

# Executive Direction and Management

The High Commissioner for Human Rights has a unique role as the chief advocate for human rights in the United Nations system and a voice for rights-holders around the world. This role is performed through maintaining continuous dialogue on the Office's priorities and activities with Member States and numerous stakeholders. The visibility and impact of the High Commissioner's lead role are ensured through public statements, speeches, opinion articles, country visits, high-level meetings and other key outreach activities. The High Commissioner and her Deputy are supported in their engagement with Member States, the media, civil society and partners in the United Nations system by seven organizational units within the Executive Direction and Management (EDM): the Executive Office, the New York Office, the Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Service, the Programme Support and Management Services, the External Outreach Service, the Safety and Security Section, and the Meetings and Documents Unit.

## Executive Office

### Background

The High Commissioner for Human Rights continued her global advocacy for the promotion and protection of all human rights by encouraging concrete partnerships among all stakeholders and building on the Office's expertise at headquarters and in the field.

The Executive Office's work took place in the context of crises, particularly in the Central African Republic, Mali, Myanmar, the Sahel region, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic. The High Commissioner continued to closely follow developments in the Middle East and North Africa region, where the need for a human rights-based approach in transition processes that are leading to



The High Commissioner addresses the Security Council on the protection of civilians in armed conflict, February 2013.

genuine democracy and respect for the rule of law remains of key importance, as well as the global threats to human rights emerging from abusive counter-terrorism practices, and from the economic crisis.

OHCHR's expertise and advocacy also continued to shape global approaches to development at both the interagency and intergovernmental levels. In addition, throughout the year, the High Commissioner continued to advocate for the mainstreaming of human rights within the United Nations system. For instance, OHCHR co-chaired the United Nations Development Group's Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism (UNDG-HRM).

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

In performing her functions, the High Commissioner is supported by an Executive Office which ensures quality and consistency control of all materials that are prepared in-house, provides strategic advice on upcoming human rights and geopolitical issues and liaises with the various parts of the Office (Geneva, New York and the field) on follow-up to decisions undertaken by the High Commissioner. It also works closely with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and the United Nations as a whole to ensure a mainstreamed approach to human rights. Regular engagement is also held with the permanent missions in Geneva, civil society, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and experts from the various human rights mechanisms (HRMs).

## Results

### Responsiveness of the international community (EA 10)

- ▶ The High Commissioner engaged with Member States on an ongoing basis, including through bilateral meetings in Geneva and New York, while on mission to a number of countries and during sessions of the Human Rights Council, in order to bring human rights issues and situations of concern to the attention of the international community. In 2013, the High Commissioner had nearly 180 meetings in Geneva with Heads of States, governments, ministers and ambassadors from 100 countries. In addition, the High Commissioner and her Deputy travelled on mission to 18 countries. In the follow-up to several of their missions, concrete changes took place on the ground such as the renewal of the agreement with



The Deputy High Commissioner at the June 2013 session of the Human Rights Council.

the Government of Colombia for the sustained presence of OHCHR in the country; and the establishment in Serbia of a national mechanism for the follow-up to recommendations issued by UN HRMs. In 2013, the High Commissioner briefed the Security Council on the situation in the Middle East and on the protection of civilians and, as a result of these interventions, human rights were given prominence in the debates of the Council. The High Commissioner continued to advocate globally for the need to investigate allegations, ensure the accountability of those who are responsible for human rights violations and provide reparation to victims.

### Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ Following targeted interventions by the High Commissioner and her staff, human rights considerations were incorporated into the agendas of both the Chief Executives Board, the High-level Committee on Programmes, the UNDG, UN peace operations and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC). The High Commissioner also responded to an increasing number of requests for information to be used in investigations and court proceedings, including from the International Criminal Court in a manner consistent with OHCHR's mandate and the UN-International Criminal Court Relationship Agreement.

## Global Management Outputs

### Sharing OHCHR's strategic direction (GMO 1)

- ▶ The High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner continued to send all-staff messages on key issues and policies; and to hold all-staff meetings.

### Integrating a gender perspective (GMO 3)

- ▶ Based on OHCHR's Gender Equality Strategic Plan, the Executive Office ensured that women's rights and gender issues were adequately addressed in all areas of work, including in statements, speeches, country visits and media interactions of the High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner.

### Servicing human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- ▶ The High Commissioner addressed the Annual Meeting of Special Procedures and continued to support the intergovernmental process on treaty body strengthening and facilitate the input of treaty bodies in the process.
- ▶ The High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner addressed the Human Rights Council on a regular basis and participated in its interactive dialogues, main sessions and panels. The High Commissioner also supported the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) by, for instance, making it a standing item in her bilateral meetings with governments during which she emphasized its universality and the importance of follow-up to its recommendations.

### Improved awareness of and support to OHCHR (GMO 7)

- ▶ The High Commissioner briefed Member States and NGOs approximately 30 times during 2013, both formally (through the Human Rights Council) and informally (during the launch of the Annual Appeal, the OHCHR Report, thematic briefings and side events) regarding the human rights situation in the world, the work undertaken by OHCHR to address these challenges and the financial situation of the Office.

In 2013, the High Commissioner, the Deputy High Commissioner and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights undertook 23 missions to Afghanistan, Angola, Belgium, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Central Asia (Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Guinea-Bissau, Ireland, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sri Lanka, the United Kingdom and Yemen.



The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights briefs the Security Council on the crisis in Syria, July 2013.

## New York Office

### Background

The OHCHR New York Office is headed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and is comprised of three sections which are dedicated to geographic, thematic and intergovernmental issues, respectively. The Office's principal function is to integrate a human rights perspective into discussions, policies and decisions at UN Headquarters by engaging with other UN agencies and departments, Member States and civil society. The Office provides direct support to the Secretary-General and his Office on human rights-related matters. A concerted effort has also been made to increase OHCHR's input into intergovernmental discussions in New York, including in the General Assembly and the Security Council.

The Office also works closely with other UN departments and agencies to inform and assist the development of UN Secretariat and system-wide policies. OHCHR's increasing profile in New York, linked in part to its enhanced capacity, was reflected in a continued deepening of constructive working relations with interdepartmental counterparts on social development, peacekeeping, political, legal and humanitarian affairs. The consistent high-level engagement of the Office has increased the integration of a human rights perspective in decisions relating to a wide range of thematic issues and country-specific situations.

The Office organizes and contributes to public information and other events that are intended to increase awareness among members of the

New York-based diplomatic community and a wider public audience about specific human rights challenges. In 2013, these included events on the 20th anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and of OHCHR; the international campaign to abolish the death penalty; the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (OP-ICESCR); the right to development; human rights indicators; the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons; the rights of persons with disabilities; and the human rights of migrants.

## Results

### National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ OHCHR, as Chair of the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force's (CTITF) Working Group on Protecting Human Rights while Countering Terrorism, organized two needs assessment workshops in Burkina Faso and Jordan for Member States in the Middle East, North Africa, West Africa and the Sahel region, with a view to rolling out training workshops on human rights, the rule of law and the prevention of terrorism for law enforcement officials. The main objectives of the workshops were to work with State representatives, experts, civil society and the media to map training needs and establish a roster of experts for developing and delivering the training. Both events accomplished the mapping of training needs and several Member States expressed interest in receiving the proposed training.

### Responsiveness of the international community (EA 10)

- ▶ The New York Office coordinated the advocacy efforts and participation of OHCHR and the UN HRMs in the General Assembly High-level Dialogue on Migration and Development. This included participating in and contributing to preparatory activities, participating in various formal round-tables and providing inputs to the negotiations related to the outcome document. As a result, the outcome document integrated more human rights language than the outcome document of the last high-level meeting in 2006.
- ▶ OHCHR participated in the General Assembly High-level Meeting on Disability and Development, including by providing inputs to the outcome document. The New York Office secured the participation of the High Commissioner and the Chairperson of the Committee on the Rights of Persons

with Disabilities (CRPD) at the meeting. As a consequence, the outcome document is strongly rooted in human rights, in particular, in the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

- ▶ The New York Office, in close cooperation with relevant divisions at OHCHR headquarters in Geneva, provided relevant suggestions which were integrated into several final resolutions adopted by the General Assembly, including ensuring their coherence with resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council.
- ▶ OHCHR supported the organization of a number of regional seminars on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity, with the purpose of following-up on Human Rights Council resolution 17/19 of June 2011. The seminars were held in Asia (Kathmandu), Latin America (Brasilia) and Europe (Paris), during the spring of 2013 and a concluding conference was held in Oslo in April, co-chaired by Norway and South Africa. By bringing together representatives from UN Member States, UN agencies, regional and international human rights mechanisms, NHRIs and civil society, the meetings resulted in the preparation of a roadmap for strengthening the protection of the rights of LGBTI persons and recommendations for action to be taken at the national, regional and international levels.
- ▶ In 2013, the Office's publication *Born Free and Equal* - a 60-page booklet outlining the source and scope of some of the core legal obligations of States to protect the human rights of LGBTI persons - was made available in all six UN languages, as well as in a number of other languages through unofficial translations. The booklet ranks as one of the most frequently downloaded publications from the OHCHR website and is regularly used by UN agencies and civil society activists as a reference document and advocacy tool.
- ▶ LGBTI-related human rights concerns were regularly raised by the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner and senior OHCHR representatives in the context of public statements and private dialogue and correspondence with governments. OHCHR also continued to support the efforts of relevant special procedures mandate-holders in their efforts to highlight the human rights challenges facing LGBTI persons and respond to specific incidents. Urgent appeals and other interventions by special procedures prompted constructive responses from governments in a number of cases, including commitments to address alleged violations and review the application of discriminatory laws and policies.



High-Level Panel Discussion on “Vienna+20: Human Rights and Way Forward” in New York, September 2013.

- ▶ In July 2013, the New York Office launched “Free & Equal” - a year-long UN public information campaign designed to raise awareness about homophobic and transphobic violence and discrimination and promote greater respect for the rights of LGBTI persons. The pre-launch campaign video, “The Riddle,” which was released to mark the International Day against Homophobia in May, was seen by almost 500,000 people online, including YouTube, Weibo and other platforms. During the campaign’s first three months, campaign materials were sent to more than one million people via Facebook and Twitter and more than one billion people were exposed to information about the campaign via online news and other websites.
- ▶ On 26 September 2013, the Office supported the organization of a ministerial meeting during the General Assembly, which focused on urgent action to end discrimination against LGBTI persons. The meeting was attended by the High Commissioner, the Foreign Ministers of Argentina, the Netherlands and Norway, the Secretary of State of the United States, the Minister of Development Cooperation of France and high-level representatives from Brazil, Croatia, the European Union (EU), Japan and New Zealand. OHCHR facilitated the drafting of a Ministerial Declaration, endorsed by the participants at the meeting, which sets out commitments of participating governments to protect the human rights of LGBTI persons.
- ▶ As part of its continuing work on enhancing the awareness of Member States regarding the application of the death penalty, the Office organized a panel event on the death penalty and wrongful convictions. The event was

opened by the Secretary-General and aimed at: building the momentum for the 2014 General Assembly resolution on a moratorium of the use of the death penalty; sharing experiences from various countries; and examining the human rights dimensions of the application of the death penalty. Prior to the event, the Office presented a full-length documentary examining the wrongful conviction of three young men for murder. The event resulted in a greater awareness about the human rights deficits of implementing the death penalty and highlighted strategies for transitioning from capital punishment.

#### **Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)**

- ▶ Engagement with the Security Council increased substantially in the past two years. In 2013, the High Commissioner was invited to participate in meetings and formal briefings of the Security Council on eight occasions, including on thematic and country-specific concerns such as the Central African Republic and Syria, the protection of civilians and women, peace and security. The New York Office also participated, by invitation, in meetings of the Security Council’s informal expert group on the protection of civilians, providing further opportunities to discuss human rights issues in the context of the creation or renewal of mandates for peace missions. Moreover, the Office has been increasingly consulted on a bilateral basis by Security Council members regarding the wording of relevant provisions of draft resolutions, including on Central African Republic, Côte d’Ivoire, DRC, Haiti, Liberia, Mali, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Western Sahara.

These interactions with the Security Council reflect the growing recognition by Member States and the UN system that human rights challenges underlie many current peace and security-related crises, thereby enabling the integration of human rights language in the Council's resolutions, including specific references to the UN Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.

- ▶ OHCHR ensured the inclusion of gender and women's human rights perspectives in the work of the Security Council by supporting the implementation of resolutions 1888 and 1960, including through inputs to country-specific resolutions and policy documents for mission set-ups and through the development of generic terms of reference for Women Protection Advisers (WPAs) to be deployed to peace missions.
- ▶ Through active participation in inter-agency/departmental fora, the New York Office advocated for the inclusion of human rights capacities in mission start-ups in Mali and Somalia. The Office continued to mainstream the findings, analyses and recommendations of relevant special procedures and commissions of inquiry in UN interdepartmental fora. These efforts and regular liaison with UN humanitarian actors led to the positive reflection of human rights concerns, including in the Central African Republic, the DRC, Mali, the Sahel and Syria.
- ▶ Support was provided to the Secretary-General in the development of his "Rights Up Front" Action Plan, including by seconding a senior staff member to the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, which aims at placing human rights protection at the centre of UN action towards crisis prevention and response.
- ▶ The Office provided human rights analysis to the wider UN system with respect to a number of countries not on the agenda of the Security Council, including through inputs to General Assembly reports, statements of the Secretary-General, internal briefings for senior UN officials as well as updates to the Secretary-General and Deputy Secretary-General on human rights perspectives in the context of ongoing political processes. These contributions assisted the UN system to develop more comprehensive responses to addressing country situations by systematically raising human rights concerns with the respective countries. This was particularly effective with respect to UN responses in a number of electoral processes, including in Bangladesh, Cambodia, the Maldives and Nepal. The Office also worked closely with the Office of the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Myanmar to ensure human rights concerns were addressed as part of the UN system-wide engagement with the country. As a result, the Special Adviser raised human rights concerns about the situation in Rakhine with government interlocutors and the UN system.
- ▶ The New York Office co-chaired, with the Office of Human Resources, the Secretariat Working Group on the Implementation of the Secretary-General's Policy on Human Rights Screening of United Nations Personnel. Together, they co-led the launch of the pilot-phase of the implementation and organized briefings for Member States and NGOs on the Policy.
- ▶ The inclusion of a human rights perspective in the work of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE), the UN Trust Fund on Violence against Women and the UN Action Network against Sexual Violence in Conflict (UN Action) was ensured through the engagement of the New York Office with these inter-agency mechanisms.
- ▶ The cooperation of OHCHR with the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law/Sexual Violence in Conflict, established under Security Council resolution 1888, was strengthened through the assignment of a staff member to support the Team and ensure that human rights are fully integrated in responses by States to conflict-related sexual violence. The contributions of the OHCHR staff member facilitated the integration of a human rights perspective in justice processes related to cases of conflict-related sexual violence, including in Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC and Guinea. These activities also led to the inclusion of relevant information on conflict-related sexual violence in recommendations issued to States Parties by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW).
- ▶ The New York Office actively engaged in key inter-agency initiatives and mechanisms relating to development and economic, social and cultural issues. The Office supported OHCHR's active engagement in mainstreaming human rights in the post-2015 development agenda. As a result, the outcomes of all major processes (i.e., the Secretary-General's High-Level Panel of Eminent Persons on the Post-2015 Development Agenda) indicated that the application of a human rights perspective is central to a comprehensive post-2015 development framework. In addition, in September 2013, the High Commissioner was invited to speak at the General Assembly's special event on the acceleration of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and the framing of the post-2015 development agenda. The outcome document concluded that human rights are essential for MDG acceleration and building an effective global partnership for development.

- ▶ Technical advice provided to the UN Technical Support Team, supporting the work of the intergovernmental Open Working Group (OWG) on Sustainable Development Goals, resulted in the inclusion of human rights and the right to development in its programme of work. As a result of advocacy undertaken by the Office, a number of thematic briefing papers, such as on inequality, conflict prevention and resolution, peacebuilding, governance and the rule of law, prepared by the UN Technical Support Team to guide the deliberations of the OWG, included consistent analyses and proposals from a human rights perspective.

## Global Management Outputs

### Sharing OHCHR's strategic direction (GMO 1)

- ▶ The New York Office contributed to efforts for improving the cooperation and coordination between colleagues in New York, Geneva and the field. Regular interactions between staff in different duty stations increased OHCHR's strategic coherence and enabled the New York Office to better represent the priorities of the Office in thematic and country specific discussions in New York.

### Servicing human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- ▶ The New York Office continued to reach out to Member States without representation in Geneva to ensure their effective engagement with HRMs, including the UPR and its follow-up.
- ▶ The Office supported the treaty body strengthening consultation process held in New York and provided substantive advice to Member States, including in relation to requests for additional resources for the treaty body system.
- ▶ The Office organized elections for members of the CRPD, the Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW) and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD). In order to reduce the administrative burden on OHCHR and Member States and to provide newly elected members with more time to prepare before assuming their duties, all treaty body elections were organized at the end of May when the General Assembly was not in session.
- ▶ Support was provided to over 50 independent human rights experts, including thematic and country-specific special procedures mandate-holders, during their presentations to the General Assembly and in their bilateral meetings in New York. The New York Office also helped to organize more than 30 side events and press conferences to support the experts in sharing information with Member States and UN agencies.



The High Commissioner and Desmond Tutu at the launch of the Free & Equal campaign in South Africa, July 2013.

- ▶ A series of activities were organized by the Office to celebrate the entry into force of the OP-ICESCR. In the context of a panel discussion facilitated by the Office in May, Member States in New York established a “group of friends” of the Optional Protocol which has been actively promoting ratification of the instrument.

### Supporting field operations (GMO 5)

- ▶ The New York Office worked with several field offices, especially in Africa and Latin America, to support their efforts to address violations of the human rights of LGBTI persons, especially through disseminating the booklet *Born Free and Equal* and other public information materials, by supporting training sessions to spread information about such violations and providing support for national and/or regional launches of the campaign “Free & Equal.” These efforts provided field presences with the necessary tools to document alleged violations, raise issues of concern with national stakeholders, effectively engage with civil society and publicize the strong position of the Office in relation to the rights of LGBTI persons.

### Improved awareness of and support to OHCHR (GMO 7)

- ▶ The New York Office held quarterly briefings for Member States and civil society organizations to discuss human rights issues and developments taking place in Geneva and New York. The briefings also focused on ways to enhance their participation in UN meetings and processes related to human rights and in advocacy efforts with Member States.

- ▶ The Office, in cooperation with UNITAR, organized a two-day orientation programme for new delegates working on human rights and related issues in New York, thereby raising their awareness about human rights issues and mechanisms.
- ▶ The New York Office organized a side event during the high-level segment of the General Assembly to commemorate the 20th anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. Attended by several Heads of States and governments, the event included the participation of the Deputy Secretary-General, the current High Commissioner and two former High Commissioners. The event contributed to improving the awareness and understanding of and support to OHCHR's mission and programmes.

## External Outreach Service

With its vision to be a “strong global leader and principled advocate for the full realization of all the rights and freedoms enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,” the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is uniquely positioned within the United Nations system and in the human rights community to promote and protect all human rights. Based on its six thematic priorities outlined in the OHCHR Management Plan (OMP), the Office has the opportunity to enhance awareness and understanding of and support to its mandate, activities and programmes throughout the world. Despite the greater visibility of the Office over the past biennium, most notably in traditional and social media outlets, many opportunities remain untapped for expanded and sharpened outreach.

For the past three years, the Office has been faced with a shortage of funds to pursue its planned activities. To fulfil the entirety of its mandate and to increase the global levels of awareness needed to build more support, additional funding opportunities and sustained income sources, OHCHR must enhance and strengthen its communication and outreach to its current stakeholders, while at the same time finding innovative ways to reach out to new audiences and communicate human rights messages in a way that resonates with the general public. Although OHCHR's outreach with civil society has developed significantly in the last biennium, this increasingly diverse and dynamic sector demands enhanced support and attention both to advance the human rights agenda and to help protect groups and individuals who are targeted because they speak out.

To create synergies between the different OHCHR sections working on external relations issues and to maximize the impact of their work, an External Outreach Service was created in 2013. The Service is headed by a Chief who reports to the Deputy High Commissioner and supervises the work of the Civil Society, Communications and Donor and External Relations sections.

## Civil Society Section

### Background

Civil society actors play a pivotal role in advancing the human rights agenda at the national level and are frequently the first to sound the alarm about an emerging human rights crisis. At the international and regional levels, they advocate for new or strengthened human rights standards and mandates and increasingly engage with UN human rights bodies to complement their work at the national level. The international community recognizes the important transformational role of civil society at all levels and its contribution to the achievement of the purposes and principles of the United Nations. Civil society space, however, is increasingly fragile. Civil society actors have faced increasingly insidious and serious threats in all regions, including due to the arrest and imprisonment of human rights defenders, the enactment of laws to exert control over civil society organizations, actions taken to undermine their independence, the establishment of restrictions on funding, mediatized defamation campaigns, particularly targeting women defenders, the criminalization of human rights work and reprisals for engaging with the UN.



OHCHR guide for civil society actors on how to follow up on human rights recommendations.

OHCHR's Civil Society Section seeks to facilitate interaction between OHCHR and civil society actors in all parts of the world and strengthen civil society's engagement with the UN Human Rights Programme. Working closely with headquarters and colleagues in the field, the Section adopts an inclusive approach to civil society participation at the national level as well as in relation to the UN Human Rights Programme, aims to build knowledge and skills and seeks to protect civil society space, including by working to improve the protection of civil society actors at risk. The Section develops user-friendly tools and guides, monitors civil society trends and initiates office-wide policies and strategies to underpin and strengthen OHCHR's work with civil society.

Lebanon, Lithuania and Tunisia. The Section also developed three guides relating to the Social Forum, grants and fellowships and adopting an holistic approach to follow-up on UN human rights recommendations. All were made available in print and/or online in the six UN languages. The Section also made available to field colleagues the internal OHCHR civil society protection policy and civil society engagement strategy in English, French and Spanish. Moreover, it provided advisory services, inter alia, to the Jamaica United Nations Country Team (UNCT) regarding a project proposal on civil society engagement in the implementation of UPR recommendations.

## Global Management Outputs

### Integrating a gender perspective (GMO 3)

▶ The Civil Society Section ensured that its practical guides for civil society and other human rights tools were developed in line with OHCHR's gender policy and consistently drew attention, in briefings and statements, to the targeting of women civil society actors, in particular through mediatized or online defamation or smear campaigns. The Section ensured that a gender perspective was reflected in all panel debates to which it contributed, including on the occasion of OHCHR's Open Day event in September 2013 and Human Rights Day in December 2013. In addition, the Section contributed to the organization of the annual panel at the Human Rights Council on gender integration, held in September 2013, focusing on the contribution of civil society to gender integration.

### Servicing human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

▶ The Civil Society Section supported civil society engagement with the Human Rights Council and its subsidiary bodies. NGO participation in 2012 and 2013 in sessions of the Council increased by more than 20 per cent over the previous biennium and was accompanied by a 50 per cent increase in the number of written and oral statements. In collaboration with IT colleagues, the Section continued to develop online systems for NGOs, including one introduced in 2013 to facilitate the submission of written statements by NGOs to regular sessions of the Human Rights Council.

### Supporting field operations (GMO 5)

▶ In cooperation with field colleagues and to support their work, the Civil Society Section participated in events with civil society actors in Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan,

### Improved awareness of and support to OHCHR (GMO 7)

▶ The Civil Society Section continued developing and updating its intranet-based civil society resource base, (WiKi), to assist colleagues, particularly those working in field presences, in their work with civil society. Information and resources included in the WiKi relate to the three main areas of the Civil Society Section's work: building knowledge and skills; promoting civil society participation; and protecting civil society space, including the protection of civil society actors. As well as providing access to strategies and policies, the resource base includes public statements and speeches relating to civil society and good practice examples from the field. This investment contributed to strengthened and more consistent approaches concerning civil society engagement at headquarters and the field, in addition to systematic and coherent input relating to civil society for the High Commissioner's missions.

▶ Civil society actors increased their knowledge and understanding of and access to the UN Human Rights Programme by joining the Civil Society Section e-mail subscription service. More than 4,300 civil society subscribers received at least 320 human rights messages and updates each year. The number of subscribers represents an increase of nearly 70 per cent in the course of the biennium. The broadcasts provided information on upcoming sessions of the Human Rights Council and treaty bodies; deadlines for stakeholder submissions to the Universal Periodic Review; invitations to contribute to thematic consultations by special procedures mandates; forthcoming field visits by independent experts; new human rights resources; calls to civil society for the submission of written contributions for OHCHR reports; and invitations to participate in events and related processes. In addition, the Section delivered

more than 100 briefings on the UN Human Rights Programme in Geneva to visiting civil society actors and students and responded to approximately 100 email and telephone queries per week from civil society actors seeking advice.

## Communications Section

### Background

The Communications Section produces public information materials, develops communications strategies and undertakes activities to support the achievement of the Office's objectives and priorities. The Section primarily disseminates its communications outputs through the media, the web and social media and makes use of network relays (OHCHR field presences, the UN system, civil society, NHRIs) to extend its outreach at the international, regional, national and local levels. The Section also utilizes the outreach capacity of the UN Department of Public Information to further disseminate information, in particular through UN Information Centres, the broadcast media, the UN website and its social media tools.

The year 2013 was a milestone year for OHCHR as it celebrated the 20th anniversary of the World Conference on Human Rights that took place in Vienna in June 1993. The Communications Section conceptualized and implemented a communication campaign to commemorate the anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and the establishment of the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. A number of activities were implemented and articulated around the key message: "How the work of the High Commissioner and her Office has made a difference in people's lives." The strategy included a video public service announcement which featured human rights activists, sports and entertainment personalities. A dedicated website promoted the 20 main human rights achievements of the past 20 years and a timeline featuring key developments since the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights. In addition to traditional communications platforms, social media platforms were used, for the first time, as a major component of the campaign. The campaign culminated in a series of events held on Human Rights Day in December 2013, capping a year-long global programme of commemorative events held in Vienna, New York, Geneva, Brussels and many of the OHCHR field offices.

## Global Management Outputs

### **Servicing human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)**

- ▶ The Communications Section made use of a wide variety of communications tools and approaches to support the work of the human rights mechanisms, thereby increasing their visibility. The missions and reports of special procedures continued to be highly visible in the media. Several of the special rapporteurs are now among the most prominent media voices on their subject areas.
- ▶ Coverage of the treaty bodies was considerably boosted due to the efforts of a media officer who planned coverage and targeted both international and national media in the States appearing before the Committees. From May-December 2013, the treaty bodies held 10 press conferences which generated news coverage about the concerns and recommendations of the committees.
- ▶ In January 2013, the High Commissioner issued a news release calling for the establishment of a Commission of Inquiry (CoI) on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK). Two months later, the Human Rights Council adopted a resolution to establish a CoI and specifically cited this news release. Due to the hiring of a specialized Media Officer, as recommended by the Communications Section, the CoI's work on detailing the human rights violations in the country has been closely followed and widely documented by major media outlets across the world.

### **Improved awareness of and support to OHCHR (GMO 7)**

- ▶ In 2013, the Communications Section focused its campaign efforts on marking the 20th anniversary of the 1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action and the creation of the post of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. The campaign included the holding of major events such as: a High-level Panel on the Vienna Declaration at the Human Rights Council in February; a conference in Vienna on 27-28 June that was co-organized with the Government of Austria; an Open House Day at Palais Wilson on 14 September, with the support of the Swiss Government; a High-level side-event during the General Assembly in September that was co-organized with the Government of Austria; and the Human Rights Day event in Geneva on 5 December. The campaign featured web-based, social media and audio-visual components and an electronic information note was produced about the 20 human rights achievements of the last two decades. Public information materials, including

Human Rights Day 2013 was celebrated in many regions, in many different ways. It had even greater significance this year because of the 20th anniversary of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Human Rights Day is marked annually on 10 December to commemorate the day in 1948 when the General Assembly proclaimed the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a common standard of achievement for all peoples and all nations. Human Rights Day 2013 culminated OHCHR's year-long campaign, which included a number of major events to highlight the achievements of the past two decades and explored ongoing and future human rights challenges.

#### New York

On 10 December, in New York, an anti-slavery activist, a campaigner for the rights of persons with disabilities, a 16-year-old defender of girls' and women's right to education, a human rights defender from Morocco and representatives from a national constitutional court received the UN Human Rights Prize for "outstanding achievements in the field of human rights."

Malala Yousafzai, 16, already a vocal and well-known activist from Pakistan who advocates for education and women's rights, continued to speak out on behalf of the rights of girls and women despite an assassination attempt in 2012. Biram Dah Abeid, from Mauritania, advocates to eradicate slavery; Hiljmnijeta Apuk has been an activist in Kosovo<sup>1</sup> for the rights of persons with disabilities for over 30 years; and Dr. Liisa Kauppinen, from Finland, has been a 'voice' for the human rights of deaf people since 1970. Khadija Ryadi, of Morocco, has been at the forefront of several human rights causes, including justice for human rights violations, gender equality, self-determination and freedom of expression. The Mexican Supreme Court of Justice has made considerable progress in promoting human rights through its interpretations and enforcement of Mexico's Constitution and its obligations under international law.

<sup>1</sup> All references to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.



Human Rights Day celebration in Geneva, December 2013.

#### Geneva

In Geneva, Salif Keita, the "golden voice of Africa" and an advocate for the rights of persons with albinism, performed for guests at Palais des Nations who had gathered to hear speakers discuss a range of topics. World-renowned human rights lawyer, Hina Jilani, and Roselyn Hanzi, a lawyer from Zimbabwe, participated in the discussion on the importance of protecting human rights defenders. Rita Izsák, Independent Expert on minority issues, Chief Wilton Littlechild, Chair of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and Martha Piedad Mosquera Figueroa, a 2013 fellow of the OHCHR Minorities Fellowship Programme, highlighted the significant progress made in advancing the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples. Sir Tim Berners-Lee, the inventor

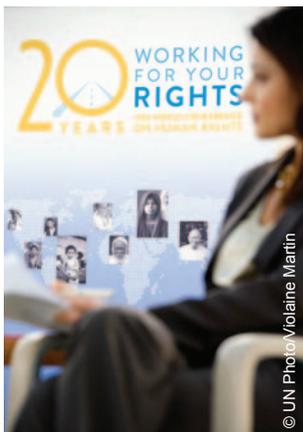
banners, posters and USB keys, were developed and distributed. The Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action was redesigned and reprinted in the UN's six official languages with a foreword by the Secretary-General and an introduction by the High Commissioner. The façade of Palais Wilson was illuminated for two weeks in September.

- ▶ Other campaigns and events were organized throughout 2012 and 2013, including in relation to racial discrimination against Roma, racism and sports, the post-2015 development agenda and women and LGBTI issues. Advice on communications issues was provided to the organizers of the International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014 and

the 20th anniversary of the UN Minority Rights Declaration.

- ▶ The OHCHR website was regularly updated with news, feature stories and thematic content and new pages were created to highlight special events and campaigns. In 2013, approximately 140 web stories were posted on the "How We Make a Difference" section, covering a wide range of human rights subjects and focusing on human rights achievements in the last 20 years. Furthermore, to expand multilingual outreach, and in response to the growing demand for human rights information in Arabic, the OHCHR Arabic website was launched on Human Rights Day 2012. By December 2013, the site had received over 3.8 million page views.

of the World Wide Web, and the High Commissioner for Human Rights, deliberated over human rights and the internet, as well as internet privacy and government surveillance. Christof Heyns, the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, Zied Mhersi, co-founder of Tunisia Live, and Deeyah Khan, a music producer, composer, award-winning documentary film director and human rights activist, reflected upon the future. More specifically, the speakers stressed the need to continue implementing the existing human rights framework and utilize digital technology and the arts as a way to reach young people and inspire action.



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Human Rights Day celebration in Geneva, December 2013.



Human Rights Day in Togo, December 2013.

### Human Rights Day celebrations around the world

Human Rights Day events throughout the world commemorated the 20th anniversary of the establishment of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. The events, celebrated in many countries, including Belgium, Brazil, Lebanon, Mexico, Myanmar, Rwanda, Serbia and South Africa, addressed a variety of human rights issues ranging from women's rights to LGBTI rights, human rights and the internet and human rights defenders. Events commemorating the 20th anniversary were also celebrated in the lead-up to Human Rights Day in Austria, Tunisia and Uganda.

### Human Rights Day public information support

The commemoration of Human Rights Day was supported with a number of public information products

developed in the framework of OHCHR's 20th anniversary. A special website was created for OHCHR's 20th anniversary and Human Rights Day 2013. The site featured a multimedia interactive timeline with videos, photos and text depicting 20 years of OHCHR's achievements in advancing the human rights agenda to serve as an effective outreach tool to illustrate the progress made and the challenges that lie ahead. Special designs were also created and posted to enable partners to download and use the designs in their local contexts. A promotional video, the Road Ahead, showcased the highlights of key human rights events of the past 20 years and was screened at various Human Rights Day events, including in Geneva. A video featuring the High Commissioner's statement was also distributed days before Human Rights Day. The High Commissioner held a press conference with Sir Tim Berners-Lee ahead of one of the Human Rights Day discussions in Geneva, which focused on human rights and the free flow of information. Social media projects were held in the lead-up to and around Human Rights Day, including a social media interaction on Twitter.

► The Communications Section worked to enhance the mainstream media's coverage of OHCHR's work on thematic and country-based issues and used video as a strong visual tool to reach wider audiences. These videos generated a strong interest among broadcast media, in particular when they were accompanied by key press releases on, for instance, the Syria conflict, enforced disappearance, migration and racism in football. In 2013, 21 feature videos and video news releases were produced and disseminated to broadcast media through UNIFEED and the European Broadcasting Union as well as through UN Information Centres, UNCTs and social media platforms, especially YouTube. Additionally, a promotional video was produced for the 20th anniversary of the Vienna

Declaration and Programme of Action to showcase the highlights of key human rights events of the past 20 years. The video was screened at various commemorative events and included famous faces such as education rights activist Malala Yousafzai, Lebanese actress Nadine Labaki, actress and activist Salma Hayek, professional footballer Kevin Prince Boateng, jazz musician Hugh Masekela and High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay. The video was used by international broadcasters such as CNN and France 24 and on Swiss Air Lines international flights.

► On the media front, the Section significantly increased the visibility of OHCHR and the special procedures by emphasizing emerging, new and existing human rights issues. In 2013, an additional

On 14 September 2013, OHCHR opened the doors of its Geneva headquarters, Palais Wilson, to the public in order to celebrate the establishment of the Office and the 20th anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.

In partnership with Switzerland, which supports the Office as a host country, and the Canton and City of Geneva, the High Commissioner marked 20 years of working for the rights of individuals and groups around the world. The public familiarized itself with the work of OHCHR and the UN human rights system and its collaboration with Switzerland and civil society organizations based in Geneva and from around the world.

Approximately 2,000 people visited Palais Wilson. Young and older participants, human rights experts and novices alike took part in the various activities.

The main attraction was the Palais itself, which has hosted the headquarters of the UN Human Rights Office since 1998. Palais Wilson was inaugurated in 1875 as the Hôtel National and is still one of Geneva's historic architectural staples. When Switzerland joined the League of Nations in 1920, the premises became the organization's first headquarters. It was renamed Palais Wilson in 1924, in homage to the United States President and Nobel Peace Prize laureate, Woodrow Wilson, following his death. The late President had played an important role in the establishment of the League of Nations during the 1919 Paris Peace Conference. A local historian guided visitors around the building and revealed many of its architectural secrets.

Visitors were also given a sense of the configuration of some of the rooms of Palais Wilson from the time when it hosted the League

of Nations through an exhibition featuring archival photographs.

Two panel discussions took place featuring renowned human rights experts who served as panellists. The panels, Women Human Rights Defenders and Reprisals Against Those Who Collaborate with the UN to Denounce Human Rights Abuses, were well attended by participants who demonstrated a keen interest in the issues by actively participating in the question and answer sessions.

Throughout the day, feature films and documentaries on human rights were screened and poets and spoken word artists offered their interpretations of human rights through musical performances.

In the week leading up to and after the Open House Day, Palais Wilson was illuminated by a professional light show.



Open House Day at OHCHR's headquarters in Geneva

effort was made to improve media coverage in French, including more television and radio interviews, and to help raise the media profile of the CoIs and the treaty bodies which were supported by a media officer for the first time.

- ▶ The conflict in Syria has been a running news story throughout 2012 and 2013. OHCHR commissioned and publicized two extensively researched statistical reports on casualties that have become the benchmark for assessing the scale of the crisis and have been widely cited by the media.
- ▶ In 2013, 690 media communications relating to the work of the High Commissioner and her Office, the special procedures and the treaty bodies were issued. The indicative number of

articles mentioning the High Commissioner or her Office, as shown by the FACTIVA media search engine, increased by 23 per cent from 11,490 in 2012 to more than 14,888 in 2013.

- ▶ OHCHR established its presence on social media in 2011. As of December 2013, the Office has over 120,000 followers on Facebook and more than 255,000 on Twitter.
- ▶ OHCHR continued to look for new means of increasing its visibility through social media. For example, it has developed the use of Google+, a platform that offers novel ways and opportunities of engaging with the audience such as "Hangouts." After hosting eight Hangouts on key human rights issues, Google+ is now OHCHR's fastest growing platform and counts

over 400,000 followers, compared to 700 in November 2012.

- ▶ OHCHR was also an active participant in the global post-2015 development agenda campaign. The hashtag #Rights2015 was created to promote the campaign for human rights to be placed at the centre of the post-2015 development agenda and is frequently used by Twitter users.
- ▶ Finally, 78 briefings and visits to Palais Wilson were organized on a variety of human rights topics for 2,266 people consisting of university students, diplomats, lawyers, journalists and individual groups.

## Donor and External Relations Section

### Background

The Donor and External Relations Section (DEXREL), one of three sections that are part of the External Outreach Service, is responsible for securing voluntary contributions from donors to meet OHCHR's extrabudgetary resource requirements in any given year. DEXREL remains in close contact with donor representatives to ensure that OHCHR's funding needs are clearly disseminated and responds to requests for information from permanent missions and donor capitals on OHCHR's plans and priorities. DEXREL organizes regular briefing sessions for donors with inputs and participation of the entire Office and coordinates annual consultations with a number of donors through bilateral meetings and in groups. The Section is responsible for following up on the implementation of earmarked contributions and reporting back to donors on the use of these funds through the OHCHR Report or tailor-made reports for specific contributions. DEXREL produces an annual UN Human Rights Appeal for donors highlighting requirements for the current financial year that are in line with plans and strategies set forth in the four-year OMP. The Section also engages with the private sector to build long-lasting partnerships in support of OHCHR's work in order to obtain both financial and in-kind contributions.

### Global Management Outputs

#### Improved awareness of and support to OHCHR (GMO 7)

- ▶ Under the leadership of DEXREL, with an office-wide effort to reach out to donors, a total of US\$121.2 million was raised in extrabudgetary contributions in 2013, representing an increase

of 9 per cent compared to the previous year (US\$111.1 million). While this can be considered as a significant improvement in the current economic climate, the increase may not be sustainable as some of the resources were one-off contributions.

- ▶ Contributions from Member States remained stable in 2013 with US\$100.7 million, compared to US\$100.6 million in 2012. These contributions represented 84 per cent of the income received by the Office in 2013. As has been the case in the past four years, a number of Member States (including nine of the top donors) had to make further cuts in their multilateral aid budgets. Fortunately, these losses were compensated by an increase in contributions from other donors less affected by the financial crisis. In 2013, 65 Member States made contributions to OHCHR, compared to 68 in 2012. Two governments pledged funds for the first time, whereas 11 renewed their support after at least one inactive year. A total of 17 donors did not renew their support, in spite of the High Commissioner's repeated appeal to broaden the donor base and support, even symbolically, the work of the Office. A total of 29 agreements were signed, seven of which were multi-year agreements, compared to five in 2012. In total, 72 institutional donors were registered, compared to 74 in 2012.
- ▶ The proportion of unearmarked funding received increased slightly to 55 per cent (up from 53 per cent in 2012 and 51 per cent in 2011). Notwithstanding the overall increase in unearmarked funds, the total amount of earmarked contributions also increased. The Office received more earmarked contributions as a result of ongoing efforts to attract additional local funding for field activities and because the economic situation had led some governments to earmark funds for specific activities.
- ▶ While OHCHR continued to participate in the Consolidated Appeal and Flash Appeal processes, coordinated by OCHA, the funding generated through these processes remained low (US\$394,038 for 2013). Total funds received through Multi-Partner Trust Funds increased to US\$3.9 million in 2013, compared to US\$2.4 million in 2012. In addition, OHCHR received two grants from the Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF) for a total of US\$185,433.
- ▶ Further efforts were undertaken in 2013 to obtain private sector support. An online donation facility was introduced on 4 November on OHCHR's website, through which individuals can donate money with their credit card. Various campaigns are planned for 2014 to make the facility known to the general public. Building on this work, a

mobile application will be developed in 2014 through which individuals will be able to receive updates and information on OHCHR's work and make donations with their mobile devices.

- ▶ In 2013, the Office began to work on developing partnerships with some IT companies to find solutions for OHCHR's needs in this area. The partnership initiated with Microsoft in 2012 on accessibility was successfully concluded with the presentation of a report to the CRPD on the measures and resources required to make the proceedings of the human rights mechanisms more accessible to persons with disabilities.
- ▶ With the support of DEXREL, Senior Management continued to regularly brief Member States on expected accomplishments (EAs), indicators of achievements and outputs, as well as on budget and funding requirements. A specific technical briefing for Member States was organized on 11 July 2013 on the content of the *OHCHR Report 2012* during which the Office shared information and details on results achieved, activities undertaken and resources allocated.

## Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Service

### Background

The Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Service (PPMES) leads OHCHR's efforts to become a fully results-based organization. It supports the entire Office in transforming the High Commissioner's strategic vision into actionable priorities, strategies and operational plans, policies and procedures. It ensures that implementation efforts are monitored, results are evaluated and lessons learned are identified and factored into future planning and programming processes. Likewise, PPMES helps to identify and fill gaps in OHCHR's policies and strategic planning and programming processes.

Over the last biennium, PPMES has contributed to significant advances in OHCHR's ability to apply results-based management (RBM) principles to human rights work. A strong commitment from senior management and a sustained investment in capacity-building has been instrumental to developing an office-wide culture of results. OHCHR's improvements in the application of RBM to human rights have been recognized by its donors and within the UN community. In particular, OHCHR's Performance Monitoring System (PMS) is often referred to as a good practice to facilitate the implementation of RBM.

## Global Management Outputs

### Sharing OHCHR's strategic direction (GMO 1)

- ▶ The office-wide planning process for 2014-2017 increased understanding about OHCHR's strategic direction, ensured that decision-making by Senior Management was highly informed and reinforced office-wide ownership of organizational priorities. OHCHR's strategic direction was defined through a strategic planning process that had three main phases:
  - Generating options for informed decision-making: To ensure that key challenges, lessons learned and emerging opportunities were factored into OHCHR's priorities and strategies for 2014-2017, the Office commissioned an academic desk review on global trends and their implications for human rights; held consultations with Member States and civil society, both in New York and Geneva; received written contributions from Member States; analysed the results of an online questionnaire distributed to staff and human rights experts; and organized five office-wide regional consultations in Addis Ababa, Bangkok, Belgrade, Guatemala City and Tunis. As a result, management had relevant information to decide on OHCHR's strategic priorities for 2014-2017.
  - Making choices: A technical working group, comprised of members from different parts of the Office, compiled the information that emerged from the office-wide regional consultations and the inputs and comments received from Member States and civil society and prepared draft proposals for the review of the Senior Management Team (SMT). The SMT defined the thematic priorities and the areas within each of the priorities on which OHCHR will focus over the next four years.
  - Planning actions: Thematic strategies were prepared by a number of working groups on the basis of information gathered during the earlier phases of the consultative process. PPMES guided and supported the process by developing guidelines, convening workshops and consultations, providing guidance and feedback and undertaking information gathering.
- ▶ Ensuring that the strategic direction was shared throughout OHCHR was further achieved by converting the programmes of field presences into office-wide programmes, which outline OHCHR's results at the country level on the basis of the thematic priorities. All country programmes were submitted through the PMS, which facilitated this process by ensuring clear links between the thematic strategies and country programmes.

- ▶ OHCHR's management priorities for the next four years - the Global Management Outputs - were revised and for the first time, office-wide strategies were developed for these GMOs. PPMES facilitated this process by developing guidelines and conducting RBM-oriented training sessions for the preparation of these strategies.
- ▶ During the course of 2013, PPMES strengthened its evaluation function by creating a Network of Evaluation Focal Points from across all divisions/services; increasing participation with regard to evaluation issues throughout the Office; contributing to building improved office-wide capacity on evaluation; and adopting a new evaluation policy and vision in compliance with United Nations Evaluation Group standards. Furthermore, an evaluation plan for 2014-2017, including outcomes, targets and expected results, was adopted. Over the course of the biennium, PPMES initiated an assessment of the Network on Racial Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities, as mandated by the Secretary-General's Policy Committee decision; ensured a discussion on follow-up to the 2012 review of OHCHR's support to the human rights mechanisms; conducted a lessons learned exercise for an EU-funded project in Central Asia; and supported various ad hoc evaluative initiatives in the Office.
- ▶ Concerning the PMS, the system is now being used by OHCHR at both field and headquarter levels. All programming documents for the biennium 2012-2013 and 2014-2017 have been uploaded into the system. The annual work plans for 2012 and 2013 for field presences and the 2014 annual work plans for all of OHCHR have been prepared using the PMS, which allows for the effective monitoring and reporting of outputs and EAs. In addition, OHCHR's end-of-cycle reporting was prepared using the system. PPMES also provided regular substantive and technical support to the increasing number of users and continued developing and maintaining the system.
- ▶ The OHCHR 2012 and 2013 reports improved their results orientation. PPMES continued to support preparation of these reports by providing feedback and guidance to colleagues with regard to formulating results. It also assessed all individual reports and provided feedback in order to improve the quality of future submissions.
- ▶ The standard operating procedures for field monthly reporting was adapted to RBM principles to ensure the inclusion of information about the achievement of planned results. Since January 2013, field presences have uploaded their monthly reports providing easier access to such information and facilitating end-of-year reporting.

### **Transparent and timely decision-making (GMO 2)**

- ▶ Significant progress was achieved over the biennium in ensuring that strategic decisions are undertaken in a timely manner and implemented. OHCHR's two main internal bodies for policy deliberation and decision-making, the SMT and the Programme and Budget Review Board (PBRB), revised their terms of reference, improved their working methods and met with increasing frequency. Minutes of meetings and recommendations that emanated from these bodies were approved and made available to all staff shortly after their meetings. Mechanisms were put in place to track progress in implementing all decisions. Both the SMT's and the PBRB's decision-tracking mechanisms were regularly updated and made available through the OHCHR intranet.
- ▶ In 2012 and 2013, the SMT met 63 times to consider 81 topics ranging from OHCHR's response to critical human rights situations to following through on UN-wide management reforms such as the Secretary-General's Change Plan and major UN-wide policy developments such as the "Rights Up Front" Action Plan. Further, in 2013 the SMT held a two-day retreat to consider and define OHCHR's strategic priorities for 2014-2017.
- ▶ The PBRB met 44 times in 2012 and 2013 to oversee planning, allocation and re-allocation of human and financial resources; consider requests for additional resources in response to emerging needs; consider proposals relating to the establishment of new field presences; and provide support relating to fundraising initiatives. In 2013, the PBRB discussed and made recommendations on major planning documents, including country programmes, GMO strategies, OHCHR's submission to the Peacekeeping Support Account and the development of the 2016-2017 Strategic Framework. The increased use of electronic reviews to ensure timely decisions constituted additional progress in the functioning of the PBRB.
- ▶ In the current financial climate, the pattern of requests for supplementary resources that PBRB reviews has changed. While past requests related more to the re-allocation of voluntary contributions, there was a considerable increase in the number of requests received in the 2012-2013 biennium regarding fundraising proposals. The PBRB established criteria to review such requests, including an assessment of their potential contribution to OHCHR's priorities and plans, their possible impact on the funding gap and their implementation capacity.

- ▶ In supporting the PBRB, and to facilitate informed decision-making, an online system has been established for PPMS, the Programme Support and Management Services (PSMS) and the Donor and External Relations Section to enable the review of all proposals prior to submission to the PBRB.

### **Integrating a gender perspective (GMO 3)**

- ▶ A gender perspective was effectively integrated into all OHCHR policies, programmes and processes with the contribution of PPMS. For example, a gender perspective has been fully integrated into the RBM trainings and in all aspects of the 2014-2017 strategic planning process through the participation of gender advisers in regional planning consultations, thematic strategies task forces and the cross-divisional technical working group that reviewed the global EAs and indicators. Furthermore, PPMS ensured that the need for a gender perspective was included in all programmatic documents, such as country programmes, annual work plans and annual reports.

### **Servicing human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)**

- ▶ The planning module of the PMS now ensures that for every prioritized result in a particular country programme, relevant recommendations from the human rights mechanisms are identified and recorded. This enables the Office to improve the visibility and effectiveness of its efforts to follow-up on the recommendations of the HRMs at the country level.

### **Skills and competencies (GMO 6)**

- ▶ Staff increased their knowledge of and capacity to apply RBM principles to human rights work as evidenced by additional and improved results-oriented planning and programming documents that were prepared by organizational units. During the biennium, PPMS conducted 21 trainings on RBM for 27 field presences, reaching more than 400 field staff. In addition, five trainings were organized for staff at headquarters (Geneva and the New York Office), bringing the number of headquarters colleagues trained to 186. The trainings introduced concepts of RBM and their application in the context of human rights work, helped staff to draft or revise their programming documents in line with RBM principles and promoted the use of the PMS for planning, monitoring and reporting. During the course of the year, PPMS also organized briefings and presentations on the PMS to facilitate its use for the development of country programmes, the preparation of annual work plans and reporting.

The objective of OHCHR's functional review is to improve organizational efficiency and effectiveness. It examines how OHCHR performs its functions at headquarters, regional and country levels. In 2013, OHCHR concluded the scoping phase of its functional review and adopted a programme for implementation. The scoping phase identified three overarching challenges to be addressed: internal alignment, operational effectiveness and the ability to respond to changing priorities. During 2014, office-wide teams will collaborate on several functional analysis initiatives which will help OHCHR to streamline its working methods and better organize its work. In addition, these teams will produce the information necessary to assist OHCHR to establish an improved organizational structure. It is envisaged that an improved structure will align OHCHR's work on norms and standards with its efforts to protect and empower rights-holders at the regional and country levels; ensure that high quality and coherent support is consistently provided to all staff members; and better equip OHCHR to lead the human rights pillar of the United Nations system.

## **Programme Support and Management Services**

### **Background**

As part of the United Nations Secretariat, OHCHR benefits from the common administrative services provided by the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG). Within OHCHR, administrative functions are provided by the Programme Support and Management Services, with staff members handling finance and budget, human resources management, information technology, staff development and general services (travel, logistics, procurement, record-keeping and sustainable management). For the majority of its field offices, OHCHR benefits from the administrative services provided by UNDP. The primary objective of PSMS is to provide colleagues in Geneva and those in the field offices with the support and resources necessary for them to meet the mandates and priorities of the Office.

In 2013, the preparation for the adoption of the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) on 1 January 2014 and the eventual Secretariat-wide implementation of Umoja, has been

a major challenge for PSMS. It is anticipated that Umoja will streamline and integrate all management processes for the Secretariat's financial, human and physical resources in a largely self-service portal. It aims to move away from the Secretariat's current fragmented information legacy systems and remove many bureaucratic procedures. This should in turn enable administrative services such as PSMS to focus more on strategic support and mission-critical activities.

## Global Management Outputs

### Sharing OHCHR's strategic direction (GMO 1)

- ▶ PSMS continued to improve and promote the use of the intranet as an internal communications and information-sharing tool among OHCHR staff members. As a result, special areas in the intranet have been created where staff members can work closely on joint assignments and a tracking system has been built to assist divisions in organizing and reporting on their key activities. Dedicated intranet pages have also been created to disseminate information on the functional review process, while staff can also exchange opinions, develop and share constructive ideas on the internal discussion forum.
- ▶ PSMS has put in place a platform for staff members in headquarters and in the field to raise administrative questions with a guaranteed answer within two working days.
- ▶ As part of a continued effort to make use of new technologies, the first phase of the intranet upgrade and migration to a new design was completed in 2013.

### Integrating a gender perspective (GMO 3)

- ▶ PSMS, in collaboration with the Research and Right to Development Division (RRDD), developed and launched an IT-based tool to monitor flexible working arrangements at OHCHR. This tool, launched in December 2013, improves the monitoring mechanisms of flexible working arrangements, which are recognized as an important means of encouraging a work/life balance and supporting a working environment conducive to gender equality and increasing productivity. It will enable OHCHR to track all requests with a view to better monitoring their use across the Office.
- ▶ PSMS raised the awareness of senior Secretariat managers responsible for management and administrative issues on how gender can be integrated into their daily work, ranging from finance, human resources to travel and procurement. In February 2013, PSMS delivered

a presentation on "Gender Mainstreaming in Management and Administration: Minimum standards, strategies and good practices" at the monthly Managers' Forum hosted by the Under Secretary-General for Management, connecting heads of administration in all major Secretariat duty stations.

### Supporting field operations (GMO 5)

- ▶ During the 2012-2013 biennium, PSMS focused on service delivery to the OHCHR field offices. For example, all OHCHR field offices now use the upgraded and improved inventory control system for field assets (e-assets), which was rolled out in 2013. The system is now IPSAS-compliant, following modifications made by PSMS in response to the request of the Board of Auditors for tighter controls on physical assets. In parallel, PSMS continued to ensure that field office inventory records are up-to-date and a major inventory verification exercise was initiated in the fourth quarter of 2013 following the development of guidelines for physical inspections disseminated to all field offices.
- ▶ PSMS provided logistics support and equipment for a number of field missions, including to the Central African Republic, Gabon, Germany and New Zealand and provided support to the CoI through the provision of procurement and logistical assistance on the ground. PSMS staff also undertook a number of field missions to support the visits of the Board of Auditors and the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) and assisted with the follow-up of their recommendations.
- ▶ To ensure that staff with administrative responsibilities in field offices have the necessary knowledge of new administrative developments, the 2013 yearly field administrative staff consultations, comprised of a week-long training module, were carried out via webinar. The participants were briefed on the IPSAS, Umoja, the new travel policy, procurement, greening initiatives and records management.
- ▶ PSMS assisted the Beirut-based Regional Office for the Middle East to pilot the new OHCHR global filing plan and transfer its archival records to Geneva. Similar support was provided for the human rights archives of the discontinued United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste, in accordance with the signed policy between OHCHR, DPKO, DPA and DFS.
- ▶ In the field, OHCHR depends on partnerships for the delivery of administrative services, both within the United Nations Secretariat (i.e., DPKO or the regional commissions) and outside (i.e., UNDP). PSMS contributed to reducing administrative hurdles at the inter-agency level by actively

supporting and participating in UN-wide efforts that worked towards the "One UN" system delivery.

### **Skills and competencies (GMO 6)**

- ▶ In 2013, the PSMS strengthened the knowledge and capacity of 626 OHCHR staff members through the coordination of 24 Coffee Briefings on current human rights issues. Furthermore, 50 new staff members benefited from a two-day orientation programme that focused on the mandate, strategy and functioning of the Office. In total, the Staff Development Unit organized and facilitated 69 training activities which benefited 1,200 OHCHR staff members from headquarters and the field, UN Volunteers and interns, including in relation to official UN formatting and report writing, effective communication skills, negotiation skills, competency-based interviewing and performance management and development. PSMS also provided individual support to staff on performance management through e-learning and coaching.
- ▶ OHCHR staff members were empowered to implement the records management filing plan as a result of two briefings held in the context of the orientation programme for new staff and several presentations delivered to a large part of the Office in Geneva. Similar results were achieved in the field through web conferencing. In addition, the management of assets in the field was enhanced through targeted online training sessions on the new and upgraded property management system.

### **Improved awareness of and support to OHCHR (GMO 7)**

- ▶ The availability of content on the OHCHR website, the country websites and the extranet pages was improved through the creation of new subsections that enable new information to be made available. Furthermore, the addition of a "Donate Now" page to the main website could improve support for the activities of the Office.
- ▶ The work of the Human Rights Council was supported by the development of a comprehensive online tool which facilitates the submissions of NGO written statement and the registration of oral statements. The system also enables NHRIs which are unable to travel to Geneva to upload video messages that can be played back during Human Rights Council sessions in order to broaden participation.
- ▶ Support for the UPR was facilitated through the implementation of a system which administers contributions submitted by NGOs, NHRIs, UN entities and others to the UPR process.

- ▶ The work of the treaty bodies has been supported and streamlined through the launch of a new version of the treaty body database. The system automatically generates more accessible formats of the official documents to improve the overall experience for persons with disabilities.
- ▶ NGOs are now able to request, administer and report on projects related to the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery by accessing the grants management system of the Trust Fund.

### **Resources (GMO 8)**

- ▶ Throughout 2012 and 2013, PSMS liaised and collaborated with UNOG and New York Headquarters to prepare for the implementation of the IPSAS and Umoja. An audit was carried out to determine Geneva's preparedness for implementation of IPSAS and OHCHR implemented the audit recommendations to ensure its opening balances were IPSAS-compliant by 1 January 2014. In light of the plan to have Umoja go live in Geneva in 2015, preparations for organizational readiness have become more intense, including monthly meetings, status reports, data cleansing, testing and training.
- ▶ New systems are being developed to allow for improved budget discipline and prudent financial management. In this sense, PSMS worked with colleagues in Geneva and the field to make financial information more accessible and up-to-date through these new systems. This will assist managers with monitoring and staff who have financial responsibilities to review and correct information in a clear and transparent manner.
- ▶ In response to the current economic climate and the call of Member States that the UN do more with less, PSMS has taken a number of steps to ensure that it is able provide efficient services at a reduced cost, including in relation to travel. In collaboration with UNOG, PSMS discontinued the payment of daily subsistence allowance in the form of cheques and now uses bank transfers for official travellers. PSMS also encouraged compliance with the instructions on advance ticket purchases that were issued by the Under Secretary-General for Management and the trend in the percentage of tickets issued in advance of the required 14 days before departure has remained positive (61 per cent in 2013 and 64 per cent in 2012). Travel, however, continued to increase. While approximately 4,000 travel requests were processed for staff members, meeting participants, special procedures, treaty body members and commissions of inquiry in 2012, that number increased to 4,500 in

2013. The new travel policy, coupled with the encouragement to avoid travel when possible, may bring about changes in those numbers in the coming years.

- ▶ In the area of records management, PSMS presented and obtained senior management approval for the business classification and filing classification schemes. PSMS carried out physical clean-up operations in a number of divisions and branches. As a result, important archival records were secured and space was freed up in the Office by moving 230 linear metres of paper records from the Human Rights Treaties Division offices. A total of 39.1 linear metres were moved from Executive Direction and Management and 15.3 linear metres of records were recovered from the defunct Research and Right to Development Branch and transferred to the Compactus. In addition, 2,018 kilograms of copies and non-records were disposed of and over 500 books on human rights were recovered and donated to the OHCHR Library. A similar exercise was initiated for the Human Rights Council Branch to collect and organize the 1,503 procedure records under the Commission for Human Rights. In addition, PSMS collaborated with the Institutional Memory Section of UNOG on the transfer and archiving of OHCHR records.
- ▶ Work on a new and paperless correspondence and document registry system continued. The new modules are scheduled to be implemented in 2014.
- ▶ Regarding the Emission Reduction Plan, OHCHR continued to calculate the carbon footprint for Geneva headquarters on an annual basis and participated in a number of greening initiatives. Green awareness-training is included in the orientation programme for new staff members and the Office regularly participates in the UN wide Issue Management Group on Environment Sustainability Management.

## Safety and Security Section

### Background

The OHCHR Safety and Security Section coordinates the security of OHCHR operations, staff and assets around the world in accordance with established security risk management practices and in close coordination with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (UNDSS). The Section is an

integral part of the OHCHR support mechanism to the Human Rights Council activities such as CoIs and fact-finding missions (FFMs). It is also responsible for coordinating UN security management system coverage for officials and experts, including from the human rights treaty bodies and working groups, special rapporteurs and commissioners who are travelling on behalf of OHCHR. It also participates in system-wide UN security policymaking forums to ensure that human rights are mainstreamed into staff security policies and procedures applicable to all UN agencies, funds and programmes. 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.

### Global Management Outputs

#### **Servicing human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)**

- ▶ Dedicated security support was provided to special rapporteurs and treaty body members during their missions, as well as to commissions of inquiry, fact-finding, assessment and mapping missions. This approach, based on the detailed security concepts of operations and security risk assessments, developed in accordance with the UN security management system, has been effective in ensuring a safe working environment. During the biennium, the Safety and Security Section directly supported 68 field missions of the human rights mechanisms: 42 special procedures missions (24 in 2012 and 18 in 2013) and 26 missions related to commissions of inquiry, fact-finding and missions of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT) (9 in 2012 and 17 in 2013).

#### **Supporting field operations (GMO 5)**

- ▶ During 2013, the Section emphasized the importance of streamlining the delivery of its services to field presences. It deployed security officers to the field on country missions to conduct security assessments and security coordination missions in connection with a number of field operations. Furthermore, the Section directly supported 116 elevated risk field missions (55 in 2012 and 61 in 2013) during the biennium by deploying security staff from the Section, UNOG Security and UNDSS. Additionally, to ensure that staff travelling to the field was fully compliant with security practices, the Safety and Security Section processed 4,053 security clearance requests (1,855 in 2012 and 2,198 in 2013).

In 2013, there were a total of 65 security incidents directly affecting OHCHR staff as opposed to 34 in 2012. The security risk management approach of careful balancing “acceptable risk” as opposed to the “avoidance of risk” when meeting programmatic objectives remains a major challenge, especially when conducting field operations in high risk environments. In view of the Secretary-General’s “Rights Up Front” Action Plan, the security community must anticipate and enable the short-notice deployment of staff for elevated risk missions in order to respond quickly to emerging human rights crisis situations.

## Global Management Outputs

### **Servicing human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)**

- ▶ With the measures undertaken in the past few years, including the establishment of an OHCHR Group of Document Focal Points to coordinate the efforts of the Office in this regard, significant progress has been achieved in document submission compliance. In 2013, the submission compliance reached 77 per cent compared to 75 per cent and 53 per cent in 2012 and 2011, respectively. This helped the Office to better service all of the human rights mechanisms.

## Meetings and Documents Unit

### Background

The Meetings and Documents Unit (MDU) is part of the Executive Direction and Management Service. As the meeting and document focal point of OHCHR, MDU is responsible for the coordination of the Office’s annual programme of meetings and the planning, coordination and submission of all OHCHR official documents for processing, including OHCHR’s efforts to improve its document submission compliance.

# 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, NHRIs, civil society organizations, United Nations partners and international human rights bodies and mechanisms. The Research and Right to Development Division is responsible for pursuing the High Commissioner's independent human rights agenda and mandate and supporting selected mandates of the Human Rights Council. The key roles of the Division are to:

- ▶ Develop policy positions and strategies on thematic human rights issues for the UN and OHCHR, as well as methodologies to strengthen the effectiveness of human rights work;
- ▶ 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 programmes on development, humanitarian efforts, economic and social affairs, peace and security and the rule of law;
- ▶ Integrate all human rights into all relevant areas of work of the United Nations system;
- ▶ Enhance technical cooperation through advisory support and capacity-building; and
- ▶ Increase the knowledge and understanding of human rights issues through education and training, 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.

During the reporting cycle, RRDD provided support to a number of human rights mechanisms, including: the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises 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 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) - 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; and 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 Working Group on a United Nations declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas; and the open-ended Working Group on Ageing for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons.

The Division led four of the six thematic strategies defined in the OHCHR Management Plan (OMP) 2012-2013, namely: discrimination; impunity; the rule of law; poverty; economic, social and cultural rights; and migration. RRDD also ensured the



Workshop on the establishment of National Preventive Mechanisms in Chile.

implementation of the Global Management Output (GMO) 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; and the Rule of Law, Equality and Non-Discrimination Branch, which 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.

OHCHR actively participated in the process established by the Secretary-General under the leadership of the Deputy Secretary-General to follow-up on the recommendations of the Internal Review Panel on United Nations Action in Sri Lanka. RRDD is currently coordinating OHCHR’s response to the follow-up plan while also acting as OHCHR’s system-wide focal point. In order to implement the plan, OHCHR will need to improve its information gathering and analysis on situations potentially leading to or characterized by serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law; strengthen support provided to Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators, UNCTs and Humanitarian Country Teams; develop relevant guidance and mandatory training on human rights for all UN staff; contribute to the development of rights-based country strategies; and participate in UN crisis response mechanisms at headquarters. Work has begun on all these fronts.

## Results

### National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ Representatives of States and civil society increased their understanding of international human rights norms and standards in the context of constitution-making. OHCHR focused on providing comments and suggestions on the substantive human rights content of constitutions in a number of countries, notably Egypt, Fiji and Tunisia.
- ▶ In line with the comprehensive approach set out in the General Assembly Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, OHCHR assisted Member States in their efforts to adopt and implement counter-terrorism policies and strategies that were compliant with their international human rights obligations. OHCHR addressed areas of ongoing human rights concern, including the enactment and implementation of broadly formulated national counter-terrorism legislation in some jurisdictions, as well as the abusive use of counter-terrorism legislation by authorities to suppress legitimate activity. For instance, the Office provided technical assistance to Tunisia in the development and implementation of human rights-compliant counter-terrorism and other security-related legislation. The capacity of the Nigerian justice section to handle terrorism cases was enhanced through the organization of a training programme for judges of the High Court of Nigeria and other officials.
- ▶ RRDD supported the Office’s engagement with security forces by advising field presences and divisions from headquarters on the development of human rights training programmes in a variety of countries (such as Bangladesh, Egypt, Guinea, Maldives, Mali, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Senegal, Somalia, the State of Palestine, Thailand and Yemen). In 2013, a training-of-trainers course on human rights and law enforcement for police experts and human rights officers was delivered to 19 participants from nine countries to develop their capacity to train and advise law enforcement agencies on human rights issues in line with OHCHR’s methodology and UN standards. Three of the participants have conducted trainings in Burundi, Haiti and Lebanon.
- ▶ At the National Conference on Impunity, Justice and Human Rights, held in July 2013 in Guinea-Bissau, conference participants, including government representatives, adopted recommendations to establish an international and independent commission of inquiry into past gross human rights violations; ratify the Rome Statute on the International Criminal Court; establish national measures for victim and witness protection; and thoroughly investigate future violations. RRDD provided substantive support, including advice on relevant human rights norms and standards on transitional and military justice.
- ▶ In Uganda, the Law Reform Commission submitted a bill proposal, in compliance with international standards, recommending the establishment of a national witness protection programme and mechanism. In December 2013, OHCHR and the Uganda Law Reform Commission organized a workshop on the technical and practical aspects of establishing a national witness protection programme which led to the finalization of the bill. OHCHR developed a new Rule of Law Tool on Victim and Witness



The High Commissioner meets with the Swiss Justice Minister during an exhibition on human exploitation, Geneva, October 2013.

Protection intended for national authorities, staff of UN agencies and members of civil society which are engaged in justice and accountability initiatives and domestic law reform processes.

- ▶ OHCHR continued to support States, civil society and other stakeholders in advancing the abolition of the death penalty. In October, in cooperation with the Ministry of Justice of Thailand, the Office organized a regional expert meeting on moving away from the death penalty in South-East Asia. Pending abolition, OHCHR advised several States, including Bangladesh, Iran, Iraq, Japan, Maldives, Nigeria, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Saudi Arabia, the State of Palestine (Gaza), the United States of America and Viet Nam, on the implementation of international standards guaranteeing the protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty and the establishment of a moratorium pursuant to respective General Assembly resolutions. These processes led to the re-introduction of a moratorium on the death penalty in Pakistan.
- ▶ Through the Assisting Communities Together project, OHCHR and UNDP strengthened the capacities of civil society organizations to design, implement and evaluate human rights education and training activities by providing small grants. In 2012-2013, the seventh and eighth phases of the project were completed, through which OHCHR awarded 45 grants in 19 countries.
- ▶ During the reporting cycle, OHCHR continued to support Member States in developing national action plans to eradicate racism, discrimination and promote equality, including in Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guinea, Mauritania, Mexico and Uruguay. In December 2013, a National Action Plan against

Racism and Racial Discrimination was adopted in Costa Rica. RRDD facilitated elements of the development process, including meetings with people of African descent, indigenous peoples, migrants and refugee communities across the country, thereby enhancing their capacity and providing space for dialogue and participation. OHCHR also engaged with the National Council for the Prevention of Discrimination in Mexico in the elaboration of a new plan to combat discrimination from 2014 to 2018. In collaboration with the Commission for Human Rights, Humanitarian Action and Relations with Civil Society of Mauritania, OHCHR continued working on the implementation of the project aimed at developing a national action plan against racial discrimination in the country. For this purpose, a study was developed on the status of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in the country.

- ▶ A variety of different stakeholders are now using OHCHR's Technical Guidance on a rights-based approach to the reduction of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity. The Guidance, which was welcomed by the Human Rights Council in 2012, points to the need to ensure that laws, policies and programmes are in line with human rights obligations in this domain. For example, following a regional capacity-building workshop which focused on OHCHR's Technical Guidance, governments, UN agencies, NHRIs and civil society from Malawi, South Africa, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania agreed on action plans to promote rights-based approaches to maternal and child health in their national contexts.
- ▶ Key stakeholders increased their awareness of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and used it as a reference in their policy and decision-making following briefings provided by OHCHR. For example, briefings for indigenous representatives in the Republic of the Congo contributed to supporting the implementation of legislation on the rights of indigenous populations.
- ▶ During the reporting period, OHCHR developed a set of guidelines to guide relevant national stakeholders in their efforts to establish or strengthen independent national mechanisms to combat racism, xenophobia and related intolerance. On 20 December 2013, the guidelines were validated at a workshop of experts from NHRIs, equality bodies and human rights institutes working on anti-discrimination issues and will be published in 2014. Furthermore, RRDD, together with the Asia Pacific Forum on National Human Rights Institutions, completed a

joint Manual on the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples for National Human Rights Institutions that builds on positive practices, such as the National Inquiry Report on the Land Rights of Indigenous Peoples that was issued by the National Human Rights Commission of Malaysia in 2013.

- ▶ OHCHR engaged in extensive outreach with partners and stakeholders at the national level to build the capacity of all relevant actors on the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. For instance, OHCHR engaged with members of the UNCT in Mozambique on the application of the Guiding Principles in framing a baseline study on business and human rights. The results of the study will be used in the development of a national action plan.
- ▶ As a result of OHCHR's continued efforts to support and feed into regional and national consultations on the post-2015 development agenda, there are strong demands to include human rights, including civil and political rights, in the post-2015 development framework. In this sense, a growing number of OHCHR field presences initiated dialogue with and provided support to national stakeholders on promoting the integration of human rights in national development policies and budget processes, such as in Ecuador and Liberia.
- ▶ Using OHCHR's guidance on human rights indicators, national stakeholders, including government agencies, NHRIs and civil society organizations from developing and developed countries, identified indicators to inform and measure the impact of human rights-based policies and programmes and follow-up on recommendations issued by human rights mechanisms. Countries where such indicators were being developed included Albania, Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Mauritius, Mexico, Portugal, Serbia and the United Kingdom.
- ▶ In December 2013, OHCHR, the Irish Human Rights Commission, the Organization of American States, the Office for Security and Co-operation in Europe, the Council of Europe and the European Union Fundamental Rights Agency, co-organized the International Conference on Human Rights Education and Training for the Civil Service. The conference provided a platform for sharing good practices on human rights training for the civil service and increasing awareness about effective methodologies among governmental representatives, law enforcement officials, members of NHRIs and representatives of civil society from more than 30 countries.
- ▶ During the reporting period, OHCHR launched an initiative with States, UN partners, NGOs,



Children at the school in an IDP camp in South Sudan.

academics and other stakeholders to develop a draft set of recommended principles and guidelines on human rights at international borders. The draft, intended to serve as a practical norm-based tool to assist States and other stakeholders implement human rights obligations in their border governance measures, was developed in 2012 and will be finalized in 2014.

- ▶ OHCHR worked with the EU agency FRONTEX, which coordinates operational cooperation between EU Member States with regard to border management, to develop a human rights trainers manual for EU border guards. The Manual was published in 2013 and is being disseminated among the 27 EU Member States for inclusion in their national curricula.
- ▶ Governments, including in Belarus and Tunisia, are increasingly requesting OHCHR's assistance in capacity-building and ensuring compliance with international human rights standards of their laws, policies and administrative regulations in the area of human rights and human trafficking. This is a result of RRDD's continued promotion of the application of a rights-based approach to addressing trafficking in persons, based on the Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking that were developed in 2010. In Belarus, for instance, OHCHR supported the organization of five training activities focused on: child trafficking for pornography; cross-border cooperation; the identification of victims of trafficking; and the role of law enforcement officials.

### **Transitional justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)**

- ▶ Laws on transitional justice were adopted in Libya and Tunisia. OHCHR and the field presences provided support during the respective drafting

processes to ensure the compliance of the laws with international human rights standards.

- ▶ Representatives of transitional justice mechanisms and civil society in Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea increased their knowledge of international human rights standards and good practices, including participatory approaches. The United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire and OHCHR assisted the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission with the elaboration of an awareness-raising campaign and plan of action for the organization of national consultations. In Guinea, OHCHR conducted capacity-building activities for the Provisional National Reconciliation Commission and provided assistance for the planning of national consultations.

#### Access to justice and basic services (EA 4)

- ▶ In 2013, OHCHR continued to promote access to effective remedies for women victims of violence through support to specific projects as well as technical, normative and programmatic guidance and awareness-raising activities and research. In the DRC, the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office (UNJHRO), with support from RRDD and through five projects managed by local organizations, provided survivors of sexual violence with medical support and insurance, educational support, economic reintegration kits and training and other forms of assistance. The projects were developed in close consultation with the survivors and local organizations and received positive feedback from direct beneficiaries. In Latin America, OHCHR cooperated with UN Women to finalize the Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women in Latin America. The Protocol was developed through expert group consultations with judges, prosecutors, lawyers, representatives of police institutions and civil society organizations and with the expert support of criminologists, forensic experts and academics. It provides practical guidance on the integration of a gender perspective in the investigation and prosecution of the cases and the rights of victims. The Protocol received positive feedback in intergovernmental and expert meetings, including from the Human Rights Council which recognized the Model Protocol as a good and promising practice in its resolution 23/25. In Papua New Guinea, OHCHR undertook research and consultations that resulted in a report on sorcery-related killings of women. The report contains recommendations on addressing impunity and preventing the killings by engaging with traditional justice mechanisms and will provide the foundation for follow-up work in 2014.

- ▶ In 2013, OHCHR launched a number of publications aimed at providing tools and guidance to law and policymakers as well as civil society actors to support their efforts for the implementation, promotion and monitoring of economic, social and cultural rights. These publications include: *Human rights Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation*; *Realizing the Right to Development: Essays in Commemoration of 25 Years of the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development*; the *Handbook on Realizing Women's Rights to Land and Other Productive Resources*; and a draft practical guide on People of African Descent and the Right to Development, entitled: *Putting Rights into Practice*.

#### Participation (EA 5)

- ▶ Through its Indigenous Fellowship and Minorities Fellowship Programmes in 2012 and 2013, OHCHR contributed to building the knowledge and capacity of a total of 81 indigenous persons and persons belonging to minorities (over half of them women) from Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Belize, Bolivia, Burundi, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, DRC, Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, French Guyana, Guatemala, Hong Kong, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Kenya, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Morocco, Nepal, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Moldova, Russian Federation, Sudan, Suriname, Syria, Uganda, Uruguay, Venezuela and Yemen. The third edition of the African Descent Fellowship Programme took place in 2013 and was attended by fellows from the following countries: Australia, Costa Rica, France, Panama, Russian Federation, United Kingdom and United States of America. Building on their respective fellowship training, several fellows subsequently pursued initiatives at the national level to enhance participation in decision-making. Examples of such initiatives include advocacy for the inclusion of minority rights in constitution-making processes; awareness-raising among religious minorities; engagement in national legislative and policy reform processes; and provision of advice and expertise on the rights of indigenous peoples to governmental entities. OHCHR also issued a new guide for advocates on promoting and protecting minority rights through UN and regional mechanisms.
- ▶ OHCHR continued to promote access to reparations for victims of sexual and gender-based violence as an essential component of the right to effective remedies. A guidance note on reparations for victims of conflict-related sexual violence, jointly prepared by OHCHR and

UN Women, provides guidance to States and other actors engaging in reparation efforts to ensure that the design and implementation of reparation programmes is inclusive, non-discriminatory, gender-sensitive and transformative. Furthermore, OHCHR undertook efforts to promote women's participation in the identification of adequate reparation measures. In Kosovo, through inclusive consultations with survivors, OHCHR completed a study on reparations for victims of sexual violence during the 1999 conflict and shared it with the Government, UN agencies and civil society organizations. Since then, the report has been used as an evidence-based advocacy tool to inform legislative and policymaking bodies on sexual and gender-based violence in Kosovo.

### **Responsiveness of the international community (EA 10)**

- ▶ Methodological support and advice was provided to the CoIs and FFMs established by the Human Rights Council, including the Commissions of Inquiry on Syria and the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and the Fact Finding Mission on Israeli Settlements, leading to increased coherence in approaches and methodologies. Lessons learned exercises were conducted upon completion of their work on the CoI on Libya and the FFM on Israeli Settlements, as well as upon the renewal of its mandate on the CoI on Syria, which helped identify areas for improvement in practices that could be applied in future CoIs. In addition, in the follow-up to calls by the Human Rights Council and the Security Council, OHCHR contributed to reviewing the efforts undertaken in order to strengthen the expertise of FFMs and CoIs in relation to sexual and gender-based violence. This led to the identification of lessons learned and good practices for their reflection in future missions. Furthermore, to ensure that OHCHR's experience is broadly available to States, civil society and practitioners, the Office produced a publication, entitled *International Commissions of Inquiry and Fact Finding Missions – Guidance and Practice*, which outlines policy and methodological guidance based on relevant international standards and good practices.
- ▶ In November 2013, OHCHR organized two expert panels. The first was entitled Strengthening Minority Rights Advocacy through Implementation Mechanisms and the second was entitled Rights of Linguistic Minorities in a Digital Era. The panels sensitized governments and international and regional NGOs and other organizations on how national, regional and international mechanisms can be used to better protect the rights of minorities.
- ▶ OHCHR continued working on issues relating to freedom of religion or belief, including incitement to national, racial and religious hatred. In February 2013, the High Commissioner launched the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence. The Rabat Plan of Action was adopted at an expert meeting in Morocco in 2012, following a series of meetings which took place in Bangkok, Nairobi, Santiago de Chile and Vienna. A comprehensive assessment was undertaken at the national and regional levels on the implementation of legislation, jurisprudence and policies regarding incitement to national, racial or religious hatred, while encouraging full respect for freedom of expression as protected by international human rights law.
- ▶ The International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Beyond 2014 Review Process, co-organized by OHCHR, UNFPA and the Dutch Government in July 2013, reaffirmed the centrality of human rights in development; a message that resonated throughout a number of meetings and conferences in the lead up to the ICPD Review Process and was reflected in its outcome documents.
- ▶ Since the Rio+20 Conference, OHCHR has actively promoted the incorporation of human rights in deliberations related to defining the post-2015 development agenda, including through research, advocacy, consultations and expert meetings. In terms of research, OHCHR and the Centre for Economic and Social Rights launched a joint advocacy publication in early 2013, entitled *Who Will Be Accountable? Human Rights and the Post-2015 Development Agenda*. OHCHR also engaged in various UN-led consultation processes such as the UNDG post-2015 global thematic consultations on governance which included a regional online consultation, an expert meeting on measuring governance and a global consultation meeting in March 2013 in South Africa. These and other inputs fed into the UNDG's consultation reports, entitled *The Global Conversation Begins* and *A Million Voices* which reiterated the call for the new agenda to be founded on human rights to ensure increased accountability. OHCHR also closely engaged with other UN agencies as part of the United Nations Task Team on the Post-2015 Agenda, which recommended that human rights, equality and sustainability form the three fundamental principles of the post-2015 development agenda. The Task Team's report on statistics and indicators for the post-2015 development agenda referred to OHCHR's guide



The Deputy High Commissioner speaks at the International Conference on Population and Development Beyond 2014 Review Process, July 2013.

to human rights indicators and recommended the inclusion of human rights in the measurement framework of the post-2015 development agenda. The High Commissioner also addressed the General Assembly's Special Event on the MDGs and the Post-2015 Development Agenda on 25 September 2013. At the event, many States expressed their strong support for a post-2015 development agenda that is based on human rights; a position that was reflected in the Special Event's outcome document. Furthermore, upon invitation by the Co-Chairs of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals, OHCHR delivered a keynote speech on human rights and the right to development at its 6th session on 13 December 2013. The speech was positively received by Member States and subsequent discussions referred extensively to the High Commissioner's main messages.

- ▶ OHCHR's engagement with the General Assembly's second High-level Dialogue on International Migration and Development in October 2013 contributed to promoting and mainstreaming human rights into discussions on migration at the international level. The Declaration on International Migration and Development adopted by Member States integrated human rights and called, inter alia, for the development of an effective and inclusive agenda on migration that respects human rights and integrates development. The human rights of migrants were a strong feature in a number of interventions made by Member States and were featured prominently in the opening statement of the Secretary-General. Leading up to the High-

level Dialogue, OHCHR undertook sustained advocacy through a series of events and activities such as the development of an analytical report on migration and human rights, entitled *Migration and human rights: Improving human rights-based governance of international migration*, and the organization of two expert meetings on migration, human rights and governance.

#### **Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)**

- ▶ Through its leadership in the UN Network on Racial Discrimination and the Protection of Minorities, established in March 2012, OHCHR contributed to an enhanced dialogue and cooperation between relevant United Nations departments, agencies, funds and programmes on the subject. The Network developed a Guidance Note for the UN system, endorsed by the Secretary-General on March 2013, on how to address racial discrimination and protection of minorities in line with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other key standards.
- ▶ In its capacity as the Co-Chair of the Policy Board of the UN Indigenous Peoples' Partnership and lead agency in several projects in the field, the Office advocated for the integration of indigenous peoples' rights in the work of the UN. For instance, in collaboration with ILO, UNICEF, UNDP and UNFPA, OHCHR organized training sessions for indigenous peoples in Cameroon and the Republic of the Congo to enhance the knowledge of indigenous representatives about consultation processes and standards of free, prior and informed consent.

The workshop in Cameroon also focused on the follow-up to the recommendations issued by the treaty bodies and the UPR and as a result, participants identified opportunities for collaboration and developed a roadmap for further implementation of regional and international recommendations.

- ▶ As part of its mainstreaming efforts, OHCHR contributed to the role of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination and the High-Level Committee on Programmes, continued to chair the UNDG-HRM and co-chaired the Working Group on Resident Coordinator System Issues. During 2013, OHCHR and the UNDG-HRM worked to integrate human rights provisions in the Rio+20 Outcome Document and the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR). For instance, the QCPR requested that the UN link its normative (including human rights) and operational work and provide capacity-development with a view to facilitating a more participatory and accountable development process. The UNDG Strategic Priorities for 2013-2016 were also subsequently revised and aimed to deliver more coherent, effective and efficient support to countries in the achievement of internationally-agreed development goals and human rights treaty obligations. The QCPR highlighted the importance of improving the effectiveness of the Resident Coordinator System and implementing the “Delivering as One” model. The UNDG-HRM strategically supported the Resident Coordinators and UNCTs

to mainstream human rights in their policy, advocacy and programming work, including by updating existing guidance on human rights and developing a learning strategy in 2013. The deployment of human rights advisers (HRAs) to Resident Coordinator offices is a central component of the UNDG-HRM strategy. To date, the UNDG-HRM has received approximately 30 requests for the deployment of advisers and nearly 50 requests for programming support. This is a clear indication of high demand and buy-in from UNCTs on the ground.

- ▶ OHCHR continued to mainstream human rights through the UN System High-level Task Force on Global Food Security (and through engagement with the FAO’s sponsored drafting of the Voluntary Guidelines for Securing Sustainable Small-Scale Fisheries in the Context of Food Security and Poverty Eradication. OHCHR contributed to the technical consultation sessions held in 2013.
- ▶ In 2013, UN Habitat adopted a document, entitled *UN-Habitat commitment to the human rights-based approach to development*, and its Executive Director strongly supported this approach in all aspects of UN-Habitat’s work. The Office contributed to this development through the UN-Habitat/OHCHR United Nations Housing Programme as well as different human rights mainstreaming activities, including side events that were held during UN-Habitat’s Governing Body meetings and human rights training for its senior management.



- ▶ As a result of an internal review of the inter-agency Global Migration Group, a Working Group on Migration, Human Rights and Gender Equality was created. OHCHR assumed the role of Chair for the first 18 months. In November 2013, OHCHR led the preparation of background documentation for the Global Forum on Migration and Development thematic meeting on “Migration as an Enabler for Inclusive Social Development” and provided the Forum with technical assistance on human rights.
- ▶ OHCHR advocated for the inclusion of the human rights of migrants within the post-2015 development agenda, including in the context of the thematic consultations on Population Dynamics and on Inequalities. As a result, OHCHR was invited to co-chair the migrants’ rights work stream of the World Bank’s Global Knowledge Partnership on Migration and Development and devised a work programme for this work stream.
- ▶ OHCHR also promoted the inclusion of persons with disabilities in the post-2015 development agenda. With a focus on the right to education and in partnership with UNICEF, OHCHR organized an expert meeting to promote inclusive quality education and lifelong learning goals within the context of the upcoming development agenda. The outcome document was prepared to advocate for this goal in the context of the eighth session of the Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals and during the drafting process.
- ▶ The two annual reviews of implementation by the Inter-Agency Review Group on the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) on UN Support to Non-UN Security Forces indicated that significant progress was made following UN-wide dissemination of the Policy, coupled with a communication issued to all Member States by the Secretary-General. RRDD led the preparations for the reviews and provided implementation support to field presences, peace operations and UN agencies in countries such as Côte d’Ivoire, the DRC, Mali and South Sudan, including through the elaboration and dissemination of a comprehensive guidance note.
- ▶ In the context of the Inter-Agency Security Sector Reform Task Force, RRDD contributed to the finalization of the first UN Integrated Technical Guidance Note on Security Sector Reform, including substantial recommendations on the use of human rights monitoring to support security sector reform efforts and implementation of the HRDDP.
- ▶ In December 2012, the Secretary-General issued the Policy on Human Rights Screening of UN Personnel. The Policy outlines the principles and procedures to be applied in all recruitment processes to avoid the deployment of any individual who was involved in violations of international human rights or humanitarian law. OHCHR and other UN departments contributed to the development of the Policy and is supporting its implementation as part of a Secretariat Working Group.
- ▶ OHCHR’s continued support of the implementation of the OHCHR/DPKO/DPA/DFS Policy on Human Rights in UN Peace Operations and Political Missions resulted in the review of the human rights contents in more than 25 peacekeeping policies and guidance materials to ensure consistency with human rights law and the integration of human rights into other aspects of peacekeeping, including actions undertaken by the military and police.
- ▶ Together with DPKO, the Office supported the development of different tools on the protection of civilians and advised peace operations on the development of related strategies and mechanisms. In order to gather examples of good practices on effective measures to protect civilians, OHCHR and DPKO conducted a joint review of the Joint Protection Teams and other mechanisms for the protection of civilians in the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO).
- ▶ Regarding training on human rights issues, OHCHR designed and delivered a human rights induction course in 2012 for 300 military observers deployed to Syria under the United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria.

## Global Management Outputs

### Integrating a gender perspective (GMO 3)

- ▶ As a result of the two-year Gender Equality Strategic Plan, endorsed by the High Commissioner in August 2012, OHCHR reached most of its targets to achieve the full integration of a gender perspective in its policies, programmes and processes. For instance, references related to women’s rights and gender equality were included in over half of the performance evaluations of OHCHR’s managers, gender facilitators and gender focal points. Over 25 per cent of the 2012 and 2013 annual work plans at headquarters and field offices included activities or outputs explicitly relating to women’s rights or gender integration. RRDD led the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategic Plan through the: coordination and training of an internal

network of gender facilitators; production of tools to facilitate integration of gender; analysis and improvement of internal processes; and close inter-agency partnership with UN Women and other UN entities in the framework of the UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (SWAP).

- ▶ RRDD also ensured the integration of a gender perspective in OHCHR's policy and programmatic work which resulted in the inclusion of women's rights and gender in OHCHR's advocacy positions, key messages and substantive technical inputs in the context of the post-2015 development agenda. In addition, the new OHCHR Publications Policy makes provision for ensuring the integration of gender in the Office's publications and the new OHCHR Policy on Human Rights Methodology and Training sets out standards for the integration of gender issues in the methodological tools produced by OHCHR as well as in the training and training materials designed and delivered by OHCHR.

#### **Servicing human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)**

- ▶ RRDD continued to provide substantive and logistical support to a number of human rights mechanisms, including:
  - The Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises and the Forum under the guidance of the Working Group. The first and second Annual Forum on Business and Human Rights held in 2012 and 2013, respectively, gathered together more than 1,000 participants from over 100 countries, making the Forum the largest global discussion on business and human rights.
  - The Independent Expert on international solidarity.
  - The Working Group on the right to development.
  - The Social Forum.
  - The Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.
  - The follow-up mechanisms established by the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, i.e., the Ad Hoc Committee on the elaboration of complementary standards; the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action; and the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent.
  - The open-ended intergovernmental working groups such as the Open-ended intergovernmental working group to consider the possibility of elaborating an international



The High Commissioner and the Acting Head of UN Women signed a cooperation agreement on 24 July in Geneva.

regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies; the Open-ended working group on a United Nations declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas; and the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing for the purpose of strengthening the protection of the human rights of older persons.

- ▶ RRDD delivered sessions on human rights monitoring methodology as part of the annual orientation programme for new special procedures mandate-holders.
- ▶ A total of 26 of the 30 plenary panel discussions held by the Human Rights Council during 2012 and 2013 related to thematic human rights issues that are covered by RRDD. For example, the Division provided conceptual, substantive and administrative support for the organization of panel discussions on the rights of persons with disabilities; children and the administration of justice; women's human rights; the promotion and protection of human rights in a multicultural context; access to justice by indigenous peoples; promoting technical cooperation for the strengthening of the judiciary system and administration of justice in order to ensure human rights and the rule of law; implementation of the UN Declaration on Minority Rights; human rights mainstreaming; the impact of corruption on human rights; the business and human rights agenda by the United Nations system; democracy and the rule of law from a human rights perspective; the human rights of children

of parents sentenced to the death penalty or executed; and gender integration.

- ▶ RRDD supported the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples, which in 2013 provided financial support to 71 indigenous representatives to enable them to attend sessions, receive training and participate in deliberations of the Human Rights Council, the UPR, the treaty bodies, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Expert Mechanism on Indigenous Peoples.

#### Supporting field operations (GMO 5)

- ▶ RRDD supported and advised field presences in their activities on monitoring and investigations, including the development of monitoring strategies, the development of office guidelines on issues such as detention and election monitoring and the development of training materials, templates, interview forms and other methodological tools related to monitoring.
- ▶ The Human Rights Database, OHCHR's standard tool to record, store and analyse information on incidents involving violations of human rights and international humanitarian law, was rolled out in eight additional field presences, bringing the number of field presences currently using the database to 15. RRDD designed and delivered training on the use of the Database to 159 staff in 2012 and 2013. In addition, a new remote training strategy was implemented in November 2013 which benefited 83 staff members in seven field presences.
- ▶ RRDD contributed to improving support for field operations through tailored trainings to enhance staff capacities, the provision of direct expert advice and the development, publication and dissemination of tools and guidance notes. Support to field presences ranged from providing advice on draft legislation on national minorities in Iraq and Kyrgyzstan and on anti-discrimination laws in Armenia and Georgia, to the dissemination of a Guidance Note on OHCHR engagement in the context of electoral processes that was developed in response to increasing requests from human rights field presences.
- ▶ In 2012–2013, OHCHR distributed over 160,000 printed publications worldwide in all official UN languages. The advocacy publication, entitled *Who Will Be Accountable? Human Rights and the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, was disseminated to all field presences to feed

into their engagement strategies and activities related to national post-2015 consultations and development strategies. This and other OHCHR publications supported regional and local capacity-building activities aimed at strengthening cooperation with civil society organizations and other partners in Bolivia, Burundi, Cameroon, Chile, Lebanon, Liberia, Kyrgyzstan, Mauritania, Qatar, South Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda and Yemen, among other field presences.

#### Skills and competencies (GMO 6)

- ▶ RRDD provided training on human rights monitoring, fact-finding and investigation skills to more than 260 OHCHR staff, both in headquarters and the field, through 12 training courses. Some of the courses aimed at strengthening general human rights monitoring and reporting skills while others were designed to increase staff capacity to monitor specific issues such as economic, social and cultural rights or conflict-related sexual violence and to strengthen knowledge for planning and conducting fact-finding missions for staff on the OHCHR rapid deployment roster.
- ▶ RRDD also contributed to the increased effectiveness of human rights training that is designed and delivered in the context of OHCHR programmes by teaching training methodologies to 60 staff members during three courses on Designing, Managing and Delivering Human Rights Training (Geneva, July 2012; Panama, May 2013; Entebbe, June 2013).
- ▶ A total of 50 staff members from headquarters and the field benefited from annual training courses in 2012 and 2013 on human rights in humanitarian action to strengthen their knowledge of relevant human rights standards, policies and methodologies, the work of Protection Clusters and humanitarian action planning and funding mechanisms.
- ▶ To effectively support Member States in their efforts to integrate human rights in national development policies and budgets, 30 OHCHR staff members from the field and headquarters participated in a training session on human rights and budget monitoring.
- ▶ The OHCHR Library added 1,804 new books, answered 3,560 research questions and registered 18,384 visits to the online catalogue. An introduction to library services was delivered to 207 OHCHR staff and interns.

# Human Rights Treaties Division

## Background

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

The 10 treaty bodies are comprised of:

- ▶ The Human Rights Committee (HR Committee)

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

The recommendations of the treaty bodies are used in many other areas of the Office's work, including as background documentation for the UPR, reference material for thematic research undertaken by OHCHR and to support the work of the special procedures and activities of OHCHR field presences.

In addition to supporting the treaty bodies by facilitating their activities as outlined above,



The 82nd session of the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, February 2013.

the Human Rights Treaties Division (HRTD) is responsible for:

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

In recent years, the human rights treaty body system has grown significantly in size with the creation of four new treaty bodies (CMW, CRPD, SPT and CED) and three new procedures for individual complaints (CRPD, ICESCR and CRC). As a result, all of the monitoring bodies of the core human rights treaties have individual communications procedures. In May 2013, the OP-ICESCR entered into force. Only the Optional Protocol to the CRC on a communications procedure (enters into force on 14 April 2014), and article 77 of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW) have not yet entered into force. This already represents a significant step forward in increasing options for human rights protection.

The total number of treaty body experts in 2013 amounted to 172 (versus 97 in 2000 and 125 at the beginning of 2010). The allocated meeting time of the treaty bodies also increased (56 weeks in 2000 versus 72 weeks in 2010 and 75 weeks in 2013).

Following the June 2012 publication of the High Commissioner's report on strengthening the human rights treaty body system, the General Assembly created the open-ended intergovernmental process (initiated by General Assembly resolution 66/254) to conduct open, transparent and inclusive negotiations on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system. The General Assembly extended the process until February 2014. Two co-facilitators were appointed to assist in the process, namely the Permanent Representatives in New York of Iceland and Tunisia (who replaced the Permanent Representative of Indonesia in November 2013).

## Results

### Ratification (EA 2)

- ▶ In the biennium 2012-2013, a total of 113 ratifications were received. In 2013, a total of 43 new ratifications and accessions were deposited with the Secretary-General, which represented a noticeable decrease from 70 ratifications in 2012. The total thereby stands at 2,192 ratifications of and accessions to the international human rights treaties and protocols, which includes the ratification of treaties, optional protocols and acceptance of articles relating to individual communications procedures. OHCHR advocates for the ratification of all human rights treaties and the withdrawal of reservations through public statements delivered by the High Commissioner, press articles, technical cooperation processes and bilateral meetings with State officials and by highlighting recommendations and encouragements issued during the UPR and by human rights treaty bodies and special procedures.
- ▶ OHCHR continued its advocacy for the ratification of the OP-ICESCR, including in Burkina Faso, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Mali, Mexico, Paraguay, Peru, Republic of Moldova, Senegal, Togo and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. These efforts contributed to the coming into force of the instrument which empowers the Committee, as of May 2013, to receive and consider complaints from individuals and States and to undertake inquiries. This is an historical step reaffirming the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights and providing increased protection to individuals.

### State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ In 2013, HRTD continued to support the work of the 10 human rights treaty bodies, which met for a combined total of 75 weeks. The treaty bodies with a State Party reporting procedure received a total of 108 State Party reports, including 12 common core documents. The treaty bodies adopted concluding observations on 135 States Parties. CAT, CEDAW, CERD, CRPD and the Human Rights Committee examined and adopted final decisions on 116 communications and issued 53 requests for interim measures of protection for alleged victims at risk of irreparable harm. In addition, CED issued nine requests for urgent action under article 30 of the Convention and CEDAW conducted a country visit under its inquiry procedure.



A member of the Committee on the Rights of the Child speaks at its 62nd session, February 2013.

- ▶ In 2012, the SPT carried out two regular visits to Argentina and Kyrgyzstan and three advisory visits to Honduras, Republic of Moldova and Senegal. In 2013, the SPT carried out three regular visits to Gabon, New Zealand and Peru. It also undertook two advisory visits to Armenia and Germany and one follow-up visit to Cambodia. OHCHR provided substantive and organizational secretariat support to the SPT in the preparation for, conducting of and follow-up to the country visits.
- ▶ Through capacity-building activities, HRTD contributed to increased reporting by States Parties under the international human rights treaties. The support provided included training sessions requested by States Parties on the common core document and treaty specific guidelines, reporting, individual communications and follow-up to recommendations. For example, the following activities were carried out: a training workshop on reporting and follow-up for the Interministerial Committee on Human Rights in Rabat, Morocco (September); a training workshop in Tunis, Tunisia on reporting under CED for francophone African countries (November); training on reporting under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), CERD and CAT, organized by MONUSCO and OHCHR (December); a workshop organized in New York in the context of the treaty body strengthening process (April) on activities undertaken by UN agencies at the country level to support States in developing their capacity to report to treaty bodies and follow-up on concluding observations.
- ▶ OHCHR and Microsoft developed a Memorandum of Understanding to report on the potential for videoconferencing the sessions of the treaty

bodies, primarily the CRPD, with the aim of improving the accessibility to committee meetings and the accessibility processes and practices at Palais Wilson and Palais des Nations in Geneva. The team established for this purpose delivered a report on short-, medium- and long-term measures that should be adopted to enhance accessibility. OHCHR initiated the implementation of one of the recommendations, namely a training workshop on accessibility to documentation and websites which took place in June 2013 and was attended by OHCHR staff from headquarters and field presences.

- ▶ In 2013, OHCHR continued to make the UHRI available as an updated and comprehensive tool for searching treaty body outputs. Moreover, OHCHR enhanced the functions of the database and attached a link to the UHRI on the treaty bodies' webpage to encourage information sharing between all stakeholders. HRTD also continued to develop its new database for the treaty body system, accessible from the OHCHR website, allowing for improved research and better information regarding the ratification and reporting status of the treaties.

#### **Civil Society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)**

- ▶ Engagement of civil society and other stakeholders with the treaty bodies is well established. Each year, the treaty bodies receive more than 1,000 written submissions from civil society, NHRIs and UN entities. In addition, over 1,000 observers attended treaty body public meetings in 2013.
- ▶ In 2013, OHCHR continued to develop and use online systems to facilitate the management of civil society participation in the sessions of some mechanisms. It also supported and encouraged colleagues in the use of existing systems that have been developed by other parts of the UN to manage accreditation for sessions of CEDAW, CED and the Human Rights Committee.

#### **International and regional laws and institutions (EA 8)**

- ▶ OHCHR supported the progressive development of international human rights law, notably through studies and consultations and by supporting the treaty bodies in elaborating general comments. General comments are authoritative statements that provide States Parties with detailed and expert clarification of treaty provisions in order to enhance their understanding of the provisions and assist them in the implementation of their treaty obligations. In 2013, eight general comments/recommendations were adopted:

- CRC adopted four general comments on: the right of the child to have his or her best interests taken as a primary consideration (No. 14), on the right of the child to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of health (article 24) (No. 15), on State obligations regarding the impact of the business sector on children's rights (No. 16), and on the right of the child to rest, leisure, play, recreational activities, cultural life and the arts (No. 17).
  - CMW adopted a general comment on the rights of migrant workers in an irregular situation and members of their families (No. 2).
  - CEDAW adopted general recommendations on the economic consequences of marriage, family relations and their dissolution and on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations (No. 29 and No. 30).
  - CERD adopted General Recommendation No. 35 on "combatting racist hate speech," providing guidance on how to condemn such speech and combat prejudices leading to racial discrimination while also respecting other rights, including freedom of expression.
- ▶ OHCHR supported a number of treaty bodies in organizing thematic debates with a view to deepening understanding of the application of the instruments in certain areas and in some cases, gathering information for the preparation of a general comment/recommendation. In 2013, CEDAW held a general discussion on rural women (article 14) and another on access to justice (articles 2 and 15). Furthermore, CMW organized a discussion on the role of migration statistics for treaty reporting and migration policies while CRPD facilitated a discussion on women and girls with disabilities.
- ▶ OHCHR also supported a number of treaty bodies which issued statements on specific issues or in the context of specific situations. In 2013, the Chairs of all treaty bodies issued a statement on the post-2015 development agenda; CEDAW issued statements on the role of women in the process of political transition in Egypt, Libya and Tunisia and on strengthened cooperation with UN Women; CED issued a statement on the "ratione temporis" element in the review of reports submitted under the Convention; CEDAW, SPT and CAT issued a joint statement on the report of the High Commissioner on strengthening the human rights treaty bodies; CAT produced a statement in relation to the Addis Ababa Guidelines on the independence and impartiality of treaty body members as well as statements on its membership and on reprisals; CRC issued statements on the importance of providing practical help in relation to girls' education as well as on the killing of

Syrian children in alleged chemical attacks; and CMW released a statement on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the Convention.

### Coherence among human rights mechanisms (EA 9)

- ▶ Following the annual Meeting of Chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies held in Addis Ababa (25-29 June 2012), which resulted in the Addis Ababa Guidelines on the independence and impartiality of members of treaty bodies, eight of the treaty bodies have adopted the guidelines. In 2013, the annual Meeting of Chairpersons took place in New York to foster synergies between the treaty bodies and the treaty body strengthening process and to facilitate a meeting between the treaty body chairpersons and the co-facilitators of the strengthening process.
- ▶ OHCHR continued to provide logistical and substantive support to the co-facilitators of the intergovernmental process on strengthening the human rights treaty body system, established by General Assembly resolution 66/254. In addition, OHCHR facilitated informal consultations with all treaty bodies, civil society and the Human Rights Council in the framework of the process, which was extended until February 2014. Furthermore, at the request of the General Assembly and in collaboration with the Programme Planning and Budget Division, UNOG and the UN Information Service, OHCHR developed a cost assessment paper to support the intergovernmental process. The paper, submitted to the President of the General Assembly on 15 November 2013 for circulation among Member States, details the current cost of the entire treaty body system and gives an indication of the potential cost implications of the proposals provided in the draft substantive text if they were to be adopted by Member States.



Members of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture meeting with representatives of Germany's National Agency for the Prevention of Torture, April 2013.

- ▶ During the reporting period, OHCHR continued its cooperation with the Registry of the European Court of Human Rights regarding individual cases. During the seventh annual meeting of the cooperation between OHCHR and the Secretariat of the Council of Europe, members discussed the issue of the implementation of treaty body decisions and judgments of the European Court. In addition, a joint declaration was signed in September 2013 on the reinforcement of cooperation between the Council of Europe and the Office and aims at strengthening the cooperation between the two organizations, including regarding petitions and concluding observations.

**9** core international human rights treaties

**10** treaty bodies

**47** new ratifications and accessions in 2013

**143** State Party reports considered in 2013

**304** reports pending consideration at the end of 2013

**552** individual communications pending consideration at the end of 2013

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

Approximately **7,800** recommendations adopted annually

Adopted final decisions on **116** communications

**75** weeks in session in 2013

**172** treaty body experts within the 10 treaty bodies



The Chairperson of the Committee Against Torture briefs the press on the 25th annual meeting of Chairpersons of human rights treaty bodies, May 2013.

to integrate gender issues in their e-performance documents and initiated the revision of internal guidelines, checklists and forms to integrate a gender perspective. The evaluation forms for the humanitarian funds have also been amended to include sections on the consultation and participation of women in the implementation of the funded projects.

#### **Servicing human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)**

- ▶ OHCHR continued to use an online survey to solicit feedback from treaty body members and members of the humanitarian funds on the servicing and support it receives from OHCHR in relation to all treaty body activities. As of late 2013, OHCHR is using similar online surveys to get feedback from staff with a view to generating statistical data that can be used to assess and enhance synergies in the Office in support of the work of the mechanisms.
- ▶ HRTD continued to publish quarterly newsletters that are shared with all treaty body experts, special procedures mandate-holders, Member States, NHRIs, UN partners and civil society. HRTD also updated training materials and shared weekly updates with treaty body experts to ensure each committee is aware of the work being carried out by the other nine committees. Numerous stakeholders acknowledged the usefulness of these tools which are essential to ensuring the efficiency and coherence of the treaty body system. Furthermore, HRTD continued to organize regular meetings with the secretaries of all the treaty bodies to stimulate the sharing of experiences and to optimize the support provided to the treaty bodies.

## Global Management Outputs

### **Integrating a gender perspective (GMO 3)**

- ▶ HRTD continued to review recommendations by the HRTD focal point on mainstreaming gender in the work of the treaty bodies, assisted in the office-wide elaboration of a gender strategy in relation to treaty bodies, implemented relevant parts of the strategy and trained staff on the strategy. The Division also aimed to integrate a gender perspective in the Secretariat inputs into the work of the treaty bodies to ensure that it is reflected in their outputs, such as lists of issues and concluding observations, views and decisions and SPT field visits. In 2013, the HRTD gender focal point assisted other HRTD staff members

- ▶ As of April 2013, the Special Fund of the OP-CAT is jointly administered with the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, with a view to increasing cost-effectiveness, pooling expertise and the sharing of best practices. In 2013, nearly 330 grants were awarded under these three funds for a total of US\$8 million. Despite the concrete impact generated on the ground with the support of the Funds, concerns remain regarding the decreasing level of contributions to the Funds.

#### Supporting field operations (GMO 5)

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

#### Increased awareness of and support to OHCHR (GMO 7)

- ▶ In 2013, increased awareness, understanding and visibility of the regular work of the treaty bodies among Member States, UN partners, NHRIs and

civil society was ensured through the organization of more than 50 briefings on treaty bodies and the work of the Office. Furthermore, Twitter and Facebook were used to share the meeting summaries and concluding observations of the treaty bodies to ensure their recommendations are widely available and to contribute to their follow-up and implementation.

OHCHR assisted the Committee Against Torture to organize the 25th anniversary of the Committee's existence in May 2013. The aim of the celebration was to take stock of the Committee's achievements, especially with regard to the national-level implementation of CAT's provisions, to consider future challenges and discuss its recent general comment on the right to redress for victims of torture. The general comment was particularly welcomed by civil society organizations and most States Parties as it compiled the full jurisprudence of the Committee and therefore represents a comprehensive directory for the implementation of the obligations of States Parties under article 14 of the Convention.

On 5 July 2013, a regional seminar on migration policy and human rights was organized in Rabat, Morocco, by the Interministerial Delegation on Human Rights and the National Human Rights Council of the Kingdom of Morocco, in cooperation with the International Organization on Migration, to mark the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the ICRMW.



The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women during its 54th session, February 2013.

## 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
<b>CESCR</b>	161	9	5 years	Articles 16-17 Number of reports examined in 2013: 17 Number of reports pending examination: 34	Optional Protocol (entered into force on 5 May 2013) Number of registered communications pending examination: 1	Article 11 Optional Protocol Confidential inquiries on systematic violations (entered into force on 5 May 2013 for States Parties that have recognized the competence of the Committee)	No
<b>HR Committee</b>	167	12	3, 4 or 5 years as per the Committee's decision	Article 40 Number of reports examined in 2013: 17 (including non-reporting States) Number of reports pending examination: 34	Optional Protocol Number of registered communications pending examination: 378	No	No
<b>CERD</b>	176	6	2 years Allows merging two reports into one. De facto periodicity of 4 years	Article 9 Number of reports examined in 2013: 15 Number of reports pending examination: 24	Article 14 Number of registered communications pending examination: 6	No	No
<b>CEDAW</b>	187	14	4 years	Article 18 Number of reports examined in 2013: 24 Number of reports pending examination: 42	Optional Protocol Number of registered communications pending examination: 24	Articles 8-10 Optional Protocol Confidential inquiries on systematic violations	No
<b>CRC</b>	193 OP-AC: 153 OP-SC: 166	12	5 years	Article 44 Number of reports examined in 2013: 37 (including OP-AC and OP-SC reports) Number of reports pending examination: 97 (including OP-AC and OP-SC reports)	Enters into force on 14 April 2014	Articles 13-14 Optional Protocol Confidential inquiries on systematic violations (entered into force on 14 April 2014)	No
<b>CAT</b>	154	8	4 years	Article 19 Number of reports examined in 2013: 19 (including Antilles and Aruba) Number of reports pending examination: 25	Article 22 Number of registered communications pending examination: 128	Article 20 Confidential inquiries on systematic violations:	No
<b>SPT</b>	70	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	Articles 11-16 Subcommittee visits places of deprivation of liberty and communicates its recommendations by confidential report	No
<b>CMW</b>	47	3	5 years	Articles 73-74 Number of reports examined in 2013: 5 Number of reports pending examination: 3	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
<b>CRPD</b>	140	3	4 years	Articles 35-36 Number of reports examined in 2013: 4 Number of reports pending examination: 38	Optional Protocol Number of registered communications pending examination: 14	Article 6 Optional Protocol Confidential inquiries on systematic violations	No
<b>CED</b>	41	4	As per Committee's decision	Article 29 Number of reports examined in 2013: 5 Number of reports pending examination: 7	Article 31 Number of registered communications pending examination: 1	Article 33 Visit on serious violations	Article 30 Urgent action procedure

# Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division

## Background

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

In close collaboration with UN partners, government actors, NHRIs and civil society organizations and with the support of other parts of the Office, the Division supports implementation efforts on the ground. Priority is placed on efforts to strengthen national human rights protection systems; enhance and implement international human rights norms at the country level; and prevent and reduce human rights violations. In addition, the Office supports national-level follow-up action to recommendations issued from the international human rights system, including the treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR. Specifically, FOTCD, in cooperation with other parts of the Office, seeks to ensure that national authorities and civil society actors have the capacity to address human rights concerns and are well informed about international human rights standards and how to translate these into laws, regulations and policies. The aim is to ensure that rights-holders are better protected and empowered. Through its National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section, the Division continued to assist the establishment and/or strengthening of NHRIs in close cooperation with OHCHR's country and regional offices, human rights components of UN peace missions and human rights advisers, including through legal advice and capacity-building. Cooperation between NHRIs and their networks and their engagement with the



People queuing to register at an IDP camp in South Sudan.

international human rights system have also been a priority area for NIRMS in 2013.

The Division took the lead in developing the Office's policy and strategy with regard to UPR follow-up and operationalized the Trust Fund for UPR implementation, including through the review of its terms of reference, the establishment of a Board of Trustees to oversee its management and establishing a procedure to review requests for funding. It also supported the convening of several regional workshops and seminars on UPR follow-up.

Throughout the biennium, the Division, through its Peace Missions Support and Rapid Response Section, continued consolidation of progress in the field of humanitarian action, peace mission support, mission planning and start up as well as early warning and information management. The Division continued to provide support to the human rights components of peacekeeping and special political missions, including through technical advice for the development and implementation of policies and operational guidance for these missions. FOTCD continued advancing OHCHR's capacity to ensure the integration of human rights protection in all humanitarian planning, preparedness, response and recovery efforts around the world. The Division

deployed human rights officers to crisis regions where a rapid response was needed, led OHCHR's engagement in the UN Operations and Crisis Centre (UNOCC) and contributed to the follow-up to the implementation of the Secretary-General's "Rights Up Front" Action Plan.

## Results

### National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ Through its National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section, the Division provided legal advice and assistance for the establishment of NHRIs, notably in Benin, DRC, Djibouti, Lebanon, Lithuania, Myanmar, Niger, Turkey, Uruguay and Yemen. In Burundi and Cameroon, OHCHR's support permitted the respective NHRIs to maintain their 'A' status. In Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, the Republic of the Congo and Côte d'Ivoire, advice from OHCHR led to initial efforts to establish a NHRI. Through support provided to regional and global networks of NHRIs, including substantive and financial support to the International Coordination Committee of NHRIs (ICC-NHRI) and by serving as the Secretariat to the Sub-Committee on Accreditation, NHRIs were able to share their experiences and work towards increased compliance with the Paris principles.
- ▶ The Division continued to assist countries emerging from conflict and, in close cooperation with RRDD, provided support to transitional justice processes in several countries across the regions. In Nepal, OHCHR worked closely with the UNCT, the National Human Rights Commission and national organizations to provide advice and collate available information to advance transitional justice in the country. In particular, FOTCD and RRDD provided a detailed legal analysis of the Ordinance to establish a Truth Commission, highlighting that the power to grant amnesties for serious violations of human rights was contrary to international law. Subsequently, the Supreme Court ruled that the amnesty power was contrary to the Constitution and international law. In Libya, prior to the promulgation of the Law on Transitional Justice, OHCHR provided comments in collaboration with the Human Rights, Transitional Justice and Rule of Law Division of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), in particular relating to the establishment and functioning of the truth commission and of a separate reparations body, some of which were incorporated into the Law. In Tunisia, the Office facilitated a national consultation process and provided technical expertise which led to the adoption of

legislation on transitional justice. In Côte d'Ivoire, the organization of national consultations was facilitated which helped facilitate the functioning of the transitional justice process. In DRC, the visit in May 2012 of the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights contributed to advancing the national fight against impunity. He advocated with national authorities, including the Public Prosecutor, to initiate investigations into allegations of violations of human rights which occurred in the context of the November 2011 elections. Since then, the Prosecutor initiated investigations with the support of the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office. In the Americas, the Division's continued advocacy for the establishment of National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs) under the OP-CAT resulted in important efforts in Bolivia, Chile and Peru. In Peru, in particular, a draft law establishing such a mechanism, largely compliant with the OP-CAT, is being discussed by the Parliament. The Division, in coordination with the Regional Offices for Central and South America also contributed to the Protocol to investigate femicide.

### International and regional laws and institutions (EA 8)

- ▶ The Division continued working with partners, including regional human rights mechanisms, to ensure their compatibility with regional and international human rights standards. In this context, the Division provided the following support to regional mechanisms across regions:
  - Exchange of information and the coordination of actions with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights by liaising with the Commission's Secretariat and facilitating the submission of inputs from the Commission (in the cases of Chile, Dominican Republic



Human Rights Day celebration in Senegal, December 2013.

and Uruguay) and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights (in the cases of Costa Rica and Nicaragua) to the UPR processes.

- Strengthening the human rights system of the League of Arab States, notably through an assessment mission to identify priority activities and areas for technical cooperation to be implemented by OHCHR and UNDP.
- Strengthening cooperation with the African Union (AU) human rights machinery through joint activities, including the organization of a dialogue between special procedures mandate-holders of the UN and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), convened in Addis Ababa in January 2012. As a result, a roadmap was adopted and regular and systematic modalities for sharing information between the special procedures of both organizations were put in place, including a joint working group to build synergies and develop joint actions of the mechanisms.
- ▶ FOTCD also strengthened the engagement of regional human rights mechanisms in the UPR process through initiating discussions with, inter alia, the European Union, the Council of Europe, the Fundamental Rights Agency and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights to encourage their increased engagement with the UPR process, both at the Council level and with regard to implementation at the national level. As a result, a number of these mechanisms increased their contributions to OHCHR's stakeholders' reports when their Member States were under review by the UPR. The discussions resulted in the systematization of contributions from the regional mechanisms to

the documentation of the UPR and the increased integration of recommendations issued by UN human rights bodies, including the UPR, in the work of regional organizations.

### Responsiveness of the international community (EA 10)

- ▶ The Division continued to contribute to the increased integration of critical human rights issues in global, regional and national responses to development, economic, food, and climate crises and other challenges, including in formulation of the post-2015 development agenda, as shown in the following examples:
  - In Myanmar, OHCHR's engagement with partners at the national, regional and international levels resulted in ensuring that human rights concerns were mainstreamed into responses to the deteriorating situation in Rakhine State.
  - With regard to the Syrian Arab Republic, OHCHR strengthened its monitoring and reporting capacities through the deployment of a team to the neighbouring countries as of March 2013. The High Commissioner was subsequently able to use the information collected and analyzed by the team for her briefings to the Security Council and the Human Rights Council and has regularly shared this information in the inter-agency task force on Syria. OHCHR also published reports on casualty figures in Syria as part of its efforts to provide indicators of the devastating scope of the human rights crisis and the protection challenges in the country.
  - In providing contributions to human rights reports prepared by different field presences and to reports of the Secretary-General, the Division helped to maintain the focus of the international community on crisis situations, draw attention to specific human rights issues and influence the debate on appropriate responses such as in the case of Sri Lanka and Central African Republic.
  - The Division provided human rights inputs to the United Nations Operations and Crisis Centre (UNOCC) and the IASC's Sub-Working Group on Preparedness, specifically to the Early Warning-Early Action report which provides early warning about high risk/high impact situations to relevant parts of the UN and recommends preparedness actions and contingency planning.
  - The Division supported the High Commissioner's engagement in situations of protracted conflicts, including in Europe. In this context, human rights principles were



OHCHR staff travelling the Sinú river in Colombia to get to the territory of an indigenous population.



The High Commissioner meets relatives of missing or disappeared persons in Sri Lanka, August 2013.

incorporated in the Geneva International Discussions on the Conflict in Georgia which were launched following the August 2008 conflict between Georgia and the Russian Federation.

- A Commission of Inquiry on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea was created by the Human Rights Council as a result of long and targeted advocacy undertaken by OHCHR and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the DPRK. The Commission was established to investigate the systematic, widespread and grave violations of human rights in the DPRK and is supported by a Secretariat, provided by OHCHR. Its work and final recommendations, due in 2014, will ensure that strategies for accountability can be incorporated into global, regional and international policies related to the country.
- The combination of the High Commissioner's sustained advocacy, reports to the Human Rights Council and visit to Sri Lanka in August 2013 increased the awareness of the international community to long-standing human rights issues in the country and resulted in the extension of support to victims of human rights abuses and their families seeking justice and redress.

### **Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)**

- ▶ Through, inter alia, support provided to human rights components of peace missions, the Division continued to promote the integration of international human rights standards in the work of peace missions as well as DPA and DPKO. The Division contributed to the establishment of new peace missions and the reconfiguration and review of existing missions to ensure the

inclusion of a solid human rights component. The Division also participated in DPKO/DPA Technical Assessment Missions and coordinated the recruitment and selection of candidates for human rights components, ensuring that they have a suitable profile.

- ▶ The Division regularly provided inputs to the UNOCC on human rights situations of concern and to the early warning initiatives. For instance, it contributed to the drafting of the UNOCC integrated analysis report on armed groups in the Sahel, which led to a common UN analysis of the security threat and integrated human rights aspects.
- ▶ FOTCD contributed to the implementation of the Secretary-General's "Rights Up Front" Action Plan which identifies ways to implement the recommendations of the Internal Review Panel on United Nations Action in Sri Lanka. The Plan is framed around prevention through the protection of human rights. In this context, pilot country reports which provide an analysis of foreseen risks to the human rights situation, have been drafted or are being finalized in relation to Bangladesh, Egypt, Guatemala, Myanmar and Tajikistan. In the Central African Republic and South Sudan, which have been designated by the Deputy Secretary-General as crisis countries, OHCHR provided enhanced human rights analyses, including through the deployment of a rapid response mission to the Central African Republic.
- ▶ The Division continued to work for the increased integration of human rights standards and principles in humanitarian action, particularly under the auspices of the Global Protection Cluster (GPC) and the IASC and notably through more systematic senior-level engagement with the IASC Principals, its Working Group and the Emergency Directors Group. Following a suggestion of the High Commissioner to the IASC Principals, and largely as a result of a process that was jointly driven by OHCHR and UNHCR, the implications of the UN Internal Review Panel report on Sri Lanka and the relevance of the "Rights Up Front" Action Plan for humanitarian action were discussed in 2013 by the IASC at the Principal and Working Group levels. Consequently, the IASC adopted protection as one of its priorities for 2014-2015 and central focus was given to ensuring that protection is undertaken in a manner that also prevents and responds to ongoing or potential violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. In this context, OHCHR and Interaction are co-chairing the GPC Task Team tasked to facilitate the implementation of this IASC protection

priority. In this capacity, the Office facilitated the drafting of a IASC Principals statement on the centrality of protection in humanitarian crises which was endorsed in December. In addition, and as a result of the High Commissioner's suggestion to the Emergency Relief Coordinator, the revised IASC terms of reference now include the "protection of the rights of affected people" as a core element of IASC's overall objective to improve the delivery of humanitarian assistance.

- ▶ In response to the humanitarian emergency in the Philippines following Typhoon Haiyan, OHCHR staff were deployed in its aftermath to provide support to the Protection Cluster (including by co-leading with the Department for Social Welfare and Development two subregional Protection Cluster hubs in Borongan and Roxas) and the Humanitarian Country Team, to integrate human rights considerations across humanitarian efforts. In addition, OHCHR advocated for the involvement of affected communities in decision-making processes related to relocation and housing and provided legal expertise to national and local authorities during the development of various national policies and strategies, for example, on housing, land and property rights. Together with its partners, OHCHR supported the re-building of the capacity of the National Commission on Human Rights and other national actors, such as the local civil and military administrative officers, through training and orientation sessions on relevant human rights laws and standards.
- ▶ FOTCD contributed to the operationalization of the new UNDG Strategy for the Deployment of Human Rights Advisers and ensured timely and effective recruitment for these deployments

through the launching of a multi-duty station roster. In terms of examples of the integration of human rights standards into the work of the UN, in Mali, for instance, OHCHR dispatched a human rights officer to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)/African Union/ UN military planning mission in 2012. As a result, a reference to the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy was integrated into the Concept of Operations for the deployment of the African-led International Support Mission to Mali. UNCTs and Resident Coordinators in Belarus, Turkey and Ukraine have increased their knowledge about a human rights-based approach through workshops. In Guyana, FOTCD contributed to a capacity-building training session on human rights in the context of the UPR recommendations. In Nepal, representatives from indigenous communities and UN staff were trained on international laws and standards relating to indigenous peoples, which encouraged collaboration among partners on the implementation of the rights of indigenous peoples.

## Global Management Outputs

### Integrating a gender perspective (GMO 3)

- ▶ The Division, with the support of RRDD, set up a network of gender facilitators. Consequently, all FOTCD's work plans for 2014 include an activity incorporating a gender perspective. The work of the gender facilitators also resulted in the systematic consideration of a gender perspective when reviewing reports of the High Commissioner, Deputy High Commissioner and Secretary-General and in the design of their respective country missions.



Meeting of the High Commissioner with national authorities in Poland during her first official visit to the country, October 2013.

#### Servicing human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- ▶ Systematic support provided to special procedures with country mandates contributed to the mandate-holders being able to make informed statements about the human rights situations pertaining to their respective mandates.
- ▶ FOTCD facilitated regular briefings to the treaty bodies which resulted in the members of the Committees being well informed about the human rights situation in a country under consideration.
- ▶ Good practices with regard to the implementation of the recommendations of the HRMs were systematically identified. Among others, a study on lessons learned was prepared which compiled examples of good practices related to the holistic implementation of the recommendations issued by HRMs. The study developed out of three subregional workshops held in the Europe and Central Asia region (Belgrade (2011), Tbilisi and Bishkek (2012)), with the participation of government representatives, civil society and NHRIs and contributions from all parts of OHCHR, especially HRTD and the Human Rights Council and Special Procedures Division. One of the outcomes of the workshops was a recommendation to establish a single high-level government entity with an overall coordinating role for holistic implementation to ensure the effective follow-up to recommendations. This entity would use the recommendations as a basis for prioritization and developing a detailed action plan outlining well-defined activities, responsible national actors, benchmarks and specific time frames for implementation. The entity would also be responsible for ensuring a broad participatory process that includes civil society, NHRIs and other relevant actors.

#### Supporting field operations (GMO 5)

- ▶ By the end of 2013, the Division had provided support to 59 field presences as well as 12 country special rapporteurs, including substantive, administrative and programmatic advice. In terms of policy support, the Division contributed to and facilitated the conduct of the independent study, entitled *Influence on the ground*, which reviewed the work of human rights field presences and provided recommendations for improvement.
- ▶ During the biennium, FOTCD, with the strong involvement of field presences and the advice of the Board of Trustees for the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation, which the Division continues to serve, developed further guidance for technical cooperation in the field of human rights. This provided field presences with a tool to assist them in the design and implementation of their technical cooperation work.



OHCHR and UN-Habitat workshop on housing rights with local communities in South Hebron, State of Palestine, March 2013.

- ▶ The Division strengthened its conceptual support to the different types of field presences. Within the framework of the UNDG-HRM, support was increased for the deployment of human rights advisers within UNCTs, resulting in their improved capacities to effectively mainstream human rights in UN country programmes.
- ▶ A high number of rapid response interventions were also required in the past biennium, including commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions. To strengthen the response of OHCHR to deteriorating human rights situations, a workshop on lessons learned was organized with the participation of former coordinators of different CoI and FFM Secretariats.
- ▶ Throughout the biennium, the Division worked on the implementation of OHCHR's strategy on engagement in humanitarian action aimed at ensuring effective, efficient and appropriate engagement in this field. An improved organization, coordination and use of resources to respond to crises increased the effectiveness of the Office in supporting field operations through the prompt activation of OHCHR's rapid response facility in the case of emerging, new or deteriorating humanitarian crises such as in the Central African Republic, Mali, Myanmar, the Philippines, the Sahel (at regional level) and Syria. This also resulted in effectively leading the Protection Clusters in Haiti, Mauritania and the State of Palestine; co-leading the Protection Cluster at the regional level in the Pacific and leading a Sub-Cluster on access to justice in Mali. In December, OHCHR led a Protection Cluster hub at the subnational level in the Philippines. Furthermore, FOTCD's continued support to the field presences resulted in a number of submissions to the humanitarian strategic

response plans, including with regard to Mali, Mauritania, Myanmar, Niger and Yemen.

### **Skills and competencies (GMO 6)**

- ▶ Given OHCHR's budgetary constraints and its reduced capacity to undertake training for staff, including from the field, FOTCD used the opportunity of relevant events, such as the annual Heads of Field Presences meeting, to build the capacity of field staff with regard to key competencies.
- ▶ The organization of the annual training on human rights investigation by the Peace Missions Support and Rapid Response Section and the Methodology, Education and Training Section, enabled a sufficient number of colleagues to gain the necessary investigation skills.

### **Increased awareness of and support to OHCHR (GMO 7)**

- ▶ The work of the Division resulted in improved awareness and understanding of and support to OHCHR's mission and programmes by Member States and other stakeholders, including through the continued maintenance of the Office's website in Chinese; the organization of information

meetings on the work of CoIs; and the systematic attention paid to increasing the understanding of OHCHR's mission during visits by staff members to countries.

### **Resources (GMO 8)**

- ▶ The issuance of a number of rosters for needs related to rapid response, including CoIs, resulted in the enhanced capacity of the Division to respond to urgent needs. The establishment of an Inspira roster for human rights advisers has led to the efficient filling of these vacancies.

During the 26th annual meeting of the ICC-NHRI, held in Geneva from 6 to 8 May 2013, a session was dedicated to the 20th anniversary of the Paris Principles which were adopted by the General Assembly in 1993. During the event, national human rights institutions shared their lessons learned during the previous twenty years. In addition, UNDP, OHCHR and the ICC-NHRI organized an event on 12 July in New York to reflect on the progress achieved since the adoption of the Paris Principles and the challenges and gaps that remain to be addressed.

# Human Rights Council and Special Procedures Division

## Background

The Human Rights Council and Special Procedures Division (HRCSPD) is the OHCHR Division with a core mandate to support the Human Rights Council and its subsidiary mechanisms. HRCSPD is headed by a Director who reports to the High Commissioner through the Deputy High Commissioner. Since 1 January 2014, the Division, which previously consisted of two Branches, the Human Rights Council Branch (HRCB) and the Special Procedures Branch (SPB), also hosts the Universal Periodic Review Branch.

The Division provides substantive support and advice to the Human Rights Council and its subsidiary mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review, and the special procedures. It also supports the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review and the Voluntary Trust Fund for Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in engaging with the Council.

The Human Rights Council (HRC) is an intergovernmental body comprising 47 Member

States, elected by the General Assembly for a three-year period that is responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe. It was established by and is a subsidiary body of the General Assembly. During the reporting period, the Human Rights Council continued to address various urgent and chronic human rights situations. It further extended the mandate of the Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic and, following an urgent debate, requested in resolution 23/1 that the Commission of Inquiry urgently inquire into the events in Al Qusayr. The Council also established a CoI on the DPRK to investigate the systematic, widespread and grave human rights violations committed in the country.

In addition to the regular annual panel discussions in 2013, the Council held panel discussions on the impact of corruption, the contribution of parliaments to the work of the Council and its UPR mechanism, business and human rights, democracy and the rule of law, the human rights of children of parents sentenced to the death penalty or executed and the 20th anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action.



Podium of the 22nd session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, February 2013.



The President of the Human Rights Council during its 23rd session, June 2013.

The HRC's special procedures are mandates given to independent experts requesting them to address thematic human rights issues or human rights situations in specific countries. Mandate-holders engage with States, civil society organizations or other relevant actors with a view to examining, publicly reporting and making recommendations in relation to the issues falling under their mandates. Special procedures conduct country visits; send communications to States, and sometimes other actors, about human rights issues and individual cases; undertake awareness-raising activities; contribute to the development of human rights standards; undertake thematic studies and provide advisory services. All mandate-holders submit reports to the HRC and, when mandated, to the General Assembly on questions relating to their mandate and their activities. In 2013, the Human Rights Council established one thematic and two country mandates: on the situation of human rights in Central African Republic and in Mali and on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons. As of the end of 2013, there were 51 special procedures (37 thematic mandates and 14 mandates relating to countries or territories) with 73 mandate-holders. In addition, 108 States had issued standing invitations for special procedures to undertake visits (increased from 92 a year earlier). During 2013, special procedures conducted 79 country visits to 66 States and were accompanied and supported by OHCHR staff. They also sent 528 communications to 117 States in which they described allegations of human rights violations or general concerns relating to laws and policies and urged relevant State authorities to take steps to investigate them and, where they proved to

be well-founded, provide redress. Special procedures submitted 168 reports to the Human Rights Council and 36 to the General Assembly. They also issued 379 news releases and public statements in 2013.

## Results

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

### National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ With the support of OHCHR, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples provided comments to the Government of Chile's draft protocol on consultation with indigenous peoples. A significant component of the observations of the Special Rapporteur was incorporated into a new draft of the protocol, which is expected to be adopted in 2014. The Special Rapporteur provided comments on the Government of Mexico's protocol for people in the justice sector working on cases involving indigenous peoples, which includes information on how to address issues of indigenous customary law. The Rapporteur's comments were reflected in the final draft of the protocol, which was adopted in 2013.
- ▶ Following the 2012 visit of the Working Group on discrimination against women in law and in practice to the Republic of Moldova and a joint communication issued in 2013, the Parliament withdrew proposed discriminatory amendments to national legislation. The amendments had established sanctions for "the public dissemination of information or any actions meant to promote prostitution, paedophilia, pornography or any other relations besides the family and the wedlock relationships, in line with the Moldovan Constitution and the Family Code." The Parliament decided that the phrase "any other relations besides the family and the wedlock relationships, in line with the Moldovan Constitution and the Family Code" had to be removed.

### State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)

- ▶ OHCHR contributed to improving the follow-up to country visits by Special Rapporteurs and their recommendations resulted in concrete and positive changes at the field level. For instance, in line with a specific recommendation of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial executions, following his country visit in 2010, the Albanian Parliament amended the Constitution and enabled

investigations and prosecutions of high-level officials and judges without prior authorization.

- ▶ In November 2013, the Special Rapporteur on the right to food provided advice to the Government of Mexico relating to the possible establishment of new institutional mechanisms related to inter-sectoral coordination and social participation. He also met with members of the Parliament deliberating on a new right to food framework law, in follow-up to the entrenchment of the right to food in the Constitution which took place after his 2011 mission to Mexico.
- ▶ During her visit to Togo in October 2013, the Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders noted that the situation of defenders had improved since her 2008 visit and that the overall environment was more enabling, including for women defenders, who benefited from the amended Family Code and certain changes in how authorities perceived their roles.
- ▶ In Thailand, following the 2011 visit undertaken by the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, during which she highlighted the country's commitment to and progress in combating trafficking in persons and made a number of recommendations, the Government of Thailand enacted the Anti-Transnational Organized Crime Act in 2013. This enabled the Government to: ratify the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, Especially Women and Children, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime; make progress in terms of the establishment of data collection on trafficking in persons; and establish a national hotline to better assist victims of human trafficking.
- ▶ Follow-up to communications was enhanced through the improved dissemination of reports and opinions. The Working Group on Arbitrary Detention established a publicly accessible database which includes over 800 opinions that have been adopted by the Working Group since 1992. These opinions have been referred to by regional and national courts, including the European Court of Human Rights in *El Masri v. the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia*, and in the case of Hugo Sánchez Ramírez, who was ordered to be released by the Mexican Supreme Court in October 2012.
- ▶ The second cycle of the UPR continued in 2013 with the full participation of all 42 States scheduled for consideration during the year, including small island States, namely the Bahamas, Barbados, Tonga and Tuvalu. States under review continued to send high-level representatives and the national reports prepared

for the second cycle increasingly included references to previous cycle recommendations and reported on implementation measures. Likewise, recommending States tended to refer to the recommendations made in the first cycle when asking questions and making new recommendations. Increasingly, countries submitted mid-term reports on the measures taken to implement the recommendations received during the first cycle. To date, 38 countries have submitted such reports.

A two-day interregional seminar to facilitate the participation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the HRC and its UPR was held in Mauritius from 30-31 July 2013. Twenty-three delegates representing 14 countries, as well as 15 representatives from Mauritius, participated in the event. The seminar was the first of its kind in that its primary aim was to improve the engagement with and inclusion in the Human Rights Council and the UPR mechanism of LDCs and SIDS. The success of the seminar gave way to genuine suggestions by delegations to establish a more stable training facility for LDCs and SIDS.

#### **Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)**

- ▶ A Practical Guide for Civil Society was made available on the OHCHR website and during sessions of the UPR Working Group to clarify processes and procedures and support rights-holders in accessing the UN human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ A new electronic inscription system for the list of speakers was introduced which greatly improved the accessibility of information for NGO participation in the UPR, including for those not based in Geneva. In addition, during the Council sessions in 2013, both NHRIs and NGOs were able to intervene by video message during the adoption of UPR outcomes, enhancing the participation of national civil society actors and thereby fulfilling one of the recommendations of the report of the Task Force on secretariat services, accessibility for persons with disabilities and use of information technology, which was adopted by the Human Rights Council at its 19th session (A/HRC/DEC/19/119). In 2013, 12 'A' status accredited NHRIs took part in the adoption of UPR outcomes in the Council plenary, immediately following the States under review (three of which were through video messages).
- ▶ In addition to the annual panel on the rights of persons with disabilities, one panel of the Human

Rights Council per session was made accessible to persons with disabilities. Through the same efforts, international sign interpretation, captioning and webcasting were provided and easy-to-read versions of selected basic material about the Council and panel summaries were made accessible. Finally, an accessibility guide to the Human Rights Council was prepared to help enable the participation of persons with disabilities in the work of the Council on an equal basis with others.

- ▶ With the support of OHCHR, the Special Rapporteur on the human right to water and sanitation developed a handbook for realizing the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation. The handbook provides practical guidance for stakeholders when developing laws, policies and budgets and will indicate how governments can be held to account for their actions (or inactions) in ensuring universal access to water and sanitation.
- ▶ The Human Rights Council, including its President, and OHCHR continued with awareness-raising and advocacy efforts relating to reprisals. The report of the panel discussion on intimidation and reprisals, submitted to the Council at its 22nd session (2012), sparked further discussions on concrete measures to improve the protection of persons who cooperate with the UN and related human rights mechanisms.

### International and regional laws and institutions (EA 8)

- ▶ Numerous mechanisms made important contributions to further developing international human rights law with the substantive support of OHCHR. The Advisory Committee, with its report on the issue of hostage taking by terrorist groups, shed light on the definition of terrorist hostage taking, its nature, scope and dimensions as well as its impact on human rights. It recommended that States engage in an open discussion on how

to tackle the challenging issue of addressing the legality of payment of ransom to terrorist hostage takers. In another example, following a consultation process, the Special Rapporteur on the right to food presented the Guiding Principles on Human Rights Impact Assessments of Trade and Investment Agreements to the Human Rights Council in March 2012, which have served as a reference for the UN human rights system in discussions with Member States and informed a range of case studies undertaken by NGOs and independent research institutions. Furthermore, following exchanges with the Special Rapporteur, the Council of the European Union, adopted the EU Action Plan on Human Rights and Democracy in June 2012, which commits the European Commission to "insert human rights in impact assessment, as and when it is carried out for legislative and non-legislative proposals, implementing measures and trade agreements that have significant economic, social and environmental impacts, or define future policies" (EU doc. 11855/12, Annex III).

- ▶ The 2013 report to the Human Rights Council of the Special Rapporteur on the right to freedom of opinion and expression dealt with the impact of surveillance of communications. He called for more attention to be taken to the widespread use of surveillance technologies by States within and outside national boundaries and indicated that national laws regulating State involvement in communications surveillance are often inadequate or simply do not exist. The report received particular attention as it was presented to the Human Rights Council only days before revelations on mass surveillance initiatives. The 68th session of the General Assembly welcomed the report and included some of its recommendations in a resolution on the right to privacy in the digital age.



Members of the Commission of Inquiry on Syria briefing the media, June 2013.



The Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples meeting with indigenous communities in Panama, July 2013.

### Coherence among human rights mechanisms (EA 9)

- ▶ The coherence among HRMs was strengthened in terms of improved coordination between special procedures and increased visibility of the system. OHCHR supported several joint initiatives between mandate-holders advocating for the integration of human rights in the elaboration of the post-2015 development agenda and calling for the elimination of inequalities, the provision of social protection floors and the establishment of a double accountability mechanism to hold countries accountable for their commitments at both national and international levels.
- ▶ On 29 May 2013, the Chair of the Coordinating Committee made a statement during the Human Rights Council debate on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic and the killings in Al Qusayr. This was the first time that special procedures addressed an urgent debate of the Human Rights Council, thereby reinforcing their interaction with the Council.
- ▶ During the 20th annual meeting of special procedures in June 2013, mandate-holders discussed the implementation of the roadmap between the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR), which was agreed upon in January 2012 in Addis Ababa. Collaboration between the two systems significantly increased, with a delegation of the Council's special procedures attending the 54th session of the ACHPR. Moreover, the ACHPR Working Group on the death penalty and extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary killings in Africa and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions met for the first time in July 2013.

- ▶ The Special Rapporteur on torture was the first mandate-holder on this issue to address the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, which endorsed his work on the use of solitary confinement that had been submitted to the Commission in March 2013, as well as his recommendations on the Standard Minimum Rules for the treatment of prisoners submitted to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in September 2013. A 2013 resolution of the Organization of American States on Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity and Gender Expression and the Council of Europe's Rapporteur on Forced and Coerced Sterilizations and Castration referred to the Special Rapporteur's report on abuse and violence in healthcare settings.
- ▶ The Special Rapporteurs on the right to food and on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation and a member of the Working Group on discrimination against women in law and in practice participated in CEDAW's general discussion on rural women on 7 October 2013, contributing to the preparation of a general recommendation on the issue.

### Responsiveness of the international community (EA 10)

- ▶ In 2013, the Council remained attentive to critical human rights situations worldwide. The Syrian Arab Republic was high on the Council's agenda with an urgent debate held in June 2013, and the mandate of the Commission of Inquiry was extended until March 2014. The Council mandated a CoI on the DPRK by consensus during its March 2013 session. In addition, Independent Experts on Central African Republic and Mali were established during the year. Furthermore, the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission to investigate the implications of Israeli settlements reported to the Council on its findings.
- ▶ In 2013, the Central African Republic and Somalia requested that the Council address the ongoing and deteriorating human rights situation in their countries - the first time that such requests were put forward. In response, the Council held two high-level interactive dialogues which were attended by dignitaries from each State and elicited pledges of support from many States and civil society actors. As a result, OHCHR worked closely with the Office of the Prime Minister of Somalia, the international community and the African Union Mission in Somalia to step up efforts to finalize the drafting of the Human Rights Roadmap for Somalia.

- ▶ In 2013, the Council held 15 panel discussions on subjects ranging from the rights of indigenous peoples, the rights of the child, gender integration in the work of the Council, human rights and democracy, human rights and corruption and the rights of persons with disabilities. These panel discussions, supported by OHCHR, provided an opportunity for the international community to focus on new and emerging thematic human rights issues and increasing awareness about these issues from a human rights perspective.
- ▶ The Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism and the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions collaborated on the issue of armed drones. Their annual reports, presented to the General Assembly in October 2013, assessed the impact of the use of armed drones and formulated recommendations from the perspective of their individual mandates. The presentation of the reports was followed by a number of events, including a joint side event on Drones and the Law, organized by OHCHR. In addition, the resolution on the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, adopted by the Third Committee on 26 November 2013, took note of the Special Rapporteur's report on the use of drones and referred to the recommendations contained in the report.
- ▶ The activities of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons (IDPs) prompted the General Assembly to request the mandate-holder to submit a report within 90 days on the situation of IDPs in Syria and provide recommendations to meet the protection needs and strengthen the effectiveness of the international response to displacement, as indicated in its resolution A/RES/67/262. The report provided an overview of the humanitarian, protection and human rights situation of IDPs in Syria, an analysis of challenges in meeting the urgent needs of affected communities and a set of initial recommendations, including considerations to guide durable solutions to internal displacement.
- ▶ Following reports on the safety of journalists from the Special Rapporteur on summary executions and the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, which were prepared with OHCHR's support, the protection of journalists continued to be a focus of the international community in 2013. The Human Rights Council adopted Decision 24/116 regarding a panel discussion on the safety of journalists, which referred to the



The Chair of the Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances briefs journalists at a press conference with the Chair of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons.

Special Rapporteurs' reports in the preamble of this Decision and on 18 December 2013, at its 68th session, the General Assembly adopted its first resolution on the Safety of Journalists and the Issue of Impunity.

- ▶ Following his visit to Japan, the Special Rapporteur on the right to health presented a report on the realization of the right to health in the context of emergency response, recovery and mitigation following the nuclear accident at the Fukushima nuclear power plant to the Human Rights Council in June 2013. The report was the first human rights assessment of the impact of the nuclear accident on the enjoyment of the right to health of persons and communities affected by the disaster. After the presentation of the report, numerous public events were organized by civil society on the subject, including on the margins of the Human Rights Council and General Assembly sessions. In addition, in November 2013, the Chair of the United Nations Scientific Committee on the Effects of Atomic Radiation expressed interest in a dialogue with the Human Rights Council on the nuclear accident's impact on health in Japan.

#### **Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)**

- ▶ In relation to the post-2015 development agenda, the Special Rapporteur on the right to water and sanitation, supported by OHCHR, developed concrete proposals for goals, targets and indicators to monitor the achievements on water and sanitation and the progressive elimination of inequalities under the UNICEF/WHO Joint Monitoring Programme.

**79** country visits carried out by special procedures mandate-holders to **66** countries.

**528** communications sent to **117** different countries and territories. **84** per cent of these were issued jointly by two or more mandate-holders.

At the end of 2013, the response rate by States to special procedures' communications remained low at approximately **45** per cent but slightly improved compared to 2012 (40 per cent).

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

**108** standing invitations issued by Member States, (compared to 92 at the end of 2012).

## Global Management Outputs

### Integrating a gender perspective (GMO 3)

- ▶ In 2013, the Human Rights Council held its annual discussion on integrating the human rights of women throughout the United Nations system, with a focus on civil society's contribution to the integration of a gender perspective throughout the work of the Council and some of its mechanisms, including the special procedures and the UPR. In order to enhance the equal participation of women in the Human Rights Council, OHCHR continued to compile a statistical report, including the number and percentage of women delegates who attended sessions of the Council, the number and percentage of women delegates who took the floor and the percentages of women and men participating as experts on panels. While there was little progress made in the number of women delegates who took the floor in the Human Rights Council, a visible improvement was noticed in relation to the percentage of women and men participating as experts on panels where parity was almost always observed.
- ▶ Sessions on gender mainstreaming are routinely included in induction sessions for new mandate-holders and in training activities for new staff supporting the special procedures.

### Servicing human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- ▶ OHCHR continued to provide support to the Coordination Committee of the Special Procedures to strengthen the coherence of the special

procedures system. The 20th annual meeting of special procedures was held in June 2013 in Vienna in celebration of the 20th anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. Exchanges with other stakeholders were held in the context of this meeting, including with UNODC, regional organizations, NHRIs and civil society. The discussions focused on coordination among mandate-holders, including the role of the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures and a number of issues relating to working methods.

- ▶ In terms of information tools, OHCHR updated the Directory of Special Procedures Mandate-Holders twice in 2013 and continued to produce weekly updates for mandate-holders to ensure coordination and knowledge-sharing. The Office improved and regularly updated the website and OHCHR continued to support the production of the joint communication reports, which have been issued since 2011. OHCHR also pursued its work to create an internal database to record information on country visits to make updated information available to users. In addition, press releases, web-based stories relating to country visits, thematic issues, country situations and individual cases of human rights violations were issued with the support of OHCHR.
- ▶ A prospective planning calendar with all activities of the Human Rights Council, including the UPR, special procedures and treaty bodies, is regularly updated by OHCHR to ensure coordination between the different mechanisms.
- ▶ The Human Rights Council's social media presence continues to grow rapidly as evidenced by a significant increase in "likes" on Facebook (from 4,400 at the end of 2012 to nearly 15,000 at the end of 2013) and the number of followers on Twitter (from 6,000 at the end of 2012 to nearly 15,000 at the end of 2013). The Council's Secretariat provides regular updates about the



The Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief with participants of the first interreligious roundtable in Nicosia, September 2013.

Council's activities via SMS alerts which has proven to increase operating efficiency at the Council meetings. A new YouTube channel with video clips of Council proceedings and a tablet application that enables users to access key information on sessions of the Council were launched. The extranet continues to enable users to locate practical information about past, current and future Council sessions and access key documentation. Finally, both the Human Rights Council and UPR webpages provide links to the webcast page.

#### **Supporting field operations (GMO 5)**

- ▶ In 2013, the Human Rights Council Branch enhanced its cooperation with field operations by consulting and coordinating with the OHCHR Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division on urgent debates and interactive dialogues for three different commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions and 12 different country mandates during the regular sessions of the Human Rights Council.
- ▶ The Special Procedures Branch continued to work closely with field presences in terms of verifying information relating to allegations as well as in terms of country visits. Regarding the latter, cooperation with field presences started at the planning stage of country visits and continued during the follow-up to mandate-holders' recommendations. In several cases, special procedures reports were used by field presences for awareness-raising and advocacy purposes. For instance, the report on the visit of the Working Group on discrimination against women to the Republic of Moldova in May 2012 has been used as an advocacy tool by the Human Rights Adviser and was an important reference in domestic law reform efforts. Similarly, the report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of assembly and of association regarding the ability of associations to access financial resources was used by OHCHR to analyze the compliance of draft legislation with international human rights norms and standards in a number of countries, including in Indonesia, Myanmar and the Russian Federation.

## Human Rights Council – Outcomes of sessions held in 2013

### 22nd Session (25 February – 22 March 2013)

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

- Promoting reconciliation and accountability in Sri Lanka;
- Composition of the staff of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights;
- Human Rights in a number of thematic areas, including the work and employment of persons with disabilities, rights of the child, right to food, protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests, birth registration and the right of everyone to recognition everywhere as a person before the law, combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons based on religion or belief, protecting human rights defenders, torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment: rehabilitation of torture victims, question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights, rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, education as a tool to prevent racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and freedom of religion or belief;
- Panel on the human rights of children of parents sentenced to the death penalty or executed;
- The negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin to the countries of origin on the enjoyment of human rights, and the importance of improving international cooperation;
- Contribution of parliaments to the work of the Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review;
- The situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Myanmar, the occupied Syrian Golan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, in the Syrian Arab Republic, and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;
- Assistance to Haiti, Libya, Republic of Mali in the field of human rights;
- Follow-up to the report of the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict;
- Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan;
- Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination;
- Follow-up to the report of the Independent International Fact-Finding Mission to investigate the implications of Israeli settlements on the civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights of the Palestinian people throughout the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;
- Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action;
- Promotion and protection of human rights in post-disaster and post-conflict situations;
- Prevention of genocide;
- 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;
- Human Rights Council webcast;
- Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights;
- High-level panel discussion on the question of the death penalty;
- Mainstreaming human rights throughout the United Nations system;
- Outcomes of the Universal Periodic Review: Argentina, Benin, Czech Republic, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Japan, Pakistan, Peru, Republic of Korea, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Ukraine and Zambia.

### 23rd Session (27 May – 14 June 2013)

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

- National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights;
- Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights;
- Human rights and international solidarity;
- Attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism;
- National policies and human rights;
- Economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to education, the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights, promotion of the enjoyment of the cultural rights of everyone and respect for cultural diversity, the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights and access to medicines in the context of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;

- Human rights in a number of thematic areas, including the role of freedom of opinion and expression in women's empowerment, elimination of discrimination against women, accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: preventing and responding to rape and other forms of sexual violence, promotion of the right to peace, independence and impartiality of the judiciary, jurors and assessors, and the independence of lawyers, human rights of migrants and trafficking in persons, especially women and children: efforts to combat human trafficking in supply chains of businesses;
- Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons;
- The deteriorating situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic, the recent killings in Al-Qusayr and the deterioration of the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic and the need to grant immediate access to the Commission of Inquiry;
- Situation of human rights in Belarus and Eritrea;
- Assistance to the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Somalia and South Sudan in the field of human rights;
- Situation of human rights in Myanmar as regards Rohingya Muslims in Rakhine State and other Muslims;
- Outcomes of the UPR of Bahamas, Barbados, Botswana, Burundi, France, Liechtenstein, Luxembourg, Mali, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia, Tonga and United Arab Emirates.

### 24th Session 9-27 September 2013

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

- World Programme for Human Rights Education;
- Economic, social and cultural rights, including the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation and the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health;
- Human rights in a number of thematic areas, including arbitrary detention, the right to development, the right to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, the human rights of older persons and human rights and indigenous peoples, equal political participation, local government and human rights, preventable mortality and morbidity of children under five years of age as a human rights concern, human rights in the administration of justice, including juvenile justice, human rights and unilateral coercive measures, conscientious objection to military service, strengthening efforts to prevent and eliminate child, early and forced marriage: challenges, achievements, best practices and implementation gaps, the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination and impact of arms transfers on human rights in armed conflict;
- Promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal;
- Regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights;
- Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences;
- The Social Forum;
- The role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights;
- Civil society space: creating and maintaining, in law and in practice, a safe and enabling environment;
- Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights;
- From rhetoric to reality: a global call for concrete action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;
- The continuing grave deterioration of the human rights and humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic;
- Assistance to Cambodia, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen in the field of human rights;
- Enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights;
- Technical cooperation for the prevention of attacks against persons with albinism;
- Postponement of renewal of the mandate of the 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;
- Panel discussion on the safety of journalists;
- High-level panel on the identification of good practices in combating female genital mutilation;
- Establishment of a special fund for the participation of civil society in the Social Forum, the Forum on Minority Issues and the Forum on Business and Human Rights;
- Reports of the Advisory Committee;
- Outcomes of the UPR of Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Canada, Cape Verde, Cuba, Djibouti, Germany, Russian Federation, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu and Uzbekistan.

Special Procedures Mandate-Holders 2013		
Mandate	Established	Mandate-holder
<b>Country mandates</b>		
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in <b>Belarus</b>	2012	Mr. <b>Miklós Haraszti</b> (Hungary) since October 2012
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in <b>Cambodia</b>	1993	Mr. <b>Surya Prasad Subedi</b> (Nepal) since May 2009
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the <b>Central African Republic</b>	2013	Mandate-holder to be appointed at the “Special session on CAR” or the 25th session of the Human Rights Council in 2014.
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in <b>Côte d’Ivoire</b>	2011	Mr. <b>Doudou Diene</b> (Senegal) since November 2011
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in <b>Eritrea</b>	2012	Ms. <b>Sheila B. Keetharuth</b> (Mauritius) since October 2012
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the <b>Democratic People’s Republic of Korea</b>	2004	Mr. <b>Marzuki Darusman</b> (Indonesia) since August 2010
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in <b>Haiti</b>	1995	Mr. <b>Gustavo Gallón</b> (Colombia) since May 2013
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the <b>Islamic Republic of Iran</b>	2011	Mr. <b>Ahmed Shaheed</b> (Maldives) since August 2011
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in <b>Mali</b>	2013	Mr. <b>Suliman Baldo</b> (Sudan) since October 2013
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in <b>Myanmar</b>	1992	Mr. <b>Tomás Ojea Quintana</b> (Argentina) since May 2008
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the <b>Palestinian territories occupied since 1967</b>	1993	Mr. <b>Richard Falk</b> (United States of America) since May 2008
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in <b>Somalia</b>	1993	Mr. <b>Shamsul Bari</b> (Bangladesh) since May 2008
Independent Expert on the situation on human rights in the <b>Sudan</b>	2005 (SR) 2009 (IE)	Mr. <b>Mashood Baderin</b> (Nigeria) since October 2012
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the <b>Syrian Arab Republic</b>	2012	Mr. <b>Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro</b> (Brazil) will start once the mandate of the Commission of Inquiry ends
<b>Thematic mandates</b>		
Special Rapporteur on <b>adequate housing</b> as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context	2000	Ms. <b>Raquel Rolnik</b> (Brazil) since May 2008
Working Group of experts on people of <b>African descent</b>	2002	Ms. <b>Verene Shepherd</b> (Jamaica), Chair-Rapporteur, since April 2010 Ms. <b>Mirjana Najcevska</b> (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), since November 2008 Ms. <b>Monorama Biswas</b> (Bangladesh) since November 2008 Ms. <b>Mireille Fanon Mendes-France</b> (France) since May 2011 Ms. <b>Maya Sahli</b> (Algeria) since August 2008
Working Group on <b>arbitrary detention</b>	1991	Mr. <b>El Hadji Malick Sow</b> (Senegal), Chair-Rapporteur, since May 2008 Ms. <b>Shaheen Sardar Ali</b> (Pakistan), Vice-Chair, since August 2008 Mr. <b>Vladimir Tochilovsky</b> (Ukraine) since May 2010 Mr. <b>Mads Andenas</b> (Norway) since August 2009 Mr. <b>Roberto Garretón</b> (Chile) since May 2008
Special Rapporteur on the <b>sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography</b>	1990	Ms. <b>Najat Maalla M’jid</b> (Morocco) since May 2008



Mandate	Established	Mandate-holder
Independent Expert in the field of <b>cultural rights</b>	2009	Ms. <b>Farida Shaheed</b> (Pakistan) since November 2009
Independent expert on the promotion of a <b>democratic and equitable international order</b>	2011	Mr. <b>Alfred de Zayas</b> (USA) since May 2012
Special Rapporteur on the right to <b>education</b>	1998	Mr. <b>Kishore Singh</b> (India) since August 2010
Working Group on <b>enforced or involuntary disappearances</b>	1980	Mr. <b>Olivier de Frouville</b> (France), Chair-Rapporteur, since November 2008 Mr. <b>Jeremy Sarkin</b> (South Africa), since May 2008 Mr. <b>Ariel Dulitzky</b> (Argentina/USA) since August 2010 Ms. <b>Jasminka Dzumhur</b> (Bosnia and Herzegovina) since May 2010 Mr. <b>Osman El-Hajje</b> (Lebanon) since August 2009
Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable <b>environment</b>	2012	Mr. <b>John Knox</b> (USA) since August 2012
Special Rapporteur on <b>extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions</b>	1982	Mr. <b>Christof Heyns</b> (South Africa) since August 2010
Special Rapporteur on <b>extreme poverty</b> and human rights	1998	Ms. <b>María Magdalena Sepúlveda Carmona</b> (Chile) since May 2008
Special Rapporteur on the right to <b>food</b>	2000	Mr. <b>Olivier De Schutter</b> (Belgium) since May 2008
Independent Expert on <b>foreign debt</b> and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights	2000	Mr. <b>Cephas Lumina</b> (Zambia) since May 2008
Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of <b>peaceful assembly and of association</b>	2010	Mr. <b>Maina Kiai</b> (Kenya) since May 2011
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to <b>freedom of opinion and expression</b>	1993	Mr. <b>Frank William La Rue Lewy</b> (Guatemala) since August 2008
Special Rapporteur on <b>freedom of religion or belief</b>	1986	Mr. <b>Heiner Bielefeldt</b> (Germany) since August 2010
Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental <b>health</b>	2002	Mr. <b>Anand Grover</b> (India) since August 2008
Special Rapporteur on the situation of <b>human rights defenders</b>	2000	Ms. <b>Margaret Sekaggya</b> (Uganda) since May 2008
Special Rapporteur on the <b>independence of judges and lawyers</b>	1994	Ms. <b>Gabriela Knaul</b> (Brazil) since June 2009
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of <b>indigenous peoples</b>	2001	Mr. <b>James Anaya</b> (United States of America) since May 2008
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of <b>internally displaced persons</b>	2004	Mr. <b>Chaloka Beyani</b> (Zambia) since November 2010
Independent Expert on human rights and <b>international solidarity</b>	2005	Ms. <b>Virginia Dandan</b> (Philippines) since August 2011
Working Group on the use of <b>mercenaries</b> as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination	2005	Mr. <b>Anton Katz</b> (South Africa), Chair-Rapporteur, since August 2011 Ms. <b>Faiza Patel</b> (Pakistan) since August 2010 Ms. <b>Patricia Arias</b> (Chile) since August 2011 Ms. <b>Elzbieta Karska</b> (Poland) since August 2011 Mr. <b>Gabor Rona</b> (USA/Hungary) since August 2011

Mandate	Established	Mandate-holder
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of <b>migrants</b>	1999	Mr. <b>François Crépeau</b> (Canada) since August 2011
Independent Expert on <b>minority issues</b>	2005	Ms. <b>Rita Izsak</b> (Hungary) since August 2011
Special Rapporteur on the promotion of <b>truth, justice, reparation &amp; guarantees on non-recurrence</b>	2011	Mr. <b>Pablo De Greiff</b> (Colombia) since May 2012
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of <b>racism</b> , racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance	1993	Mr. <b>Mutuma Ruteere</b> (Kenya) since November 2011
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of <b>slavery</b> , including its causes and consequences	2007	Ms. <b>Gulnara Shahinian</b> (Armenia) since May 2008
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering <b>terrorism</b>	2005	Mr. <b>Ben Emmerson</b> (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) since August 2011
Special Rapporteur on <b>torture</b> and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	1985	Mr. <b>Juan Ernesto Méndez</b> (Argentina) since November 2010
Special Rapporteur on the human rights obligations related to environmentally sound management and disposal of <b>hazardous substances and wastes</b>	1995	Mr. <b>Marc Pallemerts</b> (Belgium) since October 2012
Special Rapporteur on <b>trafficking in persons</b> , especially women and children	2004	Ms. <b>Joy Ngozi Ezeilo</b> (Nigeria) since August 2008
Working Group on <b>transnational corporations and other business enterprises</b>	2011	Mr. <b>Pavel Sulyandziga</b> (Russian Federation), Chair-Rapporteur, since November 2011 Mr. <b>Puvan Selvanathan</b> (Malaysia) since November 2011 Mr. <b>Michael K. Addo</b> (Ghana) since November 2011 Ms. <b>Alexandra Guaqueta</b> (Colombia/USA) since November 2011 Ms. <b>Margaret Jungk</b> (USA) since November 2011
Special Rapporteur on <b>violence against women</b> , its causes and consequences	1994	Ms. <b>Rashida Manjoo</b> (South Africa) since August 2009
Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking <b>water and sanitation</b>	2008	Ms. <b>Catarina de Albuquerque</b> (Portugal) since November 2009
Working Group on the issue of <b>discrimination against women in law and in practice</b>	2010	Ms. <b>Frances Raday</b> (Israel/United Kingdom), Chair-Rapporteur, since May 2011 Ms. <b>Kamala Chandrakirana</b> (Indonesia) since May 2011 Ms. <b>Emna Aouij</b> (Tunisia) since May 2011 Ms. <b>Patricia Olamendi</b> (Mexico) since October 2012 Ms. <b>Eleonora Zielinska</b> (Poland) since May 2011