in the revised guidance are already being implemented by the Syria CoI through seeking and recording consent from interviewees.
- ▶ Awareness of due process and the right to a fair trial while countering terrorism was raised among Member States from North Africa, Middle East and Europe. As Chair of the CTITF Working Group on Protecting Human Rights While Countering Terrorism, OHCHR collaborated with the CTITF Office to co-organize two regional expert symposia for stakeholders (North Africa and the Middle East in February and Europe in July) in order to promote a series of recommendations on the protection of human rights while countering terrorism.
- ▶ In Burundi, a national expert meeting on victim and witness protection was organized by OHCHR and resulted in various national entities reaching consensus on developing a national witness and victim programme that meets human rights standards. In Kosovo and Uganda, OHCHR's technical support and advice resulted in the development of relevant legal frameworks on victim and witness protection that effectively address human rights concerns.
- ▶ Government officials and human rights defenders in several countries, including Bolivia, Paraguay, the Philippines and Togo, have increased their knowledge and capacity in developing and using



The Human Rights Indicators – A Guide to Measurement and Implementation, is available for downloading at OHCHR's website.

indicators for human rights implementation.

This further contributes to the development of rights-based policy, supports the assessment of compliance with the international human rights treaties and bolsters cases argued by human rights advocates. OHCHR contributed to this through training and capacity-building activities and the publication (in English and Spanish) and wide dissemination of *Human Rights Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation*.

- ▶ The Office organized the first Forum on Business and Human Rights in Geneva in December 2012, under the guidance of the Working Group on human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises and as mandated by the Human Rights Council (resolution 17/4). The 21 substantive sessions resulted in the largest global discussion to date on how governments and business are addressing the impacts of business activities on human rights. Around 1,000 participants registered for the Forum, far exceeding expectations. Participants came from over 80 different countries, representing all stakeholder groups, including business, governments, civil society and trade unions.
- ▶ OHCHR engaged with relevant regional institutions such as the European Union, the

Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development and the Council of Europe on implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and alignment of standards with the Guiding Principles. A Draft Feasibility Study on Corporate Social Responsibility in the Field of Human Rights (CDDH(2012)017) prepared by the Secretariat of the Council of Europe for consideration by the Council of Europe Steering Committee for Human Rights, referred to the engagement with OHCHR and stressed that any Council of Europe work in this field should be coherent with the Guiding Principles as the authoritative global standard.

- ▶ Following OHCHR engagement with government officials, business representatives, civil society and members of the UN Country Team (UNCT) in Papua New Guinea on the application of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, a multi-stakeholder Human Rights Forum, chaired by the Department of Justice, established a technical working group on business and human rights with a view to implementing the Guiding Principles.
- ▶ Awareness of the application of the Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking was raised in Central and West African countries following regional and subregional launches by OHCHR of the Commentary on the Recommended Principles and Guidelines. Evaluations completed by participants at a launch event in Yaoundé noted the usefulness of this tool for their daily work.
- ▶ Experts from governments, international and regional organizations, civil society and academia, called on the Office to develop Principles and Guidelines on the issue of human rights at borders. This came about following an expert meeting organized by OHCHR in March and the Office will begin drawing up this guidance in 2013.
- ▶ In February 2012, the European Court of Human Rights decided in the case of *Hirsi Jamaa and others versus Italy*, reaffirming the human rights of all migrants. OHCHR had submitted a legal brief before the Court as an intervening party.

Justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ OHCHR released a comprehensive report in October which documented and analysed serious violations of international law that occurred during the 10-year conflict in Nepal (1996-2006), along with a database of approximately 30,000 documents to support Nepalese institutions and civil society in their truth-seeking, justice and reconciliation efforts. OHCHR also provided advice on reparations in Nepal and Timor-Leste.



Women in Bongouanou, Côte d'Ivoire, during a prenatal medical consultation, January 2012.

- ▶ Awareness about international principles and standards was raised among stakeholders engaged in transitional justice initiatives in several countries in the Middle East and North Africa region through a regional consultation on transitional justice co-organized by OHCHR, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence and the UNDP Regional Centre in Cairo.

Access to justice and basic services (EA 4)

- ▶ OHCHR strengthened its work on indicators and data collection methods to promote and monitor enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, by expanding the tools available for government officials, members of NHRIs, CSOs and UN agencies to this end. This included the OHCHR publication *Human rights Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation* which provides guidance and tools on using indicators to assist States, national and international human rights mechanisms in enhancing the realization of economic, social and cultural rights.
- ▶ In September 2012, the High Commissioner launched the *Technical Guidance on the Application of a Human Rights-Based Approach to Implementation of Policies and Programmes for the Reduction of Preventable Maternal Mortality and Morbidity* which provides concrete advice on steps that States and other stakeholders should take to effectively meet their human rights obligations and responsibilities. UN agencies and other stakeholders are working together with OHCHR to implement the Technical Guidance in a variety of contexts in 2013 and 2014.
- ▶ OHCHR released a publication on *Women and the Right to Adequate Housing*, which provides in-

depth analysis, conceptual and technical guidance with respect to the enjoyment of this right by women and the gender-specific dimensions of this right. Through the use of positive examples and by drawing on the extensive work of the human rights mechanisms, this publication provides an additional tool for human rights advocates, policy-makers and other stakeholders who are working to improve the enjoyment of this right by women.

Participation (EA 5)

► Through its minority and indigenous fellowship programme, as well as the newly-established fellowship programme for Afro-descendants, OHCHR continued to strengthen the capacity of these groups to invoke human rights standards. A total of 23 indigenous representatives came from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Uganda, Indonesia, India, the Philippines, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Panama, Peru, Venezuela, Canada and the Russian Federation; nine minority rights defenders from Algeria, Colombia, India, Jordan, Kenya, Moldova, Syria and Yemen and; five Afro-descendants from Canada, Colombia, France, Italy and Panama participated in the programme and deepened their understanding of the UN human rights system, instruments and mechanisms. In their final evaluations, the indigenous fellows underlined the usefulness of interventions by OHCHR partners such as UNESCO, ILO, WIPO and UNICEF, as well as by Geneva-based human rights NGOs such as the Centre for Civil and Political Rights, IMADR, ISHR, UPR info, DoCip and Mandat International. Through this collaboration, fellows were encouraged to work with OHCHR, other UN agencies and relevant non-governmental organizations. Building on their training from OHCHR, several fellows pursued new initiatives at the national level aimed at enhancing participation in decision-making processes. For instance, a fellow from Egypt has been advocating for the inclusion of minority rights in the constitution-making processes while also highlighting concerns of minority groups in relation to participation. In Nigeria, a fellow has conducted a project on minority rights sensitization amongst Christian religious minorities in the northern part of the country. Fellows from Kyrgyzstan are actively engaged in legislative reform processes and monitoring public policies from the perspective of their compliance with human rights standards and minority rights standards in particular. A fellow from Costa Rica has been addressing in her work issues related to the effective participation of Afro-descendants in all spheres of life in Latin

America and the Caribbean. In Australia, one of the fellows is currently working on social justice projects and has advised national governments and international organizations on youth policy, multiculturalism and human rights issues.

► A fellow from the Mbororo Fulani tribe has been working in Cameroon to raise awareness about education and increase the literacy rate among indigenous girls (it is estimated that 98 per cent of Mboro Fulani pastoralist women are illiterate). The knowledge she gained about international human rights instruments and mechanisms reinforced her leadership abilities. In 2012, she moderated a workshop dedicated to the preparation of a report on human rights violations to be presented during the examination of Cameroon by the Universal Periodic Review that will take place in 2013 and participated in a consultation workshop with different stakeholders in view of preparing a report to be submitted by Cameroon to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Furthermore, one Senior Indigenous Fellow from Canada and one Senior Minority Fellow from Lebanon undertook on-the-job training with the Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section at headquarters in Geneva. Two other indigenous fellows, who had already received training in Geneva, visited OHCHR field presences in the Russian Federation and Guatemala to further increase their knowledge.

OHCHR was one of the eight UN pilot agencies, which led the development of common standards on gender mainstreaming applicable to the whole UN system - the UN System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (SWAP). After the successful endorsement of the SWAP by the Chief Executive Board for Coordination in April 2012, OHCHR committed to assist other UN agencies in meeting the standards related to gender equality policy development and organizational culture change towards more equality. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) was the first technical agency to solicit OHCHR assistance. At their request, the Office conducted a series of consultations and two workshops on gender integration, which laid the foundation for the ITU gender equality policy to be adopted in 2013. Following the two workshops, OHCHR advisors on gender integration were invited by the ITU Secretary General to brief and advise on measures to be taken by ITU to meet the SWAP requirements by 2013.

- ▶ Women human rights defenders gained increased awareness about the UN conceptual framework on the protection of human rights defenders, including through analysis of the gender specific dimensions that affect women human rights defenders differently. OHCHR gathered together women human rights defenders from six countries of the MENA region (Bahrain, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Syria and Yemen) and UN representatives to enhance their understanding of the role and functions of these different stakeholders, with the aim of ensuring full protection of women human rights defenders in their work.

Responsiveness of the international community (EA 10)

- ▶ To ensure that human rights are reflected in UN Inter-agency post-2015 discussions, OHCHR produced a Think Piece on Human Rights and Post-2015 entitled *Towards Freedom from Fear and Want*, which resulted in the recommendation of the Secretary-General's Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda to include human rights as one of three fundamental principles for the post-2015 agenda (along with equality and sustainability) in its June 2012 report, *Realizing the Future We Want for All*. In addition, OHCHR provided extensive research on measurement and accountability mechanisms for a new development framework which has resulted in a flagship publication, *Who will be accountable? Human Rights and the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, that will be released in March 2013.
- ▶ The UNDG has been tasked with facilitating 11 global thematic consultations on key issues and up to 100 national consultations to ensure a broad debate on the post-2015 agenda. OHCHR and UNDP are co-leading the global thematic consultations on governance, which include a number of regional outreach activities. Following two such regional meetings held in Manila and Dhaka, declarations were adopted that reaffirmed human rights standards and principles and received support from participating Member States, civil society and other human rights actors at the regional and national levels.
- ▶ In the lead-up to the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, OHCHR launched a campaign and urged all UN Member States to support the full integration of human rights into the Rio process. OHCHR actively participated by developing a position paper of the UN System High-level Task Force on Global Food Security, which articulated the right to food as a key element for achieving sustainable food systems. This contributed to the broad inclusion of key human rights provisions in the outcome document, *The Future We Want*. The outcome document reflected a strong focus on reducing inequalities, fostering inclusion and achieving justice, based explicitly upon international human rights standards and also emphasized the need to respect, protect and promote all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without discrimination of any kind.
- ▶ In September 2012, the General Assembly adopted a resolution to expand the mandate of the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations to provide support for indigenous peoples to participate in the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, including in the preparatory process. Throughout the year, 52 travel grants were awarded by the Fund for representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to participate in the sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the sessions of the Human Rights Council and its UPR process, as well as sessions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee Against Torture (see also separate text on Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations).
- ▶ The OHCHR annual report to the Human Rights Council on the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights was devoted to the economic, social and cultural rights of women. The report offers conceptual guidance on the mutual reinforcement of human rights instruments – particularly the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women – in order to understand the scope of State Party obligations to ensure the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights by women.
- ▶ OHCHR contributed to information-sharing and awareness-raising on resources available worldwide to fight against racism and racial discrimination through the creation of a database on practical means, including special measures to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. OHCHR prepared a compilation of contributions received from Member States and other stakeholders on experiences and best practices for combating racism through sport which will be included in the database. To date, over 600 different documents (international and regional instruments, national legislation, case law and examples of existing practices to combat racism)

have been included in the database which will be launched in 2013.

- ▶ OHCHR's report to the Human Rights Council (March 2012) on participation in political and public life of persons with disabilities was the first of its kind to be made available in an easy-to-read format to ensure greater accessibility to persons with learning or intellectual disabilities.
- ▶ The Human Rights Council Social Forum marked the international day for older persons by including presentations on the active participation of older persons in development and globalization. This came about following OHCHR's promotion of the rights of older persons. The Office facilitated the event in collaboration with the NGO Committee on Ageing and the Geneva City Council.
- ▶ Following the first panel discussion to "give voice to people living with and affected by HIV," which was held under the auspices of the Human Rights Council, delegations acknowledged that human rights were central to the global HIV response and highlighted in particular the importance of sustainable financing options to ensure access to affordable treatment. At the event, people living with HIV and marginalized populations brought to light the wide array of human rights violations committed against individuals and communities affected by HIV.
- ▶ The centrality of human rights in the response to HIV/AIDS was further emphasized in the High Commissioner's report on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of HIV/AIDS (A/HRC/19/37) which was submitted to the 19th session of the Human Rights Council.
- ▶ During the 19th session of the HRC (March 2012), approximately 25 Member States made interventions on both good practices and challenges to the implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities. This came about following extensive outreach activities undertaken by the Office on the 20th anniversary of the Declaration, as well as a Panel organized by OHCHR on the "Implementation of the Declaration: achievements, best practices and challenges" focused on exchanging experiences related to effectively using the Declaration as an advocacy tool.
- ▶ The profile of emerging human rights issues faced by minorities and indigenous peoples was raised within the international community through four regional substantive anniversary events organized by OHCHR in Austria, Kyrgyzstan, Qatar and Thailand.
- ▶ OHCHR prepared a comprehensive publication entitled *Promoting and Protecting Minority Rights - A Guide for Minority Rights Advocates* to build the capacity of various stakeholders working on minority issues. The Guide offers information related to norms and mechanisms developed to protect the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and the procedures and forums in which minority issues may be raised within the UN and regional systems.
- ▶ A study on indigenous languages and cultures was submitted to the Human Rights Council in September 2012. OHCHR provided substantive and other support to the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including by co-organizing an Expert Seminar on Indigenous Languages and Cultures with the Brunel Law School in March 2012, which contributed to the study. At its 5th session in July 2012, the Expert Mechanism also completed a report on *Indigenous Peoples and the Right to Participate in Decision-Making, with a Focus on Extractive Industries* and undertook a survey of implementation strategies to attain the goals of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
- ▶ The *Declaration on the rule of law at national and international levels*, adopted by the General Assembly on 24 September, included numerous reaffirmations by Member States of their commitments to human rights and various key components of the rule of law. OHCHR contributed to this result through advocacy work and assistance to UN preparatory work.
- ▶ Progress towards the universal abolition of the death penalty has continued, spurred by OHCHR's advocacy work. General Assembly resolution A/67/44 calling for a global moratorium on the death penalty, adopted in December 2012, received greater support from Member States than previous resolutions on the subject. To this end, OHCHR organized a global panel entitled, *Moving away from the death penalty: lessons from national experiences*, during which both the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner welcomed progress towards abolition and encouraged those Member States who still practice or legally authorize the death penalty to follow suit.
- ▶ OHCHR produced over 20 maps illustrating the ratification of core international human rights treaties and accreditation of NHRIs. The maps are available on the OHCHR website and a wide range of human rights actors welcomed this initiative as a means to increase the integration of human rights in national and international



Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon addresses a panel organized by OHCHR on *Moving away from the death penalty – Lessons from national experiences*, July 2012.

development agendas, including the post-2015 development agenda.

- ▶ In May 2012, the Committee on World Food Security, the main international and intergovernmental platform for food security and nutrition, adopted the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. The Guidelines provide the first international guidance on the governance of land tenure adopted through the intergovernmental negotiations, with participation of civil society and the private sector. The Guidelines systematically reflect key international human rights standards throughout their guidance. OHCHR provided technical support throughout the intergovernmental negotiations to ensure the Guidelines were consistent with existing international human rights law.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ In February 2012, a new Strategy for the Deployment of Human Rights Advisers (HRAs) was endorsed by the UNDG. OHCHR and UNDP jointly developed the strategy, drawing

from comments and inputs from many Resident Coordinators and UN agencies. This system-wide strategy strengthens human rights policy coherence and system-wide ownership of human rights advisers deployed by OHCHR at the request of Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams (UNCTs). Among other things, the strategy includes provision for enhanced support to HRAs from the UNDG, key criteria for effective HRA deployments, and regional support options to complement in-country HRAs. A total of 27 UNCTs have requested HRAs to date, a strong indicator of country-level demand.

- ▶ The General Assembly resolution on the UN Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) contains two new provisions which explicitly support the UN's efforts to strengthen links between its normative (including human rights) and operational work. This was the result of a common vision and advocacy strategy put forward by the United Nations Development Group Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism (UNDG-HRM), supported by OHCHR.
- ▶ OHCHR and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) continued to co-chair the Inter-agency Review Group on the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP). During a review in July, significant progress was acknowledged in relation to dissemination and implementation of the policy, however, it also underlined the need for more guidance and the importance of engaging with external actors on the policy.
- ▶ Advocacy and promotion activities around the HRDDP resulted in placing the policy at the centre of planning and reflections on UN strategies regarding major military and peacekeeping operations around the world, such as in Somalia and Mali, including some activities that are led by regional organizations. UN entities have applied the policy in a number of specific situations, developed guidelines and operating procedures and increasingly requested advice and support from OHCHR on policy implementation. OHCHR has, for example, provided advice to various peacekeeping missions that have applied the new policy, such as ONUCI (Côte d'Ivoire), UNMISS (South Sudan) and MONUSCO (DRC).
- ▶ In a landmark development, and as a result of an OHCHR-led process with other parts of the UN Secretariat, the Secretary-General issued a Policy on Human Rights Screening of UN Personnel on 11 December 2012. This landmark document outlines the principles and procedures that must be applied in all recruitment and deployment processes to ensure that the UN does not select or deploy any individual who has been involved in violations of international human rights or humanitarian law.

The policy applies to all UN personnel in the Secretariat, including staff and non-staff, uniformed and civilian, and those in peace operations. While information on human rights conduct will be taken into account for all staff appointments, proactive checks of candidates' records will be focused on senior appointments during the initial pilot phase. Within 12 months, there will be a review of its implementation and consideration will be given to broadening this screening to other levels and categories of appointments, including to the UN system as a whole.

- ▶ In the area of training, OHCHR reviewed and provided contents to the pre-deployment training course for Military Staff Officers and made progress on updating the Training Package for Military Peacekeepers. It updated the human rights pre-deployment training modules used by DPKO trainers for inductions of newly deployed mission civilian personnel in Brindisi, Italy. OHCHR also coordinated and supported the delivery of human rights training in DPKO courses organized for current and potential UN Senior Mission Leaders. Training was further delivered on human rights operations to the 300 military observers deployed to Syria under the United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS), whose mandate was largely focused on the protection of human rights (i.e., release of detainees, holding of peaceful demonstrations). This training followed OHCHR's provision of advice in relation to the UNSMIS concept of operation and was a particularly positive initiative due to the close collaboration between human rights and DPKO military trainers in designing the course which ensured mutually reinforcing messaging and tailoring priorities and contents.
- ▶ With respect to the integration of human rights in humanitarian action, OHCHR support to policy and guidance development in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), including through participation at IASC Principals and IASC Working Group meetings, resulted in a strengthened emphasis of human rights in protocols developed in the context of humanitarian reform ('the transformative agenda') on leadership, resilience and preparedness. For example, the Resident Coordinator/High Commissioner *Handbook on Emergency Preparedness and Response* was revised to better reflect the roles and expertise of human rights field presences in providing human rights analysis and support for advocacy efforts.
- ▶ OHCHR contributed to finalizing and disseminating the first *UN Integrated Technical Guidance Notes* (ITGNs) on Security Sector Reform which was launched on 10 December 2012 in New York. OHCHR participated in the Inter-Agency Security Sector Reform Task Force (IASSRTF) and its input contributed to ensuring that the guidance notes were grounded in international law and that human rights issues, including the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy, continue to be mainstreamed.
- ▶ Human rights analysis and proposals were developed to strengthen the Operational Risk Management Framework of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. OHCHR was part of consultations that provided clear recommendations on the implementation of the Global Fund's human rights strategy which included: (i) the adoption of a human rights policy; (ii) adoption of human rights performance indicators for human rights programming; and (iii) increasing human rights knowledge and capacity within the secretariat and governance structures.
- ▶ A UN Network on racial discrimination and the protection of minorities was established following a decision by the Secretary-General and will be coordinated by OHCHR. The objective of the network is to enhance dialogue and cooperation between relevant UN Departments, Agencies, Programmes and Funds. Bringing together over 20 UN entities, the Network held its first meetings in April and November to develop guidance for the UN system on how to address racial discrimination and protection of minorities in line with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other key standards and to review the content of relevant UN training initiatives with a view to ensuring they adequately cover issues concerning racial discrimination and national or ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities. The Network has already heightened the profile of minority rights in the UN system, including in connection with the 20th anniversary of the Declaration on the Rights of Minorities. The new *Guidance Note on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities* was approved by the Secretary-General in March 2013.
- ▶ The Office, in cooperation with the UN Department of Public Information, issued and disseminated a publication (in the six official UN languages) which included the political declaration on the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference. The publication is intended to serve as a public information and reference tool for Member States, UN system partners, students, non-governmental organizations and human rights practitioners.
- ▶ Implementation of the UN Indigenous Peoples' Partnership (UNIPP) in 2012 began with six UN joint programmes in Bolivia, Cameroon, Central

African Republic, Nicaragua and the Republic of the Congo as well as through a regional programme in South-East Asia. While they are still in the early stages of implementation, these joint programmes have already yielded results, including normative developments and improvements in dialogue between government officials and representatives of indigenous peoples. In the Republic of the Congo, UNIPP contributed to the development of seven Governmental decrees to facilitate the implementation of the law on indigenous peoples in July 2012. This is the first law in Africa devoted to indigenous peoples and the decrees aim to ensure its full implementation in key thematic areas, such as the protection of traditional knowledge, cultural heritage and sacred sites of indigenous communities and in relation to access to education and health services. In Nicaragua, the UNIPP programme has already created a new space of dialogue between indigenous peoples and authorities and enhanced understanding on the right of indigenous peoples to consultation through a series of capacity-building activities.

- ▶ In South-East Asia, the Asia Regional Preparatory meeting was held in November in preparation for the upcoming World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. As an outcome of this meeting, the Asia Declaration for World Conference on Indigenous Peoples was completed. The Declaration identified the key challenges faced by indigenous peoples in Asia and outlined recommendations to better protect their rights. It is believed that this document will be used as reference material for post-2015 discussions on human rights in the region.
- ▶ OHCHR contributed to the operationalization of the UN Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPRPD) and its Multi-Donor Trust Fund, ensuring that a human rights based-approach to disability, firmly rooted in the provisions of the CRPD, is implemented at all levels of programming and that persons with disabilities and their representative organizations are adequately involved and consulted in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of funded projects. The UNPRPD brings together six UN entities – OHCHR, UNDESA, UNDP, UNICEF, ILO and WHO – to support country-level programming to promote and protect the rights of persons with disabilities. Among the first projects that received funding in 2012 were OHCHR-led projects in Moldova (focusing on promoting the rights of persons with intellectual disabilities) and Togo (focusing on children with disabilities).
- ▶ As a result of OHCHR's advocacy, human rights have been included as a cross-cutting issue in the new UN-Habitat organigramme. OHCHR's inputs were requested and taken into consideration by UN-Habitat when drafting a document on ways to integrate human rights in their activities.
- ▶ OHCHR was one of eight UN pilot agencies which led the development of common standards on UN system-wide gender mainstreaming entitled *The UN System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women* (SWAP). After the successful endorsement of the SWAP by the Chief Executive Board for Coordination in April 2012, OHCHR committed to assisting other UN agencies in meeting the standards related to gender equality policy development and change of the organizational culture towards more equality. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) was the first technical agency to solicit OHCHR assistance. At ITU's request, the Office conducted a series of consultations and two workshops on gender integration which laid the foundation for the ITU gender equality policy, to be adopted in 2013.
- ▶ On 18 December 2012, the Secretary-General's Policy Committee held a discussion on *International Migration* co-led by OHCHR and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). Following this discussion, the Policy Committee endorsed a set of human rights-based key messages on migration and decided that OHCHR would lead the 2013 preparation (in consultation with the GMG and the UN system) of a concise analytical report on migration and human rights which would specifically consider how attention to the rights of migrants can be strengthened within the governance framework of migration at the international level.
- ▶ As a member of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) and the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UNGIFT), OHCHR was successful in mainstreaming a human rights-based approach into the joint policy papers developed by ICAT. The first paper on the intersection between international and national legal regimes to combat trafficking was produced and the rights based-approach was identified as an essential component of the legal framework to combat trafficking in persons.
- ▶ The final stages of drafting, validating and publishing a trainers guide on migration and human rights was delayed due to the decrease in extrabudgetary funding in 2012. The work on the guide is nevertheless planned to continue in 2013 with smaller resource requirements.
- ▶ The capacity of human rights components of peace missions and OHCHR field presences to investigate, document and address sexual

violence was strengthened. OHCHR developed a two-day specialized course on monitoring and investigating conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). The training is aimed at strengthening the capacity of human rights officers to monitor, investigate and report on conflict-related sexual violence and contextualizes it to the mandate of the UN Security Council on conflict-related sexual violence. A pilot edition of the course was delivered in November 2012 in Juba, South Sudan, for human rights officers of UNMISS and staff working on CRSV at UNMISS and the UNCT.

- ▶ Application of the human rights-based approach to implementation of Security Council resolutions 1888 and 1960 on women peace and security was strengthened. Through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund of UN Action, OHCHR, in cooperation with DPKO, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual violence in conflict (SRSG SVC) and other partners, obtained support for the deployment of Women Protection Advisors (WPAs) to the human rights components of Côte d'Ivoire and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). OHCHR also seconded one staff member to serve as the Senior WPA in

UNMISS and help the mission to establish the Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements (MARA). In Angola, a WPA was deployed to the Office of the Resident Coordinator to assist the UN system in promoting follow-up to the commitments made by the Government during the visit of the former SRSG SVC in relation to sexual violence.

- ▶ In DRC, in follow-up to the recommendations of the High-level Panel on Remedies and Reparations for Victims of Sexual Violence, OHCHR implemented five pilot initiatives to provide support to over 1,000 survivors of sexual violence in the areas of Bukavu and Shabunda. The five pilot projects focus on providing access to health care, psychological support, training and support for income generating activities, as well as assistance to ensure the reintegration of girl survivors in school. While the final reports from the projects and their results will not be complete until 2013, it is already known that OHCHR will have supported approximately 80 girl survivors of sexual violence to be enrolled in school by July 2013 as a result of the pilot initiatives.

In the foreword to *Human Rights Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation*, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, wrote, "The human rights journey from standard-setting to effective implementation depends, in large measure, on the availability of appropriate tools for policy formulation and evaluation. Indicators, both quantitative and qualitative are one such essential tool."

"In recent years, the critical need for such tools has become increasingly evident," Pillay says, recalling that just prior to the Arab uprisings, there were reports of "remarkable economic and social progress and general improvements in governance and the rule of law" being achieved in some countries in the region. At the same time, UN human rights bodies and civil society were reporting widespread deprivation of a range of fundamental human

rights, she says. The popular uprisings and demonstrations witnessed in all regions of the world "compel us to review existing analytical, methodological and legal frameworks," Pillay says, "to ensure that they integrate real attention to freedom from fear and want, and to discrimination; assess the extent of public participation in development and in the fair distribution of its benefits; strengthen accountability and embrace methods of empowering people, especially the most vulnerable and the most marginalized."

Development of an OHCHR framework of indicators was initiated with the guidance of the international committees which assess implementation of human rights at country level. This process built on a multidisciplinary approach and involved consultations with a wide range of international and national human rights actors,

including government agencies, national human rights institutions, statistics offices and civil society organizations.

The Guide will be of interest to human rights advocates as well as policymakers, development practitioners, statisticians and others who are working to make human rights a reality. It sets out a conceptual and methodological framework for human rights indicators recommended by international and national human rights mechanisms and used by a growing number of governmental and non-governmental actors. It provides concrete examples of indicators identified for a number of human rights originating from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other practical tools and illustrations, to support the realization of human rights at all levels.

Global Management Outputs

Integrating a gender perspective (GMO 3)

- ▶ In August, the High Commissioner adopted a two-year implementation plan of the Gender Equality Policy entitled, the *Gender Equality Strategic Plan 2012-2013*. This came about after consultations at headquarters with field presences and the UN system as a whole. The Strategic Plan contains 13 expected results with indicators, targets and actions, covering both the institutional functioning of the Office and substantive work. RRDD, in consultation with regional gender advisers and gender facilitators, produced tools and undertook the following activities: developed tailored language to integrate gender responsibilities in the personal appraisal system of all four OHCHR divisions and a number of field presences; analysed work plans and cost plan for 2013 from a gender perspective; and aligned the Strategic Plan indicators with the UN System-Wide Action Plan for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women with a view to achieving at least three of the six SWAP requirements by 2013.
- ▶ Due to the budget reduction for 2013, the Office had to freeze the Gender Advisor post in Fiji and put on hold a number of activities, including the training of Heads of field presence gender focal points and peace mission staff on gender integration.

Servicing human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- ▶ Support was provided to:
 - The Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises in the first year of its mandate. This included supporting the Working Group in its engagement with the UN system and reporting obligations to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly; engagement with other intergovernmental organizations, States, business and civil society on the dissemination and implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights; establishing its strategy and methods of work; conducting its first country visit (Mongolia, October 2012); and guiding the annual Forum on Business and Human Rights (4-5 December 2012).
 - The Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development (May).
 - The High-level Task Force on the implementation of the right to development.
 - The 2012 Social Forum of the Human Rights Council (October).
 - The Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity, including through the

organization of an expert workshop as per HRC resolution 18/5, the expert's visit to Brazil (the first country mission since the inception of the mandate in 2005) and several public statements and messages on the importance of international solidarity.

- The Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, ensuring geographical representation and gender balance in its panels and contributing with the organization of an expert group meeting and the submission of an analytical paper to enhance an informed discussion on human rights issues.
- The members of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in their engagement with activities associated with their work throughout the year, including attendance at the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights; UNESCO's consultation about engagement with indigenous peoples; the UN Forum on Minority Issues; the Forum on Business and Human Rights and preliminary meetings associated with the organization of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. Through such contributions, the Expert Mechanism helped to enhance visibility of indigenous peoples' rights in these fora, in particular their right to participate in decision-making.
- The follow-up mechanisms established by the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA), i.e., the Ad Hoc Committee on the elaboration of complementary standards; the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the DDPA; and the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent.
- 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.

Skills and competencies (GMO 6)

- ▶ The Division continued to improve its human rights training activities. Throughout the year, it developed and disseminated a vast number of human rights education, training and capacity strengthening materials and provided ongoing support and advice to staff in the field and at headquarters, including through:
 - Designing, managing and delivering human rights training;
 - Training evaluation;
 - Human rights in humanitarian action;

- Human rights monitoring for staff supporting special procedures;
 - Human rights monitoring for staff of the rapid deployment roster;
 - Human rights monitoring for human rights officers of the Joint Human Rights Office of MONUSCO, DRC;
 - Pilot course on monitoring conflict-related sexual violence for human rights officers and other relevant staff of UNMISS in Juba, South Sudan;
 - Regional training course on report writing skills organized for human rights officers from selected field presences in Africa, including Entebbe and Uganda;
 - Monitoring economic, social and cultural rights;
 - Pilot Training of Trainers on the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol.
- ▶ An office-wide taskforce developed detailed guidance for all staff, in particular field presences, to clarify and enhance human rights engagement in the context of electoral processes. Further, OHCHR has developed a comprehensive guidance note which will guide staff at headquarters and in the field to direct and reinforce their engagement on advancing the Responsibility to Protect.

Increased awareness of and support to OHCHR (GMO 7)

- ▶ Over 115,000 printed OHCHR publications were distributed globally during 2012, most notably Fact Sheets, Training and Education Materials, Rule-of-Law tools and the Handbook for Civil Society. While many of these copies benefited external target audiences, they also served
- as training tools, advocacy and information materials to support the work of the Office's field presences, including those based in Beirut, Cameroon, Kinshasa, Santiago de Chile and Tunis.
- ▶ Readership feedback was sought via an office-wide survey directed at users, readers and drafters of these materials, with external feedback forthcoming in 2013. The analysis and results of these qualitative and quantitative feedback mechanisms will serve to rationalize the OHCHR publications programme, the classification of substantive publications, distribution methods and other publishing-related issues.
- ▶ The new thematic publications produced during 2012 included:
- World Programme for Human Rights Education, Second Phase: Plan of Action (published jointly with UNESCO);
 - Human Rights Education in Primary and Secondary School Systems: A Self-assessment Guide for Governments (published jointly with UNESCO);
 - Women and the Right to Adequate Housing;
 - Human Rights Indicators: A Guide for Measurement and Implementation;
 - Born Free and Equal: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in International Human Rights Law.
- ▶ OHCHR maintained a strong online presence by making all substantive publications available in electronic format and at no charge on the Office's website.
- ▶ With the addition of 13 translations of the Universal Declaration for Human Rights, the collection of translations has grown to 402 languages. All translations are posted on the OHCHR website: <http://www.ohchr.org/en/udhr/pages/introduction.aspx>.