

# AFRICA

Over the past two decades, the continent has experienced mixed democratic transitions, with increased political violence, including in electoral processes; renewed tensions along ethnic or religious lines; post-conflict reconciliation and State reconstruction (including transitional justice processes); terrorism; a deterioration of the conditions of women, in particular in the context of armed conflicts; and a global economic and financial crisis, which has led to increased migration from Africa.

At the national level, the region witnessed increased changes and revisions to constitutions for the conservation of power; an emergence of local/national conflicts over natural resources, including extractive industries and land issues; youth unemployment and their involvement in armed groups and political violence; and cases of discriminatory acts and practices against specific groups (such as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons and persons with albinism). At the regional level, terrorism, piracy and criminality activities with transnational and regional impacts have increased.

As for positive developments, the region has benefited from the increased leadership of the African Union (AU) in peacekeeping operations in Africa (Central African Republic (CAR), Darfur, Mali and Somalia). Regional initiatives have been undertaken to address transitional justice issues, such as the establishment of the African Extraordinary Chambers within the Senegalese Judicial System to prosecute and try the presumed authors of international crimes, including Hissene Habre; the ongoing African Union's efforts

to adopt a Policy Framework on Transitional Justice in Africa; the proposed amended Statute of the African Court of Justice and Human Rights to extend its jurisdiction to international criminal law cases; and the establishment of the African Union's Regional Task Force to fight against the Lord's Resistance Army, with the support of the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa. Regional cooperation to fight against terrorism in the Sahel region has increased with the development of a United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel Region, which integrates a human rights-based approach. On the economic front, the continent has been hailed as the next frontier for opportunity and a potential global growth pole. There is also a marked shift in global perception regarding the continent, which has changed from pessimism to a recognition of its enormous potential, with both traditional and new economic powers clamouring to offer their partnership. However, economic growth is not reducing poverty or inequality as quickly as it should. There is a need for better governance and management of mineral wealth in order to lift millions of Africans out of poverty. A key challenge is therefore to develop more effective policies to accelerate and sustain high economic growth and make that growth more inclusive and equitable.

During the past five years, the High Commissioner for Human Rights visited Angola, Cameroon, CAR, Ethiopia, Guinea, Kenya, Senegal, South Africa, South Sudan, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe; the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights visited Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Kenya, Malawi, Mali, Niger, Somalia, South Africa and South Sudan; and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights visited Burundi, CAR, Côte

d'Ivoire, DRC, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Mali and South Sudan. In addition, the region received 87 visits of thematic special procedures mandate-holders.

Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the DRC's redeployment to eastern DRC in 2014-2015 (also subject to availability of funding).

## OHCHR presence in the region

OHCHR engages with countries in the region from Geneva headquarters, the New York Office and field presences. Currently, OHCHR has four regional presences for Central Africa based in Cameroon; for East Africa based in Ethiopia; for Southern Africa based in South Africa; and for West Africa based in Senegal; three country offices in Guinea, Togo and Uganda; six human rights advisers (HRAs) in Chad, Kenya, Madagascar, Niger, Nigeria and Rwanda; and 10 human rights components of peacekeeping/building missions in Burundi, CAR, Côte d'Ivoire, DRC, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan and Sudan, Darfur.

There is an urgent need to strengthen OHCHR's regional presences in light of the challenges at stake and the growing demands on OHCHR's engagement with Africa, as witnessed by the numerous requests for the deployment of HRAs and increased support for technical cooperation. Given the role regional offices can play in the implementation of OHCHR's mandate, it is proposed to prioritize the strengthening of the Regional Office in East Africa, which will impact positively on OHCHR's action across the continent, coupled with an increased engagement with the AU on human rights in regional peacekeeping operations, transitional justice, counter-terrorism and security issues and the post-2015 development agenda. The United Nations Development Group Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism (UNDG-HRM) will support the deployment of HRAs to the UNCTs in Malawi, Nigeria, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, and Zambia in 2014. Additional requests for HRAs are being considered.

Since the closure of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad in 2010, the Government of Chad has requested the opening of a country office on several occasions (subject to availability of funding). Lastly, a number of peacekeeping operations have been preparing for closure or restructuring which may necessitate a continued human rights presence. In Sierra Leone, the deployment of an HRA after the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Mission in Sierra Leone's departure is scheduled under the UNDG-HRM. In Western DRC, OHCHR is considering the possibility of deploying human rights officers in light of the United

## Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratification; addressing the backlog of outstanding reports and encouraging and empowering civil society to submit alternative reports to the treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR); encouraging States to engage with special procedures, particularly in terms of country visits.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: fostering the integration of human rights standards and principles, including the right to development, into UN development programmes in the region; ensuring the participation of rights-holders in budget and development processes, and in the monitoring of public policies and expenditures; and supporting national efforts to develop a national legal framework to guarantee and protect human rights in the context of private business and the exploitation of natural resources.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: anti-discrimination plans; strengthening the work of existing anti-discrimination bodies; the use of anti-discrimination standards by judges and prosecutors ensuring participatory mechanisms; and working with UNCTs.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: the establishment and functioning of fully compliant NHRIs; institutionalizing human rights training in the formal education curricula; contributing to the development of civil society networks and other mechanisms to protect human rights defenders; and improving compliance with international standards of legislative frameworks relating to public freedoms.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: establishing national justice systems; transitional justice; and ensuring that the international community is increasingly responsive to ensuring accountability for gross violations.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: ensuring that victims and those affected are heard in peace negotiations; mainstreaming human rights in emergency preparedness and responsiveness of the wider humanitarian community and in other UN actions.

## Africa and the United Nations human rights mechanisms

Member States	Next UPR*	Standing Invitation**	Ratification and reporting status												
			ICERD	ICCPR	ICESCR	CAT	OP-CAT	CEDAW	CRC	OP-CRC-SC	OP-CRC-AC	ICMW	CRPD	CPED	
<b>Angola</b>	2014										X	X			
<b>Benin</b>	+2017	Yes	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X		X	
<b>Botswana</b>	+2017		X	X		X			X	X	X				
<b>Burkina Faso</b>	+2017			X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X		
<b>Burundi</b>	+2017	Yes	X	X	X	X				X	X				
<b>Cameroon</b>	+2017		X						X						
<b>Cape Verde</b>	+2017	Yes	X		X	X			X	X	X	X			
<b>Central African Rep.***</b>	+2017	Yes	X	X	X				X	X					
<b>Chad</b>	+2017	Yes		X	X	X			X	X	X				
<b>Comoros</b>	+2017		X						X	X					
<b>Congo</b>	+2017		X	X		X			X	X	X				
<b>Côte d'Ivoire***</b>	2014		X	X	X	X			X						
<b>D. Rep. Congo</b>	2014		X	X		X	X		X	X	X				
<b>Djibouti</b>	+2017														
<b>Equatorial Guinea</b>	2014														
<b>Eritrea</b>	+2017														
<b>Ethiopia</b>	2014														
<b>Gabon</b>	+2017	Yes													
<b>Gambia</b>	2014														
<b>Ghana</b>	+2017	Yes													
<b>Guinea</b>	2014														
<b>Guinea-Bissau</b>	2014	Yes													
<b>Kenya</b>	2014														
<b>Lesotho</b>	2014														
<b>Liberia</b>	2015														
<b>Madagascar</b>	2014	Yes	X	X											
<b>Malawi</b>	2015		X		X	X				X	X		X		
<b>Mali***</b>	+2017		X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X	X
<b>Mauritius</b>	+2017			X							X		X		
<b>Mozambique</b>	2015		X						X	X	X				
<b>Namibia</b>	2015		X	X	X	X			X		X	X		X	

Member States	Next UPR*	Standing Invitation**	Ratification and reporting status											
			ICERD	ICCPR	ICESCR	CAT	OP-CAT	CEDAW	CRC	OP-CRC-SC	OP-CRC-AC	ICMW	CRPD	CPED
<b>Niger</b>	2016	Yes	X	X	X	X		X	X	X		X	X	
<b>Nigeria</b>	+2017	Yes	X	X	X	X				X		X	X	
<b>Rwanda</b>	2015	Yes											X	
<b>Sao Tomé &amp; Prin.</b>	2015	Yes						X						
<b>Senegal</b>	+2017			X	X					X	X		X	
<b>Seychelles</b>	2015	Yes	X		X	X					X	X	X	
<b>Sierra Leone</b>	2016	Yes	X		X				X				X	
<b>Somalia***</b>	2016		X	X	X	X								
<b>South Africa</b>	+2017	Yes	X	X		X			X	X	X		X	
<b>South Sudan</b>	2016													
<b>Sudan***</b>	2016												X	
<b>Swaziland</b>	2016		X	X	X	X			X					
<b>Togo</b>	2016		X				X				X			
<b>Uganda</b>	2016		X	X		X			X			X	X	
<b>U. Rep. Tanzania</b>	2016		X											
<b>Zambia</b>	+2017	Yes	X	X	X	X			X				X	
<b>Zimbabwe</b>	2016		X	X	X				X					
<b>Out of 48</b>		<b>17</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>45</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>12</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>7</b>

 Treaty ratified

 Overdue report as of December 2013

 Outstanding ratification

\* Date of the next UPR review. Countries undergoing the third UPR cycle will be considered after 2017

\*\* Standing invitations to special procedures mandate-holders

\*\*\* Country with established special procedure country mandate

## CENTRAL AFRICA

<b>Field presence</b>	OHCHR Central Africa Regional Office based in Yaoundé, Cameroon Operation established in 2001
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### Countries of engagement

Cameroon, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tomé and Príncipe, complementing the presences in Burundi, Chad, CAR, DRC and Rwanda

The OHCHR Regional Office conducts subregional activities for all countries in Central Africa

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 128

Cameroon, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tomé and Príncipe witnessed relative peace, while Burundi, CAR, Chad, DRC and Rwanda were affected to varying degrees by conflict or unstable security situations.

Restrictions on public freedoms remained a serious concern, in particular in electoral contexts, including arbitrary arrest and detention of political opponents, harassment of civil society actors and repression of peaceful demonstrations. Discrimination affected women, persons with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and intersex (LGBTI) persons and indigenous peoples, many of whom faced harassment and violence, had limited access to public services and often lacked awareness of their rights. Revenues from the exploitation of natural resources in the subregion had limited impact on the realization of economic, social, cultural rights (ESCR). Administration of justice was hindered by slow proceedings, corruption and a lack of independence and human rights awareness of institutions. Law enforcement agencies at times engaged in human rights violations, including torture. Detention facilities were overcrowded and the conditions of detention were deplorable. NHRIs, set up in seven countries, lacked the independence, knowledge or resources necessary to effectively promote and protect human rights.

While the level of ratification of international and regional human rights treaties had increased, alignment of national legislation and implementation of legislation were major challenges. Engagement with the UPR was encouraging and efforts were made to meet overdue reporting obligations. Implementation of recommendations from human rights mechanisms, however, remained ineffective. While only CAR, Chad and Rwanda have extended a standing invitation to special procedures, there is a de facto open door policy in the other countries.

The United Nations Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa, functioning as the OHCHR Central Africa Regional Office, was established in 2001, pursuant to General Assembly resolutions 53/78 A and 54/55 A. The Centre works for the promotion and protection of human rights and democracy through capacity-building, advocacy and advisory services extended to national authorities, NHRIs, civil society and international organizations operating in countries of the subregion.

Over the past biennium, the Centre has become an important player in addressing subregional human rights and democracy challenges. It successfully implemented activities related to its expected accomplishments, notably on the institutionalization of human rights training for justice and law enforcement professionals and prison administration staff. Efforts were made towards supporting State Party reporting obligations and UPR processes, as well as reinforcing NHRIs and their compliance with the Paris Principles. Important progress was also made in the area of transitional justice with a regional conference and two national follow-up activities organized in Cameroon, Burundi and Guinea respectively.

The Centre works with United Nations and regional partners, including the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA), United Nations agencies, the Economic Community of Central African States and the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights. Human rights challenges and opportunities for engagement are included in joint United Nations programming documents, such as the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks and the post-2015 development agenda.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratifications and national participatory bodies for reporting and implementing recommendations.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: legislation and the post-2015 development agenda; participation in public policies and budget processes.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: legislation; NHRIs; and a non-discrimination agenda.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: legislation on "public freedoms" and protection mechanisms for human rights defenders.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: torture, deprivation of liberty and transitional justice.

- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: coordination arrangements between UN

and subregional organizations, governments and development partners.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN CENTRAL AFRICA	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ▶ Increased participation of civil society in public affairs in Cameroon, Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon.</p> <p>▶ Increased participation in policy design and monitoring of compliance of human rights standards relating to business.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ National laws and development policies and programmes increasingly comply with international human rights norms and standards, including those relating to business and especially in relation to indigenous peoples and minorities in Cameroon, Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon.</p> <p>▶ Significant improvements in legislation and policy relating to fundamental public freedoms in Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon.</p> <p>▶ Human rights training for justice, penitentiary and law enforcement officials institutionalized, with a focus on torture and dignity of detainees in Cameroon, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tomé and Príncipe.</p>
	<p><b>[EA2]</b> ▶ Increased ratification of international human rights instruments with a focus on the ICMW, CRPD, ICERD, ICCPR, ICESCR and their respective optional protocols (OPs), as well as on the OPs to the CRC and CAT in Cameroon, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tomé and Príncipe.</p>
	<p><b>[EA3]</b> ▶ Effective protection mechanisms and measures for civil society actors, including human rights defenders and media actors at risk, established and strengthened in Congo, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon.</p> <p>▶ Transitional justice mechanisms established and increasingly operating in accordance with international human rights standards and good practices in Burundi, CAR, Chad and DRC.</p>
	<p><b>[EA4]</b> ▶ Legislation, policies and practices increasingly comply with anti-discrimination and equality standards and an increased number of specialized equality bodies, focal points and NHRIs work on equality and non-discrimination in Cameroon, Congo and Gabon.</p>
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ▶ NHRIs and civil society organizations (CSOs) effectively monitor human rights and engage with treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR in Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea and Gabon.</p>	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ Establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms in Cameroon, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and Sao Tomé and Príncipe.</p>
<p><b>[EA10]</b> ▶ Coordination arrangements are established between United Nations and subregional organizations, governments and development partners for ensuring prompt responses to emerging human rights challenges.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in the region.

## Burundi

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights Section of the United Nations Peace Mission in Burundi (BNUB) OHCHR's office in Burundi opened in 1995 and integrated with BNUB in 2010
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### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 128

### Visits by special procedures in the past five years

Independent Expert on human rights in Burundi (2009, 2010, 2011)

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

Special Rapporteurs on human rights defenders; and internally displaced persons

Independent Expert on minorities

Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances

Independent Expert on minorities

Burundi has made significant progress since the signing of the Arusha Peace and Reconciliation Agreement on 28 August 2000. However, the prevailing precarious human rights situation in the country is of grave concern. Since the 2010 elections, which was boycotted by opposition parties, the Conseil national pour la défense de la démocratie—Forces pour la défense de la démocratie (CNDD-FDD) has controlled all national institutions with an overwhelming majority and there is a lack of dialogue between the ruling party and other national stakeholders. There has been an increase in documented incidents carried out by the youth wing of the ruling party, the "Imbonerakure", often joined by local administrators, against opposition supporters. Also, on 4 June 2013, the President of the Republic promulgated the new law regulating the functioning of the press in Burundi, which does not comply with international standards in regards to freedom of expression. The establishment of the transitional justice mechanisms foreseen in the Arusha Accords has not seen much progress. The draft law on the Truth and Reconciliation Commission is currently before the National Assembly for discussion.

BNUB was established by Security Council resolution 1959 (2010) and its mandate was renewed twice by Security Council resolutions, 2070 (2012) and 2090

(2013). The Human Rights and Justice Section (HRJS) of the mission is composed of four units (Reporting, Analysis and Advocacy Unit, Transitional Justice Unit, Capacity-Building Unit and Justice Unit), and four regional offices (Bujumbura, Makamba, Gitega and Ngozi).

Based on its mandate, the HRJS monitors, investigates and reports on human rights violations, notably extrajudicial executions, most of which are committed by members of the security forces and local administrators. Perpetrators of human rights violations are not systematically prosecuted or are given reduced sentences. The lack of a victim and witness protection mechanism, which makes victims and witnesses reluctant to testify for fear of reprisals and the fact that the justice system is under the influence of the Government are two factors contributing to the generalized impunity that exists for perpetrators of politically motivated human rights violations. The HRJS, together with other partners, are also monitoring the human rights situation of Burundian returnees.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratifications; establishment of a national participatory body for reporting and implementation of recommendations of human rights mechanisms; integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: legislation for human rights defenders adopted; and NHRIs established and/or working in compliance with international standards (Paris Principles).
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: administration of justice; and transitional justice mechanisms established and functioning.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV); and established preventive mechanism against violence related to the elections.

## OHCHR expected contribution

## ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN BURUNDI

RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ The Independent National Human Rights Commission is fully functioning in accordance with the Paris Principles.</p> <p>▶ A draft law for the protection of human rights defenders is adopted and a basket fund for the National Human Rights Commission is set up.</p> <p>▶ The National Human Rights Commission investigates and monitors institutional responses to SGBV in the provinces.</p> <p>▶ The status and recruitment process of magistrates comply with international standards and the High Judicial Council is able to perform its constitutional duties and contribute to the consolidation of judicial independence.</p>
	<p><b>[EA2]</b> ▶ Ratification of OPs to ICCPR, ICESCR, CEDAW, CAT and the ICPED.</p>
	<p><b>[EA3]</b> ▶ A credible and independent Truth and Reconciliation Commission is established and functions in compliance with international standards.</p> <p>▶ Mechanisms to effectively prevent violence in the context of elections are in place.</p>
	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ Participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries are established; and follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms is integrated.</p>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ▶ A human rights-based approach is systematically applied in the UNDAF and key UN programmes.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Burundi.

## Central African Republic

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights and Justice Section of the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in the Central African Republic (BINUCA) Operation established in 2010
<b>Engagement with the human rights mechanisms</b>	See overview table on page 128
<b>Visits by special procedures in the past five years</b>	Special Rapporteur on internally displaced persons (2009 and 2010)
<b>Pending visit requests by special procedures</b>	Agreed: Special Rapporteur on the right to food Requested: Working Group on mercenaries
<b>Specific mandates of the Human Rights Council and the Security Council</b>	Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Central African Republic International Commission of Inquiry, established by the Security Council in 2013

Since independence, the Central African Republic (CAR) has been prone to internal conflicts and coup d'états. These conflicts are rooted in long-standing socio-political deficiencies, such as weak State institutions; fragile social cohesion; and deep-seated feelings of marginalization within the Muslim community in the northern part of the country. Since the flare up of the crisis on 10 December 2012, and the seizure of power on 24 March 2013 by the coalition called SELEKA, the progress made in the promotion and protection of human rights by the Human Rights and Justice Section (HRJS) of the United Nations Integrated Office in CAR (BINUCA) has been completely undermined by the wave of human rights violations which followed the coup d'état. These violations include summary executions and extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances, torture and looting of private and public property, rape and other manifestations of sexual and gender-based violence coupled with inter-ethnic and religious divisions. The violations are perpetrated with impunity by the security forces, illegal armed groups and law enforcement agents, particularly

those in positions of power and influence. Impunity and lack of accountability perpetuate the cycle of violence and revenge and highlight the gaps in the national protection system, which remains particularly weak. The human rights situation further deteriorated in December 2013 when clashes erupted between former members of the SELEKA, the majority of whom are Muslim, and the Christian militia Anti-Balaka. These clashes resulted in thousands of killings and mass internal displacements of the population.

CAR is experiencing a breakdown of law and order and is without a functioning administration in the capital. Under normal circumstances, the country lacks the presence of a State authority in most areas. The humanitarian crisis has developed into a complex emergency, with 50 per cent of the population in need of immediate assistance.

The HRJS of BINUCA operates in pursuance of the human rights mandate of BINUCA, the political mission in CAR. OHCHR has been engaged in CAR since 2000, as of 2010, through the HRJS. The Office is trying to use its limited resources to assist the national authorities in addressing the above challenges. Following the OHCHR's fact-finding mission from 20 June to 11 July 2013 and the mission of the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights from 29 July to 2 August 2013, a United Nations multidisciplinary mission was deployed from 21 to 26 August 2013 with the view to formulating recommendations for the Secretary-General on necessary adjustments to the mandate, composition and structure of BINUCA. Moreover, OHCHR sent another team to CAR from 12 to 24 December 2013 to investigate and report on the human rights situation following the rise of violence in the country at the end of 2013.

As a member of the UNCT, the human rights component of the BINUCA has contributed to mainstreaming human rights in the work of the United Nations in CAR. In collaboration with other relevant partners, the HRJS has also been increasingly involved in monitoring human rights violations and abuses in as many locations as possible and through its three field offices and making recommendations for corrective actions to relevant authorities.

## Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratifications; submissions of reports and information by civil society actors to treaty bodies and special procedures.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: public policies and budget processes; and integrating a human rights-based approach in the UNDAF and United Nations programmes.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: administration of justice; and transitional justice.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: National Preventive Mechanisms on torture to ensure greater accountability for human rights; humanitarian action; United Nations responsiveness to situations of violence and insecurity; and the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN THE CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ▶ Rights-holders participate in the design and implementation of the programmes of the regional offices of the National Human Rights Commission.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ Increased number of human rights cases processed by the justice system.</p>
	<p><b>[EA2]</b> ▶ Government ratifies outstanding core human rights instruments, in particular the CPED and the OP-ICESCR.</p>
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ▶ Increase in the number of non-governmental organizations, national institutions or individuals that submit information on human rights, including women's and children's rights, to treaty bodies and special procedures.</p>	<p><b>[EA3]</b> ▶ A comprehensive transitional justice strategy is adopted and implemented.</p> <p>▶ National mechanisms ensure greater accountability for human rights violations.</p>
	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ The Government has submitted at least half of its overdue reports to treaty bodies.</p>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> Human rights based-approaches incorporated into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Humanitarian Country Team's overall efforts;</li> <li>▶ The work of BINUCA's components and peacebuilding policies and programmes; and</li> <li>▶ UNDAF mid-term review and other UN development programmes.</li> </ul>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in the CAR.

## Chad

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights Adviser Operation established in 2011
<b>Engagement with the human rights mechanisms</b>	
See overview table on page 128	
<b>Visits by special procedures in the past five years</b>	
Special Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons (2009)	
<b>Pending visit requests by special procedures</b>	
Special Rapporteurs on human rights defenders; education; extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; and torture	
Working Group on mercenaries	

After more than two decades of political instability, Chad has been recovering and playing an increased regional role in Central Africa and the Sahel region. Despite these positive developments, serious human rights challenges remain. These include a culture of impunity and a weak administration of justice system to address it, the erosion of democratic space (due to recurrent tension between the Government and opposition parties, arbitrary arrests and detention of opponents), gender-based violence, child labour, recruitment of children by armed groups and unequal distribution of national resources with a negative impact on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights by the majority of the population, in particular those in rural areas.

On a positive note, the Government took initiatives to address some of these challenges. Firstly, Chad concluded an agreement with the United Nations and adopted an action plan for the demobilization of child soldiers from national armed forces, with assistance from UNICEF. OHCHR has been providing support to the implementation of this Action Plan in Abéché. Secondly, Chad acceded to the African Peer Review Mechanism in January 2013 and established its national implementing body in July 2013. This helped to support the widening of democratic space. Finally, for the treatment of past human rights violations, Chad took steps towards the prosecution of the presumed authors of international crimes under Hissène Habré's ruling. In the framework of its mandate on transitional justice, OHCHR will provide the necessary technical support to this process.

A human rights adviser (HRA) was deployed in 2011 pending the establishment of a stand-alone office to take over from the Human Rights Section of the United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT), further to a request from the Government dated 14 June 2012 and following the closure of MINURCAT in December 2010. During its operation in eastern Chad, the human rights section (HRS) of MINURCAT was able to raise the profile of human rights among local authorities and populations and provide support to community-based conflict resolution mechanisms, as well as to national NGOs, including those fighting against gender-based violence. At the national level, thanks to the support of the HRS, the Government adopted a National Action Plan in the field of human rights in 2010. It has not yet been implemented.

The UNCT has been implementing a "Cadre opérationnel" (2012-2013) in its support to the National Development Plan (NDP). This document is planned to be extended to the period 2014-2015 to coincide with the term of the NDP. In addition, the UNCT has developed a Strategy on Resilience for Chad, which includes, among other objectives, the strengthening of NHRIs and judicial institutions to fight against impunity and corruption. Since 2012, the HRA has been co-leading the thematic group on "Gender and Human Rights" to provide support for human rights mainstreaming.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratifications; submissions of reports and information by civil society actors to treaty bodies; and the establishment of a national participatory body for reporting and implementing recommendations of human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: integrating a human rights-based approach in UN work.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: a National Committee on non-discrimination functioning.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: United Nations responsive to situations of violence and insecurity.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN CHAD	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ Cases submitted to the National Human Rights Commission, including on land issues, are increasingly addressed.</p>
	<p><b>[EA2]</b> ▶ Human rights treaties are ratified or signed.</p>
	<p><b>[EA3]</b> ▶ National prosecutions against the presumed authors of international crimes under Hissène Habré's ruling are conducted in compliance with international human rights standards and a rights-based victims' reparation programme is functioning.</p>
	<p><b>[EA4]</b> ▶ The National Committee on the fight against discrimination is fully functional and addressing discriminatory acts.</p>
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ▶ Civil society organizations increasingly submit alternative reports to UN and regional human rights mechanisms.</p>	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ The Interministerial Committee on Reporting under international and regional human rights instruments is operational and half of the overdue reports are submitted.</p>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ▶ Recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms are integrated in the programmes and activities of UN agencies.</p> <p>▶ The "Resilience Programme" and four joint programmes incorporate a human rights-based approach in their development and implementation.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Chad.

## Democratic Republic of the Congo

<b>Field presence</b>	United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) OHCHR established a country office in 1996 which was merged with the MONUC Human Rights Component in 2008
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### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 128

### Visits by special procedures in the past five years

Special Rapporteurs on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (2002 and 2009); and human rights defenders (2009)

Special Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons (2008 and 2009); the second visit was on behalf of seven mandate-holders by HRC resolutions 7/20 and S-8/1

Independent Expert on foreign debt (2011)

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

Special Rapporteurs on the right to food; and truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence

Significant efforts aimed at advancing human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) have been made by Congolese authorities in the last year, including through the introduction of new policy and legislative changes. Nevertheless, as a result of a significant deterioration in the security situation and an increase in human rights violations due to rebellions and conflicts between armed groups, serious human rights violations occur throughout the country, particularly in the conflict-stricken eastern provinces of the country (namely North Kivu, South Kivu, Orientale and North Katanga), and include violations such as arbitrary killing, enforced disappearances, rape, torture or other cruel, inhumane or degrading treatment. Soldiers of the Armed Forces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo are the main perpetrators of human rights violations, mainly within the scope of military operations. Other perpetrators are national and foreign armed groups active in the DRC, including the M23 and the Democratic Forces for the Liberation of Rwanda, who commit violations in the scope of systematic attacks on civilians. Many groups continue to struggle for control of the resource-rich territories, resulting in serious human rights violations, including mass rapes, of civilians.

Sexual violence remains a major human rights concern, both in terms of its scope and its systematic nature, particularly in the provinces of North Kivu, South Kivu and Orientale. A high number of rapes were committed by Congolese defence and security forces and by armed groups. Insecurity across eastern DRC caused many internally displaced persons, as well as Congolese individuals to flee to neighbouring countries for refuge.

Impunity throughout the DRC remains endemic, especially for individuals in positions of power or influence. The Government's failure to establish reliable vetting mechanisms to ensure that human rights abusers are not integrated into the Government's security forces is another of the serious human rights violations occurring in the country.

The United Nations Joint Human Rights Office (UNJHRO) operates in pursuance of the human rights mandate of MONUSCO, the UN peace mission in the DRC, and the strategic priorities of OHCHR, following their merger in 2008. Its work contributes to achieving human rights-related outcomes in the UNDAF (UNJHRO is a member of the UNCT) and key government and UN country-level strategies, such as the eastern DRC Stabilization and Reconstruction Plan and the National Strategy against Gender-Based Violence. There are 18 sub-offices located across DRC's 11 provinces.

The UNJHRO serves a strategic function within MONUSCO, as part of the UNCT, and works closely with development partners and NGOs in the DRC. The UNJHRO leads specific coordination processes, including the pillar on combating impunity in the United Nations-Government of DRC's National Strategy against Gender-Based Violence. The UNJHRO advises the "Groupe thématique sur la justice et les droits humains", a mechanism for coordination between the DRC Government and bilateral partners supporting the justice sector reform and other strengthening efforts. In addition to maintaining contacts with the Executive Branch (the Ministries of Justice, of Defence, and of Human Rights, the Head of Agence Nationale de Renseignements and the national police chief), the UNJHRO conducts regular advocacy meetings on human rights issues and combating impunity with the Office of DRC's Military Prosecutor and the Procureur général de la république. Moreover, the 18 human rights field teams have also established relationships with DRC military and police commanders at provincial levels.

## Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: the submissions of reports to treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: land, water and sanitation and housing rights; public policies and budget processes.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: human rights defenders; media freedom; NHRIs established and/or working in compliance with international standards (Paris Principles).
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: human rights in the administration of justice; transitional justice mechanism established.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: investigations, monitoring and reporting; human rights in humanitarian action; and the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.

## OHCHR expected contribution

### ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ▶ Five provincial civil society networks are in place to participate in the design and monitoring of development projects and programmes affecting access to natural resources and to monitor economic, social and cultural rights in general.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ NHRI working in compliance with international standards (Paris Principles).</p> <p>▶ Increased number of convictions for human rights violations referring to international human rights law.</p>
	<p><b>[EA2]</b> ▶ Increased number of international human rights instruments ratified.</p>
	<p><b>[EA3]</b> ▶ Adoption of the draft bill for the protection of human rights defenders and establishment of five functional protection networks operating at the provincial and national levels.</p> <p>▶ Development of a nationally-owned holistic framework for transitional justice.</p> <p>▶ Increased number of human rights violations cases investigated and brought to justice by Joint Human Rights Investigation teams.</p>
	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ Timely submission of reports to treaty bodies and UPR.</p>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ▶ Human rights principles and standards mainstreamed into humanitarian planning and programming processes.</p> <p>▶ Increased use of the database with profiles of perpetrators of grave violations of human rights and international humanitarian law by MONUSCO, UN agencies and selected bilateral partners to screen beneficiaries of assistance, training or any other support in line with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in the DRC.

## Rwanda

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights Adviser Operation established in 2007
<b>Engagement with the human rights mechanisms</b>	
See overview table on page 128	
<b>Visits by special procedures in the past five years</b>	
Special Rapporteur on adequate housing (2012) Independent Expert on minorities (2011)	
<b>Pending visit requests by special procedures</b>	
Special Rapporteurs on freedom of association and assembly; and truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence	

Over the last three years, Rwanda has been going through an important period in its human rights history. While there are challenges facing the country in terms of its observance of human rights (in particular related to limitations on freedom of expression and the lack of “opening of the political space”), there are clear indications that the country takes its international obligations seriously, especially in its engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.

In the political arena, opposition party engagement appeared to be opening up slightly in early 2013 when a party that had been denied registration for many years was permitted to register. Yet some key political players were unable to exercise their right to political participation during the period under review. The legislative elections that were held towards the end of 2013 were hailed for their peaceful nature but were also criticized in some quarters for not being a fully open political contest. Elsewhere, some civil society groups reported cases of interference in

their work by the political establishment. Rwanda, however, continued attracting positive attention for its governance policies, representation of women in political power and decision-making processes and its zero-tolerance for corruption. The National Human Rights Commission retained its “A” status after a review that had threatened to downgrade it to “B” status. The country continued to be ranked highly among countries most conducive to conducting business.

A human rights adviser was deployed in 2007. Since then, OHCHR has worked closely and collaboratively with the Resident Coordinator and the UNCT, in the context of Delivering as One, leading to the preparation of an all-inclusive United Nations Development Plan 2013-2018 which factors in human rights in a ground breaking manner (see “Access to Justice, Human Rights and Peace Consolidation Programme”).

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: establishment of a national participatory body for reporting and implementing recommendations of human rights mechanisms; submission of information by the NHRI and NGOs to treaty bodies and UPR.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: a human rights based-approach in United Nations programmes.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: human rights education.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: the administration of justice.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN RWANDA	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ► National Commission for Human Rights carries out an effective human rights education programme.</p> <p>► National courts increasingly invoke human rights laws and principles in their proceedings and final decisions.</p>
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ► Human rights NGOs submit reports to the UPR and treaty bodies and engage with international and regional human rights mechanisms to articulate human rights issues affecting Rwanda.</p>	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ► The interministerial task force for treaty body and UPR recommendations is fully operational, appropriately staffed and charged with the preparation of periodic reports.</p>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ► Human rights-based approach introduced in at least three major projects of the One UN Programme, including a UNDP-led programme on environmental protection and poverty reduction.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Rwanda.

## EAST AFRICA

<b>Field presence</b>	OHCHR Regional Office (EARO), based in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia Operation established in 2002
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### Countries of engagement

Djibouti, Ethiopia, complementing the presences in Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Tanzania and Uganda and conducting subregional activities for all nine countries in the subregion. The OHCHR East Africa Regional Office also serves as the entry point for OHCHR engagement with the African Union.

Eritrea is covered by OHCHR Geneva headquarters

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 128

### Other mandates from the Human Rights Council

Special Rapporteur on Eritrea

The security situation in some parts of the region remains fragile with new threats, including terrorism and the drugs trade, coming into the picture. The situation in the Central African Republic (CAR), Somalia and border tensions between South Sudan and Sudan have yet to be resolved. The long-standing Ethiopian-Eritrean border dispute, with military presences on both sides, continues to be a source of concern.

In Ethiopia, authorities are using the Charities and Societies Proclamation Law and the Anti-Terrorism Proclamation to severely restrict the rights of freedom of expression, association and assembly. Local human rights organizations are unable to operate freely and have dramatically scaled down their human rights activities. Recent development projects in the context of the Growth and Transformation Plan have raised concerns about potential human rights violations when the Plan is implemented. It is hoped that the adoption of the National Human Rights Action Plan in 2012 and Ethiopia's election to the HRC will lead to positive changes in the implementation of human rights in Ethiopia.

In Djibouti, the parliamentary election of February 2013 was marked by social unrest and political crisis. The opposition consequently rejected the official results and refused to take the attributed seats. The country continues to face serious inequalities in the distribution of wealth. There are restrictions on civil and political rights, such as freedom of expression and association, as well as a lack of effective separation of powers between the executive,

legislature and judiciary. Civil society engagement on human rights issues remains weak.

For Eritrea, in June 2012, the Human Rights Council appointed a Special Rapporteur, who has not yet been granted an invitation to visit the country. In her first report to the Human Rights Council in June 2013, the Special Rapporteur expressed concern about extrajudicial killings, enforced disappearances and incommunicado detentions, arbitrary arrests and detention, torture, inhumane prison conditions, indefinite national service and lack of freedom of expression and opinion, assembly, association, religious belief and freedom of movement.

Since its establishment in 2002, EARO has developed an active partnership with the African Union (AU) and its regional human rights mechanisms. This partnership was built and strengthened in the context of the UN-AU Ten-Year Capacity-Building Programme wherein the UN agreed to enhance the AU's capacities in the area of human rights and signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the AU Commission Chairperson, which provides for strengthened collaboration. EARO has provided support to the AU as well as its human rights mechanisms.

## Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratifications; submissions of reports by States and submission of information by civil society actors, the NHRI and the United Nations to treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR; establishment of a national participatory body for reporting and implementation of recommendations of human rights mechanisms; and integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in the work of the AU.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: the post-2015 development agenda; integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: persons with disabilities.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: "public freedoms" (freedom of expression,

- assembly and association and incitement to hatred) and participation of civil society.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: human rights in the administration of justice; transitional justice mechanism established; and

- legislation and policies on torture, deprivation of liberty; and death penalty.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: AU and United Nations responsiveness to situations of violence and insecurity.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN EAST AFRICA	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ▶ National dialogue between civil society groups and authorities on the promotion of freedom of expression and political participation initiated in Djibouti.</p> <p>▶ Participation of a wide range of civil society groups in the implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan in Ethiopia.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ Courts and police investigation units start implementing recommendations from the regional and international human rights mechanisms in Djibouti and Ethiopia.</p>
	<p><b>[EA2]</b> ▶ Djibouti and Ethiopia ratify the ICMW and Eritrea ratifies CAT and one optional protocol.</p>
	<p><b>[EA3]</b> ▶ Ethiopian Human Rights Commission processes claims related to adverse effects of development programmes.</p>
	<p><b>[EA4]</b> ▶ Public administrations increasingly take into consideration the rights of people living with disabilities in delivering their services in Djibouti.</p>
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ▶ Civil society organizations contribute to all sessions of UN treaty bodies and the UPR. In addition, an increased number of communications will be sent to special procedures by Djibouti and Ethiopia.</p>	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ Establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms in Djibouti, Eritrea and Ethiopia.</p>
	<p><b>[EA8]</b> ▶ United Nations human rights mechanisms recommendations form an integral part of reviews of country situations by AU human rights bodies.</p> <p>▶ Strategies/resolutions adopted by the AU Commission and African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights on truth and reconciliation in specific country situations are informed by relevant international human rights standards.</p>
<p><b>[EA10]</b> ▶ The AU and an increasing number of NGOs campaign against the death penalty.</p> <p>▶ The strategy on the Post-2015 Development Agenda of the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the AU systematically integrates vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.</p> <p>▶ The legislation and policies of the AU Commission to combat violence and insecurity are firmly grounded on respect for human rights.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in the region.

## Kenya

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights Adviser Operation established in 2008
<b>Engagement with the human rights mechanisms</b>	
See overview table on page 128	
<b>Visits by special procedures in the past five years</b>	
Special Rapporteurs on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (2009); and internally displaced persons (2011)	
Independent Experts on the situation of human rights in Sudan (2010); and in Somalia (2012)	
<b>Pending visit requests by special procedures</b>	
Special Rapporteurs on human rights defenders; the independence of judges and lawyers; extreme poverty; torture; and truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence	
Independent Expert on minorities	
Working Group on disappearances	

Kenya conducted general elections in March 2013 under the new Constitution to elect the president/ deputy president, senators, members of parliament, governors, women representatives and county representatives. Kenya's market-based economy has witnessed growth resulting in positive socio-economic prospects coupled with growth in the Gross Domestic Product. Poverty, however, is still prevalent and the enjoyment of socio-economic rights remains a challenge for a majority of Kenyans, despite the identification of socio-economic rights as enforceable rights in the 2010 Constitution.

The 2010 Constitution provides the framework for the protection of human rights in Kenya. With the promulgation of legislation envisaged by the Constitution and pursuant to the Fifth Schedule of the Constitution, the national human rights protection framework is potent. Yet the mandates of the National Commission on Human Rights and other constitutional commissions are under threat of being weakened through the delayed appointment of Commissioners and declining budgetary allocations. The Government of Kenya, with the collaboration of the Office of the Prime Minister and Ministry

of Justice, National Cohesion and Constitutional Affairs, developed roadmaps for implementation of the UPR recommendations and finalized a National Human Rights Action Plan that is currently awaiting parliamentary adoption.

OHCHR's engagement dates back to 2008 when a human rights adviser was deployed to assist the UNCT with the mainstreaming of human rights throughout its programmes and activities.

Guided by its development blueprint (Vision 2030), the Government of Kenya has prepared a new five-year Medium Term Plan which outlines developmental priorities and policy actions. Complementing the Government's Medium Term Plan, the UNCT is preparing its UNDAF (2014-2018) and is harmonizing its Delivery as One Strategy in a bid to improve the impact, coherence, efficiency, effectiveness and positioning of the United Nations system in Kenya.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratifications; withdrawal of reservations; submission of information by civil society actors to treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR; establishment of a national participatory body for reporting and implementation of recommendations of human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: business and human rights; land, water, sanitation and housing rights; integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in the work of the United Nations.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: human rights defenders; and human rights education which focuses on youth.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: human rights in the administration of justice; transitional justice; and legislation and policies on torture, deprivation of liberty and the death penalty.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN KENYA	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ► Increased engagement of rights-holders, especially the vulnerable and the marginalized engaging with both regional and international human rights mechanisms.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ► Adoption of human rights-compliant legal frameworks for public participation to protect human rights defenders.</p> <p>► The Ministry of Education adopts a comprehensive human rights education policy in formal education and five pilot public universities incorporate human rights programmes in their curriculum.</p> <p>► Legal and policy framework on exploitation of natural resources is anchored in human rights law and guiding principles on human rights and business.</p> <p>► Adoption of human rights-compliant legal framework to protect persons deprived of their liberty from torture and ill-treatment.</p> <p>► Adoption of benchmark tools for the implementation of the Transformation Framework of the Judiciary.</p> <p>► Death penalty has been abolished.</p>
	<p><b>[EA2]</b> ► Ratification of CAT and CEDAW and the OPs to CRC (SC) and ICCPR (second); withdrawal of the reservation to art. 10 (2) of the ICESCR; and ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa.</p>
	<p><b>[EA3]</b> ► Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission report endorsed by parliament and recommendations from the report sustainably implemented.</p>
	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ► An effective and efficient participatory standing national coordinating body on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms is in place.</p>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ► Increased integration of a human rights-based approach in the design, planning and implementation of the UNDAF 2014-2018, including use of UPR/treaty body/special procedures recommendations in UNCT partners' programming.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Kenya.

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Singers wearing hats advocating “No Torture” line up before performing at a Human Rights Day event outside Mogadishu Central Prison in Somalia.

## Somalia

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights Component in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSO) OHCHR presence established in 2008 and renewed in 2013 with the establishment of UNSOM
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### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 128

### Visits by special procedures in the past five years

Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia (11 visits to the country since 2008)

Working Group on mercenaries (2012)

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

No

### Other mandates from the Human Rights Council

The mandate of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia was renewed for two years by Human Rights Council resolution in 2013

conflict, violence and insecurity across the country severely hamper the enjoyment of basic human rights.

Violence, displacement and hunger have disrupted all areas of life, from delivery of education and health services to international trade and media freedom. The lack of employment opportunities drives young men and boys to join the ranks of Al-Shabaab or militias, or to engage in criminal activities, such as piracy. No framework to prevent or respond to the use of children in the conflict is yet in place. Although women are thought to manage at least 70 per cent of petty trade at local markets, the socio-cultural perceptions and status of women prohibits their involvement in decision-making and limits their control over resources. Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is widespread. Rape is one of the most serious concerns.

The institutions of Somalia lack the capacity to meet their responsibilities vis-à-vis human rights, whether at the national or regional level. Impunity for violations of international human rights and humanitarian law remains widespread. Due to the climate of heightened insecurity, certain categories of people throughout the country, such as traditional and religious leaders, elders, journalists and government officials, have been singled out for targeted assassinations. Democratic space is restricted, as indicated by the frequent killing, arrest and incarceration of journalists in all parts of Somalia on charges of defamation and slander. Human rights defenders continue to face similar challenges, particularly those working on politically sensitive cases of human rights violations, such as rape.

The formation of the Federal Government of Somalia in September 2012 marked the end of eight years of political transition and opened an interim period (2012-2016) during which the new federal institutions are expected to finalize the Constitution and prepare national elections.

Despite some positive political and military developments, Somalia remains an extremely complex and volatile environment in which armed

Since 2008, Somalia has proactively engaged with the Human Rights Council, resulting in the adoption of seven resolutions and two decisions on technical assistance to and capacity-building in Somalia in the field of human rights. On 3 May 2011, Somalia presented its first UPR report for consideration by the HRC. On 27 August 2013, the Government adopted the Post-Transition Human Rights Roadmap, a day declared as Somalia's National Human Rights Day. The Roadmap takes into account the UPR recommendations in the implementation phase.

UNSOM is a member of the UNCT which is comprised of 22 agencies, funds and programmes. The focus of the UNCT is outlined in the five-year United Nations Somali Assistance Strategy covering the period from 2011 to 2015 and the New Deal Compact.

## Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: the submissions of reports to the UPR.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: media freedom and national human rights institutions established and/or working in compliance with international standards (Paris Principles).
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: the death penalty.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: United Nations responsive to situations of violence and insecurity; and Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN SOMALIA	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ Legislation for the establishment of a NHRI and on the media adopted in compliance with human rights standards.</p> <p>▶ Adoption of a policy on protection of civilians in armed conflict.</p> <p>▶ Establishment of a moratorium on the application of the death penalty.</p>
	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ The national report for the second cycle of the UPR is submitted on time.</p>
<p><b>[EA10]</b> ▶ Security Council and Human Rights Council resolutions take into account human rights concerns.</p> <p>▶ Human rights are included in the standard training of African Union Mission to Somalia (AMISON) Security Forces.</p>	
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ▶ Standard operating procedures for UNSOM implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy are adopted and implemented, risk assessments for UN support to AMISON and national security forces are conducted and mitigating measures identified.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Somalia.

## South Sudan

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights Component in the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) Operation established in 2011
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### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 128

### Visits by special procedures in the past five years

Special Rapporteur on internally displaced persons (2013)

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

Working Groups on enforced or involuntary disappearances; and discrimination against women in law and in practice

### Other mandates from the Human Rights Council

Resolution on technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in 2013

South Sudan made steady progress in its first two years of independence, including the consolidation of democracy with the passage of critical legislation which laid the foundation for institutionalizing the rule of law and human rights. Progress was made in conflict mitigation through the Government's active engagement in addressing inter-communal violence. Political and security challenges, however, continue to impact the security and human rights situation and are undermining nation- and institution-building efforts. Civilians living in conflict-prone areas continue to suffer from violence and intimidation, while human rights violations by security forces personnel are increasing. Serious constraints to the right to freedom of expression and assembly also exist, while arbitrary arrests and harassment of journalists, human rights defenders and political opposition members still occur with impunity.

The unresolved issues with Sudan and economic austerity stemming from oil production shut-down delayed the implementation of many Government programmes. In March 2013, after 12 months of strained relations, the two Governments signed a new agreement which allowed the resumption of oil shipments. Inter-communal violence, including related to cattle raiding, continues to claim high numbers of lives, particularly in the states of Jonglei, Lakes, Warrap and Unity. These attacks also involved abductions of women and children. The Government's efforts to exert authority through the deployment of security forces have had some positive impact. Nevertheless, investigations carried out by the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS)

documented more than 100 killings in Jonglei in February 2013 and over 100 people killed from cattle raids in the tri-state area between January and April 2013. Towards the end of the year, a political dispute within the ruling Sudan People's Liberation Movement degenerated into ethnic clashes between the dominant Dinka and Nuer tribes, pushing the country to the brink of a full-scale civil war.

Over 90 per cent of the population live below the poverty level and do not enjoy basic economic, social and cultural rights. High levels of illiteracy impact on the capacity to improve respect for human rights. Humanitarian needs remain substantial, especially in Jonglei, where insecurity has continued to produce waves of displacement, and in Upper Nile and Unity where the influx of refugees from Sudan has increased.

OHCHR is represented in South Sudan by the Human Rights Component of UNMISS. Under Security Council resolutions 1996 (2011), 2046 (2012) and 2057 (2012), the UNMISS Human Rights Division is mandated to monitor, investigate and report on human rights and potential violations and report gross violations to the Security Council. UNMISS implements its programme in collaboration with OHCHR, the South Sudan Human Rights Commission and UN agencies.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratifications and submissions of reports.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: land, water, sanitation and housing rights; participation; integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: racial and religious discrimination.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: "public freedoms"; human rights education; and NHRIs.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: human rights in the administration of justice; torture; deprivation of liberty; and the death penalty.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: investigations, monitoring and reporting; sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV); human rights in humanitarian action; and conflict prevention.

## OHCHR expected contribution

## ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN SOUTH SUDAN

RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ▶ Participation of CSOs, women, youth, persons with disabilities and faith-based groups in the constitutional and law review processes.</p> <p>▶ Improved use of national protection system by victims of violence.</p> <p>▶ Increased use of national protection system by individuals and groups facing discrimination.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> Constitution, laws and polices increasingly comply with human rights standards in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Development, especially in the context of exploitation of natural resources, and the application of non-discrimination and gender equality to land and housing rights.</li> <li>▶ Increased use of anti-discrimination and equality standards by judiciary.</li> <li>▶ Freedoms of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly, association, conscience, religion and belief, decriminalization of all forms of defamation and prohibition of incitement to hatred.</li> <li>▶ A National Human Rights Strategy, a National Human Rights Action Plan and an action plan on the protection and safety of journalists, human rights defenders and media actors at risk adopted and implemented.</li> <li>▶ Human rights included in the curricula of formal education.</li> <li>▶ Justice system, namely the Criminal Procedure Law; the police and security laws; instructions, directives and codes of conduct for the army, the police, prisons and the judiciary; juvenile justice; and legal aid.</li> <li>▶ Family laws.</li> <li>▶ Human rights included in judiciary, military, police and prison academies.</li> <li>▶ Increased number of cases brought before the judiciary which follow fair trials and due process and in which customary law has been applied in compliance with international human rights standards.</li> <li>▶ Establishment of a moratorium on the application of the death penalty.</li> <li>▶ Legislation and policies in place to increase human rights protection in conflict and combat SGBV.</li> <li>▶ A South Sudan Human Rights Commission, accredited to the International Coordinating Committee, with 10 state offices and effectively monitoring human rights violations.</li> <li>▶ Measures taken to provide for redress for serious human rights violations.</li> <li>▶ State institutions increasingly engage in conflict prevention, conflict mitigation/reconciliation and violence reduction.</li> </ul> <p><b>[EA2]</b> ▶ Ratification of ICCPR, ICESCR, CEDAW, CRC, CERD, ACHPR and their related protocols, without reservations, including the second OP to the ICCPR.</p> <p><b>[EA3]</b> ▶ Oversight bodies and accountability mechanisms established or strengthened for the army, the police and prisons.</p> <p><b>[EA4]</b> ▶ Legislation, policies and practices increasingly comply with anti-discrimination and equality standards.</p> <p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ Common core document and at least two initial reports submitted.</p>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ▶ Human rights principles form the bedrock of the UNDAF; UN guidelines on incorporating human rights-based approaches have been applied by at least three UN entities in their specific programmes and an inter-agency human rights theme group on land issues is in place and functioning.</p> <p>▶ A framework for exchange on the human rights dimension of humanitarian action and its integration in field activities is in place.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in South Sudan.

## Sudan

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights Component in African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) Operation established in 2007
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### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 128

### Visits by special procedures in the past five years

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan (2009, 2010)

Independent Expert on human rights in the Sudan (2011, 2012, 2013)

Special Rapporteur on internally displaced persons (2012)

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

Special Rapporteurs on the right to food; racism; and contemporary forms of slavery

Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances

Independent Expert on access to safe drinking water and sanitation

Approved visits: Special Rapporteur on freedom of opinion and expression; and violence against women

### Other mandates from the Human Rights Council

Independent Expert appointed by the HRC to assist the Government in areas of technical assistance and capacity-building to help the country in fulfilling its human rights obligations

As the Darfur conflict enters its tenth year, the region is still experiencing poor protection of human rights with a continuation of human rights violations and abuses and breaches of international law by all parties. While political progress was made with the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur between the Government and the Liberation and Justice Movement, the persistence of fighting between the Sudanese Armed Forces and non-signatory armed opposition groups underscored the vulnerability of civilians. Indiscriminate attacks against civilians, tribal clashes and heightened criminality continued unabated with little response from law enforcement and security institutions, resulting in the loss of lives, civilian injuries and destruction of civilian property. Up to 1.4 million displaced people still rely on humanitarian agencies for basic services.

Some areas are transitioning from conflict to early recovery while development programmes are implemented in other areas. Meanwhile, the rest of the region faces intermittent clashes. Although large-scale

fighting between the Government and armed groups is subsiding, irregular clashes, acts of banditry, attacks against the African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) and restrictions to freedom of movement and political liberties persist in parts of Darfur and continue to pose challenges to a participatory and comprehensive political dialogue. The implementation of the Doha Document for Peace in Darfur and other agreements are expected to proceed intermittently, depending on the commitment of the Government and armed groups, the security situation and the existence (or absence) of an enabling environment.

In accordance with its mandate, UNAMID continues to provide protection to civilian populations and humanitarian operations and supports efforts to organize consultations across Darfur to strengthen demands for comprehensive peace in the region. Humanitarian agencies and UNAMID are faced with lack of security, access restrictions and bureaucratic impediments. More than 50 peacekeepers have been killed since 2007.

OHCHR is represented in Darfur by the Human Rights Section (HRS) of UNAMID. Under Security Council resolutions, the Section implements the human rights mandate of UNAMID by monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation in Darfur with special attention to the protection of vulnerable groups; SGBV; and building the capacity and expertise of State institutions, such as law enforcement, security and defence, the judiciary and civil society.

The Section provides expertise to the UNCT, works with the UNCT on issues of voluntary return and participates in the Darfur Protection Cluster Working Group and its Sub-Clusters (Child Protection, SGBV and Return) to mainstream human rights. The Section ensures that human rights are duly reflected in humanitarian protection planning mechanisms (humanitarian appeal and Cluster approach). The UNDAF for 2013-2016 serves as the common strategic plan for the UN in Sudan. Protection, gender and emergency preparedness are some of the cross-cutting issues.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratifications; establishment of a national participatory body for reporting and implementing recommendations of human rights mechanisms; and standing invitation to special procedures.

- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: post-2015 development agenda and public policies and budget processes.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: participation.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: human rights in the administration of justice; transitional justice; legislation, policies and institutions on deprivation of liberty.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: investigations, monitoring and reporting; human rights in humanitarian action; conflict; United Nations responsive to situations of violence and insecurity; and Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.



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International Women's Day Observed at Abu Shouk Camp, North Darfur. Around 200 women gathered at the Women's Centre in the Abu Shouk Camp for internally displaced persons near El Fasher, North Sudan, to commemorate International Women's Day. The event was facilitated by the Human Rights Section of UNAMID, and included performances of traditional songs and dances.

## OHCHR expected contribution

### ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN SUDAN

RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ▶ Establishment of an enabling environment conducive to dialogue and respect for human rights, including the implementation of peace agreements.</p> <p>▶ Civil society, especially women, youth, internally displaced persons and persons with disabilities, as well as political parties, make meaningful contributions to the budget formulation process and monitor local programmes and public expenditures.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ Human rights considerations are integrated in the formulation of and follow-up to the national post-2015 development agenda.</p> <p>▶ Significant increase of compliance with international human rights norms and standards by courts and traditional justice mechanisms, as well as police and prisons in relation to arrest and detention.</p>
	<p><b>[EA2]</b> ▶ Ratification of CAT, CEDAW, CPED, ICMW and regional instruments.</p>
	<p><b>[EA3]</b> ▶ Transitional justice and other mechanisms of redress fully functioning in accordance with international human rights norms and standards.</p> <p>▶ Establishment of frameworks, policies, mechanisms and initiatives to prevent and respond to human rights violations by State and non-State actors in the context of conflict, violence and insecurity.</p>
	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ Establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms.</p> <p>▶ Standing invitation issued to special procedures.</p>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ▶ Human rights considerations are integrated into the policies and programmes of the UNCT in Darfur with respect to humanitarian action, early recovery and security.</p> <p>▶ Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on UN support to non-UN security forces fully implemented in Darfur.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Sudan.

## Tanzania

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights Adviser*** Operation established in 2014
<b>Engagement with the human rights mechanisms</b>	See overview table on page 128
<b>Visits by special procedures in the past five years</b>	None
<b>Pending visit requests by special procedures</b>	Independent Expert on foreign debt Special Rapporteurs on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; and extreme poverty

Tanzania is a United Republic comprised of Mainland and Zanzibar. According to the 2012 census, the ethnically and religiously diverse population is estimated at 44.8 million. The socialist-democratic political party, *Chama Cha Mapinduzi*, which has ruled the country since the introduction of multiparty elections in 1992, is facing an increasing political opposition.

After growing calls for changes to the country's political system, in 2011, the Union Parliament enacted a law in favour of a constitutional review, with a planned referendum and a new constituent assembly in 2014.

Key features of the human rights context include the country's accession to the African Court of Human and Peoples' Rights, a NHRI and a tolerant working environment for civil society and the presence of a core of NGOs with skilled monitoring capacity.

Increasing violations to the right to life continued to be reported within the framework of the excessive use of force by law enforcement authorities and attacks against journalists and human rights defenders. An increasing number of ritual killings and attacks against persons with albinism have been registered since 2013. Violations to the right to life are often committed with impunity. There is a mounting pressure on extractive companies to meet their corporate social responsibilities. The investigations into alleged human rights abuses committed by police and private company guards in 2009 in Loliondo are still pending. Hate crimes and other expressions of ethnic or religious intolerance are rare. Notwithstanding, in

2012, Islamist youth set two Zanzibar churches on fire and other instances of clashes between Muslims and the police, accompanied by large-scale arrests, were registered. Other human rights concerns include poorly remunerated labour, gender-based violence, arbitrary and prolonged detentions, discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and other groups, as well as corruption in the judicial system.

Following the first cycle of the UPR, a National Human Rights Action Plan was finalized and adopted by Cabinet in December 2013.

In 2014, a human rights adviser will be deployed under the United Nations Development Group Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism (UNDG-HRM). Tanzania is one of the pilot countries of the UN's Delivering as One initiative and 16 agencies are resident in the country. Tanzania hosts the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, the East African Court of Justice and the residual mechanism of the International Criminal Tribunal for Rwanda.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratifications; submissions of reports by States and submission of information by civil society actors, the NHRI and the United Nations to treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR; establishment of a national participatory body for reporting and implementing recommendations of human rights mechanisms; and integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: post-2015 development agenda; integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: racial and religious discrimination and persons with albinism.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: media freedom.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN TANZANIA	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ Draft Constitution and media laws are compliant with international human rights standards.</p> <p>▶ The justice system increasingly investigates and prosecutes crimes against people with albinism and survivors and their families are provided with effective remedies, redress and rehabilitation.</p>
	<p><b>[EA2]</b> ▶ CAT, OP-CAT, the ICMW, the first OP to the ICCPR and the OP to the ICESCR ratified.</p>
	<p><b>[EA4]</b> ▶ A national policy to prevent and protect against attacks and discrimination against persons with albinism is in place, a national education and awareness-raising campaign to combat superstition and stigma vis-a-vis albinism has been conducted and the Commission of Human Rights and Good Governance effectively monitors and reports on the human rights situation of persons with albinism.</p>
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ▶ Increased engagement of CSOs and the Commission of Human Rights and Good Governance with treaty bodies, special procedures and the Universal Periodic Review.</p>	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ Establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms and reports to CERD, CEDAW, CESCR and the Human Rights Committee submitted in conformity with reporting guidelines.</p> <p>▶ Requests to visit Tanzania by special procedures mandate-holders materialize in visits.</p>
	<p><b>[EA11]</b> ▶ Country visits of special procedures mandate-holders are supported by the UNCT and recommendations of human rights mechanisms are shared across UN agencies and incorporated into UNCT programming.</p> <p>▶ The evaluation of the United Nations Development Assistance Plan and the design of the next One Programme fully incorporates a human rights-based approach.</p>

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Tanzania.

## Uganda

<b>Field presence</b>	Country Office Operation established in 2005
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### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 128

### Visits by special procedures in the past five years

Special Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons (2009)

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

Special Rapporteurs on freedom of opinion and expression; and freedom of peaceful assembly and association

Agreed: Independent Expert on extreme poverty

Positive steps towards the institutionalization of human rights have been taken and in several areas, the human rights situation has been improving. Northern Uganda has transitioned from emergency to recovery and development. In Karamoja, the end of the disarmament process and the transition to civilian policing, as well as the deployment of judicial officers, has improved security and access to justice.

At the national level, a number of human rights mechanisms have been strengthened or established: the Human Rights Committee of Parliament, the Legal and Human Rights Directorates of the Uganda Police Force (UPF) and the Uganda People's Defence Force (UPDF) and the reactivation of the interministerial Committee on Human Rights at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs within the framework of a national Human Rights Action Plan. The National Planning Authority has started to review its planning guidelines to integrate a human rights-based approach and the Uganda Human Rights Commission has strengthened its position in promoting and protecting human rights. In 2012, anti-torture legislation was enacted and a roadmap for its implementation was elaborated.

However, significant human rights challenges continue to require attention. Over the last years, and in the run up to the 2016 elections, the space for the enjoyment of public freedoms by opposition parties, as well as by human rights defenders, journalists and opposition politicians, has shrunk. Arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment by police and the army are still practiced, in particular in Karamoja and in the context of fighting terrorism or rebel groups. Discrimination against women and girls remains high in all sectors and hampers women's abilities to fully enjoy their rights. Incidents

of corruption remain widespread and held back the implementation of the Peace Recovery and Development Plan for Northern Uganda (PRDP) and discouraged donor engagement. The discovery of oil reserves is an opportunity for the country, but has also increased the pressure on land. Together with the use of future oil revenues, the protection of the environment, the rights of minorities and communities must be addressed. Regionally, Uganda is seen as an increasingly influential player in peace and security issues, yet it is also vulnerable to the volatile situation of the surrounding countries which could potentially affect its own stability and development.

At the socio-economic level, Uganda experienced an average 5 per cent economic growth in 2011-2013 but is facing increasing inequalities and regional disparities. Northern Uganda and Karamoja are still showing the lowest human development indicators. Slow progress has been achieved on the right to the highest attainable standard of health, in particular maternal and under-five mortality.

OHCHR was established in Uganda in 2005 with a mandate focusing on Northern Uganda, including Karamoja. In 2009, the mandate scope was extended to cover the national territory. OHCHR has offices in Kampala, Northern Uganda and Karamoja. OHCHR is the lead agency for the UNDAF outcome dealing with human rights, governance, rule of law and transitional justice. It advises the UN Resident Coordinator and UNCT and participates in various international community working groups.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: submissions of reports by States and information by civil society actors, the NHRI and the UN; and functioning of a national participatory body for reporting and implementing recommendations.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: post-2015 development agenda; public policies and budget processes; integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination, with a focus on: legislation, policies and institutional practices substantively comply with non-discrimination and equality standards.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: "public freedoms"; human rights defenders;

human rights education focusing on youth and NHRIs.

- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus

on: human rights in the administration of justice; transitional justice; torture, deprivation of liberty; and legal and judicial protection of economic, social and cultural rights.

## OHCHR expected contribution

### ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN UGANDA

RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ▶ The Human Rights Defenders Coalition, and other CSO Networks increasingly defend and claim their rights, including in northern Uganda and Karamoja.</p> <p>▶ CSO Networks increasingly advocate and litigate to claim their economic, social and cultural rights.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ Increased compliance of national, sector and local government development plans with international human rights standards and principles.</p> <p>▶ The Uganda Human Rights Commission increasingly implements its constitutional mandate in accordance with the Paris Principles, monitors and handles cases of human rights violations and undertakes human rights promotion interventions.</p> <p>▶ Legal frameworks, legislation, regulations and policies increasingly respect and protect public freedoms (freedom of association, assembly, expression and opinion and of the press), democratic principles and government actors (UPDF, UPF, ministry and local government) increasingly respect them.</p> <p>▶ Uganda People's Defence Force, the Uganda Police Force and Uganda Prisons Service increasingly comply with international standards on the use of force, arrest, detention and treatment of persons in custody, including in events of counter-terrorism, treason charges and rebellion.</p> <p>▶ Traditional justice authorities are increasingly respecting human rights standards when solving conflicts in their communities.</p> <p>▶ Increased integration of human rights standards, including economic, social and cultural rights in the Judicial Studies Institute curriculum.</p>
	<p><b>[EA3]</b> ▶ Justice, Law and Order Sector and other relevant stakeholders increasingly apply human rights standards in the development and implementation of transitional justice policies, legislation and programmes.</p>
	<p><b>[EA4]</b> ▶ Legislation, policies and institutional practices substantively comply with non-discrimination and equality standards, particularly on gender, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and persons with disabilities or living with HIV/AIDS.</p>
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ▶ Civil society networks, NHRI and UN entities increasingly engage with the UPR process, treaty body reporting and special procedures.</p>	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ National institutional mechanisms are in place and functional to increase engagement with international human rights mechanisms, namely the National Human Rights Action Plan and the National Human Rights Education Plan.</p> <p>▶ The Interministerial Committee and Ministerial Human Rights desks submit timely State reports in compliance with reporting guidelines and effectively participate in the review process.</p>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ▶ UNCT and UN agencies programmes and funds increasingly incorporate a human rights-based approach in their interventions.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Uganda.

## SOUTHERN AFRICA

<b>Field presence</b>	OHCHR Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSA), based in Pretoria, South Africa Operation established in 1998
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### Countries of engagement

Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland and Zimbabwe (complementing the OHCHR country presences in Madagascar, Malawi and Zambia) and conducting subregional activities for all 14 countries in the subregion.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 128

Southern Africa is characterized by geographic and demographic diversity and an overall socio-economic and political context that presents a broad range of human rights challenges. The subregion is composed of several middle income countries, yet has significant pockets of poverty. Restricted enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, especially the right to food, water, land, adequate housing, work, education and health care continue.

Inequality and all forms of discrimination, which are often manifested in xenophobia and hate crimes, are also of concern. Patterns of violence against women and girls, including domestic violence, are seen throughout the subregion. While poverty is a main concern, the subregion possesses an abundance of natural resources, the exploitation of which poses serious challenges for governments and private actors in the areas of economic justice and corporate responsibility.

Victims of human rights violations lack access to fair and equal justice due to the lack of resources and capacity of justice systems. Judges and magistrates, as well as law enforcement agents and officers, need to be trained in the field of human rights.

Civil unrest and demonstrations in Southern Africa, such as the Lonmin strikes in Marikana, South Africa, are characteristic of the inequality and lack of participation being faced by rights-holders in the national development process. Some countries suffer from weak governance institutions affecting

the effective functioning of democratic processes. Violations of civil and political rights continue to be of concern in Southern Africa, particularly the right to life, freedom of expression, freedom of association, peaceful assembly and repression of human rights defenders.

The Regional Office for Southern Africa was established in 1998 and covers 14 countries (Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe).

## Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratifications; submissions of information by civil society actors, the national human rights institution and United Nations to the UPR; special procedures visits; and establishment of a national participatory body for reporting and implementation of recommendations of human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: business and human rights; public policies and budget processes; and integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: women; racial and religious discrimination; migrants; persons with disabilities; indigenous peoples; minorities; and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: "public freedoms" (freedom of expression); human rights defenders; NHRIs established and/or working in compliance with international standards (Paris Principles).
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: legal and judicial protection of economic, social and cultural rights.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: investigations, monitoring and reporting; sexual and gender-based violence.

## OHCHR expected contribution

## ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN SOUTHERN AFRICA

RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Meaningful participation of rights-holders in development and economic policies in Mozambique and South Africa.</li> <li>▶ Meaningful participation of indigenous peoples in Botswana.</li> <li>▶ Meaningful participation of women and LGBTI persons in Swaziland.</li> <li>▶ More effective use by civil society in Zimbabwe of existing national protection systems.</li> </ul> <p>Increased number of human rights violations cases brought to court in relation to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Sexual violence in Angola and South Africa;</li> <li>▶ ESCRs in South Africa; and</li> <li>▶ Irregular migrants in Angola.</li> </ul>	<p><b>[EA1]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ NHRIs established and/or functioning in compliance with Paris Principles in Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Mozambique and Zimbabwe.</li> <li>▶ A forum for political dialogue on freedom of expression and assembly established in Swaziland.</li> </ul> <p><b>[EA2]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Ratification by Angola of ICERD or CAT; by Comoros of ICCPR; by South Africa of ICESCR; and by Zimbabwe of CAT or ICMW.</li> </ul> <p><b>[EA3]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Mechanisms and/or policies on business and human rights, including with regard to an effective remedy, established in Mozambique.</li> <li>▶ Improved functionality of existing mechanisms to protect civil society actors in Zimbabwe.</li> </ul> <p><b>[EA4]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ NHRIs work on equality and non-discrimination in line with international standards in Botswana and Zimbabwe.</li> <li>▶ Effective and efficient implementation of existing programmes to ensure the representation of marginalized and discriminated groups in key institutions in South Africa.</li> </ul>
<p><b>[EA7]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The number and diversity of civil society actors and UNCTs submitting information to the UPR in Angola, Comoros, Lesotho, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, Swaziland and Zimbabwe is increased or maintained.</li> </ul>	<p><b>[EA6]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms in Angola and Mozambique.</li> <li>▶ Standing invitation to special procedures issued by Botswana, Malawi, Mauritius and Namibia.</li> <li>▶ Positive reply to special procedures mandate-holders requests to visit Swaziland and Zimbabwe.</li> </ul>
<p><b>[EA11]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Human rights-based approach in the next United Nations Development Assistance Framework/United Nations Partnership Framework and selected other UN programmes in Botswana, Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia and Zimbabwe.</li> <li>▶ Implementation of the Guidance Note of the Secretary-General on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the UN Indigenous Peoples' Partnership Initiative in South Africa to support the implementation of the constitutional vision.</li> </ul>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in the region.

## Madagascar

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights Adviser Operation established in 2011
<b>Engagement with the human rights mechanisms</b>	
See overview table on page 128	
<b>Visits by special procedures in the past five years</b>	
Special Rapporteurs on the right to food (2011); contemporary forms of slavery (2012); and sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (2013)	
<b>Pending visit requests by special procedures</b>	
Special Rapporteur on summary extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions	

Since 2009, Madagascar has been facing a political crisis with the overthrow of former President Ravalomanana by the current President of the Transition. After two failed attempts (Maputo and Addis Ababa Agreements) to bring an end to the political crisis, a third roadmap, the Feuille de Route, was signed on 16 September 2011 by all but one of Madagascar's three main opposition parties. This paved the way for the international community to formally recognize Rajoelina as transition leader of the country who was tasked with the creation of State institutions to manage free and fair and human rights-compliant elections.

On 17 August 2013, the new Special Electoral Court (CES) set out the final list of 33 presidential candidates. Of the 41 initial candidates, one withdrew and eight were removed, including the three candidates targeted by the International Contact Group on Madagascar (Andry Rajoelina, Lalao Ravalomanana and Didier Ratsiraka). Following the CES's decision, the National Independent Electoral Commission of the Transition announced a new electoral calendar. It set the date of the first round of the presidential election for 25 October and the second round with the legislature on 20 December 2013.

According to various observers, the first and second rounds of the 2013 presidential elections, as well as the legislative elections in Madagascar, were conducted in a largely peaceful environment. The official results have yet to be announced by the CES.

The political crisis generated by the February 2009 coup d'état has had negative implications for the overall human rights situation in the country. The

rights to freedom of expression, association and assembly continue to be restricted. Journalists and political opponents are threatened while private media are shut down. Poverty remains prevalent and 92.6 per cent of the population is living on less than US\$2 a day. Other human rights violations include harsh prison conditions; an inefficient judiciary; corruption and impunity; societal discrimination; violence against women; and human trafficking.

The UNDAF, initially developed to cover the period 2008-2011, has been extended to 2014 in the absence of a national policy framework due to the socio-political crisis. OHCHR is expected to provide technical assistance in 2014 to ensure that a human rights-based approach is applied throughout the coming programming process.

Since June 2011, OHCHR deployed a human rights adviser to work with the Resident Coordinator's Office in Antananarivo. The HRA works with the Government on treaty body reporting and to follow up on the implementation of the recommendations of the treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR. HRA also carried out capacity-building programmes for the security forces, members of the intergovernmental body on treaty reporting, civil society actors, women's groups and youth to increase their human rights awareness, as well as knowledge of the regional and international human rights mechanisms.

### Thematic Priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratifications; and integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: natural resources and public policies and budget processes.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: media freedom; human rights education, with an emphasis on youth; NHRIs established and/or working in compliance with international standards (Paris Principles).
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: human rights in the administration of justice and legislation, policies and institutions on torture, deprivation of liberty and the death penalty.

## OHCHR expected contribution

## ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN MADAGASCAR

RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ► Increased participation of rights-holders in the development of programming and budgeting processes, especially in the National Development Strategy.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ► Media code of conduct adopted and improved compliance of State agents with human rights standards related to public freedoms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>► Institutionalized human rights education programme in specialized institutions and higher education institutions.</li> <li>► A NHRI is established and functioning and the Ombudsman's Office is strengthened.</li> <li>► International human rights law partially used in court proceedings and decisions.</li> <li>► Security forces and prison wardens increase their compliance with international human rights standards.</li> <li>► Mining sector policy protecting human rights adopted.</li> </ul> <hr/> <p><b>[EA2]</b> ► CRPD, ICMW and optional protocols of ICCPR, ICESCR, CEDAW and CAT ratified.</p> <hr/> <p><b>[EA3]</b> ► Positive actions taken by the Government as a result of cases raised by OHCHR.</p>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ► Human rights-based approach principles and recommendations from human rights mechanisms are better integrated in the UN Programmes and Policies.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Madagascar.

## Malawi

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights Adviser*** Operation established in 2014
<b>Engagement with the human rights mechanisms</b>	
See overview table on page 128	
<b>Visits by special procedures in the past five years</b>	
Special Rapporteur on the right to food (2013)	
<b>Pending visit requests by special procedures</b>	
Special Rapporteurs on human rights defenders; adequate housing; freedom of association and assembly; and extreme poverty	

Malawi is one of the least developed countries in the world and ranks below average for countries in the low human development group. According to the 2013 Human Development Report, 67 per cent of the population live in multidimensional poverty while an additional 23 per cent are vulnerable to multiple deprivations. Malawi is a country with a young democracy which held its first multiparty elections in 1994. The next presidential and legislative elections will take place in May 2014.

Prior to the death of former President Mutharika in April 2012, anti-government demonstrations took place in July 2011, resulting in the death of demonstrators due to the excessive use of force by security forces. This happened during a period characterized by increasing constraints on the enjoyment of civil and political rights with restraints on freedom of expression and assembly and intimidation of human rights activists deemed critical of the Government. Current President Banda started her presidency by mending ties with foreign donors and international financial institutions, reshuffling her cabinet and initiating an ambitious reform programme, albeit a devaluation of the currency, inflation, the removal of subsidies, an increase in fuel and commodity prices leading to consequential hardships for the population at large.

The Constitution (1994) and laws of Malawi provide for the protection of human rights. Under the Constitution, several independent human rights institutions have been established, including the National Human Rights Commission, the Office of the Ombudsman and the Law Commission. Notwithstanding, the implementation of international

human rights treaty obligations, including domestication and reporting, remains a challenge. Malawi has a number of pending requests for visits of special procedures and accepted the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food in July 2013. The human rights context is also characterized by weak national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (including human rights knowledge among law enforcement agencies); the lack of enjoyment of economic and social rights, particularly education and health (including an HIV prevalence rate of 10 per cent) and widespread corruption and poverty; and denial of civil and political rights, including abuses by law enforcement authorities, poor conditions of detention and gender-based discrimination.

OHCHR has established a constructive working relationship through the Regional Office and headquarters with UNCT members. The deployment of a human rights adviser during the reporting period under the United Nations Development Group-Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism will enable OHCHR to further its engagement and the support and cooperation in the country with the UNCT in the context of an evolving human rights situation. The UNDAF 2012-2016 frames UN engagement in the country and includes a priority area on enabling national institutions to effectively support transparency, accountability, participatory democracy and human rights by 2016.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratifications; submissions of reports by States and submission of information by civil society actors, the NHRI and the United Nations to treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR and establishment of a national participatory body for reporting and implementing recommendations of human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: legislation on non-discrimination and equality.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN MALAWI	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
	<p><b>[EA2]</b> ▶ At least two additional ratifications.</p>
	<p><b>[EA4]</b> ▶ Legislative framework and policies incorporate international human rights standards in relation to discrimination.</p>
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ▶ Increased engagement of civil society actors and national human rights institutions with the UPR and treaty bodies.</p>	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ Inter-ministerial participatory standing national coordinating body on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms established and reports/common core document following the reporting guidelines submitted to treaty bodies and UPR.</p> <p>▶ Standing invitation to special procedures mandate-holders issued and their requests to visit Malawi receive positive responses.</p>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ▶ The UNDAF mid-term review, the new UNDAF and other UN joint programmes incorporate a human rights-based approach.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Malawi.

## Zambia

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights Adviser*** Operation established in 2014
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### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 128

### Visits by special procedures in the past five years

Special Rapporteurs on extreme poverty (2009); and violence against women (2010)

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

Special Rapporteurs on toxic waste; human rights defenders; foreign debt; the independence of judges and lawyers; and the right to food (accepted but not yet undertaken)

Zambia became independent in 1964 and multiparty democratic processes began in 1990. According to the 2013 Human Development Report, Zambia is ranked in the low human development category which is below average for countries in the southern African region. Sixty-four per cent of the population live in multidimensional poverty, while an additional 17 per cent are vulnerable to multiple deprivations. Poverty in its various forms and manifestations is both a cause and a consequence of human rights violations. A number of disadvantaged individuals are more vulnerable, such as women and girls, and groups, such as persons with disabilities, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, sex workers and people living with HIV. These individuals are often subject to multiple forms of discrimination, which render them unable to enjoy their economic, social and cultural rights.

Zambia's national development plans, as reflected in its Sixth National Development Plan and the UNDAF, have identified multiple challenges, largely caused by the nexus of high HIV prevalence and root causes of vulnerability to the virus, deep-rooted poverty and food insecurity and weakened governance systems which adversely affect public service delivery capacity. Widening income disparities and gender inequality, both in terms of decision-making and access to resources, have been noted, as have incidents of intimidation which are limiting the democratic space for the enjoyment of civil and political rights, including freedom of expression and assembly. Members of opposition parties have

been arrested and released on multiple occasions, rallies have been blocked through the use of the Public Order Act and concerns have been raised about the misuse of the 2009 NGO Act linked to the registration of NGOs.

The Constitution of Zambia is undergoing a review and has been subject to broad-based public participation. The current draft incorporates a bill of rights, including recognition of economic, social and cultural rights and addresses discrimination against women. Domestication of treaty obligations remains an important challenge as well as addressing the backlog in reporting. The Zambian Human Rights Commission is operating in compliance with the Paris Principles ("A" status), but faces a number of capacity challenges that limit its ability to become a robust institution.

A UNDAF for the period 2011-2015 frames United Nations engagement in the country. It includes an outcome on gender equality and governance covering work undertaken with the Government to ensure human rights-based and gender responsive policies, frameworks and services by 2015. The 2014 deployment of a human rights adviser, under the the United Nations Development Group-Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism, would be an important asset to support the UNCT in these endeavours.

## Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: submissions of reports by States to treaty bodies, visits by special procedures; and establishment of a national participatory body for reporting and implementing recommendations of human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: participation of civil society in the post-2015 development agenda; public policies and budget processes and integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: the NHRI and civil society working to combat discrimination and promote equality.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN ZAMBIA	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ► Meaningful participation of civil society in the development and monitoring of the post-2015 national development agenda.</p> <p>► Civil society creates and supports participatory mechanisms to counter discrimination.</p>	<p><b>[EA4]</b> ► The Zambian Human Rights Institution is effectively addressing discrimination issues.</p> <hr/> <p><b>[EA6]</b> ► Establishment of participatory standing national coordinating body on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms and submission of pending reports to treaty bodies.</p> <p>► Positive response to request of special procedures mandate-holders to visit Zambia.</p>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ► A human rights-based approach is integrated into the new UNDAF for 2016-2019 and into joint programmes of the UNCT.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Zambia.

## WEST AFRICA

<b>Field presence</b>	OHCHR West Africa Regional Office (WARO), based in Dakar, Senegal Operation established in 2008
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### Countries of engagement

Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia, Ghana (no programmatic activities foreseen beside monitoring) and Senegal (complementing the presences in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Togo) and conducting subregional activities for all countries in the subregion.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 128

The West Africa region witnessed significant progress towards greater stability and security resulting from, inter alia, the transition processes in Guinea and Niger, the end of the election-related crisis in Côte d'Ivoire, as well as successful democratic elections in Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Mali, Sierra Leone and Togo. Nevertheless, the democratic process continues to evolve and, conversely, to be a challenge for the region's stability.

The region has seen encouraging signs of mainstreaming human rights and gender issues into responses to threats to security, such as the food crisis, climate change, migration and trafficking in persons. Improvements have been made with regard to equal participation of women and men in policymaking bodies, as well as in key State positions. In particular, Senegal has adopted a parity law at the national assembly.

Fundamental freedoms have improved in many countries. However, concern remains in the Gambia with regard to restrictive legislation that penalizes freedom of expression, thus limiting any form of political opposition.

In most countries, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) have been established and contributed to the improvement of human rights monitoring and protection. In addition to these mechanisms, some countries transitioning from conflict to post-conflict, such as Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia, Mali and Togo, have established transitional justice mechanisms. In combating impunity, Senegal paved the way to become the first African State to establish Extraordinary African Chambers, in collaboration

with the African Union, to try international crimes that were committed on the territory of a third party State (Hissen Habré's trial).

There were also some serious setbacks in the progress achieved towards democracy and peace. The conflict in Mali and the growing presence of terrorist groups pose a serious security threat. Along with environmental degradation and man-made crises, they expose the weakness of State institutions and challenge the capacity of the international community to anticipate and address political and security crises.

The Regional Office for West Africa was established in 2008 to help bridge gaps in human rights implementation at the national and regional level. The Office maintains cooperative relations with countries where OHCHR has no presence such as Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia and Ghana. It enjoys a wide range of strategic partnerships with other UN agencies and funds and participates in the elaboration of programming documents adopting a human rights-based approach. Examples include national UNDAFs and the UN integrated strategy for Sahel. To fulfil its mandate, the Office cooperates closely with governments, NHRIs, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), civil society and bilateral and multilateral institutions and donors.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratifications; submissions of reports by States and submission of information by civil society actors, the NHRI and the United Nations to treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR; and establishment of a national participatory body for reporting and implementing the recommendations of human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: legislation in conformity with non-discrimination and equality standards.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: participation in public life and NHRIs established

and/or working in compliance with international standards (Paris Principles).

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

a focus on: United Nations responsive to situations of violence and insecurity; and the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN WEST AFRICA	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ▶ Increased participation of women in political life, specifically in Parliaments and local institutions in Benin and Senegal.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ A national human rights institution has been established and works in conformity with international standards in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia and Senegal.</p>
	<p><b>[EA2]</b> ▶ Benin ratifies ICMW; OP-ICESCR; and OP-CEDAW.            ▶ Gambia ratifies ICMW; CAT; OP-ICESCR; OP-ICCPR-2; and OP-CEDAW.            ▶ Cape Verde ratifies CPRD and its OP; OP-ICESCR; and OP-CAT.            ▶ Senegal ratifies OP-ICESCR; OP-ICCPR-2; and OP-CRPD.            ▶ Burkina Faso ratifies OP-ICESCR; and OP-ICCPR-2.</p>
	<p><b>[EA4]</b> ▶ National laws have been harmonized with regional and international standards on non-discrimination and equality in Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia and Senegal.            ▶ Judicial procedures are simplified to improve access to justice for discriminated groups (in particular migrants, persons with disabilities, women and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons) in Senegal.</p>
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ▶ National human rights institutions and civil society organizations in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia and Senegal increasingly engage with international and regional human rights mechanisms.</p>	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ Fully functioning participatory standing national coordinating bodies are established for reporting/ replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms; and an increased number of reports submitted by Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia and Senegal.</p>
<p><b>[EA10]</b> ▶ Timely response to human rights issues in the context of early warning efforts, mainly in relation to the Sahel crisis, by the Human Rights Council and ECOWAS.</p>	
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ▶ UNDAF incorporates a human rights-based approach in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Gambia and Senegal.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in the region.

## Côte d'Ivoire

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights Component in the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) Operation established in 2004
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### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 128

### Visits by special procedures in the past five years

Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire (2011, 2012, 2013); Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons (2012).

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

Special Rapporteurs on violence against women; torture; extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; human rights defenders; migrants; and truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence

Working Groups on enforced or involuntary disappearances; and mercenaries

### Specific mandates from the Human Rights Council

Independent Expert on Côte d'Ivoire

The human rights situation in Côte d'Ivoire remains fragile as the country emerges from a ten-year-conflict, exacerbated by the post-election crisis (December 2010-April 2011). Despite tangible improvements in the overall security situation, the last two years have been marked by numerous armed attacks on military and strategic objectives and worrisome levels of violent crime. This includes armed robberies and community violence, often triggered by land property disputes and generalized poverty. Contributing factors fuelling a climate of insecurity are the uneven pace of disarmament and security sector reforms, weak State institutions to adequately prevent and respond to emerging threats and the political impasse between the Government and the main opposition party, the Front Populaire Ivoirien of former president Laurent Gbagbo. Criminal prosecutions of those implicated in crimes during the post-electoral crisis have been slow and essentially focused on pro-Gbagbo alleged perpetrators, raising concerns over the independence and impartiality of the criminal justice system.

The current situation has had a detrimental effect on the rights of women and men in Côte d'Ivoire. Cases of extrajudicial executions, arbitrary arrests, illegal detentions, ill treatment, torture, enforced disappearances and sexual and gender-based

violence continue to be documented across the country. There is also a pattern of sexual violence and harmful traditional practices, including rape, female genital mutilation and forced marriage, which especially affect women and girls.

The Government has undertaken significant legislative reforms to progressively create an environment conducive to the respect and promotion of human rights. Landmark decisions were reached to ratify the Rome Statute, amend the Marriage Law to fight gender inequality and adopt the Act on the National Human Rights Commission. The establishment of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission in September 2011 raised hopes for enhanced social cohesion and the end of impunity.

Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2112 (2013), the Human Rights Division of the United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI) continues to contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights by focusing on violations committed against women and children with a view to ending impunity. Its strong field presence across the country monitors and reports on a daily basis on violations and corrective measures put in place by duty-bearers.

To support Côte d'Ivoire in addressing the above-noted challenges, the UN revised and extended its UNDAF until 2015. In addition, UNOCI and the UNCT developed a joint programme in support of the National Assembly for the period of 2013-2015. Another joint programme entitled, Programme d'appui à la justice, funded by the European Union, UNDP and UNICEF, is being implemented.

## Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratifications; submissions of reports by States and information by civil society actors, the NHRI and the UN to treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR; establishment of a national participatory body for reporting and implementing the recommendations of human rights mechanisms and integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: national human rights institutions established and/or working in compliance with international standards (Paris Principles).

- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: human rights in the administration of justice and transitional justice.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: investigations, monitoring and reporting; SGBV; human rights in humanitarian action; United Nations responsiveness to situations of violence and insecurity; and the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN CÔTE D'IVOIRE	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ The National Human Rights Commission improves its compliance with the Paris Principles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Increased number of cases against perpetrators of human rights violations brought to court.</li> <li>▶ A Human Rights Screening Policy implemented by the Ivorian Army regarding soldiers joining peacekeeping missions, including the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali.</li> <li>▶ A National Strategy to fight gender-based violence and its National Action Plan implemented.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>[EA3]</b> ▶ A comprehensive transitional justice strategy is implemented and key recommendations of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission are implemented.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ A mechanism to prevent violence in the context of elections and a Code of Ethics for security forces to prevent and respond to threats to civilians are in place before the 2015 elections.</li> </ul>
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ▶ Improved engagement of non-governmental organizations, national human rights institutions or individuals with treaty bodies and special procedures, especially in relation to women's and children's rights.</p>	<p><b>[EA6]</b> Improved engagement with the international human rights mechanisms by the Government through:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms and the timely submission of reports to treaty bodies and the UPR;</li> <li>▶ The adoption of a National Action Human Rights Plan; and</li> <li>▶ Full cooperation with special procedures mandate-holders, especially the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>[EA11]</b> ▶ Human rights and recommendations from human rights mechanisms are fully mainstreamed in the operations of UNOCI and United Nations agencies.</p>

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Côte d'Ivoire.

## Guinea

<b>Field presence</b>	Country Office Operation established in 2010
<b>Engagement with the human rights mechanisms</b>	See overview table on page 128
<b>Visits by special procedures in the past five years</b>	None
<b>Pending visit requests by special procedures</b>	Special Rapporteurs on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; and truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence
<b>Other mandates from the Security Council</b>	International Commission of Inquiry on the events of 28 September 2009

Over the past years, Guinea has experienced important socio-economic, political and security transformations. The country has averaged a seven per cent growth rate and the return to constitutional rule as of 2010 has led to improvements in the stabilization of the macroeconomic situation. Despite considerable achievements, such as the strengthening of the national human rights protection system through the creation in October 2012 of the Ministry of Human Rights, the adoption of key laws for the security sector and the creation of a military court, Guinea still faces serious human rights challenges.

These challenges are related to the slow pace in addressing the fight against impunity, the national reconciliation process, limited cooperation with human rights mechanisms, and fighting poverty through improving access to energy, water and sanitation and ensuring equitable sharing of the benefits of growth. The return to constitutional rule was sparked by presidential elections in 2010. After being repeatedly postponed, legislative elections took place finally in September 2013. As a result of this delay, key measures and institutional reforms are still pending, including the reform of the security and justice sectors, the prosecution of serious human rights violations, including those perpetrated in September 2009, the national reconciliation process and the establishment of an independent NHRI.

The overall security situation has improved, despite threats from organized crime and the exacerbation of ethnic tensions in the southern part of the country during the electoral period. In addition, social

movements and civil unrest with a continued trend of violence frequently follow power and water shortages and are a feature of the social landscape. In such a context, increased unemployment and rising poverty affect the enjoyment of the rights of the most vulnerable groups, particularly in the poorest rural areas. Potential crisis factors are related to regional and presidential elections which will take place in 2014 and 2015. Another possible area of conflict could be land tenure and land grabbing for housing, forced evictions for mining exploitation and conflict over land ownership.

OHCHR-Guinea was established in May 2010 following the recommendations of the report of the International Commission of Inquiry on the events of 28 September 2009 (S/2009/693). The Office is based in Conakry with one subregional office in Nzérékoré. Its mandate covers technical cooperation for increased interaction with human rights mechanisms, the provision of support in the fight against impunity and cooperation with the UNCT. Moreover, OHCHR-Guinea contributed to promoting peaceful elections through monitoring, training and awareness-raising activities during presidential and legislative elections. It also ensured that a human rights-based approach was integrated in the elaboration of the UNDAF 2013-2017.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: submissions of reports by States and information by civil society actors, the NHRI and the United Nations to treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR and establishment of a national participatory body for reporting and implementing the recommendations of human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: "public freedoms" (freedom of expression, assembly and association and incitement to hatred); participation and national human rights institutions established and/or working in compliance with international standards (Paris Principles).
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: human rights in the administration of justice; transitional justice; and legislation and policies on torture and deprivation of liberty.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity

with a focus on: investigations, monitoring and reporting; prevention of gross human rights violations; human rights in humanitarian action; UN responsiveness to situations of violence and

insecurity; and integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in UN work.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN GUINEA	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ► Women and youth increasingly participate in political life at the local level and claim their rights.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ► National legislation on the rights to freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and information is fully harmonized with international human rights standards.</p> <p>► Law establishing an independent national human rights institution is promulgated and the institution is established and functioning in accordance with international standards.</p> <p>► Justice sector is reformed, national courts increasingly invoke human rights principles and standards in the proceedings and final decisions and alleged perpetrators of serious crimes are investigated and prosecuted.</p> <p>► Formal learning institutions for gendarmerie and police include a programme for human rights training.</p>
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ► The National Human Rights Commission, CSOs and UN agencies increasingly engage with treaty bodies and the UPR mechanism.</p>	<p><b>[EA3]</b> ► A fully functional hotline to protect communities from grave human rights violations is handed over to a national actor.</p> <p>► National civilian and democratic oversight mechanism for the defence and security forces established to prevent and provide remedies for human rights violations in compliance with international standards.</p> <p>► National consultations on transitional justice result in the establishment of accountability mechanisms in compliance with international human rights standards.</p>
<p><b>[EA10]</b> ► The international community increasingly calls for the prosecution of individuals responsible for serious human violations, including the 2009 crimes, and for the availability of remedies.</p>	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ► Establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms; and submission of reports to treaty bodies and the UPR.</p>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ► Integration of international human rights standards, including selected recommendations of the UPR, in the UNDAF 2013-2017, through its mid-term review, and in the UN Contingency Plan and UN Protection Clusters, particularly concerning the forest region.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Guinea.

## Guinea-Bissau

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights Component in the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) Operation established in 1999. Became an integrated mission in 2010
<b>Engagement with the human rights mechanisms</b>	See overview table on page 128
<b>Visits by special procedures in the past five years</b>	None
<b>Pending visit requests by special procedures</b>	Working Group on arbitrary detention Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty Agreed: Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers

Since gaining independence from Portugal in 1973, Guinea-Bissau has been characterized by extreme political instability, marked by a series of actual and attempted coup d'états and political assassinations. A culture of impunity and a lack of formal and informal accountability mechanisms have perpetuated the cycles of violence. No post-independence Government has been able to complete a full term in office. Since the end of 2011, Guinea-Bissau has experienced a series of political and military events causing continuous instability up to the present day.

Early presidential elections were held on 18 March 2012, following the sudden death of the incumbent. Five presidential candidates contested the results of the first round of the elections, which exacerbated the tensions in the already volatile politico-military environment. As a result, a coup d'état was staged by the Military Command led by the Chief of General Staff of the Armed Forces on 12 April 2012. The international community swiftly responded to the event by suspending cooperation with the transitional authorities. A presidential decree of 28 June 2013 announced that presidential and legislative elections would be held on 24 November 2013 but these have been postponed to 13 April 2014.

Political instability and the non-functioning Parliament have made it difficult for the Government to proceed with needed reforms to secure the promotion and protection of human rights, including the ratification of international human rights instruments or taking steps to effectively address extreme poverty. Significant progress has been made in implementing UPR recommendations, including the criminalization of female genital mutilation and the passage of a Domestic Violence Act.

The Human Rights Component of the Peacebuilding Mission was established in 1999. The mission became an integrated mission in 2010 at which time the Human Rights Component was given a more robust mandate (i.e., to promote, protect and monitor human rights and to maintain an increased presence). The United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS), which is based in the capital, Bissau, will have four suboffices within the regions by 2014 and the Human Rights Section will attempt to establish a presence in each suboffice.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratifications and special procedures visits.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: public policies and budget processes.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: women and persons with disabilities.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: human rights defenders; and national human rights institutions established and/or working in compliance with international standards (Paris Principles).
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: human rights in the administration of justice and accountability for gross violations.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: investigations, monitoring and reporting and Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.

## OHCHR expected contribution

## ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN GUINEA-BISSAU

RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ► Improved participation of marginalized and vulnerable groups in the design and implementation of programmes and policies relating to poverty reduction and more specifically, education and health.</p> <p>► A nationwide human rights network established and fully functioning.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ► Establishment of a fully operational and effective national human rights institution which issues annual reports on the human rights situation and exercises quasi-judicial powers.</p> <p>► Creation of a Multidisciplinary Interministerial Committee to advise the Government on implementation of international human rights standards at the domestic level, including into security sector reform.</p> <p>► Human rights are an integral part of the training programmes of the Bar Association; the refresher courses for judges; and recruitment trainings for security forces (army and police) and corrections personnel.</p> <hr/> <p><b>[EA2]</b> ► At least four additional core international instruments, including optional protocols, are ratified.</p> <hr/> <p><b>[EA3]</b> ► A CSO monitoring mechanism empowered to bring violations to international attention is in place.</p> <hr/> <p><b>[EA4]</b> ► Increase of 30 per cent in the representation of women in the Parliament, positions of governor and the judiciary.</p> <p>► Measures taken to improve human rights and full participation of persons with disabilities.</p> <hr/> <p><b>[EA6]</b> ► Positive response to requests of special procedures mandate-holders to visit the country.</p>
<p><b>[EA10]</b> ► An international commission of inquiry established to investigate past gross human rights violations.</p>	
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ► UN entities effectively apply the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy when providing assistance to the Government of Guinea-Bissau, particularly in relation to the reform of the security sector.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Guinea-Bissau.

## Liberia

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights Component in the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) Operation established in 2003
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### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 128

### Visits by special procedures in the past five years

None

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

Special Rapporteurs on freedom of opinion and expression; extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; torture; the independence of judges and lawyers; extreme poverty; and internally displaced persons  
Independent Expert on foreign debt

appointment or removal from central to local levels and across all branches of the State. The justice system is widely inaccessible; pre-trial detainees constitute over 80 per cent of the prison population and coordination between justice system actors is weak. Access to basic services remains inadequate. An Independent National Commission on Human Rights was established in 2010 and is making progress, though it lacks a countrywide presence. A national human rights action plan was validated in September 2013.

The United Nations Mission in Liberia was established in 2003. The Human Rights and Protection Section has field teams of one or two staff members in all 15 counties, as well as staff in headquarters. UNMIL is an integrated mission. The current One Programme runs from 2013-2017. Liberia was officially added to the agenda of the Peacebuilding Commission in 2010.

## Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratifications and establishment of a national participatory body for reporting and implementing the recommendations of human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: business and human rights; public policies and budget processes and integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: women; racial and religious discrimination, persons with disabilities; indigenous peoples and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: “public freedoms” (freedom of expression, assembly and association and incitement to hatred); human rights education, with a focus on: youth; NHRI established and/or working in compliance with international standards (Paris Principles).
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: human rights in the administration of justice; transitional justice; legislation and policies on torture and deprivation of liberty, and death penalty.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: investigations, monitoring and reporting; sexual and gender-based violence; UN responsive to situations of violence and insecurity.

With substantial international support, Liberia has made significant progress in the 10 years since the signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement. Two national elections have been held and the overall security situation remains peaceful, although localized flashpoints do still emerge. Insecurity in the subregion continues to have an impact and Liberia continues to host over 55,000 refugees from Côte d’Ivoire (including 31,354 females). Since 2011, the Government has engaged in consultations to develop two key strategic documents. Vision 2030 aims at ensuring that Liberia achieves middle-income status on the basis of national reconciliation, cohesion and the rule of law. The Agenda for Transformation focuses medium-term development goals on peace, security and the rule of law; economic transformation; human development; governance and public institutions; and cross-cutting issues, including human rights.

Liberia is classified as a low income country by the World Bank and ranked 174 out of 187 countries on the 2013 UNDP Human Development Index with 83.8 per cent living below the international poverty line. Large segments of the population remain marginalized and highly vulnerable: Liberia’s Inequality Index is 0.251 and its Gender Inequality Index is 0.658. Adult literacy is 60.8 per cent with rural female literacy at only 26 per cent: 8 per cent of women complete secondary school compared to 19 per cent of men.

The constitutional reform process started in 2013. The Government remains highly centralized, although a National Policy on Decentralization and a Local Governance Act were approved in 2012. The President retains considerable powers of nomination,

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN LIBERIA	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ▶ Increased participation of the population, particularly women and discriminated groups, and CSOs in the National Vision 2030 priorities, county-level policy and budget allocations; and in monitoring the right to health.</p> <p>▶ Increased advocacy for constitutional and legislative reform to protect against discrimination.</p> <p>▶ Indicators to monitor the participation of women and persons with disabilities used in key sectors.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ Constitutional amendments provide greater protection for human rights, strengthen protection against discrimination and foster genuine equity.</p> <p>▶ Improvements in the administration of justice include: availability of remedies for violations; juvenile justice facilities and abolition of the death penalty for children; effective oversight mechanisms; periodic impact assessments; human rights mainstreamed into the core curricula of justice sector actors; and implementation of criminal justice reform priorities.</p> <p>▶ Human rights mainstreamed in judicial training curriculum, especially with regard to non-discrimination and equality standards.</p> <p>▶ National Human Rights Commission increases its compliance with international human rights standards.</p> <p>▶ Ministry of Education/UNICEF transformative education programme fully incorporates lessons learned and strengthens its human rights component.</p> <p>▶ Effective SGBV and female genital mutilation prevention strategy with impact assessment tools is in place.</p> <p>▶ The reform of the traditional justice system ensures its full compliance with human rights (bans discriminatory practices and limits exercise of 'jurisdiction').</p>
	<p><b>[EA2]</b> ▶ Ratification and domestication of OP1-ICCPR, OP-ICESCR, OP-CRPD, OP-CEDAW, OP-CRC-SC and OP-CRC-AC, ICMW, ICPED and domestication of Economic Community of West African States Community Court of Justice protocol.</p>
	<p><b>[EA3]</b> ▶ Business and Human Rights (BHR) Forum effectively functioning throughout Liberia and increased compliance with the BHR Framework. A BHR policy validated, adopted and under implementation. A Decent Work Act passed and disseminated, implementation plan and resources approved and monitoring and protection mechanisms established.</p> <p>▶ A compliant transitional justice process developed and implemented: increased recognition of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.</p>
	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ Establishment and functioning of a national body to coordinate human rights treaty body reporting. Identify and invite special procedures mandate-holders and ensure systematic follow-up of treaty and UPR recommendations.</p>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ▶ One Programme periodic and final reviews indicate that human rights have been mainstreamed in the majority of UN programmes and are based on a human rights friendly monitoring and evaluation framework.</p> <p>▶ Substantial integration of human rights into the work of all UNMIL components.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Liberia.

## Mali

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights Component in the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA) Operation established in 2013
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### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 128

### Visits by special procedures in the past five years

Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (2011)

Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali (2013)

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

Special Rapporteurs on human rights defenders; and extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions

### Other mandates of the Human Rights Council

HRC resolution 21/25 of 28 September 2012 requested the High Commissioner to submit to the HRC a report on the human rights situation in Mali at its 22<sup>nd</sup> session

Independent Expert on the human rights situation in Mali

Between April and December 2012, three main regions of Northern Mali – Gao, Kidal and Timbuktu – were controlled by four rebel groups: the separatist National Movement for the Liberation of Azawad and the extremist movements Al-Qaida in the Islamic Maghreb, Ansar Dine and the Movement for Unity and Jihad in West Africa. The extremist groups imposed a strict application of Sharia law on the population that resulted in serious human rights violations, including summary executions, rape, torture, the recruitment of child soldiers, violations of freedom of expression and the right to information and violations of the right to education and health. During the same period, human rights violations were also reported in parts of the country controlled by the Government, including alleged extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances following a failed reverse coup on 30 April 2012. Members of the police and the military suspected of supporting the coup were arrested and tortured.

Meanwhile, terrorist attacks have also been reported, confirming the prevalence of suicide and bombing attacks by armed groups. These attacks have had grave consequences on the human rights situation and contributed to a climate of suspicion in the population, leading to several denunciations, at times slanderous and increasingly based on the identification of “light-skinned” communities in the North with members of armed or rebel groups.



© UN Photo/Marco Dormino

UN personnel visit mentally disabled at Mali Detention Centre.

On the International Day of Persons with Disabilities (3 December), human rights personnel of MINUSMA, together with a local psychiatrist, visited Bamako's Central Detention Centre to assess the detainee population with mental disabilities. A detainee waits to speak with the psychiatrist during triage.

On 25 April 2013, the Security Council adopted resolution 2100 which established MINUSMA. Its mandate includes the support of the full deployment of MINUSMA human rights observers throughout the country. The Human Rights Division works in close partnership with other OHCHR field presences in the Sahel and West African regions, the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) and the Office of the Special Envoy for the Sahel and the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali to maximize the overall impact of OHCHR and the United Nations in the area. Prior to its establishment, the High Commissioner deployed, in addition to a temporary Human Rights Adviser from August 2012 to January 2013, two fact-finding missions to Mali, the findings of which were presented to the Human Rights Council in March 2013.

## Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratifications; visits by special procedures; and establishment of a national participatory body for reporting and implementing the recommendations of human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: human rights in the administration of justice; transitional justice mechanism established; legislation and policies on torture, deprivation of liberty and the death penalty.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: investigations, monitoring and reporting; sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV); human rights in humanitarian action and Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN MALI	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ Justice and law enforcement professionals increasingly apply human rights standards in their work in at least three regions of Mali.</p> <p>▶ The number of SGBV cases brought to the attention of judicial authorities and effectively processed by judicial authorities is doubled.</p>
	<p><b>[EA2]</b> ▶ Optional protocols to the ICCPR and ICESCR are ratified.</p>
	<p><b>[EA3]</b> ▶ A credible and independent Truth and Reconciliation Commission is functioning, like other transitional justice mechanisms, in compliance with international standards.</p> <p>▶ Joint protection assessments carried out in four regions and their recommendations used to refine the protection response of all relevant actors.</p>
	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ An interministerial participatory standing national coordinating body on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries is in place and a plan of action on UPR recommendations is elaborated and implemented.</p> <p>▶ Positive responses to requests for country visits from special procedures mandate-holders.</p>
<b>[EA11]</b>	<p>▶ Integration of human rights policies and tools into UN responses to humanitarian crises, especially the Protection Working Group and the Protection Cluster.</p> <p>▶ The Human Rights Due Diligence Policy is effectively implemented by MINUSMA.</p>

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Mali.

## Niger

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights Adviser Operation established in 2008
<b>Engagement with the human rights mechanisms</b>	See overview table on page 128
<b>Visits by special procedures in the past five years</b>	None
<b>Pending visit requests by special procedures</b>	Special Rapporteur on slavery

Niger is a vast landlocked country in West Africa with a surface area of 1,267,000 km<sup>2</sup> and according to the results of the 2012 census, has a population estimated at 17,129,076 inhabitants. The 2013 Human Development Report identifies Niger as one of the poorest countries in the world. Most individuals, particularly those living in rural areas, depend on agriculture, which is under increasing pressure from growing populations, refugee inflows and climatic hazards. The context is also characterized by food and nutritional crises which harshly affect women and children.

The return to democracy and constitutional rule was sparked by the holding of presidential elections in 2011 which were followed by the inauguration of the President of the Republic on April 2011. Human rights are enshrined in the 2010 Constitution under Title II and Niger is party to the core international and regional human rights instruments. Niger continues to undertake efforts for the promotion and protection of human rights, including in the area of strengthening the national human rights architecture. For example, on 24 August 2012, the Government adopted and promulgated the Law establishing the National Human Rights Commission, which complies with international human rights standards and the Paris Principles.

Legal provisions which discriminate against specific groups, and particularly women, remain of concern in Niger. Greater protection of the rights of

vulnerable groups and women requires education and awareness-raising activities. Despite improvements in the area of human rights education, little has been done to introduce human rights into formal education curricula. The security situation has improved since 2009. Nevertheless, the crisis in Mali and repeated incursions of extremist groups in the country has adversely impacted on the security and humanitarian situation in the North due to a large inflow of refugees and returned migrants and the circulation of arms in the North and in the subregion.

The Government has developed a Programme for Economic and Social Development (PDES) for the period of 2012-2015 to address economic and social issues and curb poverty. The United Nations are committed to supporting this programme through the UNDAF for the period of 2014-2018 and the Country Programme Action Plan, developed in close collaboration with the national authorities. These documents have anticipated progress in the areas of human rights and gender.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratifications; submissions of reports by States and information by civil society actors, the NHRI and the United Nations to treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR and integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: racial and religious discrimination; and slavery and trafficking.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: human rights education with a focus on: youth; national human rights institutions established and/or working in compliance with international standards (Paris Principles).
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: human rights in humanitarian action.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN NIGER	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ▶ At least three NGOs conduct sensitization activities and have referral mechanisms to support victims of discrimination.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ A national human rights education plan is elaborated and human rights are incorporated in the curricula of formal education.</p> <p>▶ The National Human Rights Commission implements its four-year plan for the period 2014-2017.</p>
	<p><b>[EA2]</b> ▶ At least one international human rights convention and two optional protocols ratified.</p>
	<p><b>[EA4]</b> ▶ National legislation to combat slavery and human trafficking is in full compliance with international standards and a national plan of action to combat slavery and human trafficking is adopted.</p>
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ▶ Three shadow reports are submitted by CSOs and the NHRI to treaty bodies and the UPR.</p>	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ 40 per cent of outstanding State Party reports are submitted to treaty bodies.</p> <p>▶ Pending visits of Special Rapporteurs to take place.</p>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ▶ The 2014-2018 UNDAF fully integrates human rights, including relevant recommendations from human rights mechanisms.</p> <p>▶ Human rights are mainstreamed into the humanitarian strategy documents and policies (Consolidated Appeal Process Niger) and the Protection Cluster Action Plan.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Niger.

## Nigeria

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights Adviser Operation established in 2014
<b>Engagement with the human rights mechanisms</b>	
See overview table on page 128	
<b>Visits by special procedures in the past five years</b>	
None	
<b>Pending visit requests by special procedures</b>	
Special Rapporteurs on the independence of judges and lawyers; trafficking; adequate housing; counter-terrorism; sale of children; violence against women; internally displaced persons; and peaceful assembly and association	
Independent Experts on access to safe drinking water and sanitation; and minorities	

With a population of more than 150 million, Nigeria is the most populous country in Africa and perhaps the most diverse with 250 ethnic groups and 500 indigenous languages. Nigeria is a federation with three tiers of government - federal, state (36) and local (774) - and three legal systems, namely common law, customary law and Sharia law. The Supreme Court is the highest court of the land with appellate jurisdiction over cases from lower courts.

The transition to civil rule in 1999 has improved the climate for human rights in the country. The Constitution protects human rights. A National Human Rights Commission exists alongside an active civil society and a free and independent press. The judiciary exercises a level of independence, however, there are allegations of corruption. Notwithstanding, abuses and violations continue to be perpetrated by State and non-State actors with impunity, including extrajudicial executions carried out by security agencies, poor prison conditions, rampant corruption, high unemployment, unpaid salaries, pensions and gratuities over long periods. Ethno-religious violence and natural disasters have led to the massive displacement of millions. Corruption is central to and contributes to the denial of socio-economic rights in Nigeria.

Insurgency in the North, with resultant displacement and human rights violations, emerged as the most

critical challenge to Nigeria's security after the Government's amnesty programme doused the militant movement in the Niger Delta. In May 2013, the President declared a state of emergency in the three North Eastern states of Borno, Adamawa and Yobe in response to attacks by Jama'atu ahlus sunnah lid da'awati wal jihad or Boko Haram. The Government's response has also been tainted by allegations of extrajudicial executions, torture, indeterminate and incommunicado detentions, enforced disappearances, rape and various human rights violations against the civilian population. These issues have been highlighted as concerns in concluding observations and recommendations of treaty bodies (CERD, CESCR, Human Rights Committee, CEDAW and CRC), the UPR and communications by special procedures mandate-holders.

In mid-2013, OHCHR deployed a Human Rights Officer to support government institutions and the UNCT. The current Nigeria UNDAF III covers the period from 2014 to 2017 and includes an outcome strategy on strengthened compliance with international standards and human rights. The deployment of a human rights adviser under the United Nations Development Group-Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism is scheduled for 2014.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratifications; submissions of reports by States to treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR; and establishment of a national participatory body for reporting and implementing the recommendations of human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: women; racial and religious discrimination; migrants; and persons with disabilities.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: investigations, monitoring and reporting; sexual and gender-based violence; human rights in humanitarian action; conflict; United Nations responsiveness to situations of violence and insecurity.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN NIGERIA	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ► Increased participation of women, children and persons living with disabilities in public processes affecting them.</p> <p>Increased use of the National Human Rights Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>► By discriminated groups;</li> <li>► In the context of communal violence and potential conflict triggers.</li> </ul>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ► At least four States have legislation against gender-based violence. Institutionalization of human rights training for the armed forces and security agencies, especially those involved in operations in the North East.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>► Increased compliance of security agencies deployed in conflict zones with international human rights standards.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>[EA3]</b> ► National Human Rights Commission effectively monitors and reports, especially in the North East.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>► Internal oversight, accountability and protection mechanisms of security agencies are in place and functioning.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>[EA4]</b> ► National action plan against racism and discrimination adopted. A number of States incorporate the Child Rights Act (North states) and adopt a policy on realization of the rights of persons with disabilities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>► The National Assembly has initiated and actively debated legislation on citizenship.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ► Participatory interministerial standing national coordinating body on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms re-activated and functioning and at least four reports submitted to treaty bodies in full conformity with reporting guidelines.</p>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ► Increased application of rights-based approaches by UN programmes addressing violence, insecurity and conflict, including UNDP conflict project and peace architecture; UN Women multi-year programme; and UNDAF Action Plan and agency implementation programmes.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>► Joint Humanitarian Action Plan and national humanitarian operations integrate human rights principles.</li> </ul>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Nigeria.

## Sierra Leone

<b>Field presence</b>	Transition from Human Rights Component in peace mission to a Human Rights Adviser Peace mission operation established in 1998, closing in 2014
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### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 128

### Visits by special procedures in the past five years

Special Rapporteurs on violence against women (2011); and freedom of religion or belief (2013)

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

Special Rapporteurs on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; and freedom of opinion and expression

Special Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons

Working Groups on arbitrary detention; and mercenaries

Since the end of the armed conflict in 2002, many mechanisms, policies and structures have been instituted to address the root causes of the conflict and the prevention of reoccurrence. These laid the foundations for the establishment of two key transitional justice entities: the Special Court for Sierra Leone (SCSL) and the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission (TRC). The human rights sections of successive peace missions in Sierra Leone have been playing integral roles in these processes which have been highlighted in previous OHCHR annual reports. The TRC report was published in 2004 and judgments have now been handed down in all trials at the Special Court for Sierra Leone. The United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Mission in Sierra Leone (UNIPSIL) Human Rights Section's current work on transitional justice is therefore largely confined to providing technical support for the implementation of the TRC recommendations and involvement in SCSL legacy projects.

With support from the UN and other members of the international community, Sierra Leone continues to witness steady progress, particularly in the area of democracy, human rights and the rule of law as there are now national institutions in place to strengthen these efforts. Significant progress has also been made in the legislative area, following the passage of

a number of laws which seek to promote, protect and respect human rights generally and particularly those of women, children and persons with disabilities. Three consecutive general and two local council elections have been successfully concluded which garnered a positive response from the international community. International election observers for the November 2012 national and local council elections certified that the national elections were free and fair. The democratization process continues to pave the way for a stable central government that is working concurrently with decentralized structures through local district/city councils, although politics and partisanship still remain fragmented and more visible along regional and ethnic lines.

Many serious concerns remain. For instance, socio-economic conditions are extremely challenging. Sierra Leone has been rated low on the United Nations Human Development Index with appalling socio-economic indicators that are reflective of the extreme levels of poverty among ordinary Sierra Leoneans. Unemployment levels are high, especially among youth, and if it is not appropriately addressed, poses a potential threat to the peace and security the country has enjoyed since the civil war. In 2013, the Government unveiled the third Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper called the 'Agenda for Prosperity.'

OHCHR has been involved in Sierra Leone since 1998 through the human rights sections (HRS) of the various UN missions (UNOMSIL, UNAMSIL, UNIOSIL and now UNIPSIL). The UNCT in Sierra Leone includes 17 resident members. A joint peace consolidation plan covering the period 2009-2012 was implemented by UNIPSIL and the UNCT in support of the Government's "Agenda for Change," a comprehensive programme of reforms which includes the Poverty Reduction Strategy. In 2013-2014, the UN is implementing a "Joint Vision" aimed at supporting the Government's "Agenda for Change." In 2015, the "Joint Vision" is to be replaced by a normal UNDAF. The recommendation for the deployment of a Human Rights Adviser has been part of the means identified as critically required at this important juncture. With the support of the United Nations Development Group-Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism (UNDG-HRM) the deployment of a Human Rights Adviser to the UNCT in Sierra Leone is scheduled for 2014.

## Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratifications; submissions of reports by States; establishment of a national participatory body for reporting and implementing the recommendations of human rights mechanisms; integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: participation

in public policies and budget processes; and integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.

- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: persons with disabilities.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: human rights defenders.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

## OHCHR expected contribution

### ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN SIERRA LEONE

RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ▶ An active and effective network of human rights defenders advocates for and engages in the promotion and protection of human rights.</p> <p>▶ Activities implemented under the Poverty Reduction Strategy are informed by the participation and input of civil society.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ Preventive and protective measures in place and effective investigation and prosecution of perpetrators of SGBV.</p>
	<p><b>[EA4]</b> ▶ Constitutional review includes disability as a prohibited ground of discrimination.</p> <p>▶ Impediments to the enjoyment by persons with disabilities of all human rights, particularly the rights to education and health, as well as civil and political rights, are removed.</p>
	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ Establishment of a participatory standing national coordinating body on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms and submission of reports treaty bodies and the UPR.</p>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ▶ At least three UN programmes and policies, and particularly the UNDAF 2015, are informed by a human rights-based approach.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Sierra Leone.

## Togo

<b>Field presence</b>	Country Office Operation established in 2006
<b>Engagement with the human rights mechanisms</b>	
See overview table on page 128	
<b>Visits by special procedures in the past five years</b>	
Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders (2013)	
<b>Pending visit requests by special procedures</b>	
Special Rapporteurs on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; and the independence of judges and lawyers	

Togo is experiencing positive political, social and economic development. A five-year strategy aims at accelerated growth, employment, governance-strengthening and reduced regional disparities. Nevertheless, poverty, economic, social and cultural rights are among the serious challenges facing the country and fail to be addressed as a result of insufficient budgets for water, sanitation and social services. In 2013, strikes by teachers, health workers and the judiciary led to a series of negotiations with the Government. Prison conditions, especially in relation to the right to food and adequate health, remain issues of concern. Approximately 500 detainees were released in November 2012 in an attempt to address prison overcrowding.

The Truth Commission issued its final report in April 2012. The Commission nationale des droits de l'homme (CNDH) enjoyed new public trust when it published a report confirming the ill-treatment of detainees by the national security agency but was unable to ensure adequate follow-up to the report.

The July 2013 legislative elections were held amidst relatively calm and acceptable conditions, despite high political tensions. Lack of consensus between the Government and the opposition over the timing and nature of institutional and constitutional reforms had delayed the elections. Municipal elections foreseen for late 2013 have yet to be confirmed.

In the framework of the justice reform, the Government drafted a new Penal Code and Criminal Procedure Code (CPC), both essentially in harmony with international norms. The Penal Code was sent to Parliament but not yet adopted and the CPC is still before the Council of Ministers. The 2012 Family Code created a stronger legal framework for the protection

of women's rights. The principle of gender equality was included in the March 2013 electoral code. Efforts are ongoing to amend the law of the CNDH to increase its conformity with the Paris Principles and accommodate its new mandate as a National Preventive Mechanism against torture. Amendment of the law of the Haute Autorité de l'audiovisuel et de la communication was undertaken with minimal consultation with representatives of civil society or the media and remains controversial.

Since its establishment in 2006, the Office has implemented its full mandate. Based in Lomé, it carries out frequent visits to the Northern region, in addition to regular prison visits, human rights monitoring and advocacy.

Within the UNCT, OHCHR's main partners include UNFPA, UNICEF, UNAIDS, UNDP and UNREC. The UNDAF cycle 2014-2018 partly coincides with the PRSP-II (2013-17).

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratifications; submissions of reports by States and submission of information by civil society actors, the NHRI and the United Nations to treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR; and establishment of a national participatory body for reporting and implementing the recommendations of human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: public policies and budget processes; integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: "public freedoms" (freedom of expression, assembly and association and incitement to hatred); media freedoms; human rights education, with a focus on: youth; and national human rights institutions established and/or working in compliance with international standards (Paris Principles).
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: human rights in the administration of justice; transitional justice; legislation and policies on torture, deprivation of liberty and death penalty; and legal and judicial protection of economic, social and cultural rights.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN TOGO	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ▶ Increased participation of women in decision-making processes.</p> <p>▶ CSOs working at national and local levels increasingly participate in and effectively contribute to public processes, such as the Development and Employment Strategy.</p> <p>▶ National CSOs increasingly raise economic, social and cultural rights cases with CNDH and courts and CSOs operating in the North increasingly monitor human rights.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ National law has been amended to allow the Administrative Chamber of the High Court to examine appeals against the administrative prohibition of peaceful assemblies and ensure the effective independence of the Haute Autorité pour la Communication et l'Audiovisuel.</p> <p>▶ A human rights education programme is incorporated in the National Action Plan for the implementation of the recommendations of international human rights mechanisms.</p> <p>▶ The recommendations in OHCHR's public report on the compliance of the administration of justice with human rights norms are implemented.</p> <p>▶ The draft Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure Code and the prison and detention policy are adopted in compliance with international human rights standards.</p> <p>▶ Magistrates and criminal investigation police effectively apply human rights norms.</p> <p>▶ Increased use of a human rights-based approach in the implementation and review of the Development and Employment Strategy, particularly in relation to the health sector and the health policy.</p>
	<p><b>[EA2]</b> ▶ Two international conventions/optional protocols ratified.</p>
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ▶ NGO networks and the CNDH submit alternative reports to treaty bodies and the 2nd UPR and engage with special procedures mandate-holders.</p>	<p><b>[EA3]</b> ▶ Follow-up mechanism for the implementation of CVJR recommendations established and functioning according to transitional justice principles.</p> <p>▶ The Paris Principles and OP-CAT-compliant draft organic law of the CNDH becomes law and the CNDH effectively starts implementing its mandate as National Preventive Mechanism against torture.</p> <p>▶ The General Inspectorate of Judicial and Penitentiary Services significantly improves its effectiveness in discharging its mandate.</p>
	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ A permanent mechanism for integrated reporting and follow-up is fully institutionalized and the national plan of action to implement recommendations of international human rights mechanisms is adopted and being implemented.</p>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ▶ The 2014-2018 UNDAF is implemented, monitored and evaluated in line with a human rights-based approach.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Togo.



# AMERICAS

## OHCHR presence in the region

Overall, the region is characterized by stable democracies and strong legal frameworks, but some countries have recently experienced a shrinking of the democratic space and the weakening of key institutions. Important progress has been made in the reduction of extreme poverty, hunger, malnutrition and infant mortality. Despite this growth and a relatively low impact of the financial crisis in the region, high inequality persists. This situation has triggered a growing social movement that is increasingly claiming greater participation, transparency and access to rights, especially economic, social and cultural rights. The boom in the extractive industries and manufacturing continues to raise human rights concerns, especially in relation to indigenous peoples.

High levels of insecurity and criminal violence, including violence against women, are having a significant impact on the enjoyment of human rights and posing a serious threat to the rights of entire populations and to the rule of law and democracy. Positive steps have been taken to advance regional integration, but the Inter-American human rights system has come increasingly under attack.

Between 2009 and 2013, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights visited Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico, the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights visited Chile, Colombia, Haiti, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay and Uruguay, and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights visited Haiti. In addition, the region received 90 visits of thematic special-procedures mandate-holders over the same period.

OHCHR engages with countries in the region from Geneva Headquarters, the New York Office and field presences. At the time of writing, OHCHR had two regional presences: one for Central America based in Panama, and one for South America based in Chile; four country offices in Bolivia, Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico; three human rights advisers (HRAs) based in Ecuador, Honduras and Paraguay; and one human rights component of a peacekeeping/building mission in Haiti. In 2014, two human rights advisers will be deployed under the the United Nations Development Group-Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism (UNDG-HRM) to the UNCTs in the Dominican Republic and Jamaica, as well as to the UNDG Regional Team in Panama.

In November 2012, OHCHR deployed a national human rights officer in Barbados, who works with the UN Resident Coordinator, in the framework of a project aimed at the implementation of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations. The focus of the project was the establishment of a national human rights institution (NHRI), the establishment of an interministerial committee on human rights; and the fight against violence against women.

In 2013, the Regional Office for South America, through a regional project financed by the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) Trust Fund, started supporting the implementation of the UPR recommendations in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru and Uruguay. In Paraguay, the HRA team has been working with



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2013 Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights for Latin America and the Caribbean, August 2013.

the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Ministry of Justice, in charge of the Human Rights Network of the Executive Branch, to strengthen the State's capacity to follow up, monitor and report on the implementation of recommendations of international human rights mechanisms, including the UPR. Based on the identification of priorities and responsibilities, State institutions from the three branches will coordinate the follow-up and monitor the implementation of those recommendations, update relevant information and consequently report to international mechanisms and bodies. Recommendations regarding the fight against poverty and rights of people with disabilities and indigenous peoples will be particularly targeted for action.

At the country level, OHCHR will focus on building national human rights capacity, including by promoting a strengthened engagement with the UN human rights system and maximizing synergies and complementarity with development actors and the donor community.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: specific countries which still have ratifications pending; the implementation of recommendations of all international human rights mechanisms, with the UPR serving as the entry point; supporting the establishment of national coordination bodies for follow-up to the recommendations of the UN human rights mechanisms, in a holistic manner, on the basis of thematically clustered and prioritized recommendations;
- ▶ strengthening the regional system; promoting the engagement of rights-holders; and integrating the recommendations into the UN work at country level, particularly in preparation for and in follow-up to the UPR's second and third cycles.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: participation and consultation in economic development and projects, especially with indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants; business and human rights; and human rights mainstreaming, including the right to development, in public policies, budget processes and United Nations work.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: women's rights; rights of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants; and use of anti-discrimination standards by judges and prosecutors.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: freedom of expression; protection of human rights defenders and journalists; and participation.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: torture and National Preventive Mechanisms under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OP-CAT); deprivation of liberty and the death penalty; transitional justice; counter-terrorism measures; human rights indicators and access to justice for vulnerable and discriminated groups.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: compliance of legislation and policies with human rights standards; sexual and gender-based violence; security policies and mainstreaming human rights and the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy in the UN's response to situations of violence, insecurity and humanitarian crises.

## Americas and the United Nations human rights mechanisms

Member States	Next UPR*	Standing Invitation**	Ratification and reporting status											
			ICERD	ICCPR	ICESCR	CAT	OP-CAT	CEDAW	CRC	OP-CRC-SC	OP-CRC-AC	ICMW	CRPD	CPED
<b>Antigua &amp; Barbuda</b>	2016		X			X		X	X	X				
<b>Argentina</b>	+2017	Yes				X								
<b>Bahamas</b>	+2017		X	X	X				X					
<b>Barbados</b>	+2017	Yes	X	X	X			X	X					
<b>Belize</b>	+2017		X	X		X		X	X	X	X	X	X	
<b>Bolivia</b>	2014	Yes	X		X					X	X			X
<b>Brazil</b>	+2017	Yes	X	X		X				X			X	X
<b>Canada</b>	+2017	Yes											X	
<b>Chile</b>	2014	Yes			X	X								X
<b>Colombia</b>	+2017	Yes	X											
<b>Costa Rica</b>	2014	Yes	X	X	X	X								
<b>Cuba</b>	+2017		X							X			X	X
<b>Dominica</b>	2014	Yes		X	X			X	X	X	X			
<b>Dominican Republic</b>	2014					X				X				
<b>Ecuador</b>	+2017	Yes												X
<b>El Salvador</b>	2014	Yes				X						X		
<b>Grenada</b>	2015			X	X									
<b>Guatemala</b>	+2017	Yes											X	
<b>Guyana</b>	2015		X	X		X				X	X	X		
<b>Haiti***</b>	2016		X						X				X	
<b>Honduras</b>	2015	Yes		X	X	X			X			X	X	X
<b>Jamaica</b>	2015									X	X	X	X	
<b>Mexico</b>	+2017	Yes			X									X
<b>Nicaragua</b>	2014	Yes	X	X	X	X		X				X	X	
<b>Panama</b>	2015	Yes	X	X	X	X				X	X		X	X
<b>Paraguay</b>	2016	Yes												
<b>Peru</b>	+2017	Yes							X	X	X			

Member States	Next UPR*	Standing Invitation**	Ratification and reporting status											
			ICERD	ICCPR	ICESCR	CAT	OP-CAT	CEDAW	CRC	OP-CRC-SC	OP-CRC-AC	ICMW	CRPD	CPED
St Kitts & Nevis	2015		X						X	X				
Saint Lucia	2015		X						X					
St Vincent & Gren.	2016		X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	
Suriname	2016			X	X				X	X				
Trinidad & Tobago	2016		X	X	X				X	X				
Uruguay	2014	Yes											X	
Venezuela	2016													
USA	2015													
<b>Out of total of 35 States</b>		<b>19</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>31</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>30</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>26</b>	<b>14</b>

- Treaty ratified
- Report is overdue as of December 2013
- Outstanding ratification

- \* Date of next UPR review. Countries undergoing the third UPR cycle will be considered after 2017
- \*\* Standing invitations to special procedures mandate-holders
- \*\*\* Country with established special procedure country mandate

## NORTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

### Countries of engagement

Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Canada, Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Haiti, Jamaica, St Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, St Vincent and Grenada, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and the United States of America with field presences in Haiti and Jamaica.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 186

Countries in North America have strong instruments for the protection of human rights: their respective constitutions afford important human rights protections and they have solid institutions and judicial systems to which individuals have recourse in cases of violations of their rights.

Canada underwent its second Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in April 2013. Out of the 162 recommendations it received, it accepted 122 on issues such as aboriginal peoples, racism, discrimination and xenophobia, violence against women and children, disabilities, refugees, trafficking and cooperation with international mechanisms. Recommendations were rejected on the basis that they called for specific actions that were not under consideration at the time of the review, in particular several recommendations regarding the ratification of international human rights instruments.

During the UPR of the United States in November 2010, the country received 228 recommendations. Out of these, it accepted or partially accepted 163 and rejected 45 recommendations related to ratification of treaties and withdrawal of reservations; the establishment of a national human rights institution (NHRI); an invitation to special procedures to Guantanamo and other United States-controlled overseas detention sites; a moratorium on the death penalty; and support and implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

All English-speaking Caribbean countries share similar histories, similar political and legal systems, as well as similar economic and social realities, including multi-ethnic, migrant and mobile populations. Suriname, although Dutch-Speaking, also shares many characteristics with its neighbouring countries, including its membership in the Caribbean Community and Common Market

(CARICOM.). Today, almost all Caribbean countries share the reality of uneven economic development and are affected by issues characteristic of small island states: energy insecurity; waste management; the severe impacts of natural disasters and climate change and the global financial turmoil.

Because of these common characteristics, similar human rights issues are found across the region. Lack of awareness of human rights is common throughout the region. The use of the death penalty and corporal punishment is a concern. Small indigenous populations in some countries have been subjected to discrimination, as have migrants.

In addition, over the last decade, most Caribbean territories have experienced high rates of violent crime due to the activities of criminal gangs and increased trafficking in narcotics and small arms. Violence against women and children is rife. Problems in the administration of justice, including juvenile justice, police brutality and unsatisfactory prison conditions are present in all countries. Discrimination on the grounds of race, colour, national or ethnic origin, sex, descent, sexual orientation and gender identity is also of great concern. Moreover, there are concerns about trafficking in persons and freedom of the press.

National protection systems are overall insufficient or inadequate, with weak national human rights institutions and civil society with differing levels of organization throughout the Caribbean subregion.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratification; submissions of reports by States, civil society actors, the NHRI and United Nations entities to treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR; special procedures visits; and the establishment of national participatory bodies for reporting and implementing recommendations of human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: the integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: legislation and policies on non-discrimination and equality.

- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: national human rights institutions.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: death penalty and counter-terrorism.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: sexual and gender-based violence and trafficking.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN NORTH AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ At least three countries still applying the death penalty have increased compliance with international human rights norms and standards.</p> <p>▶ At least three laws or policies to combat gender-based violence, trafficking and/or corporal punishment have been amended to comply with international human rights standards.</p> <p>▶ National human rights institutions in Bahamas and Barbados have improved compliance with the Paris Principles.</p>
	<p><b>[EA2]</b> ▶ At least three countries have ratified at least one additional international human rights treaty.</p>
	<p><b>[EA4]</b> ▶ At least two countries have legislation and policies to combat discrimination which are compliant with international human rights standards.</p>
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ▶ Increased number of submissions from United Nations Country Teams, NHRIs, civil society organizations and other stakeholders to international human rights mechanisms.</p>	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ Fully functioning participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms are in place at least in two countries (Bahamas and Barbados).</p> <p>▶ Across the region, UPR reports are submitted according to schedule and their treaty body reporting record is improved.</p> <p>▶ Countries in the Caribbean improve their engagement with special procedures mandate-holders by positively responding to their visits or responding to communications.</p>
	<p><b>[EA11]</b> ▶ UN common country programming has satisfactorily integrated international human rights standards and principles, as well as the recommendations of the human rights mechanisms, in at least two countries.</p>

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in the region.

## Haiti

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights Component in the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) Operation established in 2004
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### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 186

### Visits by special procedures in the past five years

Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti (2009, 2011, 2012, 2013)

Special Rapporteurs on contemporary forms of slavery (2009); and housing (2010)

Representative of the Secretary General on internally displaced persons (2010)

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

Special Rapporteur on internally displaced persons

### Specific mandates of the Human Rights Council

Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti

Haiti is one of the poorest and most unequal countries in the world, ranking 161st out of 187 on the Human Development Index. Four out of five Haitians are poor and half the country subsists on less than US\$1 a day. Extreme poverty is at once the effect and the cause of the fragility of the State.

The plight of people dwelling in tents – some 145,000 at the time of writing, a by-product of the 2010 earthquake – remains a complex challenge for relocation and livelihood. Tensions between political blocs often paralyze the State, hindering progress in governance, legislation, economic development and the administration of justice. Although violent crime rates are lower than many of Haiti's neighbours, the Security Council still deems the (protracted) presence of a peace mission necessary to keep the country politically stable. The forthcoming and long overdue electoral season is considered a main security challenge. Chronic human rights challenges being faced by Haiti include a very high rate of pretrial detention in the Americas, detention conditions amounting to cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment, especially overcrowding (0.61 sqm per detainee) and persistent impunity for past and current crimes.

Despite the devastating 2010 earthquake, Haiti has made significant progress in a number of areas in

the last two years. Human rights and extreme poverty have been identified as priorities, resulting in the appointment of a Minister for Human Rights and the Fight Against Extreme Poverty. The April 2013 decree establishing the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Rights creates an institutional counterpart for the UN and regional organizations working on human rights and can lead to increased reliability and engagement with international human rights protection systems. The adoption of an organic law on the Office de la Protection du Citoyen (OPC) and its increased share of the national budget will in time lead to a strong and independent national human rights institution. In December 2013, the International Coordinating Committee of NHRIs granted "A" status to the OPC. Judicial and law enforcement officers complete the national human rights protection system. Though significantly strengthened, the national police still struggle to eliminate abuses, such as excessive use of force and inefficiency, corruption and lack of independence plague the judiciary.

In Haiti, OHCHR is integrated in the United Nations Stabilisation Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) and includes three OHCHR staff working on matters that fall outside the peace operation's mandate, notably coordination of protection within the UN humanitarian and development response, technical support to follow up on recommendations issued by the UPR, treaty bodies and the special procedures and providing support to missions by special procedures mandate-holders. OHCHR, as part of MINUSTAH, the UNCT and United Nations Humanitarian Country Team, ensures cohesion and integration of human rights in the United Nations Integrated Strategic Framework (ISF). It collaborates with regional organizations (the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Union of South American Nations) and supports and cooperates with the national civil society.

## Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: submissions of reports by States and submission of information by civil society actors, the NHRI and United Nations to treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR; special procedures visits; and the functioning of national participatory body for reporting and implementing recommendations of human rights mechanisms.

- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: the integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in UN work.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: persons with disabilities; sexual and gender-based violence; and lesbian, gay, bisexual transgender, intersex (LGBTI) persons.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: national human rights institutions.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: responsiveness of the international community.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: human rights in humanitarian action; security of the person; and the United Nations response to situations of violence and insecurity.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN HAITI	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ▶ Civil society organizations contribute to the fight against impunity and respect for the rule of law.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ Increased openness to recognizing equal treatment to LGBTI persons and to discuss legislation for the recognition of their rights.</p> <p>▶ Appointment of an independent and qualified Protector and establishment of a functional and independent "Protectrice du Citoyen."</p>
	<p><b>[EA3]</b> ▶ Humanitarian and human rights protection is mainstreamed into the response of the Department for Protection of Civilians to natural disasters so that potential access to aid is commensurate and adapted to the specific vulnerabilities of victims/beneficiaries.</p>
	<p><b>[EA4]</b> ▶ Protection measures for persons living with disabilities enshrined in national legislation.</p>
	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ Fully functioning and effective participatory standing national coordinating body on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms.</p> <p>▶ Positive response to requests of special procedure mandate-holders to visit the country.</p>
<p><b>[EA10]</b> ▶ International community raises key rule of law-related human rights concerns in a cohesive fashion.</p>	
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ▶ Next ISF or UNDAF fully integrates human rights standards and principles.</p> <p>▶ Protection efforts of UN and international NGOs are well coordinated following the transition from the Protection Cluster system.</p> <p>▶ Special UN Security Operations planning increasingly takes human rights and rule of law concerns into account.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Haiti.

## Jamaica

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights Adviser*** Operation established in 2014
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### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 186

### Visits by special procedures in the past five years

Special Rapporteur on torture (2010)

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

Special Rapporteurs on human rights defenders; and on trafficking

Independent Expert on foreign debt

Jamaica is a parliamentary democracy with a well-established legislative and institutional infrastructure providing a foundation for the protection of human rights. According to the 2013 Human Development report, it ranks 85th among 186 countries with a Human Development Index of 0.730 and is regarded as an upper middle-income country. The country has achieved universal primary education and is on track to ensure environmental sustainability and eradicate extreme hunger. Approximately 92 per cent of the population have access to safe drinking water, while 98.9 per cent have access to basic sanitation. Nevertheless, Jamaica faces a number of development challenges which include: negative or very low rates of economic growth; high debt (139.7 per cent of gross domestic product), and high levels of unemployment (16.3 per cent in 2012). After years of decline, poverty is increasing, particularly in the rural areas.

The high incidence of crime and violence is, however, the most fundamental and debilitating challenge facing the country. Even with a three-year downward trend in the crime rate, data point to an increasing incidence of violence against women. In addition, issues of governance, corruption and the inadequacies of the justice system dominate. Access, quality, accountability, supply of teachers and safety and security remain key issues in the education sector. In health, problems related to child/adolescent health, maternal health and lifestyle diseases and mental health pose serious challenges. HIV/AIDS continue to threaten Jamaica's development despite some successes. Jamaica's vulnerability to natural hazards, the effect of climate change and the dependence on imported petroleum continue to be significant and costly.

Jamaica was first reviewed under the UPR in November 2010 and one hundred and twenty-one recommendations were issued. The Government accepted 63 per cent of these recommendations and commented on the remaining 37 per cent. The country was commended for the progress made in upholding human rights, however, concerns were expressed about reports of extrajudicial killings and the excessive use of force and abuse by police, related impunity and lack of accountability; discrimination, violence and exploitation, especially against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals; discrimination against women and gender-based violence; and conditions in custodial facilities. Some of the issues reflected in the recommendations which were not explicitly approved related to the death penalty, decriminalization of same-sex sexual relationships and the use of corporal punishment.

OHCHR has been providing technical cooperation and capacity-building support from Geneva to the UNCT and national stakeholders, in particular government counterparts, in the review of the status of national implementation of the recommendations of UPR and international human rights mechanisms. A human rights adviser to the UNCT will be deployed in 2014 under the United Nations Development Group-Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratifications; submissions of reports by States to treaty bodies and the UPR; special procedures visits; and establishment of a national participatory body for reporting and implementing recommendations of human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: policies in accordance with non-discrimination and equality standards; and minorities.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: national human rights institutions.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: sexual and gender-based violence.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN JAMAICA	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ Action plan prepared for the establishment of a national human rights institution.</p> <p>▶ Human rights education plan elaborated.</p> <p>▶ Commission of inquiry is established and functions in line with international human rights standards.</p> <p>▶ National Strategic Plan for Ending Gender-Based Violence is implemented.</p> <p>▶ National food and nutrition security policy completed and approved.</p>
	<p><b>[EA2]</b> ▶ At least one additional international human rights treaty ratified.</p>
	<p><b>[EA4]</b> ▶ Human rights-based approach incorporated in the National Strategic Plan on HIV/AIDS.</p>
	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ Establishment of a participatory standing national coordinating body on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms and timely submission of reports to treaty bodies and UPR.</p> <p>▶ Positive response to special procedures mandate-holders requests to visit the country.</p>
<b>[EA11]</b>	<p>▶ Common country programming documents, namely the 2012-2016 and 2017-2021 UNDAFs developed and implemented in line with a human rights-based approach.</p> <p>▶ The Guidance Note of the Secretary-General on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities has been substantially implemented and incorporated in programmes of UN entities.</p>

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Jamaica.

## CENTRAL AMERICA AND THE SPANISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN

<b>Field presence</b>	OHCHR Regional Office for Central America, based in Panama City, Panama Operation established in 2007
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### Countries of engagement

Belize, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Nicaragua and Panama (complementing the field presences in Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and covering Cuba and the Dominican Republic until the deployment of a human rights adviser in 2014)

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 186

During the past two decades, Central America has made significant political, economic, and social progress. All countries covered by the Regional Office for Central America (ROCA) are ruled by democratically elected governments and over the next four years new elections are scheduled to take place in all of them.

Nevertheless, these five countries continue to face a number of challenges. Economic recovery remains fragile and the region continues to be characterized by poverty and high levels of socio-economic inequalities. Persistent patterns of racial and/or ethnic discrimination against indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants exist and social tensions related to the implementation of development projects on indigenous lands are on the rise. Gender discrimination is deeply rooted, leading, *inter alia*, to high levels of gender-based violence. Insecurity and violence are particularly high in the region, especially in connection with organized crime. Central America continues to be a migration hotspot and irregular migrants experience many forms of serious abuses and human rights violations. Corruption and impunity are perceived as widespread and rule of law institutions remain weak. Domestic normative frameworks generally recognize and protect human rights.

At its UPR second cycle session in May 2013, Cuba was commended for its progress in several fields, including women's rights, housing, education, health, food, the Millennium Development Goals, migration, and its international assistance in particular in the health sector, despite resource constraints due to

sanctions. Recommendations were also made on issues such as the situation of human rights defenders and recognition of their work, freedom of expression and association, reform of the penal code and short-term detentions.

The Regional Office for Central America was established in 2007. ROCA engages regularly with United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) in the region, is an active member of the United Nations Development Group Latin American and the Caribbean mission (UNDG-LAC) and interacts with regional and subregional organizations, such as the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Central American Integration System. In 2014, a human rights adviser will be deployed under the United Nations Development Group-Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism (UNDG-HRM) to the UNDG- Latin America and the Caribbean Team in Panama City.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratifications; submission of information by civil society actors, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and United Nations entities to treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR; and establishment of national participatory bodies for reporting and implementing recommendations of human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: land, water and sanitation and housing rights; rights to consultation and to give informed consent; post 2015-development agenda; and integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: legislation and policy on non-discrimination; women; racial and religious discrimination; indigenous peoples; afro-descendants; migrants; and lesbian, gay, bisexual transgender and intersex persons.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: human rights in the administration of justice.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: sexual and gender-based violence and insecurity.

## OHCHR expected contribution

## ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN CENTRAL AMERICA

RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ▶ Increased number of consultation processes between States and indigenous peoples in order to obtain the latter's free, prior and informed consent in line with the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.</p> <p>▶ Enhanced engagement of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants in mechanisms and forums for political dialogue in the region.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ Judicial operators increasingly apply international and regional human rights standards in their work regarding: women's and indigenous peoples rights, anti-discrimination, the rule of law and impunity.</p> <p>▶ Measures taken to combat gender-based violence, in particular through the use of the Latin American Protocol for the Investigation and Prosecution of Gender-Based Killings of Women.</p> <hr/> <p><b>[EA2]</b> ▶ Increased ratification of international human rights instruments, especially CPED and the OPs to CRC (3rd) and ICESCR and increased number of declarations under article 14 of ICERD.</p> <hr/> <p><b>[EA4]</b> ▶ Public policies, legislative frameworks and practices in the area of non-discrimination (racial discrimination, gender equality) are in compliance with international human rights standards.</p> <p>▶ Three NHRIs in the region have units or programmes to combat racial discrimination in compliance with international standards.</p>
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ▶ Increased number of civil society organizations, NHRIs and UN entities making substantial submissions to the international human rights mechanisms.</p>	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ Establish fully functioning participatory standing national coordinating bodies in some of the countries covered by the regional office and strengthening the existing ones in Costa Rica and Panama to report/reply to individual communications and enquiries; Integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms.</p>
<p><b>[EA10]</b> ▶ A human rights approach is increasingly incorporated in the implementation of the Central American Security Strategy at both regional and national levels.</p>	
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ▶ UNDG LAC integrates a human rights-based approach in its support to countries in the context of the Millennium Development Goals and the post-2015 development agenda and implements the "Rights on Front" plan of action.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in the region.

## Dominican Republic

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights Adviser*** Operation established in 2014
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### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 186

### Visits by special procedures in the past five years

Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (2007)

Independent Expert on minorities (2007)

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

Special Rapporteurs on torture; extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; trafficking in persons; and human rights defenders

The Dominican Republic is one of the fastest growing economies in recent years in Latin America and the Caribbean, however, the living conditions of the population are characterized by a high level of poverty (40.4 per cent in 2011) and extreme poverty (10.4 per cent in 2010). The 2013 Human Development Index ranks the Dominican Republic 98th out of 187 countries. President Danilo Medina took office in May 2012 and his government has taken important steps to guaranteeing human rights through the establishment of several institutions, such as the Inter-Institutional Commission on Human Rights within the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Human Rights Office within the Attorney-General's Office, the Inter-Institutional Commission to Combat Unlawful Trafficking and Smuggling of Persons and a commission to propose legislative and policy measures for comprehensive police reform. The country has also established a Constitutional Court following the 2010 constitutional reform and, in May 2013, appointed the first Ombudsperson. Despite these efforts, the human rights situation remains critical on several fronts, especially in terms of discrimination against Haitian migrants and Dominicans of Haitian descent, including denial

of citizenship, a lack of access to birth registration and forced evictions; discrimination and violence against women; limited cases of extrajudicial killings allegedly committed by the national police, as well as the deteriorating living conditions and reduced access to social security services for low income households. Women and children are also trafficked to, from, and within the country, usually to urban or tourist areas for sexual exploitation.

Since 2011, the OHCHR Regional Office for Central America (ROCA) has undertaken different activities in the Dominican Republic, including, inter alia, technical advice and training for national stakeholders to enable them to respond to their reporting obligations in the framework of the UPR and other international human rights mechanisms. ROCA has closely engaged with the UNCT, who throughout the last four years has shown an increased commitment to further support the Government in addressing human rights issues. Moreover, the UNCT carried out a human rights-based analysis for the UNDAF 2012-2016. In 2014, a human rights adviser will be deployed to the UNCT in the Dominican Republic under the the United Nations Development Group-Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: submission of information by civil society actors, the NHRI and United Nations entities to the treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR; establishment of a national participatory body for reporting and implementing recommendations of human rights mechanisms; and integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: racial and religious discrimination and minorities.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ► Increased number of submissions by civil society organizations, NHRI and UN entities to international human rights mechanisms.</p>	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ► Establishment of a participatory standing national coordinating body on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms.</p>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ► Recommendations from human rights mechanisms have been integrated by the UNCT in at least three of its programmes.</p> <p>► The Guidance Note of the Secretary-General on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities has been implemented and incorporated into UN programmes.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in the Dominican Republic.

## Guatemala

<b>Field presence</b>	Country Office Operation established in 2005
<b>Engagement with the human rights mechanisms</b>	See overview table on page 186
<b>Visits by special procedures in the past five years</b>	Special Rapporteurs on human rights defenders (2008); education (2008); migrants (2008); the independence of judges and lawyers (2009); the right to food (2009); indigenous peoples (2010); the right to health (2010) and sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography (2012)
<b>Pending visit requests by special procedures</b>	Special Rapporteurs on the right to truth; torture; and freedom of peaceful assembly and association Working Group on mercenaries
<b>Specific mandates of the Human Rights Council</b>	The High Commissioner submits an annual report to the Human Rights Council on the activities of its Office in Guatemala

Since 2005, the High Commissioner (HC) has submitted annual reports to the Human Rights Council (HRC) on the activities of her Office in Guatemala. In her reports, the HC has emphasized a number of critical issues that are pending more than 15 years after the country ended its civil war and which a comprehensive set of peace accords sought to address. Long-standing gaps in the enjoyment of human rights persist, including high levels of insecurity, impunity and poverty; malnutrition; discrimination and violence against women; and discrimination against indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants in the cultural, economic, political and social spheres. In line with recommendations issued during the HC's visit to the country in March 2012, OHCHR-Guatemala has sought to engage with national actors to establish a broad human rights agenda aimed at ensuring that security policies comply with international human rights standards; reforming the legal framework and judicial and prosecutorial careers to enhance the rule of law; strengthening the work of mechanisms and institutions addressing social conflicts; promoting measures to combat racism and discrimination and ensuring the full participation of indigenous peoples in the country's development.

The 2005 agreement, which established OHCHR's Office in Guatemala, was extended for three years in 2008 and 2011. The renewal of the agreement will be reviewed with the government in 2014. OHCHR-Guatemala monitors the human rights situations and provides technical assistance to State institutions and civil society. The Office is currently based in Guatemala City but at the time of writing, was analysing the feasibility of establishing at least two offices in the interior of the country in order to increase its capacity to work with duty-bearers and rights-holders outside the capital.

The UNCT in Guatemala was, in December 2013, undertaking a review of its 2010-2014 UNDAF and preparing the UNDAF for the 2015-2019 period.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: submission of information by civil society actors, the NHRI and United Nations entities to treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR; implementation of recommendations of human rights mechanisms including through national coordination mechanisms; and integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: business and human rights; land, water and sanitation and housing rights; and public policies and budget processes.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: women; persons with disabilities; indigenous peoples; youth; older persons; and lesbian, gay, bisexual transgender and intersex persons (LGBTI).
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: human rights defenders; and NHRIs.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: human rights in the administration of justice; legal and judicial protection of economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs); and transitional justice.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: sexual and gender-based violence and security (SGBV).

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN GUATEMALA	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ▶ A national network of ESCRs non-governmental organizations monitors the implementation of public policies (including budgets) related to the right to food, land and housing and engages with Government Institutions in these areas.</p> <p>Indigenous organizations and traditional authorities and communities:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Increasingly participate in decision-making process in relation to development projects affecting them; and</li> <li>▶ Use litigation as a channel to demand recognition of their rights.</li> </ul> <p>Improved use of a national protection system by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The general public, particularly youth and women; and</li> <li>▶ Rural women, particularly indigenous women, on issues related to violence against women.</li> </ul>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ Selected policies related to the exploitation of natural resources and rural and local development incorporate human rights standards in their design and implementation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Specific business sectors (in particular, the extractive, energy and agribusiness sectors) increasingly incorporate risk-assessment and remedial mechanisms, particularly when they operate in or near indigenous territories.</li> <li>▶ State institutions take into account indigenous peoples' traditional authorities and specific forms of organization in discussing selected legislation and policies affecting them.</li> <li>▶ The Labour Inspectorate adopts and increasingly implements a policy to monitor the fulfilment of land workers' rights.</li> <li>▶ The Attorney-General's Office, the judiciary, public defender and Constitutional Court increasingly incorporate human rights norms and standards in their policies and decisions; use standards relative to the rights of indigenous peoples in court proceedings and decisions and coordinate more effectively with indigenous justice systems.</li> </ul> <p>The NHRI fulfils its mandate in accordance with international human rights standards in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Investigating human rights abuses; and</li> <li>▶ Conflict prevention efforts.</li> <li>▶ Public policies in the area of security incorporate human rights standards.</li> <li>▶ State policies and practices increasingly address SGBV, including through the application of national legislation by the judiciary.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>[EA3]</b> ▶ Strengthened protection mechanisms for human rights defenders working in accordance with international standards.</p>
	<p><b>[EA4]</b> ▶ Selected State institutions with potential impact on the situation of indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities and other discriminated groups (older persons, LGBTI, youth) increasingly incorporate human rights standards in their policies and practices.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Internal policies of selected State institutions promote the enhanced representation of indigenous peoples, particularly indigenous women.</li> </ul>
<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ Civil society and the NHRI make more use of treaty bodies' individual cases procedures or treaty-body/UPR follow-up procedures.</p>	<p><b>[EA7]</b> ▶ State institutions are coordinated to achieve integrated reporting and implementation of recommendations.</p>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ▶ UN agency plans and programmes deriving from the 2015-2019 UNDAF serve to systematically follow-up recommendations from UN human rights mechanisms.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Guatemala.

## Honduras

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights Adviser Operation established in 2010
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### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 186

### Visits by special procedures in the past five years

Working Group on use of mercenaries (2013)  
Special Rapporteurs on freedom of expression (2012/2013); human rights defenders (2012); and sale of children (2012)

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

Special Rapporteurs on human rights defenders  
Visits of the Special Rapporteurs on the right to food; freedom of peaceful assembly and association; and the independence of judges and lawyers, have already been agreed

Honduras faces severe structural problems that are aggravated by deteriorating socio-economic, political and security conditions. The main human rights concerns in the country include widespread violence and insecurity, impunity, discrimination, lack of independence of the judiciary and the state of the penitentiary system. Honduras has the highest homicide rate for countries at peace and an estimated impunity rate of 95 per cent. The national police force is currently facing allegations that some of its members were involved in several crimes and the recently created military police raises many human rights concerns. The penitentiary situation remains very worrying and includes overcrowding and a failure to separate convicts from prisoners in pre-trial detention and children from adult inmates. Shared governance of the prisons by penitentiary guards and inmates is also common. A Transition Commission for the Penitentiary System was established in 2013 to facilitate the creation of a National Penitentiary Institute. However, lack of capacity, resources and political support hampers its work. Independence of the judiciary system is also at stake and the long-standing land disputes between peasants and landowners have spread beyond the Bajo Aguán Valley which now affect different regions.

Human rights defenders, journalists and judicial officials have been particularly subjected to attacks on account of their work. Fifty-three lawyers were murdered between 2010 and 2012. According to official figures, at least 117 members of the LGBTI community and 36 journalists have been killed in the last 10 years. The Minister of Justice and Human Rights (SJDH) drafted a bill on the protection of human rights defenders in 2013. At the time of writing the National Congress had not yet considered the bill. A National Action Plan on Human Rights, elaborated with the support of the office of the Human Rights Adviser (HRA), was approved by the SJDH in early 2013 as the first public policy on human rights in the country.

The Office of the HRA in Honduras dates back to 2010, when a Senior HRA was deployed to Tegucigalpa. The UNDAF document covers 2012 to 2016.

## Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratifications; submissions of reports by States Parties and submission of information by civil society actors, the NHRI and the United Nations to treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR; and establishment of a national participatory body for reporting and implementation of recommendations of human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: women; persons with disabilities; and minorities.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: human rights defenders; media freedom; human rights education; and NHRIs.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: human rights in the administration of justice; legislation, policies, and torture prevention mechanisms; and deprivation of liberty.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV); insecurity; and United Nations response to situations of violence and insecurity.

## OHCHR expected contribution

## ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN HONDURAS

RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ The ombudsman's office works in conformity with international standards.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ First Public Policy on Human Rights 2013 – 2022 implemented in full compliance with international human rights standards.</li> <li>▶ Human rights education integrated in primary, secondary and higher education.</li> </ul> <p>Human rights included in the curricula of training programmes for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Judges, prosecutors, penitentiary personnel; and</li> <li>▶ Public security forces.</li> <li>▶ Special Attorney's Office for Women duly investigates cases of SGBV in compliance with international human rights standards.</li> </ul> <hr/> <p><b>[EA2]</b> ▶ Optional Protocols to ICESCR and CEDAW ratified and declarations made recognizing the competence of CERD, the Human Rights Committee, CAT, CED and CMW to handle individual complaints.</p> <hr/> <p><b>[EA3]</b> ▶ A protection mechanism for human rights defenders and journalists is in place.</p> <hr/> <p><b>[EA4]</b> ▶ A National Plan against Racial Discrimination is in place and implemented by the Ministry of Indigenous peoples and Afro-Hondurans.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The General Direction for the Development of Persons with Disabilities implements a Public Policy on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in compliance with international human rights standards.</li> </ul>
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ▶ Increased number of substantive submissions to the human rights mechanisms by NHRI and civil society organizations.</p>	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ Establishment of a participatory standing national coordinating body on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Submission or reports in conformity with reporting guidelines.</li> </ul>
<p><b>[EA10]</b> ▶ Effective engagement of the international community with the Government in relation to specific human rights issues.</p>	
<p><b>[EA11]</b> UN agencies:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Increasingly apply a rights-based approach to their violence and insecurity programmes.</li> <li>▶ Substantially apply the Guidance Note of the Secretary-General on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.</li> </ul>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Honduras.

## Mexico

<b>Field presence</b>	Country Office Operation established in 2002
<b>Engagement with the human rights mechanisms</b>	
See overview table on page 186	
<b>Visits by special procedures in the past five years</b>	
Special Rapporteurs on the right to education (2010); freedom of opinion and expression (2010); the independence of judges and lawyers (2010); the right to food (2011); and summary executions (2013) Working Group on disappearances (2011)	
<b>Pending visit requests by special procedures</b>	
Special Rapporteur on torture has scheduled a visit for 2014	

Mexico's main human rights-related challenges remain linked to the weaknesses of key State institutions, mostly in the security and justice systems and their lack of independence, accountability and proper checks and balances. Impunity and clientelism are consequently widespread among political elites. These problems are compounded by rampant criminal violence. Organized crime in Mexico has evolved from a drug traffic transshipment point to U.S. markets, to a complex network encompassing local drug distribution for consumption, money laundering, stealing oil from pipelines (valued at as much as US\$4 billion each year), extortion and kidnapping for profit, human trafficking and the smuggling of irregular migrants.

As a response to this situation, successive governments since 2006 have resorted to the use of the military in public functions, which has resulted in human rights violations. The Government that was elected in 2012 has outlined new policies aimed at withdrawing the military from public security tasks. The federal police force is now under the authority of the Ministry of Interior and a renewed approach aimed to centralize control over the municipal police at the State level and an ambitious plan to prevent community-based violence are under way.

Faced with a forecast of weak economic growth and public disillusionment related to the outcome of the democratic transition process, the President upon taking Office convened the nation's three major political parties to sign a "Pact for Mexico" that includes commitments to a series of reforms and announced the revamping of poverty reduction

programmes. Nonetheless, protests and social unrest have occurred and are likely to continue.

Legal reforms enacted during the past years have improved compliance of Mexican law with international standards. The role of the judiciary in this process is crucial.

The UNCT worked with the new federal administration on the development of the UNDAF 2014-2019 and ensured it was in alignment with the priorities of the National Development Programme. The UNDAF was finalized and signed in March 2013.

OHCHR's office in Mexico was established in 2002 as part of a technical cooperation agreement. In 2008, its functions were expanded to include monitoring.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratifications; withdrawal of reservations; submission of information by civil society actors, the NHRI and United Nations entities to treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR; and implementation of recommendations of human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: business and human rights; land, water and sanitation and housing rights; right to development; post-2015 development agenda; public policies and budget processes; social and cultural rights; and integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: women; migrants; internally displaced persons; indigenous peoples; and LGBTI persons.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: freedom of expression; human rights defenders; and media freedom.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: human rights in the administration of justice; legislation, policies and mechanisms to prevent torture; deprivation of liberty and disappearances; and legal and judicial protection of economic, social and cultural rights.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: investigations, monitoring and reporting; insecurity; United Nations response to situations of violence and insecurity; and Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN MEXICO	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
	<p><b>[EA1]</b> Legislation in compliance with international human rights standards adopted on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The right to consultation of indigenous peoples;</li> <li>▶ The rights to food and water;</li> <li>▶ Freedom of expression; and</li> <li>▶ The use of force, military jurisdiction, victims' rights and asylum-seekers.</li> </ul> <p>▶ Paradigmatic cases on which OHCHR has submitted legal briefs, especially at the Supreme Court, are resolved in compliance with international standards.</p> <p>▶ An increasing number of judicial institutions and universities formally incorporate human rights in their curricula.</p> <p>▶ Human rights indicators are adopted by an increasing number of federal and local institutions and to evaluate the impact of public programmes and the level of implementation of recommendations of international human rights mechanisms.</p> <p>▶ An increasing number of local states derogate the figure of "arraigo" and the federal law and the laws of an increasing number of states include the definition of enforced disappearance and torture in accordance with international standards.</p>
	<p><b>[EA2]</b> ▶ The competence of CESCR, CRC and CED to receive and consider individual communications is recognized and reservations or interpretative declarations to international human rights treaties are withdrawn.</p>
	<p><b>[EA3]</b> Paradigmatic human rights cases raised by OHCHR:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Relating to violations of economic, social and cultural rights, business and the right to free, prior and informed consultation of indigenous peoples, receive a positive response by authorities; or</li> <li>▶ Result in the implementation of protection measures by the Protection Mechanism's Governing Board, when relevant.</li> </ul> <p>Establishment of National Preventive Mechanisms:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ For the Prevention of Torture; and</li> <li>▶ To search for disappeared and missing persons.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>[EA4]</b> ▶ Human rights-compliant legislation adopted on anti-discrimination issues and/or same-sex marriages and/or sexual and reproductive rights.</p>
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ▶ Increased number of substantial submissions to UN human rights mechanisms by civil society.</p>	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ The National Human Rights Plan and respective local and sectorial programmes are elaborated in compliance with international human rights principles and standards.</p>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ▶ Selected joint programmes developed under the UNDAF, as well as those on migration, maternal mortality and youth, incorporate international human rights standards.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Mexico.

## SOUTH AMERICA

<b>Field presence</b>	OHCHR Regional Office for South America, based in Santiago, Chile Operation established in 2009
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### Countries of engagement

Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela (complementing the OHCHR country presences in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador and Paraguay)

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 186

Most countries covered by the Regional Office for South America are rather stable democracies and have established legal and institutional human rights frameworks but still need to strengthen their capacity to promote and protect human rights. Most of them have recently held or will hold presidential elections. Although there has been variable progress in coming to terms with past crimes after the fall of dictatorial regimes and there is a possibility of voting in free elections, people are demanding more from their democracies, more equitable access to economic, social and cultural rights, less discriminatory practices towards vulnerable groups, better security and increased participation. These demands have at times been responded to with violence.

Violence persists and is related to inefficient State strategies, in particular in curbing the activities of organized crime. High murder rates mainly affect already vulnerable populations, primarily those affected by poverty and marginalization, while gender-based violence, homophobic-driven crimes and harassment of activists are a continuing concern. Arbitrary killings or arrests, discriminatory access to justice and abuse of pretrial detention occur. Widespread impunity and the ineffective administration of justice are compounded by poor prison conditions and torture, underlining the importance of the ratification of the OP-CAT and the establishment and effective functioning of National Preventive Mechanisms against torture.

The region has not escaped the global economic crisis, but has succeeded fairly well in mitigating its effects largely as a result of social policies and is now experiencing higher growth rates than other parts of the world. Unequal wealth distribution remains at the core of many rights violations, while rocketing growth has led to a reduction of

international aid. Millions are no longer living in poverty, but the problem has by no means ended. Some extractive activities can harm the environment and other natural resources and have an impact on the rights of peasants, people of African Descent and indigenous peoples. This situation has at times resulted in violence at demonstrations and repressive responses from States. There are widespread violations of the rights of indigenous peoples to participation and prior and informed consultation.

Harmonization of national laws with the international human rights treaties, and to a lesser degree with public policy and jurisprudence, is fairly advanced and ongoing. All countries, with the exception of Brazil, have established NHRIs in accordance with the Paris Principles, although their effectiveness and independence have at times come into question.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratification; submissions of reports by States Parties and submission of information by civil society actors, the NHRI and United Nations entities to treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR; and implementation of recommendations of human rights mechanisms, including through national coordination mechanisms.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: right to consultation; land, water and sanitation and housing rights; public policies and budget processes; and the integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: anti-discrimination and equality legislation in place and used by judges.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: civil society empowerment and the responsiveness of the international community.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: national prevention mechanisms against torture and legal protection of ESCR.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: SGBV; trafficking; and insecurity.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN SOUTH AMERICA	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ► Civil society in Argentina, Chile and Peru increasingly uses national human rights protection mechanisms and advocates for their effective functioning.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ► Intervention protocols and internal instructions of security forces are in line with human rights standards in Brazil and Chile.</p> <p>Regulations and public policies in compliance with international standards are in place in:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>► Chile to combat human trafficking; and</li> <li>► Uruguay to provide assistance and reparation to victims.</li> </ul> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>► An increased number of judges use anti-discrimination and equality standards in their rulings in Argentina, Chile and Peru.</li> <li>► Chile and Peru implement new standards on the right to consultation of indigenous peoples in compliance with international human rights law and extractive industries in those countries respect the right of indigenous peoples to consultation.</li> <li>► Official curricula for the judiciary incorporates the justiciability of economic social and cultural rights in at least three countries.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>[EA2]</b> ► At least one international human rights treaty and five Optional Protocols are ratified.</p>
	<p><b>[EA3]</b> ► National Preventive Mechanisms against torture (as per OP-CAT) are functioning in conformity with international human rights standards in at least three countries.</p>
	<p><b>[EA4]</b> ► Improved legislative and policy anti-discrimination frameworks in all countries in the region.</p>
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ► CSOs and NHRIs, when applicable, make substantive submissions to treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR in Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Uruguay and Venezuela.</p>	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ► Improved timely submission of treaty bodies and UPR national reports in compliance with the reporting guidelines.</p>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ► UNDAFs of Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Peru, Uruguay and, Venezuela incorporate a human rights-based approach.</p> <p>► UNCT and other international actors address human rights concerns with Governments of the region.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in the region.

## Bolivia

<b>Field presence</b>	Country Office Operation established in 2007
<b>Engagement with the human rights mechanisms</b>	
See overview table on page 186	
<b>Visits by special procedures in the past five years</b>	
Special Rapporteur on racism (2012)	
<b>Pending visit requests by special procedures</b>	
None	

After the adoption of a new Constitution in 2009, the Plurinational State of Bolivia embarked on a reform process to implement the new enshrined provisions, including those addressing the full range of human rights. In this framework, basic organic laws were adopted to establish the foundations of the State, including the new administration of justice system.

Additionally, legislation was passed for the promotion of the rights of indigenous peoples and Afro-Bolivians, as well as of women, children, persons with disabilities and refugees and to protect everyone from racism, all forms of discrimination and human trafficking. Over the past few years, social programmes and a positive trend in macroeconomic indicators have produced improvements in the enjoyment of economic and social rights, as indicated by the progressive reduction of poverty and extreme poverty. Nevertheless, important gaps in the enjoyment of rights remain between urban and rural areas, especially for indigenous and Afro-Bolivian women. In a social context still affected by deep-rooted racism, discrimination and intolerance, the adoption of legislation, public policy and institutional measures to combat this issue have together led to important progress. The full enjoyment of the rights of indigenous peoples remains a challenge, although the issue is at the top of the public agenda. While in practice, processes for consultations of indigenous peoples have been questioned, the participatory process towards drafting a comprehensive legal framework on the right to consultation is expected to conclude positively.

In spite of major ongoing reforms, the long-standing structural crisis in the criminal justice system persists and includes corruption, impunity, lack of access and long delays. These circumstances are among the main factors contributing to the serious deterioration in the situation of prisons, characterized by overcrowding and high rates of pretrial detention. High figures of violence against women are another

cause for concern, although the 2013 adoption of the Comprehensive Law to Guarantee Women a Life Free from Violence is an important step. The next presidential and legislative elections will take place in late 2014. Notwithstanding the persistence of a marked political polarization, elections in past years were held in a general climate of calm and respect for civil and political rights.

On 21 August 2013, the agreement between the Government of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights was extended until August 2015. The agreement focuses on the establishment and functions of the Office in Bolivia, which covers the provision of technical assistance to State institutions and civil society organizations, the promotion of human rights and monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation. The UNDAF for the period 2013-2017 includes four prioritized areas: civil and political rights, social and cultural rights, economic rights and environmental rights.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: submissions of reports by States Parties to treaty bodies and the UPR; and the implementation of recommendations of human rights mechanisms, including through the establishment of a national coordination mechanisms.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: business and human rights; land, water and sanitation and housing rights; right to consultation; human rights indicators, public policies and budget processes; and the integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: legislation, policies and a national commission on non-discrimination and equality; women; indigenous peoples; and minorities.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: freedom of expression and human rights defenders.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: human rights in the administration of justice; legislation, policies and torture prevention mechanisms; and deprivation of liberty.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and trafficking.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN BOLIVIA	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ▶ Indigenous organizations meaningfully participate in consultation processes.</p> <p>▶ Human rights defenders seek restitution and/or redress for violations of the rights of indigenous peoples.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ State institutions increasingly incorporate a human rights-based approach into their annual plans, policies and budgets, including the use of human rights indicators, and apply the right to free, prior and informed consultation.</p> <p>▶ Significant improvement in the compliance of legislation on freedom of opinion and expression and the right to information with relevant international standards.</p> <p>▶ The Council of Magistrates, the Plurinational Constitutional Court, the Public Prosecutor's Office and the Ministry of Justice improve the compliance with human rights standards of their policies and programmes in relation to judicial independence, access to justice, institutional transparency and the criminal justice system.</p> <p>▶ The School for Judges, the School for Public Prosecutors and the Plurinational Academy of Constitutional Studies incorporate international human rights law into their curricula.</p> <p>▶ Relevant public institutions comply with international human rights standards regarding the use and conditions of pre-trial detention.</p> <p>▶ State institutions implement effective policies and measures to foster gender equality and combat SGBV, in line with CEDAW and ICERD recommendations.</p> <p>▶ Police officers increasingly apply international human rights norms and standards, in particular those relating to the protection of victims or persons at risk of becoming victims of human trafficking and SGBV.</p>
	<p><b>[EA3]</b> ▶ A National Preventive Mechanism against torture in compliance with OP-CAT is established and functioning with sufficient resources to fulfil its mandate.</p> <p>▶ Cases of human rights violations affecting women, including indigenous women, and victims of violence (SGBV, human trafficking and political violence) are increasingly addressed.</p>
	<p><b>[EA4]</b> ▶ Measures are taken to protect groups in conditions of vulnerability, such as LGBTI persons, persons with disabilities and migrants in compliance with international human rights norms and standards.</p> <p>▶ The National Committee against Racism effectively advises organizations of discriminated groups and monitors the implementation of the Action Plan.</p>
	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ A national coordinating body to report to treaty bodies, reply to individual communications and enquiries and ensure regular follow-up to recommendations of all international mechanisms is established and effectively functioning.</p> <p>▶ A National Human Rights Action Plan integrating follow-up to selected recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms is adopted and a participative coordination mechanism for its implementation is in place.</p>
	<p><b>[EA11]</b> ▶ UN agencies implement the "Guidance Note of the Secretary-General on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities" and the "Guidance on Indigenous Peoples in Voluntary Isolation and Initial Contact."</p>

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Bolivia.

## Colombia

<b>Field presence</b>	Country Office Operation established in 1996
<b>Engagement with the human rights mechanisms</b>	See overview table on page 186
<b>Visits by special procedures in the past five years</b>	Special Rapporteurs on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; indigenous peoples; human rights defenders; and the independence of judges and lawyers (all in 2009) Independent Expert on minorities (2010)
<b>Pending visit requests by special procedures</b>	Special Rapporteurs on adequate housing; the right to food; internally displaced persons; and violence against women Independent Expert on extreme poverty Working Group on mercenaries
<b>Other mandates</b>	Security Council resolution 1612 (2005) on Children in Armed Conflict. Visit of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on sexual violence in conflict in 2012.

Colombia is a middle-high-income country. It suffers from an internal armed conflict which has resulted in the displacement of more than five million internally displaced persons, according to the Government's Unit for the Attention and Comprehensive Reparation to Victims.

Peace negotiations with the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia – People's Army have been ongoing since November 2012. Agreements have been reached on two agenda items: rural development and political participation. After over 50 years of conflict, making the transition to peace will require significant efforts. Institutions and attitudes reflect the fact that generations have lived in an environment of armed conflict. Mistrust runs deep and is perhaps the greatest obstacle to peace. The possibility of negotiations with the National Liberation Army was announced in 2013. Many human rights violations linked to the internal armed conflict could be ended or greatly reduced if progress reached in the peace negotiations leads to well-conceived and implemented peace accords. An end to hostilities will also create a unique opportunity to address human rights more broadly. Collaboration between rights-holders and duty-bearers to address human rights challenges together is essential.

Even after peace is achieved, Colombia will face structural human rights challenges, such as the prevailing high levels of poverty and inequality, discrimination, limited access to health services and justice, as well as the violence caused by the so-called post-demobilization groups. The Office has aligned its thematic priorities to the needs of the country, including transitional justice, citizen security and security sector reform, human rights defenders and economic, social and cultural rights. OHCHR monitors and regularly reports to the Government on the progress and difficulties related to the implementation of its programmes as a contribution to the Government's efforts to improve the situation. In addition, social mobilization and protests of, inter alia, peasants and trade unions have repeatedly occurred throughout 2013. The Office contributed to the Government's efforts to promote social dialogue and acts as guarantor of a number of agreements, in close collaboration with the UN system.

The Office is OHCHR's largest stand-alone country office. It operates from Bogotá and has 8 offices across the country, 3 of which were opened in 2013 to intensify its work in regions with particularly complex human rights problems. The presence of the Office was extended until 31 October 2014 with a mandate that includes: monitoring of the human rights situation; technical assistance to the Government and civil society and promotion of international human rights and international humanitarian law standards. Results achieved by the Colombian State with UN system support will be reviewed in 2014 with a view to adopting a new UNDAF in 2015.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: implementation of recommendations.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: business and human rights; the right to consultation; and land, health, education and housing rights.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: legislation, policies and institutions.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: human rights education; and NHRIs.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: administration of justice and transitional justice.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: investigations, monitoring and reporting; SGBV; insecurity; and United Nations response.

## OHCHR expected contribution

## ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN COLOMBIA

RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ► Increased use of national protection systems to ensure free, prior and informed consultation.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ► Increased compliance with ESCR standards by the Administrative Department for Social Prosperity and the Ministries of Health and Education.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>► National Human Rights Institution functioning in accordance with Paris Principles.</li> <li>► A human rights education programme, with a focus on: youth, effectively institutionalized.</li> <li>► Decisions of the national justice system, including ordinary, indigenous and special jurisdictions (military justice), increasingly conform to human rights standards, norms and principles.</li> <li>► Regional and municipal Governments, the national police, the National Protection Unit, the Ombudsman's Office and the Municipal Ombudspersons (<i>Personeros</i>) proactively prevent and respond to human rights violations.</li> <li>► Policies and regulatory frameworks applied by the national police and the armed forces in relation to security and the use of force, including in the context of demonstrations, increasingly comply with human rights standards.</li> </ul> <hr/> <p><b>[EA3]</b> ► Increased integration of human rights standards into business operations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>► Effective mechanisms and measures are in place to protect civil society actors, including human rights defenders.</li> <li>► Transitional justice mechanisms, including accountability, truth, reconciliation and reparations mechanisms, allowing for the active participation of victims, established and/or functioning in accordance with international standards.</li> <li>► Mechanisms for dialogue and negotiation are in place to enable the Government and CSOs to resolve disputes and avoid escalation of violence, including in the event of a peace agreement.</li> </ul> <hr/> <p><b>[EA4]</b> ► Increased implementation of anti-discrimination legislation and governmental initiatives and compliance with anti-discrimination standards by selected institutions (including Presidential programmes for indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants and initiatives of attention to ethnic minorities within the Ministry of the Interior).</p> <hr/> <p><b>[EA6]</b> ► Increased follow-up to recommendations issued by UPR and other human rights mechanisms, with the participation of national authorities and civil society.</p>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ► Preparedness, response and recovery policies, protocols and mechanisms of the United Nations to deal with national disasters, conflict and other situations of violence and insecurity comply with human rights standards.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Colombia.

## Ecuador

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights Adviser Operation established in 2007
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### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 186

### Visits by special procedures in the past five years

Independent Experts on foreign debt (2009)  
Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (2009)  
Special Rapporteurs on indigenous peoples (2009); contemporary forms of slavery (2010); extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (2010); and education (2012)

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression  
Independent Expert on cultural rights

Ecuador's population of 14 million people is ethnically diverse. High oil prices have allowed for increased social expenditure on education, health, housing and social security in recent years. Poverty decreased by 38.3 per cent but still affects mainly indigenous peoples and people of African descent in rural areas and urban slums. Despite significant progress, social, economic and cultural discrimination patterns that affect indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants continue to exist. Gender and sexual orientation-based discrimination are also rooted in local cultural practices.

President Rafael Correa, in office since January 2007, was re-elected on February 2013 and has a majority in the National Assembly. The Heads of the five branches of government have now been appointed and are expected to remain in office during the next term.

UN human rights protection mechanisms, including some treaty bodies committees and special protection procedures established by the HRC have expressed concern regarding different issues, such as independence of the judiciary, freedom of expression and freedom of assembly, the rights of LGBTI persons, as well as human rights defenders and indigenous peoples (exploitation of natural resources in indigenous lands, amnesty for leaders accused of terrorism and sabotage, bilingual intercultural

education, approval of legislation on water, lands and territories and respect for indigenous justice systems).

Key gaps identified by the UN human rights mechanisms with regard to the national protection system include: lack of independence, effectiveness and limited human rights knowledge; lack of trust in the system; and accessibility (people living in poverty and/or in rural areas lack the financial means to bring their claims to court and, in the case of indigenous peoples, face language barriers in their access to justice).

The Human Rights Adviser position was established in May 2007. The initial mandate focused on supporting the judiciary and later the constitutional reform process. Since 2010, the field presence works on mainstreaming a human rights-based approach in the Government-led national planning for development process and on collective rights (indigenous and Afro-Ecuadorian peoples' rights). The field presence informs the UNCT about international and constitutional human rights standards and ensures the ongoing UNDAF process is duly informed by human rights.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: submission of information by civil society actors, the NHRI and the United Nations to treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR; and establishment of a national participatory body for reporting and implementing recommendations of human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: public policies and budget processes; integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: collective rights; indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants; and LGBTI persons.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: human rights in the administration of justice.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN ECUADOR	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ► Civil society meaningfully participates in the formulation, monitoring and evaluation of public policies related to economic, social and cultural rights.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ► Public policies on economic, social and cultural rights are formulated, monitored and evaluated in line with international human rights standards.</p> <p>► Human rights training institutionalized within the judiciary.</p>
	<p><b>[EA4]</b> ► NHRI, Ministry of Defense, national police, the judiciary and the Constitutional Court have improved their compliance with international collective human rights standards.</p> <p>► NHRI, Ministries of Health and Education, Constitutional Court, the judiciary and the National Assembly have developed policies in compliance with human rights standards to protect the rights of LGBTI persons.</p>
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ► Increased number of substantive submissions to international human rights mechanisms by civil society actors.</p>	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ► Mechanism for integrated reporting and implementation of recommendations is in place and functioning.</p>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ► UNCT substantially incorporates the human rights-based approach in the analysis, design, implementation and monitoring of the UNDAF.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Ecuador.

## Paraguay

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights Adviser Operation established in 2010
<b>Engagement with the human rights mechanisms</b>	
See overview table on page 186	
<b>Visits by special procedures in the past five years</b>	
Special Rapporteurs on extreme poverty (2011); freedom of religion or belief (2011); and the right to education (2009)	
<b>Pending visit requests by special procedures</b>	
None	

Paraguay still suffers from the legacy of the longest dictatorship in South America during which serious human rights violations took place. The 1992 Constitution recognizes fundamental rights, granting supra-legal status to human rights treaties. In August 2013, the Colorado Party returned to power, after a five-year hiatus which saw the impeachment and removal of President Lugo.

Despite unprecedented economic growth and improvements in public policies, poverty and extreme poverty continue to affect approximately 30 per cent of the population. Paraguay is ranked 111th out of 186 countries in the 2013 UN Human Development Report. The new Government's stated priority is fighting poverty. Structural problems, such as inequality and land tenure, have not properly been addressed, leading to disputes and violence. Women, LGBTI persons, children, people with disabilities, the elderly, peasants and indigenous peoples are the most affected.

There has been progress achieved on human rights in the National Plan on Human Rights Education, human rights indicators (health, education and fair trial), the process and participation in the National Human Rights Action Plan proposal, the work of the Human Rights Executive Network and the creation of the National Mechanism for the Prevention of Torture.

Despite this progress, impunity, corruption, weak institutions, discrimination and clientelism are obstacles to consolidating democracy. The sustainability of human rights achievements and the commitment to ensuring a human rights-based

approach in all policies are challenges for the State, including the Parliament. The Ombudsman and the judiciary need to be effective in ensuring protection and enjoyment of human rights. In response to the attacks of an illegal armed group acting since 1997, the Paraguayan People's Army, legislation has empowered the President to employ military forces for internal security, raising questions about accountability mechanisms and human rights guarantees.

In September 2010, a human rights adviser (HRA) was deployed to support the UN's efforts and to provide technical cooperation to State institutions and civil society. The next UNDAF cycle runs from 2015 to 2019. NGO networks such as the Coordinadora de Derechos Humanos del Paraguay, the Network Against all Forms of Discrimination, and indigenous organizations, as well as the international community, are the HRA's partners

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: use and submission of information by civil society actors, the NHRI and United Nations entities to treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR; implementation of recommendations of human rights mechanisms; and integration of standards and recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: land, education and health; public policies and budget processes.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: women; racial discrimination; persons with disabilities; indigenous peoples; minorities; LGBTI persons; and individuals living in rural areas and in poor conditions.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: "public freedoms" (freedom of expression, assembly and association, and incitement to hatred); and participation in public life.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: human rights in the administration of justice; legislation, policies and torture prevention mechanisms; and deprivation of liberty.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN PARAGUAY	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ▶ Increased participation of rights-holders in the design and monitoring of public policies, budgets and other initiatives in the development and in the economic sphere.</p> <p>▶ Civil society supports participatory mechanisms to enhance equality and counter discrimination, particularly against indigenous peoples, women, persons with disabilities and LGBTI persons.</p> <p>▶ Increased participation in public life of discriminated groups, particularly women, indigenous peoples and persons with disabilities.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ Development and poverty reduction policies increasingly promote and protect human rights, especially those relating to land, education, non-discrimination and gender equality.</p> <p>▶ Policies, particularly of the National Secretary for the human rights of people with disabilities, the National Institute for Indigenous Issues and the Ministry of Education increasingly respect, protect and guarantee human rights standards.</p> <p>▶ The national justice system, particularly the Supreme Court of Justice, increasingly applies international human rights norms and standards, especially in relation to torture and ill-treatment and the deprivation of liberty.</p> <p><b>[EA3]</b> ▶ Functioning protection and accountability mechanisms to prevent and monitor the investigation of allegations of torture and ill-treatment, and violations of the rights of persons deprived of their liberty.</p> <p><b>[EA4]</b> ▶ Legislation and policies against all forms of discrimination increasingly comply with international standards, particularly in relation to women, LGBTI persons, persons with disabilities and indigenous peoples.</p>
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ▶ Increased number of rights-holders and civil society actors acting on their behalf making use of UN special procedures and UPR.</p>	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ Increased compliance and engagement of the State in the follow-up to international recommendations.</p>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ▶ Enhanced systematic engagement by the UNCT with international human rights mechanisms.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Paraguay.



# ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The Asia Pacific region is very diverse and the economic situation varies greatly among and within subregions. Economic and social inequality persists, however, and is exacerbated by entrenched discrimination (i.e., by gender or caste) and in some cases, is a catalyst for protest and conflict. At the same time, the rapid economic growth and educational achievements of past decades are producing new social outlooks and activism in many States. Land issues are a major area of concern and there are high rates of dislocation and displacement due to development. Corruption remains prevalent, and is in fact increasing in some newly emerging economies. A number of States have promoted corporate social responsibility policies, yet in others, the private sector is colluding with governments in land grabbing and economic exploitation. Intensive urbanization also poses challenges for access to services and many countries have high levels of homelessness, landlessness and numbers of street children. Countries in the region are also prone to natural disasters and the economic and social impacts of climate change.

An increased number of women who are participating in the employment sector are challenging gender roles. Yet this has also led to a backlash, evidenced by an increase in violence against women and calls for conservatism. Recent social movements demanding justice for women are starting to have an impact, but violence against women remains a serious issue. At the same time, religious fundamentalism is curbing women's rights, particularly at the local level.

Economic instability and overall insecurity are resulting in increased internal and external migration. Migrant flows are largely unregulated or are subject to flawed bilateral agreements. The number of Asian migrant workers in the Gulf States has increased steadily. Very few countries have ratified the 1951 Convention relating to the Status of Refugees and many resort to immigration detention or refoulement. The consequences of unlimited economic exploitation of the environment will only become evident in the coming years, but are likely to continue to bring human rights issues to the fore.

Many States in the region have in place democratic institutions, but political cultures are often polarized and contested. Disenchantment with political parties and traditional governance is giving rise to identity politics and fundamentalism that is based on religion or ethnicity. Devolution policies are producing contradictions (and opportunities) within countries at the local level.

Many country situations are fragile because in some cases, solutions have not yet been found for the root causes of a conflict while in others, past violations have not been addressed. Discrimination and violence against minorities is increasing and acquiring regional dimensions as conflicts emerge between nationalism, tribalism, religious and ethnic identity politics and internationalism, including in relation to citizenship issues. Asia has traditionally had significant religious diversity while remaining moderate and secular, but this reality is under threat. Religious movements are now attracting youth, including through social media.

Some progress has been achieved in restricting the death penalty, but there has also been a resumption of the application of the death penalty in some key democratic countries, including India, Indonesia and Japan. A number of countries have ratified the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) and/or its Optional Protocol (OP-CAT).

Significant geopolitical and security challenges will be presented with the withdrawal of International forces in Afghanistan and the revival of old territorial disputes elsewhere in the region. While subregional cohesion has been strengthened, including through the development of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) human rights mechanisms and a strong network of national human rights institutions, regional solidarity and dynamics continue to be tested by ongoing effects of historical disputes and power struggles.

During the past five years, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights visited Afghanistan, Australia, Indonesia, Japan, Maldives, Pakistan, the Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka; the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights visited Cambodia, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, the Republic of Korea and Thailand; and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights visited Afghanistan. In addition, the region received 79 visits of thematic special-procedures mandate-holders over the same period.

### OHCHR presence in the region

OHCHR engages with countries in the region from Geneva headquarters, the New York Office and field presences. Currently, OHCHR has two regional presences, namely the Regional Office for South-East Asia based in Thailand and the Regional Office for the Pacific based in Fiji; one country office in Cambodia, four human rights advisers (HRAs) in the Maldives, Papua New Guinea, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste and a human rights component of a peacekeeping/building mission at UN Assistance Mission in Afghanistan. During the past five years, OHCHR also had a HRA in Indonesia until 2010, a country office in Nepal until June 2012 and supported a human rights component in the UN Mission in Timor-Leste until December 2012.

Since November 2012, discussions have been underway between the Office and the Government

of Myanmar regarding the establishment of a country office. Engagement in the area is currently being addressed by the Regional Office for South-East Asia which has been strengthened with additional posts (since 2013), including a regional communications officer. The United Nations Development Group Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism (UNDG-HRM) will also support the deployment of a HRA to the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Bangladesh as well as a HRA to the UNDG-Asia Regional Team in Bangkok in 2014. Additional requests for human rights advisers are being considered.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratifications; submissions of reports by States Parties and submission of information by civil society actors, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and the United Nations; and establishment of national participatory bodies for reporting and implementation of recommendations.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: business and human rights; land, water and sanitation and housing rights; and integration of a human rights-based approach and the right to development in United Nations work.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination, with a focus on: women; racial and religious discrimination; migrants; indigenous peoples; minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons; and caste-based discrimination.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: “public freedoms;” human rights defenders; media freedom; human rights education; and NHRIs.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: human rights in the administration of justice; transitional justice; torture, deprivation of liberty and death penalty.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: sexual and gender-based violence; human rights in humanitarian action with regional offices in Bangkok and Suva to become hubs for protection work in humanitarian emergencies; UN response to situations of violence and insecurity; and Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.

## Asia and the United Nations human rights mechanisms

Member States	Next UPR*	Standing Invitation**	Ratification and reporting status												
			ICERD	ICCPR	ICESCR	CAT	OP-CAT	CEDAW	CRC	OP-CRC-SC	OP-CRC-AC	ICMW	CRPD	CPED	
Afghanistan	+2017		X	X		X					X	X			
Australia	2015	Yes	X												
Bangladesh	+2017		X	X	X	X							X	X	
Bhutan	2014									X	X	X			
Brunei Darussalam	2014									X	X				
Cambodia***	2014		X		X										
China	+2017														
DP. Rep. Korea***	+2017			X	X				X	X					
Fiji	2014														
India	+2017	Yes	X	X	X									X	
Indonesia	+2017		X			X									
Iran***	2014	Yes									X				
Japan	+2017	Yes													
Kiribati	2014								X	X					
Lao People's DR	2014			X	X	X					X			X	
Malaysia	+2017								X					X	
Maldives	2015	Yes			X	X								X	
Marshall Islands	2015	Yes							X	X					
Micronesia	2015								X	X					
Mongolia	2015	Yes	X												
Myanmar***	2015														
Nauru	2015	Yes								X					
Nepal	2015		X			X								X	
New Zealand	+2017	Yes													
Pakistan	+2017		X	X	X	X				X					
Palau	2016	Yes								X					
Papua New Guinea	2016	Yes	X	X	X					X					
Philippines	+2017		X						X				X	X	
Rep. of Korea	+2017	Yes				X									
Samoa	2016			X						X					
Singapore	2016														
Solomon Islands	2015		X		X					X					

Member States	Next UPR*	Standing Invitation**	Ratification and reporting status												
			ICERD	ICCPR	ICESCR	CAT	OP-CAT	CEDAW	CRC	OP-CRC-SC	OP-CRC-AC	ICMW	CRPD	CPED	
<b>Sri Lanka</b>	+2017		X								X		X		
<b>Thailand</b>	2016	Yes		X					X						
<b>Timor-Leste</b>	2016		X	X	X	X							X		
<b>Tonga</b>	+2017	Yes	X							X					
<b>Tuvalu</b>	+2017	Yes								X					
<b>Vanuatu</b>	+2017	Yes		X					X	X	X	X		X	
<b>Viet Nam</b>	+2017			X											
<b>Out of a total of 39 States</b>		<b>16</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>27</b>	<b>23</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>2</b>	
<b>Non-UN Member States</b>															
<b>Cook Islands</b>									X	X				X	
<b>Niue</b>										X					

 Treaty ratified

 Report is overdue as of December 2013

 Outstanding ratification

\* Date of the next UPR review. Countries undergoing the third UPR cycle will be considered after 2017

\*\* Standing invitations to special procedures mandate-holders

\*\*\* Country with established special procedure country mandate

## NORTH-EAST ASIA

### Countries of engagement

China, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Japan, Mongolia and the Republic of Korea.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 216

### Specific mandates of the Human Rights Council

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Commission of Inquiry on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea

Home to more than 20 per cent of the world's population, North-East Asia consists of China, including the autonomous regions of Hong Kong and Macau, Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Japan, Mongolia and the Republic of Korea (ROK). It includes countries with very distinct political, social and economic contexts and no overarching regional architecture. Japan and ROK represent highly industrialized countries, China continues to experience significant economic growth and while Mongolia experiences development challenges, it is also experiencing a resource boom. The DPRK remains subject to severe food insecurity and economic hardship. The region remains beset with security concerns and unresolved historical disputes and past human rights violations.

The main human rights issues in the subregion include: countering discrimination, especially against migrants and minorities; combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law while promoting the restriction or abolition of the death penalty; human rights in development and in the economic sphere where local government initiatives provide a good entry point; and widening the democratic space, with a focus on human rights defenders and human rights education. Mongolia and ROK have "A" status national human rights institutions and the initiative to establish one in Japan seems to have stalled. The Human Rights Council maintains a special procedures country mandate on DPRK, which is supported by OHCHR, and in 2013 established a Commission of Inquiry into the human rights situation in the country which will be an important starting point for follow-up.

OHCHR deployed a human rights adviser to Mongolia between 2006-2007 and OHCHR continues to work closely with the United Nations Country Team (UNCT). OHCHR also conducted a technical cooperation programme with China under two successive bilateral Memorandums of Understanding from 1999-2008. Yet, the Office's lack of presence in the subregion remains an impediment for the implementation of such agreements and for closer engagement with all five countries. Additional challenges include knowledge and awareness gaps. In this regard, translation



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The Commission of Inquiry on the DPRK updates the Human Rights Council: "What we have seen and heard so far appears without doubt to demand follow-up action by the world community, and accountability on the part of the DPRK."

is particularly important for outreach to local populations. OHCHR sought to address this issue in part through the launch in May 2011 of the OHCHR Chinese language website which holds more than 2,000 pages covering a wide range of human rights issues (including all news releases since 2013). The Chinese terminology for the United Nations human rights mechanisms used on the website are the authoritative point of reference worldwide.

## Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: submission of reports by States Parties and submission of information by civil society actors to the treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: the integration of a human rights-based approach in work.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: racial and religious discrimination; migrants; and minorities.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: human rights defenders.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: death penalty.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN NORTH-EAST ASIA	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ▶ Women, youth and civil society networks engaging in the promotion and protection of human rights.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ Increased number of States that have abolished the death penalty and/or pending abolition, increasingly comply with relevant international human rights norms and standards.</p>
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ▶ Increased number and diversity of rights-holders, and of national human rights institution and civil society actors acting on their behalf, engaging with the treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review.</p>	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ Reports to treaty bodies and the UPR submitted on time and in accordance with relevant guidelines.</p>
<p><b>[EA10]</b> ▶ Increased integration of human rights of migrants in relevant regional processes.</p> <p>▶ Increased responsiveness of the international community in ensuring accountability for gross human rights violations.</p>	
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ▶ Implementation by UNCTs of the Guidance Note of the Secretary-General on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the UN Indigenous Peoples' Partnership Initiative.</p> <p>▶ Increased incorporation of human rights rights-based approaches in UN programmes.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights, and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in the region.

## SOUTH AND WEST ASIA

### Countries of engagement

Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, Islamic Republic of Iran, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 216

A region marked by social and cultural diversity, South and West Asia is also identified by its economic potential and growth. The region is valued for its supply of low cost goods, services and skilled labour to the global economy but at the same time, it is notorious for the payment of low wages, appalling working conditions and trafficking of labour. This changing economic landscape has had a corresponding impact on the social and geographic fabric of the region. Rural families are moving to cities and urbanization is creating mega cities with an increasing number of slums, poor sanitation and massive pollutions. Large infrastructure and development projects have led to increased forced evictions and displacement. India and Nepal are two of the highest ranking countries for child malnutrition in the world. In the Maldives, migrants represent almost one quarter of the population, creating major social challenges.

Significantly, all nine members of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation have civilian democratic systems of governance, however in some, key institutions remain fragile, democratic cultures remain weak and the military retains a powerful role. The status of ratification of international human rights instruments shows a good commitment among South Asian countries to the universally recognized human rights norms and standards. This is however nuanced by the introduction of reservations and interpretative declarations and delays in reporting to treaty bodies. The absence of adequate and effective national protection systems to ensure accountability is a common issue across South Asian States where torture, ill-treatment, corruption and impunity remain major concerns. Although six countries in the region have established national institutions, only half of them maintain "A" status and there is no regional human rights mechanism. In addition, manifestations of socially and politically entrenched discrimination on the basis of ethnicity, religion, gender, caste and sexual preference have rendered certain groups vulnerable and disempowered. Women are assuming new economic and social roles but continue to face deeply rooted discrimination and violence.

Afghanistan, India and Pakistan are marked by protracted internal conflicts, while the post-conflict peace processes in Nepal and Sri Lanka have yet to deliver justice for countless victims. Bangladesh has embarked on its own national accountability process which has become highly politicized and flawed. Severe restrictions to democratic space remain in place in the Islamic Republic of Iran, although new dynamics are apparent under the latest administration. In 2008, the Maldives emerged from over 30 years of autocracy with nascent and weak democratic institutions and processes which were threatened by a political crisis in 2012.

In 2014, a human rights adviser (HRA) will be deployed to the UNCT in Bangladesh under the United Nations Development Group-Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism (UNDG-HRM). The February 2012 crisis in Maldives suggested that it was premature to withdraw the HRA during a time of transition. A new HRA was deployed accordingly under the UNDG-HRM. The UNCT and OHCHR are seeking to have the presence of the HRA extended in 2014.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: submissions of reports by States Parties and submission of information by civil society actors to treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR); and increased number of special procedures visits.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere with a focus on: business and human rights; land, water and sanitation and housing rights; and integration of a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: women; racial and religious discrimination; minorities; and caste-based discrimination.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: national human rights institutions.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: human rights in the administration of justice; transitional justice; torture; deprivation of liberty and death penalty.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: human rights in humanitarian action and Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN SOUTH AND WEST ASIA	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ► NHRI established and functioning in accordance with Paris Principles in the Maldives and Pakistan.</p> <p>► Increased use by governments, businesses and the legal community of international standards related to housing and land rights, including the UN Basic Principles and Guidelines on Development-based Evictions and Displacement, as well as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.</p> <p>► Reformed systems to ensure the independence and accountability of the judiciary and establishment of a reliable mechanism to mediate disputes between the judiciary, the executive and the Parliament in the Maldives.</p> <p>► Abolition of the death penalty and/or pending abolition, increased compliance with relevant international human rights norms and standards.</p>
	<p><b>[EA3]</b> ► Transitional justice mechanisms established and operating in accordance with international human rights standards and good practices.</p> <p>► Increased public opposition to torture and ill-treatment.</p>
	<p><b>[EA4]</b> ► Improved legislation, policies and practices concerning discrimination in general, and in particular relating to caste-based discrimination and discrimination against women.</p> <p>► Increased networking and exchange of best practices among existing NHRIs and specialized commissions on issues of non-discrimination and equality.</p>
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ► Enhanced systematic engagement by civil society with international human rights mechanisms.</p> <p>► Submission by UNCTs and at least two NHRIs of independent UPR reports.</p>	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ► Implementation of UPR recommendations by government institutions of three countries.</p> <p>► Submission of overdue reports to treaty bodies by two countries.</p> <p>► Increased number of visits by special procedures.</p>
	<p><b>[EA11]</b> ► Increased use of the UNCTs of a human rights-based approach to programming.</p> <p>► Implementation of the Guidance Note of the Secretary-General on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the UN Indigenous Peoples' Partnership Initiative by UNCTs.</p> <p>► United Nations increasingly raises human rights concerns with governments in the context of humanitarian situations induced by natural disasters.</p> <p>► Increased integration of human rights standards and principles, including the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on UN support to non-UN security forces, into the UN's security policies and programmes.</p>

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in the region.

## Afghanistan

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights Unit of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA) Operation established in 2002
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### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 216

### Visits by special procedures in the past five years

Working Group on mercenaries (2009)

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

Special Rapporteur on violence against women

Special Rapporteur on torture

Working Group on arbitrary detention

OHCHR's engagement in Afghanistan revolves primarily around a targeted response to human rights issues arising out of more than three decades of armed conflict. From 2014-2017, human rights in Afghanistan will be at a critical crossroads. Political and military transitions will be concluded as a result of the withdrawal of international military forces and will coincide with the end of President Karzai's time in office. At the same time, a large portion of the international donor presence will withdraw from Afghanistan and significantly reduce their financial commitments and direct engagement in project implementation. Dynamics of the armed conflict, potential proliferation of armed groups and deterioration in civilian and human rights protections will necessitate continued focus on human rights priorities. Localized conflict dynamics are likely to vary across the country after the completion of the security transition and increase the need for UN human rights staff to be engaged more directly and intensively with Afghan National Security Forces and local communities on civilian protection and conflict-related detention. Protection for women's rights will likely become more fragile and the Government's willingness to do so will need to be closely monitored. As peace and reconciliation efforts are initiated, inclusivity and accountability in such processes will require intensive tracking and advocacy.

OHCHR operates primarily under the auspices of a special political mission, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, whose Human Rights Unit is a stand-alone field presence which reports to the Special Representative of the Secretary-General, OHCHR and annually to the Human Rights Council. Its mandate, reviewed and renewed each year since 2002, is derived from United Nations Security Council resolution 2096 (2013), which tasks the Unit to "monitor the situation of civilians, to coordinate efforts to ensure their protection, to promote accountability and to assist in full implementation of the fundamental freedoms and human rights provisions of the Afghan Constitution and international treaties to which Afghanistan is a State Party, in particular those regarding the full enjoyment by women of their human rights." Resolution 2096 emphasizes human rights priorities in terms of protection of civilians, human rights in detention, eliminating violence against women and human rights aspects of peace and reconciliation. It also stresses support for the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: submissions of reports to treaty bodies.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: national human rights institution.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: human rights in the administration of justice; transitional justice; torture; and deprivation of liberty.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: investigations, monitoring and reporting; sexual and gender-based violence; and Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.

## OHCHR expected contribution

## ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN AFGHANISTAN

## DUTY-BEARERS

- [EA1]** ▶ The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission works in conformity with international standards (Paris Principles) especially in relation to its independence.
- ▶ Provincial authorities, law enforcement and prosecutors work together to support victims and improve investigations of violence against women cases to support prosecution. Indicators on the elimination of violence against women are incorporated into the Tokyo Accountability Framework and National Priority Programmes.
- ▶ National police, National Directorate of Security and the Ministry of Interior observe due process and procedural guarantees for detainees and implement oversight and accountability procedures to prevent the use of torture in their places of detention.
- 
- [EA3]** ▶ Government policies and regulations related to civilian protection and civilian casualty mitigation are formulated and implemented by all forces in line with international humanitarian law and international human rights standards.
- ▶ Mechanisms for the vetting of ex-combatants and identifying potential violations of international human rights or international humanitarian law with the Afghan Peace and Reintegration Programme or related processes are strengthened.
- ▶ The Government establishes a National Preventive Mechanism to combat torture and ill-treatment in custody.
- 
- [EA6]** ▶ Submission of pending periodic reports to the Human Rights Committee, CERD and CRC.
- 
- [EA11]** ▶ UN support to national institutions is in compliance with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Afghanistan.



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Acting Chief Justice of Afghanistan, Qazawatpoh Bahauddin Baha, meets with UN High Commissioner for Human Rights Navi Pillay during her official visit to the country in September 2013.

## Sri Lanka

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights Adviser Operation established in 2004
<b>Engagement with the human rights mechanisms</b>	
See overview table on page 216	
<b>Visits by special procedures in the past five years</b>	
Special Rapporteur on internally displaced persons (2013)	
<b>Pending visit requests by special procedures</b>	
Working Groups on disappearances; and discrimination against women in law and practice	
Special Rapporteurs on minorities; freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; freedom of opinion and expression; summary executions; human rights defenders; and independence of judges and lawyers	
The Government has announced that it has extended an invitation to the Special Rapporteurs on internally displaced persons; and migrants.	

A number of significant human rights developments related to Sri Lanka took place during the period 2011-2013. With regard to post-war accountability and reconciliation, the Panel of Experts established to advise the Secretary-General on accountability issues with respect to the final stages of the conflict in Sri Lanka issued their report in April 2011. In December 2011, the government-established Lessons Learned and Reconciliation Commission (LLRC) published a report with far-reaching recommendations towards reconciliation and strengthening of the rule of law.

The Human Rights Council adopted two resolutions on 'Promoting Reconciliation and Accountability in Sri Lanka' in March 2012 and 2013, respectively. The resolutions called for the Government to implement the constructive recommendations of the LLRC and encouraged OHCHR and relevant special procedures mandate-holders to provide support through technical assistance. The resolutions further requested that the High Commissioner report on any progress achieved. Two OHCHR visits to Sri Lanka were undertaken in 2012 and 2013. The first was a technical mission in September 2012 to evaluate progress on post-war accountability and reconciliation and the second was a visit by the High Commissioner in August 2013. Following the first mission, the High Commissioner wrote to the Government to offer a comprehensive package of

technical support within the context of a transitional justice framework which she re-iterated during her August visit.

The High Commissioner raised a number of issues related to the implementation of LLRC recommendations as well as the broader human rights situation in Sri Lanka in her March 2013 report to the Human Rights Council and during her August 2013 press statement.

In September 2013, the High Commissioner submitted an oral update to the HRC. The update acknowledged the achievements that had been reached in resettlement, reconstruction and rehabilitation since the end of conflict in 2009. However, the High Commissioner also highlighted pressing concerns regarding the lack of meaningful action on core issues such as accountability, high levels of militarization in the north and ongoing human rights violations, including rape and sexual violence, harassment and intimidation of human rights defenders and journalists, rising levels of incitement to violence on religious grounds and undermining the independence of the judiciary. In the same update, she also outlined certain benchmarks to be met by the Government by March 2014 to assess progress achieved in areas identified by the Human Rights Council in the March 2013 resolution. These included extending invitations to the Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances and the Independent Expert on minorities; demonstrating a credible national investigation process with tangible results, including the successful prosecution of individual perpetrators; and setting a clear timeline for demobilization, disarmament and disengagement of the military from activities that are meant to be civilian in nature, none of which had been fulfilled at the time of drafting the report.

In November 2012 and August 2013, the High Commissioner offered technical assistance in a number of areas which would help advance accountability and reconciliation in Sri Lanka. These areas are in line with some of the recommendations Sri Lanka accepted during its Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

OHCHR has had a Senior Human Rights Adviser (HRA) in Sri Lanka since June 2004. The standard work of the HRA is to provide support to the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) and national stakeholders, if requested, and to engage in regular field visits throughout the country. The

UNCT provided a joint submission to the UPR in 2012 and a new United Nations Development Framework (UNDAF) was launched in 2012 for the period of 2013-2018. The UN maintains a joint programme of support to the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, which has gradually begun to recover its vitality.

## Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: submission of information by civil society actors to treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: minorities.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: “public freedoms” (freedom of expression, assembly and association, and incitement to hatred); and national human rights institution.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: transitional justice.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN SRI LANKA	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ▶ The Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka, civil society organizations, human rights defenders and UN agencies actively engage with special procedures and follow up to recommendations by human rights mechanisms.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka works in compliance with international standards (Paris Principles).</p> <p>▶ Legislation against hate speech is adopted in compliance with international human rights standards.</p>
	<p><b>[EA3]</b> ▶ A transitional justice mechanism is in place, including the right to truth; criminal justice and accountability aspects and the right to remedy and reparations.</p>
	<p><b>[EA4]</b> ▶ Legislation and policies to combat discrimination against minorities in compliance with international human rights standards are systematically implemented.</p>
<p><b>[EA10]</b> ▶ Sustained engagement by the international community, specifically the Human Rights Council, on issues of impunity, accountability and reconciliation for past and present human rights violations.</p>	
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ▶ UNCT members use the recommendations of the Guidance Note of the Secretary-General on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities in the implementation of the UNDAF Pillars as well as other UN joint programmes.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Sri Lanka.

## SOUTH-EAST ASIA

<b>Field presence</b>	OHCHR Regional Office for South-East Asia, based in Bangkok, Thailand Operation established in 2002
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### Countries of engagement

Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam (complementing OHCHR field presences in Cambodia and Timor-Leste), conducting regional activities for and engaging with the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Development Group.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 216

### Specific mandates of the Human Rights Council

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar

The South-East Asia region is economically and politically diverse. It has experienced significant economic growth and yet Cambodia, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Timor-Leste remain Least Developed Countries. Despite areas of economic growth, inequality continues to rise and poverty rates remain significant. Inadequate social security in the majority of countries leaves the poor vulnerable. The concentration of wealth also points to long-standing and deeply entrenched elites within many societies in South-East Asia. The political structures vary widely, consisting of constitutional monarchies with parliamentary representative democracies, presidential republics, communist single party socialist republics and a constitutional sultanate. The military has played a significant political role in a number of countries. In countries that suffer from insurgency, namely Indonesia, Myanmar, the Philippines and Thailand, the military and security forces have been implicated in serious human rights violations, including torture, arbitrary detention and extrajudicial killings with impunity. Accountability processes are ongoing in several countries. National security legislation, restrictions on freedom of expression, assembly and association lead to arbitrary detention and other rights violations. The region includes both abolitionist and retentionist States with respect to the death penalty, although there is an overall trend towards restriction in its use. Undocumented migrant workers, victims of human trafficking and asylum-seekers suffer from poor legal protections, making them vulnerable to serious human rights violations. Gender inequality expresses itself in the feminization of poverty, low levels of representation and participation of women in public life and discriminatory laws and violence against women. The

impact of religious fundamentalism has exacerbated some forms of discrimination and violence.

The Regional Office for South-East Asia was established in Bangkok in 2002. Bangkok is the UN's regional centre for Asia and the Pacific. One of the main objectives of the Regional Office is to strengthen engagement with the international human rights mechanisms and support the progressive implementation of international human rights law and standards in the region. This includes advocacy for increased ratification of international human rights instruments and follow-up to recommendations from various human rights mechanisms. After more than a decade of work, the Regional Office has established a solid network of cooperation with States, government agencies, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), civil society and United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) in the region. The Bangkok RO will continue its engagement in Myanmar in line with the six thematic priorities of the Office.

The Secretariat of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) is based in Jakarta. There are four accredited NHRIs in the region, with a fifth now established in Myanmar. The ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) and the ASEAN Commission on Women and Children have been in operation for nearly five years and will be reviewed in 2015 and 2016, respectively. The AICHR does not have a clear protection mandate and operates as an intergovernmental body. The Regional Office collaborates with the AICHR and facilitates and encourages the participation of NGOs in its activities.

In 2014, a regional human rights adviser will be deployed under the United Nations Development Group-Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism (UNDG-HRM) to the UNDG-Asia Regional Team in Bangkok.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratifications; submissions of reports by States Parties and information by civil society actors.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: land and housing rights; and integration of a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: racial and religious discrimination and minorities.

- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: “public freedoms” human rights defenders; and NHRIs.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: human rights in the administration of justice; transitional justice; torture, deprivation of liberty and death penalty.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: sexual and gender-based violence; human rights in humanitarian action; UN response to situations of violence and insecurity; and Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.

## OHCHR expected contribution

### ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN SOUTH-EAST ASIA

RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ▶ Human rights defenders use national protection systems to initiate credible State investigations and prosecutions, particularly in emblematic cases or for the release of human rights defenders from custody.</p> <p>▶ Participation of human rights organizations, especially those representing women and discriminated groups, in major political and public debates in Myanmar.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ Countries in the region abolish the death penalty or increase the compliance of relevant legislation and policies with international standards, particularly in relation to the reduction in the number and scope of the crimes covered.</p> <p>▶ A new, independent NHRI is established and progressively working in conformity with international standards in Myanmar.</p> <p>▶ Legislation on the registration of associations and freedom of assembly, and media legislation, notably on printing and publishing, is brought into compliance with international human rights standards in Myanmar.</p> <p>▶ The NHRI, Parliament, the executive and the judiciary undertake inquiries or adopt legislation or judgments that protect the right to land and housing in Myanmar.</p>
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ▶ Increased engagement with special procedures by civil society actors in Brunei Darussalam, Lao PDR, Myanmar and Singapore.</p> <p>▶ The new NHRI, an increased number of NGOs and the United Nations Country Team submit contributions to CEDAW and the UPR in Myanmar.</p>	<p><b>[EA2]</b> ▶ Ratification of OP-CAT by Indonesia and Thailand; and of CAT, ICCPR or ICESCR by Myanmar.</p>
	<p><b>[EA3]</b> ▶ National Preventive Mechanism against torture (under OP-CAT) established and or functioning in Indonesia, Malaysia, Philippines and Thailand.</p> <p>▶ Measures are taken to establish protection, accountability and prevention mechanisms for current and past violations in Myanmar.</p> <p>▶ Increased responsiveness of governments to allegations of violations of freedom of expression.</p>
	<p><b>[EA4]</b> ▶ Legislation and policies are increasingly in compliance with international standards relating to discrimination against racial and religious minorities and women in Myanmar.</p> <p>▶ Police, military and local governments increasingly act in compliance with human rights standards in Rakhine State in Myanmar.</p>
<p><b>[EA10]</b> ▶ Human rights related to land and natural resources, along with recommendations for increased compliance with international standards in Southeast Asia, are raised in international fora.</p>	<p><b>[EA8]</b> ▶ ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights strengthened in compliance with international standards.</p>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ▶ UN entities apply a human-rights-based approach to programmes in Myanmar.</p> <p>▶ UN entities in the region apply a human rights-based approach to: policing and prosecution of sexual violence (namely, UN Women, the UNDP and UNODC); humanitarian operations and international responses to situations of violence and conflict.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in the region.

## Cambodia

<b>Field presence</b>	Country Office Operation established in 1993
<b>Engagement with the human rights mechanisms</b>	
See overview table on page 216	
<b>Visits by special procedures in the past five years</b>	
The Special Rapporteur for Cambodia visits the country twice a year. No other thematic visit requests have been accepted.	
<b>Pending visit requests by special procedures</b>	
Special Rapporteurs on sale of children; freedom of peaceful assembly and association; water and sanitation; human rights defenders; and truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence	
<b>Specific mandates of the Human Rights Council</b>	
Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Cambodia	

Cambodia has continued to experience strong economic growth (approximately 7 per cent annually), relative political stability, lower levels of violence and a higher standard of living for many. This trend, however, has not been accompanied by reforms of the justice system and key institutions which are needed to prevent a possible reversal of the gains made, strengthen democratic culture and curb impunity on abuses. Many of the improvements were due in greater part to political actions rather than genuine checks and balances on the exercise of executive power. A resurging issue in the July 2013 election was the need to effectively combat corruption. A 2012 Transparency International survey ranked Cambodia as one of the most corrupt countries in the world (156 out of 176), revealed scant or no openness about the national budget and a wide perception of the judiciary as the most corrupt institution (67 per cent).

Nevertheless, the political context is seeing dramatic changes, the full consequences of which are only now emerging. The July 13 official election results, which continue to be contested, awarded a significantly reduced majority to the ruling party in the National Assembly. The calls of many people for “change” were amassed by a newly unified opposition, which won 55 of the 123 seats. A boycott of seats by the opposition has resulted,

however, in an awarding of all of the important posts to the ruling party, which is once again in control of all three branches of the State.

The origins of OHCHR’s presence in Cambodia can be traced back to the establishment of the United Nations Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). Its mandate derived from the 1993 Paris Peace Accords which called on the UN to monitor the human rights situation after the withdrawal of UNTAC. Resolution 1993/6 of the Commission on Human Rights gave OHCHR a mandate which combines monitoring, protection and public reporting functions with technical assistance and advisory services. The Human Rights Council adopts the resolution on a two-year basis.

Building on the current United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF) 2011-2015, OHCHR is participating in efforts to elaborate a new UNDAF. This work has been delayed pending finalization of the Government National Strategic Development Plan (2014-2018), which in turn has been held up by a political stalemate.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratifications; submissions of reports by States Parties and submission of information by civil society actors, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and the United Nations to treaty bodies, special procedures and the Universal Periodic Review; and implementation of recommendations of human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: land, water and sanitation and housing rights; and public policies and budget processes.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: “public freedoms” (freedom of expression, assembly and association and incitement to hatred); human rights defenders; and human rights education with a focus on: youth.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: human rights in the administration of justice; transitional justice; torture, deprivation of liberty; and legal and judicial protection of economic, social and cultural rights.

## OHCHR expected contribution

## ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN CAMBODIA

RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ▶ Rights-holders meaningfully participate in the design of public policy related to land and housing and the management of natural resources.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> Improved compliance with international human rights standards of legislation in the area of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Freedom of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly, and association; and the</li> <li>▶ Code of Criminal Procedure, Criminal Code, Law on the Bar and Juvenile Justice Law.</li> <li>▶ Subnational government use of human rights standards and principles in applying the law on peaceful demonstrations.</li> <li>▶ Human rights education programmes established at high school and university levels.</li> <li>▶ All prisons under the authority of the Ministry of Interior improve compliance with international human rights standards.</li> <li>▶ The Lawyers Training Centre and the Royal Academy of Judicial Professions include a human rights training module focusing on fair trial rights; and the General Department of Prisons and the Police Academy systematically train prison staff on good prison management practices and integrating human rights core values and principles.</li> <li>▶ Relevant institutions, namely the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Rural Development, apply human rights principles and standards in handling land issues.</li> <li>▶ International human rights law, especially related to economic, social and cultural rights and women's rights, has been used in some court proceedings.</li> </ul>
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ▶ Civil society organizations and UN entities, in particular UNWomen and UNICEF, submit reports to treaty bodies, including the Human Rights Committee, CRPD and CAT and use the individual complaints procedure of CEDAW.</p>	<p><b>[EA2]</b> ▶ ICMW, ICCPR-OP2 and at least another individual communications procedure ratified.</p>
	<p><b>[EA3]</b> ▶ Existing dispute resolution mechanisms, including the courts, improve their compliance with human rights standards in handling land issues.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Civil society organizations substantially reinforce their own protection system.</li> <li>▶ A transitional justice system functions in full compliance with international human rights standards.</li> <li>▶ A National Preventive Mechanism against torture is established and functioning to monitor places of detention in compliance with OP-CAT.</li> <li>▶ Allegations of torture and ill-treatment by the police, including military police, are promptly investigated and where confirmed, appropriate action is taken by police chiefs and prosecutors.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ The Cambodian Human Rights Committee coordinates the implementation of the 2014 UPR and the 2015 Human Rights Committee recommendations.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ At least three outstanding reports are submitted to the treaty bodies in conformity with reporting guidelines.</li> </ul>
<p><b>[EA10]</b> ▶ The international community engages with the Government, when and as necessary, in relation to specific human rights issues, specially relating to freedom of expression, the independence of the judiciary and protection of human rights defenders.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Cambodia.

## Timor-Leste

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights Adviser*** Operation established in 2013
<b>Engagement with the human rights mechanisms</b>	See overview table on page 216
<b>Visits by special procedures in the past five years</b>	Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty (2011) Working Group on disappearances (2011)
<b>Pending visit requests by special procedures</b>	None

Timor-Leste has made significant progress in establishing security and stability since the 2006 political crisis. Policing responsibilities were transferred from the UN mission in Timor-Leste to the Timorese national police in 2012.

Despite double-digit economic growth over the past years and significant revenues from natural resources, poverty is widespread in the country. While there has been progress realized in health indicators, services are insufficiently available and accessible in particular in rural areas. Data from 2009-2010 shows that 58 per cent of children under the age of five were stunted and maternal mortality was high. Enrolment of children in school has increased but education outcomes are poor. It is estimated that more than half of the population lives in poor housing conditions. Draft laws on land have been pending for a number of years.

Discrimination against women and gender-based violence is a major concern. The Government regards combating gender inequality as one of its priorities. There is no comprehensive research, but violence against children, including corporal punishment, in school and at home, is recognized as a concern.

Progress has been made in recent years to strengthen the justice system, but access to justice and legal aid, in particular for the most vulnerable groups, remains a major challenge. There has been limited accountability for serious human rights violations that occurred between 1974 and 1999. Civil society organizations continue to call for justice, including the establishment of an international tribunal.

Following the departure of the United Nations Integrated Mission in Timor-Leste, which completed

its mandate on 31 December 2012, a human rights adviser was deployed under the United Nations Development Group - Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism. OHCHR has supported the establishment of a Human Rights Adviser's Unit to develop the capacity of national institutions and civil society and assist the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in mainstreaming human rights throughout its work.

The UNCT includes 12 resident agencies. UNDP manages the UNDP/OHCHR project to strengthen the capacity of the national human rights institution (NHRI) and implements a broad justice system programme (next multiyear programme to commence in 2014). The current United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF) covers 2009-2014 and preparations are ongoing for its successor. The Australian Timor-Leste Police Development Programme aims to build the capacity of the police service to maintain law and order with full respect for human rights.

### Thematic priorities

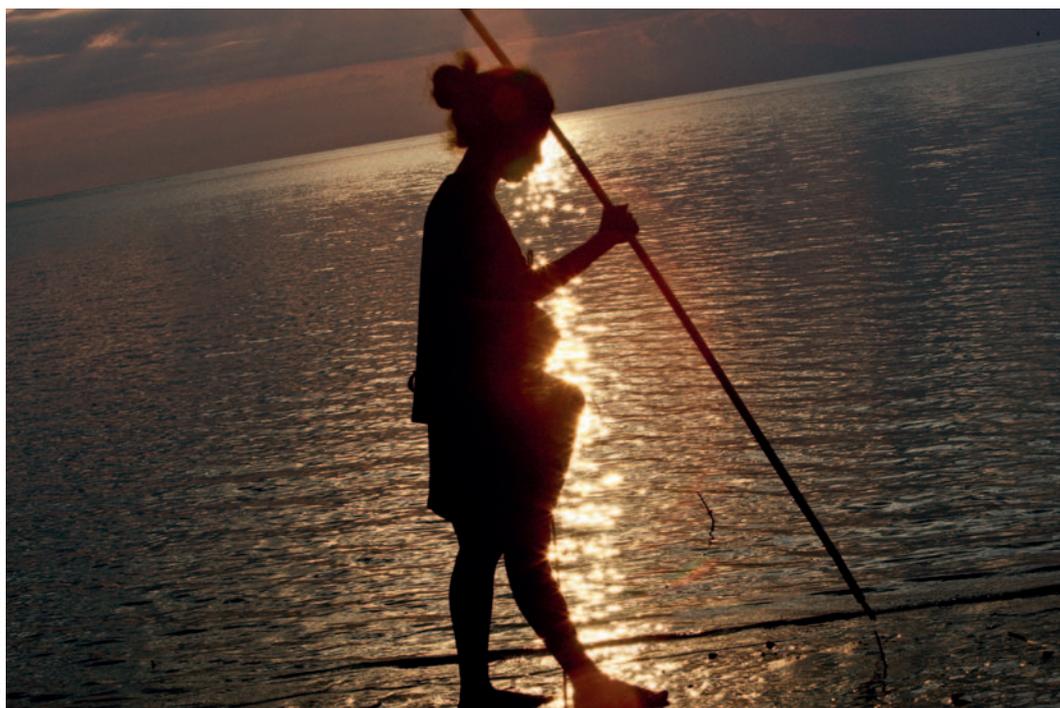
- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: submissions of reports by States Parties and submission of information by civil society actors, the NHRI and the United Nations to treaty bodies, special procedures and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR); and implementation of recommendations of human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: the integration of a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: women; migrants; minorities; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons; and caste-based discrimination.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: human rights defenders; media freedom; human rights education; and NHRIs.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: human rights in the administration of justice; and legal and judicial protection of economic, social and cultural rights.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: United Nations response to situations of violence and insecurity.

## OHCHR expected contribution

## ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN TIMOR-LESTE

RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> Increased use of protection mechanisms by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Human rights defenders; and</li> <li>▶ Women and groups vulnerable to discrimination, in particular persons with disabilities, members of religious minorities, migrants and LGBTI persons.</li> </ul>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> Human rights, including women's rights and gender equality, have been substantially integrated into:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Educational curriculum; and</li> <li>▶ Law enforcement and defence trainings.</li> <li>▶ The Provedoria National Human Rights Institution maintains its "A" status.</li> <li>▶ International human rights law is substantially used in court proceedings and decisions.</li> </ul>
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ▶ Increased number of substantive submissions to CEDAW, special procedures and the Human Rights Council by NHRIs, civil society, individuals and UN entities.</p>	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ Increased engagement with the international human rights mechanisms through the adoption and partial implementation of a National Human Rights Action Plan; and submission of reports to the UPR, CAT and other treaty bodies in conformity with reporting guidelines.</p>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> Human rights-based approach is substantially applied by</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The UNDAF; and</li> <li>▶ Preparedness, response and recovery efforts of the UNCT.</li> </ul>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Timor-Leste.



© UN Photo/Martine Perret

Woman collecting fish at sunset in Timor-Leste.

## THE PACIFIC

<b>Field presence</b>	OHCHR Regional Office for the Pacific, based in Suva, Fiji Operation established in 2005
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### Countries of engagement

Australia, New Zealand and the Pacific Island Countries (PICs): Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu, complementing the Human Rights Adviser in Papua New Guinea (PNG).

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 216

The Pacific region is composed of Australia, New Zealand and the PICs: Cook Islands, Fiji, Kiribati, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Niue, Palau, PNG, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. Immense distances separate the PICs from each other and they range in population size from Niue (1,600) to PNG (7 million). The majority of the population of PICs is indigenous and traditional structures and religious beliefs influence their daily lives. The PICs are dependent on development assistance with bilateral and multilateral partners. While there is no armed conflict currently in the Pacific, insecurity and violence affect, inter alia, the Solomon Islands, Tonga and PNG (Bougainville). Several countries are in a phase of political transition, including Fiji which, following several coups, adopted a new Constitution in 2013 and is planning for elections in 2014. In PNG, a referendum will take place in Bougainville between 2015 and 2020 on the future political status of the region.

Major patterns of human rights violations in the Pacific include: torture and ill-treatment, violence against women and girls, the situation of asylum-seekers, threats to freedom of expression and opinion, economic, social and cultural rights, including in relation to housing and land issues, natural disasters and climate change and an increased prevalence of non-communicable diseases. Almost all countries are strongly abolitionist, although Papua New Guinea has taken steps to resume its application of the death penalty. Although the level of ratification of human rights treaties remains relatively low and engagement with the human rights system remains limited, there have been an increasing number of special procedures visits to the region and the UPR has proven to be an important platform for engagement.

OHCHR's main UN partners in the region include: UNDP Pacific Centre, UNICEF, UNFPA, UN Women, UNHCR, IOM, WHO and OCHA. The 2013-2017 United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF) for the Pacific region has an outcome area on "governance and human rights" for which OHCHR is an alternate Chair (to UNDP) and contributes to other outcome areas, including gender. Under the 2012-2015 UNDAF for PNG, the Human Rights Adviser Unit leads the Human Rights Task Team under the "social justice, protection and gender equality cluster." OHCHR also co-leads the Protection Cluster at the Pacific regional level.

Other partners include: the Regional Rights Resource Team of the Secretariat of the South Pacific, the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Asia Pacific Forum, the Australian and the New Zealand Human Rights Commissions, as well as networks of women's rights and other non-governmental organizations. The Association for the Prevention of Torture has also become a strategic partner.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratifications; submissions of reports by States Parties and submission of information by civil society actors, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and the United Nations; and establishment of a national participatory body for reporting on and implementing the recommendations.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere with a focus on: business and human rights; land, water and sanitation and housing rights.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: women; racial and religious discrimination; migrants; indigenous peoples; minorities; and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: national human rights institutions (NHRIs).
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: human rights in the administration of justice; deprivation of liberty; and death penalty.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: human rights in humanitarian action; and the UN response to situations of violence and insecurity.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN THE PACIFIC	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ▶ Residents in certain informal settlements increase the level and quality of their participation in government decisions affecting their right to adequate housing in Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ A Paris Principles-compliant NHRI is established in Fiji, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu.</p> <p>▶ Human rights training is institutionalized in the police academies and/or penitentiary services in Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Vanuatu.</p> <p>▶ Abolishment or moratorium on the death penalty in Papua New Guinea.</p>
	<p><b>[EA2]</b> ▶ Six new ratifications/accessions with a focus on ICCPR, ICESCR and CAT (and their Optional Protocols) in the subregion.</p>
	<p><b>[EA3]</b> ▶ Increased compliance with relevant international human rights standards by the State and businesses in the extractive industry in Papua New Guinea.</p> <p>▶ Emblematic sorcery-related killings in Papua New Guinea are thoroughly investigated and addressed through due legal processes.</p>
	<p><b>[EA4]</b> ▶ Development and implementation of human rights-compliant legislation and policies regarding violence against women, asylum-seekers, minorities, indigenous peoples and LGBTI persons.</p>
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ▶ Rights-holders or their representatives increase their submission to treaty bodies and/or special procedures in areas such as: torture and ill-treatment, sexual and gender-based violence and/or housing rights.</p>	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ Increased engagement with international human rights mechanisms, including through the establishment of national coordination bodies to support national reporting and implementation of recommendations, the use of a common core document approach, participation in the second cycle of the UPR and acceptance of visit requests by special procedures mandate-holders.</p>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ▶ Support to UNCTs for the development of a country-level human rights strategy in Fiji, Papua New Guinea and Samoa.</p> <p>▶ National Disaster Management Offices and/or relevant ministries, particularly in Fiji, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga and Vanuatu, and the Pacific Humanitarian Team, integrate human rights into their disaster preparedness and response efforts.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in the Pacific.



## EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

Throughout the region, there are increasing challenges of social security, inclusion and equality, exacerbated by austerity measures in the context of the global financial and economic crisis. Disparities grow, breeding more poverty, inequality and exclusion, especially for vulnerable groups. More broadly, austerity measures impact not only on economic, social and cultural rights (in particular, access to and quality of social protection and basic services such as employment, housing, education, food, water, etc), but also on civil and political rights (including rights to life and to liberty and security, freedoms of peaceful assembly, association and expression and due process). Against this backdrop, discriminatory legislation, policies and practices persist in respect of migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, ethnic minorities, especially Roma and Travellers, persons with disabilities, children, youth, women, older persons, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons and persons living with HIV/AIDS. The practice and legacy of institutionalization, particularly for persons with mental and intellectual disabilities, but also of children and older persons, continues to raise human rights concerns. Poverty and economic instability fuel migration and human trafficking, posing significant human rights challenges in the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region. Faced with these challenges, there are increasing concerns about the capacity of States to make appropriate provisions in line with their international human rights obligations. There is also a need to address private companies on human rights issues, highlighting their responsibility in this sphere.

Within the subregions of ECA, there are a number of other human rights issues that require sustained attention and response. Corruption, impunity, lack of accountability

and rule of law, including independence of the judiciary and fair trial rights, remain a challenge, particularly in Eastern Europe, South Caucasus and Central Asia. Torture and ill-treatment during arrest, in pre-trial detention and in penitentiary institutions are also persistent challenges to the rule of law. Transitional justice issues are still relevant in the Balkans. Protracted conflicts of a varying nature and intensity further hinder the protection and realization of human rights in Cyprus, Kosovo\*, the Republic of Moldova and South Caucasus. Throughout the region, there is a need for more effective, independent “A” status national human rights institutions (NHRIs), as key pillars of national human rights protection systems.

Across the region, the discourse of political stability, public order and the fight against terrorism and extremism is gaining force at the expense of democratic space and political freedoms. Of particular concern is an increase in the legislative and practical limitations to freedoms of peaceful assembly, speech, religion or belief and harassment of human rights defenders, especially in the context of elections.

The multiplicity and complexity of the challenges faced by the countries in ECA require stronger partnerships and engagement with all relevant partners and stakeholders, especially with a view to strengthening the national human rights protection system and respect for good governance and the rule of law. In particular, the Office will deepen its cooperation with regional organizations, including the Council of Europe (CoE), the European Union (EU) institutions, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and its Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR), as well as NHRIs, Ombudsmen and civil society. With

the CoE, OHCHR will explore joint activities and pilot projects at the country level, in addition to pursuing annual consultations at the headquarters level, within the framework of the Joint Declaration on reinforcing cooperation that was signed between OHCHR and the CoE Secretariat in September 2013. Similarly, with OSCE/ODIHR, OHCHR will continue consolidating cooperation both at headquarters and in the field, with a particular focus on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process. The EU enlargement prospects will continue to provide opportunities for OHCHR work in the region. More broadly, OHCHR will seek to strengthen cooperation with the EU beyond the ECA region with a view to advancing the promotion and protection of human rights worldwide, considering the EU's increasingly active role as a regional group within the Human Rights Council and their potential influence as a global development donor.

At the country level, OHCHR will focus on building national human rights capacity, including by: promoting a strengthened engagement with the UN human rights system; supporting the establishment of national coordinating bodies for follow-up to the recommendations of the UN human rights mechanisms, in a holistic manner, on the basis of thematically clustered and prioritized recommendations; integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in UN work at the country level, including in the Common Country Assessment (CCA)/United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) process, particularly in preparation for and in follow-up to the UPR's second and third cycles; enhanced capacity-building for NHRIs, including as National Preventive Mechanisms against torture under the OP-CAT, and in line with the Paris Principles; providing technical assistance to duty-bearers and awareness-raising or capacity-building for rights-holders, maximizing synergies and complementarity with development actors and the donor community.

During the past five years, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights visited Austria, Belgium, Denmark, France, Germany, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kosovo\*, Kyrgyzstan, Liechtenstein, Republic of Moldova, Netherlands, Norway, Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom; the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights visited Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Kyrgyzstan, Lithuania, Netherlands, Poland, Switzerland, Turkey and the United Kingdom and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights visited Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Finland, Kyrgyzstan, Norway, Slovenia and Spain. In addition, the region received 92 visits of thematic special procedures mandate-holders over the same period.

## OHCHR presence in the region

OHCHR engages with countries in the region from Geneva headquarters, the New York Office and field presences. Currently, OHCHR has two regional offices - one for Europe (based in Belgium) and one for Central Asia (based in Kyrgyzstan, including national officers deployed in Kazakhstan and Tajikistan); a stand-alone office in Kosovo\*, and seven human rights advisers: a Senior human rights adviser (HRA for South Caucasus (based in Georgia, supported by a national officer in Azerbaijan); a Senior Human Rights Adviser (HRA) in the Russian Federation; international HRAs in Republic of Moldova, Tajikistan and Ukraine; and national HRAs in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Serbia. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, a national HRA was deployed by the Resident Coordinator in July 2013, who benefits from substantive and technical advice from OHCHR. In addition, OHCHR has received additional requests for the deployment of HRAs in other countries of the region. These will be considered in the context of the United Nations Development Group-Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism.

## Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: implementation of recommendations, including through national coordination mechanisms and the integration of recommendations and a human rights-based approach in the UN work at the country level.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: business and human rights; land, water and sanitation and housing rights; public policies and budget processes, and the impact of austerity measures.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: legislation, policies, institutions; including NHRIs and civil society organizations; women; Roma; migrants; racial and religious discrimination; persons with disabilities; older persons; minorities and LGBTI persons.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: "public freedoms;" human rights defenders; media freedom and human rights education.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: human rights in the administration of justice; National Preventive Mechanisms on torture; deprivation of liberty and transitional justice.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: trafficking and mainstreaming human rights in United Nations responses.

## Europe and Central Asia and the human rights mechanisms

Member States	Next UPR*	Standing Invitation**	Ratification and reporting status												
			ICERD	ICCPR	ICESCR	CAT	OP-CAT	CEDAW	CRC	OP-CRC-SC	OP-CRC-AC	ICMW	CRPD	CPED	
<b>Albania</b>	2014	Yes													
<b>Andorra</b>	2015	Yes	X	X											
<b>Armenia</b>	2015	Yes													
<b>Austria</b>	2015	Yes													
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	+2017	Yes													
<b>Belarus***</b>	2015			X											
<b>Belgium</b>	2016	Yes													
<b>Bosnia &amp; Herzeg</b>	2014	Yes											X		
<b>Bulgaria</b>	2015	Yes	X												
<b>Croatia</b>	2015	Yes	X		X					X					
<b>Cyprus</b>	+2017	Yes								X	X				
<b>Czech Republic</b>	+2017	Yes													
<b>Denmark</b>	2016	Yes				X									
<b>Estonia</b>	2016	Yes						X	X						
<b>Finland</b>	+2017	Yes													
<b>France</b>	+2017	Yes											X		
<b>Georgia</b>	2015	Yes			X	X			X	X	X				
<b>Germany</b>	+2017	Yes													
<b>Greece</b>	2016	Yes		X											
<b>Hungary</b>	2016	Yes	X		X	X									
<b>Iceland</b>	2016	Yes				X									
<b>Ireland</b>	2016	Yes							X	X					
<b>Italy</b>	2014	Yes		X		X									
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	2014	Yes													
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	2014											X			
<b>Latvia</b>	2016	Yes	X		X			X					X		
<b>Liechtenstein</b>	+2017	Yes		X	X				X						
<b>Lithuania</b>	2016	Yes				X									
<b>Luxembourg</b>	+2017	Yes		X	X	X		X							
<b>Malta</b>	+2017	Yes			X	X				X					
<b>Rep. of Moldova</b>	2016	Yes													
<b>Monaco</b>	+2017	Yes	X					X		X					
<b>Montenegro</b>	+2017	Yes											X		
<b>Netherlands</b>	+2017	Yes													
<b>Norway</b>	2014	Yes													
<b>Poland</b>	+2017	Yes													
<b>Portugal</b>	2014	Yes													
<b>Romania</b>	+2017	Yes		X				X	X	X	X				

Member States	Next UPR*	Standing Invitation**	Ratification and reporting status											
			ICERD	ICCPR	ICESCR	CAT	OP-CAT	CEDAW	CRC	OP-CRC-SC	OP-CRC-AC	ICMW	CRPD	CPED
<b>Russian Fed.</b>	+2017													
<b>San Marino</b>	2014	Yes	X		X	X			X	X			X	
<b>Serbia</b>	+2017	Yes												
<b>Slovakia</b>	+2017													
<b>Slovenia</b>	2014	Yes		X									X	
<b>Spain</b>	2015	Yes												
<b>Sweden</b>	2015	Yes												
<b>Switzerland</b>	+2017	Yes												
<b>Tajikistan</b>	2016									X	X			
<b>The fYR Macedonia</b>	2014	Yes	X		X									
<b>Turkey</b>	2015	Yes	X									X	X	
<b>Turkmenistan</b>	+2017													
<b>Ukraine</b>	+2017	Yes												
<b>United Kingdom</b>	+2017	Yes												
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	+2017													
<b>Out of total of 53 States</b>		<b>46</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>35</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>39</b>	<b>13</b>

- Treaty ratified
- X Overdue report as of December 2013
- Outstanding ratification

- \* Date of next UPR review. Countries undergoing the third UPR cycle will be considered after 2017
- \*\* Standing invitations to special procedures mandate-holders
- \*\*\* Country with established special procedure country mandate

## WESTERN AND EASTERN EUROPE

### Countries of engagement

Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, the Republic of Moldova, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Ukraine and the United Kingdom; and Kosovo\*.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 236

### Mandates from the Human Rights Council

Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus

Cyprus: annual reports pursuant to HRC resolutions

In 2012, the European Union (EU) adopted an ambitious human rights package aimed at mainstreaming human rights into all external policy areas, including development and trade policies and created the post of EU Special Representative for Human Rights. In the coming programming period, the key human rights challenges for many European States will continue to revolve around the rights of migrants, such as the Roma and Travellers; persons with disabilities; victims of trafficking; violence against women; conditions in prisons, detention centers and care institutions; and the rights of the child. The economic crisis is likely to continue having an impact on the human rights situation in a number of European States. The adverse effect of the crisis on economic, social and cultural rights is compounded by austerity policies imposed by numerous governments and/or by the EU and the International Monetary Fund. The rights of persons who were already at risk – those living in poverty, members of ethnic minorities and migrants – have been the most affected. Cuts in social services have also represented a setback for victims of domestic violence and for persons with disabilities. Some developments have been contradictory. While several European “A” status national human rights institutions (NHRIs) appear at risk of being weakened by recent budget cuts or mergers, other States are making efforts to establish “A” status NHRIs. While in

some Eastern European States members of the LGBTI community have been targeted in several EU member states, LGBTI rights have progressed. Furthermore, while there are recurrent threats of security-focused approaches, there is also growing public awareness of the risks of such approaches.

<b>Field presence</b>	OHCHR Regional Office, based in Brussels, Belgium Operation established in 2009
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### Countries of engagement

Conducting subregional activities with selected countries of engagement and complementing OHCHR’s field presences in the ECA region

The Regional Office for Europe (ROE), established in October 2009, is based in Brussels, seat of the EU institutions. ROE follows developments relevant to human rights in the EU and its member states, as well as in other European States without an OHCHR presence. It follows EU external policies that have an impact on human rights and engages with the EU on human rights developments worldwide. The office liaises with other important actors dedicated to human rights in the region, including the Council of Europe and the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, OSCE/ODIHR, NHRIs, ombudsmen and civil society organizations. ROE engages regularly with the other members of the UN Team in Brussels to ensure the reflection of international human rights standards in UN contributions to EU policy and legislative processes.

ROE facilitates the interaction of EU member states with international human rights mechanisms. Timely reporting to the treaty bodies is generally strong and all EU member states have issued a standing invitation to special procedures mandate-holders. A number of mandate-holders visited countries in the region in 2012 and 2013, while several others have visited Brussels and engaged with various EU stakeholders.

ROE engagement will focus on strengthening engagement with rights-holders, civil society organizations and NHRIs in order to promote their participation in public policies. ROE will also focus on the follow-up to specific recommendations of the UN human rights mechanisms, i.e., stemming from UN treaty bodies, special procedures and the Universal Periodic Review.

## Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: submission of information by civil society actors and NHRIs to treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: participation in public policies and budget processes; right

to education, health care, housing of socially excluded groups and application of a human rights-based approach to development in EU external policy.

- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: Roma; migrants; older persons; persons with disabilities and LGBTI persons.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: trafficking.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN EUROPE	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> Increased participation of rights-holders and CSOs which represent them, in the design and monitoring of public policies in the region, particularly:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ EU development policies.</li> <li>▶ Public policies and budget processes affecting socially excluded ethnic groups (Roma and Travellers) in at least three States of the region.</li> <li>▶ Public policies dealing with the right to independent living of persons with disabilities and family or family-type care of children in at least five States of the region.</li> <li>▶ NHRIs and equality bodies take concrete measures to address discrimination issues; increase direct participation of rights-holders from groups at risk (especially Roma and migrants) and involve civil society organizations representing these groups in their activities in at least two States in the region.</li> </ul>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ Implementation of the EU Anti-Trafficking Directive, the Strategy and the Action Paper, in accordance with international human rights law in countries in the region.</p> <hr/> <p><b>[EA4]</b> ▶ Comprehensive non-discrimination directive aimed at protecting individuals from discrimination on the grounds of disability, age, religion and sexual orientation in education, health care, social protection and access to goods and services, including housing, is closer to adoption.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Roma inclusion policies in at least three States in the region comply with the recommendations of international human rights mechanisms, with a particular focus on article 3 of ICERD (prohibition of segregation).</li> </ul>
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ▶ Increased use of United Nations human rights mechanisms and bodies by diverse rights-holders (especially Roma and migrants), NHRIs and CSOs acting on their behalf in at least three States in the region.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in the region.

## Kosovo\*

<b>Field presence</b>	Stand-alone Office Operation established in 1998
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### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

Due to its status, Kosovo cannot engage directly with human rights mechanisms and must instead go through UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) in line with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999). Since the 2008 unilateral declaration of independence, interaction with human rights mechanisms has been limited, although Kosovo authorities recently expressed their intention to resume them.

Serbia extended an open standing invitation. Each special rapporteur who visited Serbia also visited Kosovo. In addition, special procedures can communicate with Kosovo authorities through UNMIK.

### Visits by special procedures in the past five years

Special Rapporteurs on freedom of religion and belief (2009); and internally displaced persons (2009, 2013)

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances

Since the end of supervised independence in September 2012, the political situation of Kosovo has been linked to the implementation of the Belgrade-Pristina Agreement, which was signed on 19 April 2013. This agreement, facilitated by the European Union, is the foundation on which to normalize relations between Serbia and Kosovo. The current status of Kosovo also affects its human rights situation, as Kosovo is not a party to any regional or international human rights instruments.

Widespread unemployment and a lack of quality jobs have contributed to poverty and income insecurity. Poverty is gradually declining, yet remains widespread. Discrimination on various grounds, although prohibited in law, remains a reality in Kosovo. The current debates regarding the adoption of amendments to the 2004 Anti-Discrimination Law are crucial as they may eventually lead to the establishment of an implementation mechanism. Despite the progress achieved in eliminating discrimination against women in laws and policies, more efforts are needed to fully implement those norms. Discrimination is also affecting other vulnerable

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

groups and communities, such as people affected by poverty, internally displaced persons, returnees, older persons, LGBTI persons, etc.

Although Kosovo benefits from a comprehensive human rights framework, including a wide range of institutions that are entrusted with human rights promotion and protection, human rights implementation remains a challenge.

OHCHR has had a presence in Kosovo since 1998, although its focus evolved over the years. It is now working with the Ombudsperson Institution on ensuring human rights compliance of relevant legislation and policies, with priority attention being given to non-discrimination and gender equality and the issue of transitional justice.

A specificity of Kosovo is the presence of a wide range of regional and international actors, including the United Nations, the OSCE, the Council of Europe and the EU. Human rights are a key component of the work of all these actors.

## Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: submissions of information by civil society actors, the NHRI and the United Nations to special procedures and establishment of a national participatory body for reporting and implementation of recommendations of human rights mechanisms; and integration of recommendations in United Nations work.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: post-2015 development agenda.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: legislation and strategic litigation on non-discrimination and equality.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: participation of women.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: transitional justice; torture prevention and accountability.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: sexual and gender-based violence.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN KOSOVO*	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ► Increased level of meaningful participation of women in selected public processes, notably those relating to sexual and gender-based violence.</p> <p>► Increased number of strategic litigation cases on non-discrimination and equality taken to courts by non-governmental organizations on behalf of victims.</p>	<p><b>[EA3]</b> ► Fully functioning National Preventive Mechanism against torture is in place and operating in accordance with OP-CAT.</p> <p>► A transitional justice strategy that conforms to international human rights standards is adopted and being implemented.</p>
	<p><b>[EA4]</b> ► Legislation to combat discrimination is adopted and implemented in line with international human rights standards.</p>
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ► Increased engagement of UN agencies, the Ombudsperson Institution and civil society actors with special procedures.</p>	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ► Functioning participatory standing national coordinating body in place to report/reply to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms.</p> <p>► Increased response rate to communications from special procedures.</p>
<p><b>[EA10]</b> ► Increased instances of formal approaches by the international community in relation to specific economic, social, cultural rights issues.</p>	
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ► Human rights duly taken into consideration in the drafting process of the new United Nations Common Development Plan document. Human rights accountability of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo/European Union Rule of Law Mission is increased.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Kosovo.

## The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights Adviser Operation established in 2007
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### Visits by special procedures in the past five years

Special Rapporteurs on freedom of religion or belief (2009); and freedom of opinion and expression (2013)

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia continues to face many challenges on its way to democracy. Economic setbacks and deeply rooted ethnic, social and political divisions slow down reforms and affect the capability of institutions to ensure the effective enjoyment of human rights and protection for all. A high acceptance of human rights standards has yet to be matched by fully compliant legislation, policies and institutions. Among the key concerns raised by UN human rights mechanisms are: weak institutions and persistent discrimination against minorities, women and others who are marginalized, including Roma and LGBTI persons. Efforts are underway to address these concerns in line with international standards. To this end, the Government established a national coordination body in 2012 that works on improving regularity of the reporting and the engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.

On the completion of its technical cooperation project in 2007, OHCHR deployed a national human rights adviser to assist the United Nations Country Team to incorporate human rights into programming and strengthen national human rights capacities. The human rights adviser works with the UNCT to align legislation and institutions with standards and effectively engage with UN human rights mechanisms. The United Nations Development Assistance Framework 2010-2015 placed priority on addressing social exclusion and the concerns of those who are marginalized, as highlighted by the international human rights mechanisms.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: implementation of recommendations of human rights mechanisms, including through national coordination mechanisms.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in United Nations work at the country level.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: racial and religious discrimination and minorities.

### OHCHR expected contribution

## ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN THE FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA

RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ▶ An increased number of diverse national CSOs participate in State reporting and implementation of recommendations and make submissions to the UN human rights mechanisms.</p>	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ Government coordination body for integrated reporting and/or implementation of outstanding recommendations is functioning in line with effective, transparent and participatory operating modalities.</p>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> The new UNDAF and respective UN programmes incorporate and support the implementation of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms; and</li> <li>▶ Guidance Note of the Secretary-General on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities.</li> </ul>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

## Republic of Moldova

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights Adviser Operation established in 2008
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### Visits by special procedures in the past five years

Special Rapporteurs on freedom of religion or belief (2011); and extreme poverty (2013)

Working Group on discrimination against women in law and in practice (2012)

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

N/A

The Republic of Moldova declared independence in 1991. Although the borders of the new State corresponded to the borders of the former Soviet Socialist Republic of Moldova, the process of independence and its early period was marred by an unresolved separatist conflict involving its Transnistrian region, which resulted in parts of the country being outside the effective control of the Government and the development of human rights challenges.

The UPR and treaty body reviews undertaken in recent years have focused extensively on two key areas: discrimination; and impunity – including impunity for torture and related ill-treatment. Groups particularly exposed to unequal treatment include Roma; LGBTI persons; persons with disabilities; national, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities; and foreigners and other non-citizens. Torture and ill-treatment, including sexual abuse, are regularly reported in police

detention, psychiatric hospitals and neuro-psychiatric residential institutions on both banks of the river Nistru. Other human rights concerns in the Republic of Moldova include: trafficking in human beings; domestic violence and violence against women more broadly; as well as economic, social and cultural rights issues, in particular in health care. The Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief and others have expressed concern at the negative role played by the Moldovan Orthodox Church in driving certain human rights abuses. Thomas Hammarberg, who was engaged by the UN as a Senior Expert on Human Rights in the Transnistrian Region of the Republic of Moldova during 2012-2013, followed the visit of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in 2011 and provided a comprehensive report in February 2013.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: implementation of recommendations of human rights mechanisms, including through national coordination mechanisms; integration of their recommendations and a human rights-based approach in UN work at the country level.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: women; racial, ethnic, linguistic and religious discrimination; LGBTI persons, Roma; older persons and persons with disabilities.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: legal and judicial protection.

### OHCHR expected contribution

#### ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA

RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ▶ Civil society increasingly engages with the CRC, CAT, Human Rights Committee and UPR review.</p> <p>▶ Women and others from marginalized or vulnerable groups, including Roma, persons with disabilities, older women or persons from the Transnistrian region, make effective use of the individual communications procedures of CEDAW, the two Covenants and ICERD.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ Increased number of remedy decisions and decisions in discrimination cases in compliance with international law.</p>
	<p><b>[EA2]</b> ▶ Republic of Moldova accedes to OP-ICESCR.</p>
	<p><b>[EA4]</b> ▶ Regulations and official scenarios (such as Pride events or segregated school districts) brought substantially into compliance with non-/anti-discrimination international law and standards.</p>
	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ De facto Transnistrian authorities develop a Human Rights Action Plan with civil society input.</p>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ▶ UNCT increasingly engages with international human rights mechanisms.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in the Republic of Moldova.

## Russian Federation

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights Adviser Operation established in 2008
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### Visits by special procedures in the past five years

Special Rapporteurs on indigenous peoples (2009); cultural rights (2012); and the independence of judges and lawyers (2013)

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

Working Group on business and human rights; and enforced or involuntary disappearances  
Special Rapporteurs on freedom of opinion and expression; toxic waste; arbitrary detention; extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; freedom of religion or belief; trafficking in persons; human rights defenders; torture; right to food; freedom of association and assembly; human rights and counter-terrorism; persons of African descent; and internally displaced persons

The Russian Federation continues to face human rights challenges despite some positive changes related to economic and social rights and an increase of investment in human development. The recent reviews by the UN human rights mechanisms have continued to highlight the challenges that remain in the areas of rule of law, administration of justice, protection of human rights defenders, freedom of media, assembly and association, discrimination of minorities and other vulnerable groups, xenophobia, prevention of torture, violence against women and corruption.

OHCHR engagement is formalized under the Framework for Cooperation established in 2007. The Framework is clustered around four areas: rule of law; equality and tolerance; human rights education and information; and mainstreaming human rights within the UNCT. In line with the Framework for Cooperation, OHCHR provides technical advice and assistance to different

stakeholders in building a stronger human rights protection system in the Russian Federation, through, inter alia, better articulation of human rights dimensions and coordination with various UN agencies, government institutions, the judiciary, civil society, academia, the federal Ombudsman and regional human rights institutions.

The visit of the High Commissioner in 2011 provided an opportunity for OHCHR to further advance programmes in the areas of human rights education, expanding cooperation with NHRIs at federal and regional levels and the promotion of the rights of vulnerable and discriminated groups.

The Russian Federation continued to play an important role in the UN system, including through its membership in the Security Council and the Human Rights Council, by providing financial support to OHCHR and by participating in the resolution of various protracted conflicts in the Commonwealth of Independent States region (i.e., the Minsk Group and Geneva-based international discussions).

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: implementation of recommendations of human rights mechanisms; and integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: NHRIs working on non-discrimination and equality standards.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: human rights education for youth.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: human rights in the administration of justice.

## OHCHR expected contribution

## ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

## RIGHTS-HOLDERS

## DUTY-BEARERS

- |   |
|---|
| <p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ A multidisciplinary Human Rights Programme has been integrated into formal higher education and institutionalized in several regions.</p> <p>▶ The judiciary increasingly integrates international human rights standards in its policies and decisions.</p>                          |
| <p><b>[EA4]</b> ▶ NHRI's anti-discrimination programmes significantly improve compliance with international human rights standards.</p>   |
| <p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ Increased implementation of recommendations issued by treaty bodies, special procedures and the Human Rights Council relating to human rights institutions, judicial reform, human rights training for law enforcement officials, the rights of children and the rights of women.</p> |

- [EA11]** ▶ Recommendations of human rights mechanisms are increasingly integrated into the planning and programming of UN agencies.

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in the Russian Federation.



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Participants to a Human Rights Orientation Program for civil servants of the Russian Federation organized by OHCHR in November 2013.

## Serbia

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights Adviser Operation established in 2007
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### Visits by special procedures in the past five years

Special Rapporteurs on freedom of religion or belief (2009); and internally displaced persons (2009, 2013)

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

Special Rapporteur on racism  
Working Group on enforced or voluntary disappearances (visit accepted)

It is widely recognized that Serbia's normative and institutional framework for the promotion and protection of human rights is generally in line with the UN human rights standards. Nevertheless, more needs to be done to achieve consistent implementation of these standards, thus ensuring human rights are guaranteed and protected in practice, as well as in policy. To this end, the Government of Serbia pledged in 2013 to establish a National Mechanism for Follow-Up to the Recommendations of the UN human rights mechanisms. The work of this Mechanism is to be organized around the clustered and prioritized recommendations of the human rights mechanisms. This way, the Government will ensure that the human rights issues and gaps identified by the human rights mechanisms are consistently and comprehensively addressed and that human rights are mainstreamed into the Government's policies and activities. This approach was recommended by the High Commissioner for Human Rights during her official visit to Serbia in the summer of 2013 and is a means to ensure human rights progress is well demonstrated in the EU accession process. The Government's Human and Minority Rights Office will serve as a Secretariat to the National Mechanism which is to be headed by the Minister of Justice.

The key human rights concerns in Serbia include: poverty, marginalization and discrimination of certain vulnerable groups, notably Roma and persons with disabilities. Gaps in the protection system can also be linked to the judiciary. The new Strategy for the Reform of the Judiciary includes the strategic objective to "advance access to justice and strengthen protection of human and minority rights and freedoms" but does not mention the failure of judges to refer to ratified human rights treaties in judgments. Disaggregated data and human rights indicators are missing at all levels. Huge discrepancies between the official and non-official statistics relating to Roma are a powerful indication of one of the problems.

Since the closure of the OHCHR Office in Serbia in 2007, the Office has supported a national Human Rights Adviser, based within the UN Resident Coordinator's Office, who is working on mainstreaming human rights in the work of the UNCT, NHRIs and civil society within the framework of the UNDAF 2011-2015 for Serbia.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: submissions of reports by States to treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR; and functioning national participatory body for reporting and implementation of recommendations of human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: integration of a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: human rights in the administration of justice.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN SERBIA	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ UN human rights standards increasingly invoked in court proceedings.</p>
	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ Fully functioning participatory standing national coordinating body is in place to report/reply to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms.</p> <p>▶ At least half of the State Party reports submitted to the UN human rights mechanisms contain relevant disaggregated data, as assessed by the treaty bodies.</p>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ▶ The UNDAF and half of UN programmes and projects fully conform to the human rights-based approach and incorporate recommendations from human rights mechanisms.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Serbia.

## South Caucasus

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights Adviser Operation established in 2007
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### Visits by special procedures in the past five years

Armenia: Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders (2010); and Working Group on arbitrary detention (2010)

Azerbaijan: Special Rapporteurs on the right to health (2012); and on violence against women (2013)

Georgia: Special Rapporteurs on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association (2012); and on internally displaced persons- follow-up visit (2013)

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

Azerbaijan: Working Group on arbitrary detention; and Special Rapporteurs on the independence of judges and lawyers; internally displaced persons; and freedom of assembly and association

Georgia: Special Rapporteurs on torture; and the independence of judges and lawyers

As a result of recent conflicts, people living in the region have experienced insecurity and severe challenges to the implementation of their human rights. In each of the three countries, there are shortcomings in the justice sector, including challenges to the rights to a fair trial and freedom from torture and ill-treatment. Equality of arms between prosecutors and defence lawyers is yet to be achieved. Persons belonging to minorities and other vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities, frequently experience discrimination. The right to freedom of peaceful assembly has been at risk in the three countries. With regard to social and economic rights, the economic growth seen in recent years has yet to ensure the full enjoyment of the right to an adequate standard of living by a large percentage of inhabitants of the region.

Civil society is becoming more aware of UN human rights mechanisms. In all three countries, NHRIs enjoy "A" status. Georgia signed an Association Agreement with the European Union in November 2013 which anticipates adoption of the Anti-Discrimination Law, the National Human Rights Strategy and the Action Plan. The latter envisages a co-ordination mechanism for reporting to and implementing recommendations of international

human rights mechanisms. Armenia and Azerbaijan each have interministerial working groups responsible for the implementation of UPR recommendations.

The position of the Senior Human Rights Adviser for the South Caucasus based in Tbilisi, Georgia was established in May 2007 and is supported by national human rights officers in Azerbaijan and Georgia. The Senior HRA cooperates closely with UNCT in Armenia. The Senior HRA focuses on providing support to governments, civil societies and NHRIs in the implementation of the recommendations of international human rights mechanisms related to combating discrimination and improving respect for human rights in the administration of justice and initiating human rights training programmes in educational institutions. The finalization and implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan in Georgia will receive particular attention.

All three countries have UNDAFs that mainstream human rights. These will expire in the forthcoming programming cycle and are due to be renewed.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: submissions of information by civil society actors, the NHRI and the United Nations to treaty bodies, special procedures and the UPR; fully functioning national participatory body for reporting and implementing recommendations of human rights mechanisms; integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: women; persons with disabilities and minorities.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: "public freedoms" (freedom of expression, assembly and association and incitement to hatred); human rights education focusing on youth.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: human rights in the administration of justice and international community responsiveness.

## OHCHR expected contribution

## ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN THE SOUTH CAUCASUS

RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> Increased use of national protection systems:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ By women and persons living with disabilities in Baku/Azerbaijan.</li> <li>▶ By ethnic and religious minorities (especially outside the capital), the LGBTI community, persons with disabilities and women in Georgia.</li> </ul>	<p><b>[EA1]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Training programmes on human rights institutionalized in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.</li> <li>▶ Institutions in the justice sector show significant improvement in their compliance with international human rights standards.</li> </ul>
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ▶ Increased engagement with international human rights mechanisms by civil society.</p>	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ Fully functioning participatory standing national coordinating bodies are in place for reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.</p>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ▶ International human rights standards and recommendations of international human rights mechanisms are partially integrated in UN common country programmes in Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in the South Caucasus.

## Ukraine

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights Adviser Operation established in 2011
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### Visits by special procedures in the past five years

None

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

Working Group on discrimination against women in law and in practice

Special Rapporteurs on the independence of judges and lawyers; and the right to food

In recent years, Ukraine conducted a number of reforms aimed at bringing policies and laws in line with international human rights standards. This process of alignment mirrored the requirements for the country's pursuit of integration with the EU. In November 2013, the previous Government suspended the process of preparation for the signing of Association Agreements with the EU. This decision triggered massive protests across the country, followed by violent clashes between the riot police and protesters, which left dozens of persons killed and hundreds wounded as well as many reported cases of disappearance and torture/ill-treatment.

The main human rights challenges include: arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment by law enforcement agents; impunity for violations; the absence of effective redress mechanisms; a weak judiciary lacking independence; a predominance of the prosecution which compromise the fairness of trials; insufficient attention given to discrimination affecting vulnerable groups; human rights institutions with limited capacity; and widespread corruption. While a new Criminal Procedure Code and anti-

discrimination legislation were adopted in 2012, additional steps and reforms are required to strengthen the accountability of duty-bearers and address inequalities.

OHCHR deployed a human rights adviser to the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator in December 2011. A Partnership Framework defines joint UNCT-Government priorities for the period 2012-2016 and provides for cooperation in the area of human rights to strengthen good governance and implement Ukraine's international human rights obligations. Ukraine cultivates close relations with the Council of Europe whose recommendations set the tone for the country's reforms to meet European integration requirements.

OHCHR will revise its programme in Ukraine for the next years in light of the outcome of ongoing events in the country.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: establishment of a national participatory body for reporting and implementing recommendations of human rights mechanisms; and integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: anti-discrimination legislation.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: mechanisms on the prevention of torture.

## OHCHR expected contribution

## ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN UKRAINE

RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
	<p><b>[EA3]</b> ▶ Torture prevention and accountability mechanisms are in place and functioning.</p>
	<p><b>[EA4]</b> ▶ Anti-discrimination legislation is in line with international standards.</p>
	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ A permanent interministerial coordination mechanism for integrated reporting and implementation of recommendations issued by treaty bodies, special procedures and the Human Rights Council is in place and functioning.</p>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ▶ At least three UN agencies regularly apply UN guidelines on incorporating a rights-based approach to programming.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Ukraine.

## CENTRAL ASIA

**Field presence** OHCHR Regional Office, based in Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan  
Operation established in 2008

### Countries of engagement

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. The Regional Office and Regional Representative are based in Bishkek, two staff members are in Dushanbe (a national programme officer and a human rights adviser to the UN Resident Coordinator) and one in Astana (a national officer). In addition, a human rights officer is based at the UN Regional Center for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia located in Ashgabat.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 236

Wide variations in the economic, social, political and cultural contexts of Central Asia continue to impact the enjoyment of human rights across the region. Constitutions of the five countries reflect, to varying degrees, the majority of international human rights standards that guarantee human rights and foresee a separation of powers. There remain, however, challenges with implementing constitutional provisions in full compliance with their obligations under the ratified human rights treaties and the political commitments they have made within the context of the UPR.

In the biennium 2012-2013, several Central Asian countries demonstrated their willingness to engage with the human rights mechanisms, including noticeable efforts to comply with reporting requirements, extending invitations to the special procedures mandate-holders and receiving the visits of the High Commissioner and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights in 2012 and 2013, respectively. Some countries in the region established a National Preventive Mechanism against torture in line with the OP-CAT, an interministerial Coordinating Council for Human Rights to follow-up on the recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms and took steps to strengthen their Ombudsman Institutions. Continued efforts are needed to make those institutions effective.

The overall concerns in the region include: shortcomings in the rule of law; the prevalence of weak democratic institutions; corruption; the dominant role of the executive branch; organized crime; gaps between regions and different social groups in some of the countries and a focus on the



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A woman in a market in Kyrgyzstan.

fight against terrorism and extremism due to regional security concerns. Human rights issues of concern include: a prevalence of impunity, the alleged use of torture and restrictions on the exercise of freedoms of expression, association, peaceful assembly and religion which in turn affect the democratic space for civil society, human rights defenders, media and religious and sexual minorities.

Poverty combined with discrimination continues to affect numerous vulnerable groups and women, national minorities, elders, migrants and persons with disabilities. Mixed migration flows are rising and women and elders are being left behind to raise families. In addition, internal migration exacerbates existing competition over scarce employment, land and public services in cities.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratifications; visits by special procedures; establishment of national participatory body for reporting and implementation of recommendations of human rights mechanisms and their integration in the work of the United Nations at the country level.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: "public freedoms" (freedom of expression, assembly and association; and incitement to hatred) and human rights defenders.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: human rights in the administration of justice; legislation, institutions and policies on torture, deprivation of liberty and legal and judicial protection of economic, social and cultural rights.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN CENTRAL ASIA	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ▶ Strengthened and meaningful participation of rights-holders, particularly minorities, in selected processes, and particularly those related to housing, land and property rights in Kyrgyzstan.</p> <p>▶ Civil society, in particular youth and women's organizations, increasingly advocate for their rights in Tajikistan.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ National legislation and policies in the area of public freedoms improve compliance with international standards in Kazakhstan.</p> <p>▶ Legislative and policy frameworks increasingly preserve and guarantee democratic space in Kyrgyzstan.</p> <p>▶ Criminal justice legislative and policy frameworks, including in relation to past human rights violations, significantly improve their compliance with international human rights standards in Kyrgyzstan.</p> <p>▶ Human rights training institutionalized for judges and prosecutors in Kyrgyzstan.</p>
	<p><b>[EA2]</b> ▶ Ratification of OP-CAT in Tajikistan.</p>
	<p><b>[EA3]</b> ▶ National Preventive Mechanisms against torture as provided for under the OP-CAT are fully functioning in Kazakhstan and Kyrgyzstan.</p>
	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ Establishment and/or fully functioning participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/ replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms in Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan.</p> <p>▶ Recommendations from all human rights mechanisms related to, inter alia, the administration of justice and the right to adequate housing implemented in Kazakhstan.</p> <p>▶ Positive replies to request of special procedures mandate-holders to visit countries in the region.</p>

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in the region.



# MIDDLE EAST, THE GULF STATES AND NORTH AFRICA

Despite its differences, the region shares many important similarities, such as language, culture, the predominance of Islam and development and environmental conditions. Recent transitions have provided opportunities for an ‘historical’ openness to engage with the international community and undertake sustainable reforms. Intolerance, violence in all its forms and lack of participation remain significant challenges to genuine and meaningful transitions towards sustainable democracy in many of these countries. Discrimination against women is a long-standing and urgent concern. Inequalities in terms of economic and social rights across the region require effective and sustainable responses and are among the root causes of the recent upheavals. Several States are in a post-conflict or transitional situation or are witnessing conflict, violence or unrest. The protection of the rights of migrants and stateless persons, who are present in significant numbers in many of the countries of the region, remains a significant challenge.

Freedoms of expression, association and assembly are fundamental to the enjoyment of many other civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights; particularly during transition phases. In many countries, however, legal action targeting protesters, journalists, activists and prominent political satirists has increased, as has incitement of violence and hate speech. A clear framework is required to create an enabling environment for civil society to

organize and carry out its work for the benefit of the population at large.

The establishment of an independent judiciary and respect for the rule of law, as well as security sector reforms, combating arbitrary detention, torture and ill-treatment are other important challenges facing the region. In addition, past human rights violations need to be addressed through transparent and participatory transitional justice processes seeking truth, accountability, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, in compliance with international standards.

Armed conflict and insecurity continue to characterize the situation in many countries of the region, with the Syrian Arab Republic representing the largest humanitarian and peace and security crisis facing the world. Ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities are especially vulnerable in times of conflict and are in need of specific protection, especially amidst rising sectarian tensions across the region. Combating violence, including political violence, is expected to remain a major challenge.

Although a number of new ratifications of core human rights treaties were recorded in the region during the last biennium, a number of countries have not yet ratified the ICCPR and ICESCR. Engagement with human rights mechanisms remains low. Of the 19 countries in the region, States have an average

of three overdue reports to the treaty bodies and in some cases, the number is as high as seven. Only six have extended an open invitation to special procedures.

During the past five years, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights visited the six Member States of the Gulf Cooperation Council (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates), Algeria, Israel, Jordan, Mauritania, Palestine\*\* and Tunisia; the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights visited Jordan, Lebanon, Morocco, Qatar, Tunisia and Yemen; and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights visited Iraq. Over the same period, the region received 33 visits of special procedures mandate-holders.

### OHCHR presence in the region

OHCHR engages with countries in the region from Geneva Headquarters, the New York Office and field presences. OHCHR's presences in the region include: three offices with a regional mandate; the Regional Office for the Middle East (ROME) based in Lebanon, the Regional Office for North Africa, which is temporarily attached to ROME, and the United Nations Centre for Documentation and Training based in Qatar; four country offices in Mauritania, Palestine\*\*, Tunisia and Yemen and two human rights components of peacekeeping/building missions, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) and United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL). There are no human rights advisers in the region.

An invitation for the establishment of the Regional Office for North Africa in Cairo was extended by Egypt in September 2013. Requests for technical cooperation have been made by Bahrain, Egypt, Saudi Arabia, Oman and the United Arab Emirates. It is envisaged that some of these requests may result in the deployment of human rights advisers in the respective United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs). Agreement has been reached for the framework of a cooperation programme with Saudi Arabia. Persistent

violence in Syria and unrest in countries in transition requires continuous attention and staffing capacity to monitor the human rights situation and report thereon, with possible future in-country deployments to be evaluated as the situation evolves. Syria has continued to deny access to OHCHR.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms and the progressive development of international human rights law and standards with a focus on: ratification; the withdrawal of reservations; and engagement of States and civil society with the mechanisms.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: ensuring that new constitutions integrate and respect human rights and the rule of law; transitional justice; death penalty; genuine national consultations with the active participation of victims, women and civil society groups; and the responsiveness of the international community in ensuring accountability for gross human rights violations, including through the use of Commissions of Inquiry.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: women's rights; migrants' human rights; rights of persons with disabilities; and minorities.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: freedom of expression, assembly, association, conscience and belief; and legislative frameworks to protect human rights defenders and civil society organizations.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: protection of civilians; gender-based violence; and integrating human rights into UN preparedness, response and recovery efforts.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere with a focus on: rights to land, housing, social security and education; and advancing the right to development and the principles of non-discrimination and gender equality regarding the enjoyment of rights.

## Middle East, the Gulf States and North Africa and the United Nations human rights mechanisms

States	Next UPR*	Standing Invitation**	Ratification and reporting status											
			ICERD	ICCPR	ICESCR	CAT	OP-CAT	CEDAW	CRC	OP-CRC-SC	OP-CRC-AC	ICMW	CRPD	CPED
Algeria	+2017			X		X				X	X	X	X	
Bahrain	+2017		X	X	X	X				X	X			
Egypt	2014		X	X		X						X	X	
Iraq	2014	Yes		X		X			X					
Israel	+2017													
Jordan	+2017	Yes			X									
Kuwait	2014	Yes												
Lebanon	2015	Yes	X	X	X	X			X	X				
Libya	2015		X	X	X	X				X	X	X		
Mauritania	2015		X							X		X		
Morocco	+2017			X										
Oman	2015		X						X				X	
Palestine***														
Qatar	2014	Yes							X					
Saudi Arabia	+2017		X			X		X	X	X	X		X	
Syrian Arab Rep.****	2016		X	X	X							X	X	
Tunisia	+2017	Yes	X	X	X	X				X				
UAE	+2017													
Yemen	+2017												X	
<b>Out of 19</b>		<b>6</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>15</b>	<b>4</b>

- Treaty ratified
- X Report is overdue as of December 2013
- Outstanding ratification

- \* Date of next UPR review. Countries undergoing the third UPR cycle will be considered after 2017
- \*\* Standing invitations to special procedures
- \*\*\* Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territories occupied since 1967
- \*\*\*\* Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic

## United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region

The UN Human Rights Training Centre was established by General Assembly resolution 60/153 of 2005 and is mandated "to undertake training and documentation activities according to international human rights standards and to support such efforts within the region by Governments, UN agencies and programmes, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations."

The Centre, which is based in Doha, Qatar, has focused on engagement with the UN human rights mechanisms, countering human trafficking, applying the human rights-based approach to development, policing and human rights and human rights education. The Centre has worked on strengthening human rights knowledge and skills, reaching out to government and law enforcement officials, diplomats, journalists, women's groups, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and non-governmental organizations. These activities have enabled the Centre to build a broad network of contacts and partnerships.

For 2014-2017, the Centre will carry out activities to: enhance human rights knowledge; build national capacity to protect human rights; and reach out to a broader range of target audiences.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: reporting/replying to individual communications and integrated follow-up to all recommendations.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: women; migrants; minorities and trafficked persons and compliance of legislation policies and practices.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: human rights education; participation of civil society, youth and journalists and NHRIs.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: institutionalization of human rights in the curricula of police institutions.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: ensuring protection of the right to education in situations of conflict.

### OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ▶ Civil society, youth and journalists increasingly advocate for and claim their rights.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ Teachers and educators integrate human rights values and concepts into their educational curricula.</p> <p>▶ National human rights institutions function in accordance with international standards regarding their interaction with UN human rights mechanisms and civil society.</p> <p>▶ States adopt policies to ensure protection of the right to education in situations of conflict.</p> <p>▶ Police training institutions integrate human rights standards in their curricula.</p>
	<p><b>[EA4]</b> ▶ Legislation, policies and practices related to migrants, minorities and trafficked persons increasingly comply with anti-discrimination and equality standards.</p>
	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ Establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms.</p>

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in the region.

## MIDDLE EAST AND THE GULF STATES

<b>Field presence</b>	OHCHR Regional Office for the Middle East, based in Beirut, Lebanon Operation established in 2002
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### Countries of engagement

Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syrian Arab Republic and the United Arab Emirates (complementing OHCHR's presences in Palestine\*\* and Yemen and the Human Rights Component of the United Nations Peace Mission in Iraq)

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 256

### Specific mandates of the Human Rights Council

Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic. A Special Rapporteur will be nominated upon completion of the mandate of the Commission.

Demands for reform continued to be made in Bahrain, but were also voiced in other countries of the Middle East and Gulf region. In response to protests, some States have embarked on public investment programmes to improve public services or engaged in selective political reform processes, while others resorted to severe restrictions on freedoms of expression, association and assembly. In some States, human rights defenders and political activists were imprisoned for demanding political reforms.

Ensuing developments in the region have exposed the weak institutional structures related to governance, rule of law and administration of justice and demonstrated the urgent need to address discrimination against women, minorities, migrant workers and stateless persons. The region faces challenges in developing institutions and mechanisms that will address past atrocities and advance core principles of equality and non-discrimination.

### Thematic priorities

The uprisings in the Middle East and North Africa, which started in 2011 with popular demands for freedom, dignity and social justice, have had a profound impact on the lives of people across the region, including in those countries covered by the Regional Office for the Middle East. While the protests brought about hope and a new openness in societies across the region, they also resulted in unrest and protracted conflict in a number of countries.

Since the conflict began in Syria three years ago, more than 100,000 people have lost their lives, over 2.3 million Syrians have taken refuge in neighbouring countries, approximately 75 per cent of whom are women and children and approximately 6.5 million people have been internally displaced. The impact of the conflict constitutes a severe challenge for the region as a whole. In March 2013, due to the continued lack of access to Syria, OHCHR strengthened its monitoring and reporting capacity through the deployment of three human rights officers to Lebanon to create a Syria Monitoring Team to gather first-hand reliable information on human rights violations in Syria. The presence of the OHCHR team in the field has ensured regular reporting of ongoing violations inside Syria.

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratification and the review of reservations; reporting to treaty bodies; establishment of national standing coordination bodies for reporting and implementation of recommendations; engagement of civil society and visits by special procedures.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: the implementation of a rights-based approach in national development and UN programmes.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: women; stateless persons; minorities and migrants.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: freedoms of expression, assembly and association and national human rights institutions (NHRIs).
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: transitional justice, and torture and ill-treatment.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: integrating human rights in UN preparedness, response and recovery efforts in relation to crises; and the implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.

## OHCHR expected contribution

## ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND THE GULF STATES

RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ► Constitutions, laws, administrative measures and policies to promote respect for freedom of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association.</p> <p>► Establishment or strengthening of NHRIs compliant with international standards (Paris Principles), including in Bahrain, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates.</p> <p>► Mainstreaming of human rights in national development plans.</p> <hr/> <p><b>[EA2]</b> ► Ratification of ICCPR and ICESCR by those countries which are not yet Party to these instruments and review of reservations to CEDAW.</p> <hr/> <p><b>[EA3]</b> Establishment and functioning of accountability mechanisms in accordance with international standards:</p> <p>► To monitor, investigate and redress acts of torture and ill-treatment; and</p> <p>► To undertake transitional justice processes where applicable.</p> <hr/> <p><b>[EA4]</b> ► Legislation, policies and practices increasingly comply with anti-discrimination and equality standards in relation to the rights of women and of migrants.</p>
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ► Increased number of submissions to treaty bodies, special procedures and Universal Periodic Review from civil society actors.</p>	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ► Increased compliance and engagement of Member States with international human rights mechanisms, including through the establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms.</p>
<p><b>[EA10]</b> ► Increased responsiveness of international community in ensuring accountability for gross human rights violations.</p>	
<p><b>[EA11]</b> A human rights-based approach increasingly integrated into:</p> <p>► Common Country Assessments/United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs)/ Consolidated Appeal Processes and programmes relating to housing, water, sanitation and land;</p> <p>► Preparedness, response and recovery efforts to crises emanating from natural disasters, conflict and other situations of violence and insecurity; and</p> <p>► Support to non-UN security forces, and UN security policies and programmes in compliance with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in the Middle East and the Gulf States.

## Iraq

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights Office of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (HRO-UNAMI) Operation established in 2003
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### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 256

### Visits by special procedures in the past five years

Working Group on mercenaries (2011)

Representative of the Secretary-General on internally displaced persons (2010)

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

Special Rapporteurs on the independence of judges and lawyers; and summary executions

Working Group on enforced disappearances

The security situation in Iraq deteriorated in 2013, resulting in a rise in violence which took an increasing toll on civilians. This had a corrosive effect on the overall human rights situation, both in the area of civil and political rights and regarding the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights. In contrast, the security situation and respect for human rights in Iraq's Kurdistan Autonomous Region has improved, with an increasing openness of the Kurdistan Region authorities and a greater participation of civil society in seeking solutions to human rights concerns. In order to implement recommendations emanating from the Universal Periodic Review of 2010, the Government of Iraq held a national consultative conference in June 2011. At the conference, a national action plan on human rights was discussed which encompassed legal, institutional and policy reforms. The plan was endorsed in December 2011 and is currently being implemented under the guidance of an interministerial committee in which the Human Rights Office of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq (HRO-UNAMI) participates. The Independent High Commission for Human Rights became operational in 2012/2013, following the appointment of Commissioners by the Council of Representatives in April 2012.

OHCHR is represented in Iraq by the HRO-UNAMI, an integrated political mission established in 2003 by United Nations Security Council resolution 1500, at the request of the Government of Iraq. The mandate of UNAMI, which has been renewed annually at the request of the Government, includes promoting and protecting human rights and judicial and legal reform. The HRO-UNAMI monitors the human rights

situation throughout the country and investigates alleged violations regardless of where or by whom they are committed. The Office, in partnership with Iraqi civil society, is developing a programme to establish a grassroots process of transitional justice that aims to end impunity for past human rights violations and promote community reconciliation.

The HRO-UNAMI prepares inputs to the Report of the Secretary-General on Iraq to the UN Security Council, required every four months, and publishes public biennial reports on the human rights situation in Iraq, as well as ad hoc and thematic reports on human rights issues of concern. The HRO-UNAMI works collaboratively with other UN agencies, funds and programmes and is a full member of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT). In 2010, to ensure a strong human rights focus, the HRO-UNAMI participated in the elaboration of the first National Development Plan agreed upon between the Government and the UNCT, and the country's first United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks. The Office also participated in the development of the first Integrated Strategic Framework between UNAMI and the UNCT to ensure that the protection and promotion of human rights are appropriately reflected in thematic priorities.

The HRO-UNAMI has offices in Baghdad, Basra, Erbil and Kirkuk, with a limited presence in Mosul.

## Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: reporting to treaty bodies and engagement with special procedures.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and in economic sphere with a focus on: mainstreaming human rights in poverty reduction programmes.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: women; minorities and persons with disabilities.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: national human rights institution; and freedom of expression and assembly.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: transitional justice, torture and ill-treatment, death penalty and counter-terrorism.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: the protection of civilians and their participation in decisions related to their security; and security sector reforms.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN IRAQ	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ► The Independent High Commission for Human Rights establishes mechanisms to counter discrimination and ensure participation by rights-holders, including women and discriminated groups, in public life.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ► The Independent High Commission is fully functioning in accordance with the Paris Principles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>► Adoption of policies to improve the capacity of security forces to provide effective security; intelligence gathering and forensic investigation; and the engagement of affected communities in decisions related to their security.</li> <li>► Restriction of the death penalty to the most serious crimes and establishment of a moratorium on the implementation of all death sentences.</li> <li>► Amendment of the Anti-Terrorism Law No. 13 of 2005 and the Iraqi Criminal Procedure Code No. 21 of 1971 in compliance with international human rights standards.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>[EA3]</b> ► Implementation of a grassroots-driven transitional justice policy aimed at ending impunity and promoting community reconciliation.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>► Establishment of an independent judicial board to investigate allegations of arbitrary detention, torture, corruption and extortion by law enforcement officials.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>[EA4]</b> ► Improved legislative framework to combat discrimination against women, minorities and persons with disabilities, including a new Family Protection Law and an amended Law on persons with disabilities.</p>
	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ► Increased engagement with international human rights mechanisms through the submission of overdue reports to treaty bodies and the acceptance of country visits by special procedures.</p>
	<p><b>[EA11]</b> ► UNCT programmes and policies, especially poverty reduction programmes, have a strong human rights focus and improve access to basic services.</p>

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Iraq.

## State of Palestine\*\*

<b>Field presence</b>	Country Office Operation established in 1996
<b>Engagement with the human rights mechanisms</b>	In 2012, the General Assembly voted to recognize the State of Palestine as a non-member observer State. Palestine has not yet become a State Party to any of the international human rights conventions.
<b>Visits by special procedures in the past five years</b>	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territories occupied since 1967 (2012) Special Rapporteurs on adequate housing (2012); and freedom of opinion and expression (2011)
<b>Pending visit requests by special procedures</b>	None
<b>Specific mandates of the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council</b>	Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territories occupied since 1967 Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Areas of the Occupied Territories

The Palestinian Territory has been under Israeli military occupation since 1967. Within this context, and in light of the ongoing split between Fatah and Hamas, violations of human rights are committed by all three duty-bearers: the Government of Israel, the Government of the State of Palestine/Palestinian Authority, and the de facto authorities in Gaza.

In relation to Israel as the occupying Power, excessive use of force and violations of the right to life, arbitrary detention and ill-treatment remain serious concerns. Israeli restrictions on the freedom of movement, both within the West Bank and between the West Bank and Gaza (including the ongoing blockade of Gaza), hamper the exercise of numerous rights. Israeli settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, have a severe impact on the rights of Palestinians, including the right to self-determination. Israeli settlers continue to commit violent acts against Palestinians with impunity. In the context of Israeli military operations there have been clear indications that the Government of Israel has at times failed to respect the principles of distinction, proportionality

and precautions. On the Palestinian side, arbitrary detention and ill-treatment, application of the death penalty, and arbitrary restrictions of the rights to freedom of expression and association are of serious concern. Moreover, various armed groups in Gaza have fired hundreds of rockets indiscriminately into Israel in clear violation of international law. Permeating the entire situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) with respect to both Israel and Palestinian actors is a culture of impunity, under which alleged violations are not investigated effectively and perpetrators are almost never held to account.

The OHCHR field presence was established in 1996 to implement the mandate of the High Commissioner to promote and protect the effective enjoyment and full realization of all human rights and fundamental freedoms by all people in the OPT without discrimination. This mandate includes monitoring and reporting, technical assistance, and capacity-building for the Palestinian Authority and civil society. In addition, OHCHR is specifically mandated by Human Rights Council resolutions S-9/1 and S-12/1 of 2009 to report regularly on the human rights situation in the OPT, including East Jerusalem. Pursuant to its mandate, OHCHR submits periodic reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly and informs discussions within other United Nations bodies.

OHCHR monitors, documents and reports on human rights violations perpetrated by all duty-bearers in the OPT, with a view to ensuring corrective action and accountability for human rights violations. This includes a specific focus on: the right to life and security, freedom of expression, arbitrary detention, arrest and detention of children, human rights defenders and accountability for settler violence. OHCHR also provides technical assistance and capacity-building for Palestinian authorities, institutions and civil society, with a view to anchor human rights in Palestinian society and the legal framework. The Office will provide advice and assistance on the legislative and administrative steps necessary to become a State Party to the core human rights treaties, as soon as legally possible, and to implement their provisions.

In 2013, the UN adopted the first United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF) for Palestine. OHCHR helped ensure a strong human rights-based focus and will work with its partners to ensure that human rights are mainstreamed in the UN development assistance.

\*\* Reference to Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.

OHCHR is leading the Protection Cluster within the context of the overall humanitarian response. The Protection Cluster brings together Palestinian, Israeli and international humanitarian and human rights organizations to provide a more comprehensive response, with coordination of aspects such as monitoring and documentation, joint analysis and advocacy, particularly to ensure accountability for violations.

### Thematic priorities

► Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratification when feasible.

- Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: public participation in development policies and budget processes and mainstreaming human rights in United Nations programmes.
- Widening the democratic space with a focus on: public and media freedoms.
- Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: detention and the death penalty.
- Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and honour crimes; mainstreaming human rights in humanitarian action and prevention and accountability of human rights violations in the context of conflict.

### OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN PALESTINE**	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ► The NHRI and relevant non-governmental organizations /civil society organizations (CSOs) monitor the implementation of the Palestinian National Development Plan.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> Increased compliance with international human rights standards by:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>► Legislation, decrees and administrative instructions relating to SGBV and honour crimes;</li> <li>► Targeted institutions in the areas of freedom of association, assembly and expression;</li> <li>► Detention practices and detention conditions;</li> <li>► Formal moratorium of the death penalty in the West Bank and de facto moratorium in Gaza.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>[EA2]</b> ► Accession to ICCPR and ICESCR.</p>
	<p><b>[EA3]</b> ► Mechanisms established to improve accountability and enhance prevention of violations of international human rights and humanitarian law.</p>
<p><b>[EA10]</b> ► Increased responsiveness of the international community to issues of impunity by both Israeli and Palestinian duty-bearers.</p>	
<p><b>[EA11]</b> Enhanced implementation of a human rights-based approach by United Nations programmes, especially:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>► Within the framework of the UNDAF; and</li> <li>► Humanitarian strategies, planning and responses.</li> </ul>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising – as described in the first part of this document. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Palestine.

## Yemen

<b>Field presence</b>	Country Office Operation established in 2013
<b>Engagement with the human rights mechanisms</b>	
See overview table on page 256	
<b>Visits by special procedures in the past five years</b>	
None	
<b>Pending visit requests by special procedures</b>	
Special Rapporteurs on freedom of religion or belief; extrajudicial, summary executions; torture; freedom of peaceful assembly and association; the right to food; and protection of human rights while countering terrorism Working Group on people of African Descent	

On 10 December 2011, a Government of National Unity was sworn in following the transfer of power agreement brokered by the Gulf Cooperation Council. This was followed by a national and inclusive National Dialogue Conference that began on 18 March 2013 and marked a critical process leading to a new Constitution and the holding of general elections in February 2014.

Despite some progress achieved, Yemen still faces many serious human rights challenges. Issues of concern include the transitional justice framework, with no consensus reached on a national commission of inquiry into allegations of human rights violations that occurred in 2011, or on the Law on Transitional Justice and National Reconciliation. Other human rights issues include ill-treatment and torture in the context of law enforcement, including excessive use of force against peaceful protesters. The security situation throughout the country has contributed to the further deterioration of the humanitarian situation. Concerns have also been raised regarding the counter-terrorism strategy. Traditional conservative influences and practices have had adverse impacts on women, children and marginalized groups, particularly the Al-Muhammasheen community.

On 24 January 2012, the Council of Ministers of the Republic of Yemen requested OHCHR to establish a country office in Yemen, and in February 2012, OHCHR deployed a team to discuss the required terms and procedures to do so. The Host Country Agreement was signed on 26 September 2012 and an OHCHR Country Office was established with a full promotion and protection mandate. The Office became operational during the first quarter of 2013. The United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights visited Yemen in October 2013.

Building on its achievements in 2012-13, OHCHR Yemen will continue to build trust and a strong network with key government institutions and civil society organizations focusing on human rights, to build national capacity in ensuring objective and reliable monitoring and reporting of the human rights situation in Yemen, while also providing technical advice and capacity-building to the national human rights institution (NHRI) for the protection and prevention of human rights violations.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratification.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with a focus on: mainstreaming the human rights-based approach in the work of the United Nations Country Team.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: discrimination against women; persons with disabilities; migrants and minorities.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: participation of youth and women and establishment of a NHRI.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: constitutional reform; transitional justice; torture and deprivation of liberty.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: protection and the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.

## OHCHR expected contribution

## ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN YEMEN

RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Civil society, especially those representing youth and women, substantially increases its advocacy against human rights violations.</li> <li>▶ Civil society creates and supports mechanisms to counter discrimination against women, marginalized groups, minorities, persons with disabilities and migrants.</li> <li>▶ Women, marginalized groups, minorities, persons with disabilities and migrants effectively use national protection, systems.</li> </ul>	<p><b>[EA1]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Constitution and legislative framework is aligned with international human rights standards.</li> <li>▶ NHRI is established and functioning substantially in conformity with Paris Principles.</li> </ul> <hr/> <p><b>[EA2]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ At least three human rights treaties and/or optional protocols are ratified.</li> </ul> <hr/> <p><b>[EA3]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Systems and procedures put in place by OHCHR contribute to protection from human rights violations. Establishment and/or improved functioning in compliance with human rights standards of:               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Victim-centred transitional justice mechanisms, including the Commission of Inquiry, Truth and Reconciliation, Land and Dismissals Commissions.</li> <li>▶ Protection systems and accountability mechanisms to monitor, investigate and redress acts of torture, arbitrary detention, the death penalty, enforced disappearances, ill-treatment and violations of rights of persons deprived of their liberty.</li> </ul> </li> </ul>
<p><b>[EA11]</b> Increased integration of human rights standards and principles, including the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy into the UN:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Common country programming; and</li> <li>▶ Support to non-UN security forces and security programmes with the Yemeni security forces.</li> </ul>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Yemen.



Flavia Pansieri, UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, addresses the press at the end of an official visit to Yemen.

## NORTH AFRICA

<b>Field presence</b>	OHCHR Regional Office for North Africa, temporarily based in Beirut, Lebanon Operation established in 2012
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### Countries of engagement

Algeria, Egypt and Morocco (complementing the OHCHR country presences in Mauritania and Tunisia and the Human Rights Component of the United Nations Peace Mission in Libya)

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 256

### Specific mandates of the Human Rights Council and the Security Council

Human Rights Council resolution on "Technical assistance for Libya in the field of human rights"

In connection with the annual renewal of the mandate of the United Nations Mission for the Referendum in Western Sahara, the Security Council requests the Secretary-General to provide a report on the situation in Western Sahara

In 2011, mass demonstrations engulfed several countries in North Africa as protesters voiced their grievances against the rising cost of living, social inequalities and injustice and demanded better governance systems. Although uprisings in Tunisia, Egypt and Libya led to regime changes, the new leaders are struggling to different extents to enact solid constitutional, legislative and institutional reforms. In Algeria, Mauritania and Morocco, some laws have been passed and announcements have been made regarding legislative and institutional reforms.

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights visited Algeria in September 2012. The Government expressed interest in ratifying two human rights treaties, namely the OP-CAT and the ICPEP. This was followed-up by OHCHR in 2013 through an awareness-raising workshop for government officials, the judiciary and civil society actors.

In Egypt, the events that began on 30 June led to a military intervention and the toppling of President Mohamed Morsi, the suspension of the 2012 Constitution, the nomination of an interim

government and the launch of a transitional road map. The road map includes a constitutional revision process, legislative and institutional reforms as well as a timetable for elections. Several national investigations have been launched regarding actions that were taken which resulted in nationwide killings, arrests and attacks on public properties and churches. The state of emergency and the curfew, which were declared on 14 August 2013, were lifted on 11 November 2013. On 24 November 2013, the Interim President of the Republic of Egypt issued a Law regulating the Right to Public Meetings and Peaceful Assemblies and Demonstrations. The High Commissioner expressed her concerns in relation to the Law noting its vague restrictive definitions and excessive punishments. The referendum related to the new draft constitution is scheduled to take place on 14 January 2014.

In Morocco, advances continued in the field of human rights, including an initiative to elaborate a comprehensive policy on migration in accordance with international human rights law. Key civil society organizations called for reforms to bring national legislation and institutions in line with the 2011 Constitution to ensure non-repetition of violations. Wide-ranging consultations led by the Government on issues such as civil society, the judiciary and the press continued into 2013.

Most North African countries have made efforts to implement recommendations emanating from the UPR. Transitions in the region have generally led to increased openness for human rights engagement in North Africa and the establishment of new field presences in Tunisia and Libya. OHCHR is currently working closely with the United Nations Development Programme in Egypt and Morocco on UPR-related activities, the post-2015 development agenda and capacity-building projects for the League of Arab States and human rights institutions.

On 5 September 2013, the Interim Government of Egypt confirmed its willingness to host the Regional Office for North Africa. The workplan of the Regional Office focuses on, inter alia, transitional justice initiatives, including legal and institutional reforms. Pending the outcome of the discussions on the host country agreement with Egypt, the latter was temporarily established in Tunisia in 2012, and moved to Lebanon in 2013.

## Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with a focus on: ratifications and increased engagement by civil society organizations (CSOs) with human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: legislation in conformity with non-discrimination standards.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: constitutional provisions and legislation on “public freedoms” and national human rights institutions.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus areas on: transitional justice and protection mechanisms to prevent and investigate torture.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: increasing the preparedness and response of the international community, including the United Nations.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN NORTH AFRICA	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<b>[EA7]</b> ▶ Increased use of human rights international protection mechanisms by CSOs.	<b>[EA1]</b> ▶ Constitutions, laws, administrative measures and policies increasingly respect, protect and guarantee freedom of opinion and expression, including prohibition of incitement to hatred, peaceful assembly, association, conscience, religion and belief in Algeria, Egypt and Morocco. ▶ National human rights institutions established and/or working in increased compliance with international standards (Paris Principles) in Algeria, Egypt and Morocco.
	<b>[EA2]</b> ▶ Increased ratification of international human rights treaties.
	<b>[EA3]</b> ▶ Protection systems and accountability mechanisms to monitor, investigate and redress acts of torture and ill-treatment and violations of the rights of persons deprived of their liberty are established and functioning in Algeria, Egypt and Morocco. ▶ A Transitional justice mechanism is established in Egypt.
	<b>[EA4]</b> ▶ Legislation, policies and practices increasingly comply with anti-discrimination and equality standards in Algeria, Egypt and Morocco.
<b>[EA10]</b> ▶ Increased responsiveness and integration of human rights concerns into the international community’s response to potential, emerging or existing situations of conflict, violence and insecurity.	
<b>[EA11]</b> ▶ United Nations agencies increasingly apply a rights-based approach and implement the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising as described in the first part of this document. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers’ compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders’ ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in North Africa.

## Libya

<b>Field presence</b>	Human Rights, Transitional Justice and Rule of Law Division of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) Operation established in 2011
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### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 256

### Visits by special procedures in the past five years

Under the former regime, special procedures were denied access

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

Visits of the Working Groups on disappearances; and mercenaries were planned in 2013, but were postponed for security reasons

### Specific mandates of the Human Rights Council

International Commission of Inquiry to investigate human rights violations in Libya (2012)

Human Rights Council resolution on "Technical assistance for Libya in the field of human rights"

Libya is undergoing a delicate transition as it emerges from four decades of dictatorship and eight months of armed conflict. Security remains the predominant concern as political and criminal violence increases. The process of disbanding the armed brigades formed during the conflict has resulted in little progress. The brigades remain major political and military actors and the Government faces many difficulties in exercising its authority.

The General National Congress adopted the Law on Political and Administrative Isolation in May 2013. Under the Law, those who occupied a wide range of public positions under the former regime were banned from public life for 10 years, according to criteria based on conduct and affiliation. Such vague and far-reaching criteria for exclusion risk violating the civil and political rights of a large number of persons, in particular the right to participate in public affairs.

The country is preparing to elect a 60-member body which will be tasked with drafting a new constitution. The constitution is due to be adopted by referendum, followed by general elections in 2014.

Despite positive developments, such as the establishment of a national human rights institution, the National Council for Civil Liberties and Human

Rights and the establishment of a Human Rights Committee within the General National Congress, Libya's human rights protection system requires significant strengthening. The criminal justice system is not yet fully functional and the security sector requires major reform. Approximately 7,000 conflict-related detainees are being held, primarily by armed brigades, against a backdrop of widespread torture and other forms of ill-treatment.

In September 2011, the Security Council established the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL), with a mandate to provide assistance in a number of areas, such as supporting Libyan efforts to promote the rule of law and monitor and protect human rights, including through assisting the Government to ensure the humane treatment of and due process for detainees and reform the justice and correctional system. To fulfil the human rights mandate of UNSMIL, a Human Rights, Transitional Justice and Rule of Law Division was established from the outset. The Director of the Division represents the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Libya. UNSMIL works together with the United Nations Country Team on the basis of an Integrated Strategic Framework.

## Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with the focus on: ratifications and withdrawal of reservations.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with a focus on: women; racial and religious discrimination; migrants and minorities.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with a focus on: "public freedoms" (freedom of expression, assembly and association and incitement to hatred); human rights defenders; national human rights institutions established and/or working in compliance with international standards (Paris Principles).
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with a focus on: human rights in the administration of justice; transitional justice mechanism established; legislation and policies on torture, deprivation of liberty and the death penalty.
- ▶ Early warning and protection of human rights in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity with a focus on: the responsiveness of the international community.

## OHCHR expected contribution

ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN LIBYA	
RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ▶ Diverse networks of civil society organizations actively advocate for human rights and participate in public life.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ An impartial and effective National Council on Civil Liberties and Human Rights that is working well with civil society and acting increasingly in compliance with the Paris Principles.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Constitution, penal code, code of criminal procedure and legislation on torture increase its compliance with international human rights standards.</li> <li>▶ Detention centres are fully under the control of State-trained judicial police officers and have improved security and effective safeguards against torture.</li> <li>▶ An increasingly functioning judiciary applies due process standards in a safer environment.</li> <li>▶ Reduction in scope of application of death penalty, improved safeguards and enhanced mechanisms for clemency.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>[EA2]</b> ▶ Increased ratification of human rights treaties, namely CPED, OP-CAT, OP-CESCR and OP-CRC-AC and withdrawal of most reservations to CEDAW.</p>
	<p><b>[EA3]</b> ▶ Transitional mechanisms are in place and functioning in compliance with human rights standards, namely a Transitional justice law, an active and impartial truth commission and missing persons commission, a reparations programme and vetting processes. A number of fair trials of former regime members and brigade perpetrators have been carried out.</p>
	<p><b>[EA4]</b> ▶ The legislative and policy framework incorporate international standards against discrimination, especially in relation to minorities, migrants and women.</p>
	<p><b>[EA10]</b> ▶ Consistent reference to the human rights situation and recommendations in statements by the international community and increased responsiveness to meet emerging human rights needs.</p>

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Libya.

## Mauritania

<b>Field presence</b>	Country Office Operation established in 2010
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### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

See overview table on page 256

### Visits by special procedures in the past five years

Special Rapporteur on racism (2013)

Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery (2009/2011)

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

Special Rapporteurs on freedom of religion and belief; human rights of migrants; and contemporary forms of slavery

Mauritania is situated on the confluence of Arab and African influence. The population reflects the history of the country in its two main cultural and ethno-linguistic groups: the Arab-Berber and the black African population. The country is one of the poorest in the world, ranking 155 on the Human Development Index.

Mauritania has a presidential political system, which followed a history of political instability and transfer of power through military coups. Since 2009, the country has experienced a slow transition towards democracy, while the socio-economic and political situation remains quite complex and tense. Prevalent issues include poverty, discrimination, political participation, the abolition of slavery and the lack of accountability for widespread human rights abuses that occurred during the 1980s-1990s. These issues reflect a continuing presence of discrimination based on race and ethnicity, a weak judicial system and lack of public human rights awareness.

Following requests from successive governments, OHCHR opened a Country Office in Nouakchott. The United Nations Country Team (UNCT) works on the basis of the UNDAF 2012-2016. In addition, the Humanitarian Country Team undertook the exercise of a Consolidated Appeal Process for 2013 and the Central Emergency Response Fund provided a rapid response grant to seven UN agencies working with refugees from Mali. Mauritania adopted its third Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper action plan, covering the period of 2011-2015.

In 2013, the Country Office was able to introduce public discussions on the National Action Plan against Discrimination, the draft law on Civilian

Associations, the roadmap to fight slavery, the equality of women in public affairs, transitional justice in the context of the *passif humanitaire* and migration. In addition, the Office provided training to court officials in different parts of the country on the human rights standards guiding the criminal procedure, including the prevention of torture. In cooperation with the Human Rights Commissariat, the Office promoted the establishment of an interministerial committee to improve compliance with reporting obligations and the implementation of recommendations. The Office also supported a participatory discussion on the timely establishment of a National Preventive Mechanism against torture in accordance with OP-CAT. Yet, a number of the above-mentioned issues, including the Action Plan and roadmap, are still to be formally adopted by relevant national authorities. In addition, the Country Office is taking steps to have all ratified international human rights treaties published in the Official journal, a pre-requirement for the incorporation of international provisions into the national legal system.

## Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with the focus on: ratifications; withdrawal of reservations; submissions of reports and information by civil society actors to treaty bodies and the UPR; establishment of a national participatory body for reporting and implementing recommendations of human rights mechanisms and integration of recommendations from human rights mechanisms and a human rights-based approach in United Nations work.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with the focus on: land, water and sanitation and housing rights; post 2015-development agenda and participation.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with the focus on: women; racial and religious discrimination, migrants; persons with disabilities and caste-based discrimination.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with the focus on: "public freedoms" (freedom of expression, assembly and association and incitement to hatred); and human rights education.
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with the focus on: human rights in the administration of justice; transitional justice mechanism established; legislation and policies on torture, deprivation of

liberty and death penalty; counter-terrorism and human rights and legal and judicial protection of economic, social and cultural rights.

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

with the focus on: investigations, monitoring and reporting; sexual and gender-based violence; human rights in humanitarian action; trafficking and United Nations responsiveness to situations of violence and insecurity.

## OHCHR expected contribution

### ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN MAURITANIA

RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Women participate in public life at national and local level.</li> <li>▶ Civil society participates in the national follow-up to the post-2015 development agenda process.</li> <li>▶ Women, migrants, victims of slavery and other vulnerable groups access justice and judicial assistance in a number of selected strategic cases.</li> </ul>	<p><b>[EA1]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ A National Action Plan on human rights education is adopted and human rights are increasingly integrated into school and university curricula.</li> <li>▶ Adoption of a Law on Civilian Associations, in consultation with civil society organizations and in compliance with international human rights standards.</li> <li>▶ The Penal Code is revised regarding alternative punishment; a penitentiary policy is developed; and prison authorities increasingly apply international standards on torture.</li> <li>▶ The Ministry of Justice applies international standards on counter-terrorism.</li> <li>▶ The Government adopts policies to address issues of violence against women and trafficking.</li> <li>▶ National Action Plan on social cohesion is adopted; access to land is regulated in conformity with international standards; and standards for private business, in particular fishing and mining, include the prohibition of slavery and child labour.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>[EA2]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Increased number of ratifications and withdrawal of reservations to international human rights treaties.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>[EA3]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ The Amnesty Law is abolished; and transitional justice mechanisms are established regarding the <i>passif humanitaire</i>.</li> <li>▶ A National Preventive Mechanism against torture is established and functioning in compliance with OP-CAT.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>[EA4]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Adoption of general anti-discrimination legislation and increased compliance of legislative and policy initiatives with the rights of women, migrants and persons with HIV/AIDS and persons with disabilities.</li> <li>▶ Adoption of a roadmap on the implementation of the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on slavery, a National Action Plan on Discrimination and a National Action Plan for Migration.</li> </ul>
<p><b>[EA7]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Increased number of submissions by CSOs and NHRIs to CEDAW, CRC and CMW.</li> </ul>	<p><b>[EA6]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Establishment of interministerial participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>[EA10]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Increased responsiveness of the international community to human rights violations in the context of elections.</li> </ul>
	<p><b>[EA11]</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▶ Human rights protection concerns are integrated into operational humanitarian plans, including a disaster preparedness plan for Nouakchott.</li> <li>▶ UPR recommendations (2nd cycle) are part of UNCT joint planning and UNDAF 2012-2016 implementation.</li> </ul>

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising as described in the first part of this document. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Mauritania.

## Tunisia

<b>Field presence</b>	Country Office Operation established in 2011
<b>Engagement with the human rights mechanisms</b>	See overview table on page 256
<b>Visits by special procedures in the past five years</b>	Former Regime: Special Rapporteurs on freedom of opinion and expression (1999); and counter-terrorism (2010) Since 2011: Special Rapporteurs on counter-terrorism (2011); torture (2011); education (2012); migrants (2012); human rights defenders (2012); and transitional justice (2012) Working Group on discrimination against women (2013)
<b>Pending visit requests by special procedures</b>	None

Tunisia has been undergoing a transition since the uprising of 14 January 2011 which ousted former President Ben Ali following protests against endemic unemployment, corruption and autocratic rule. An election of the National Constituent Assembly was held on 23 October 2011 and deemed free and fair. The National Constituent Assembly appointed a tripartite coalition government led by the Islamist party Ennahda. The coalition has been contested by the opposition for not meeting the initial deadline of one year to draft a constitution and organize elections. Since July 2013, negotiations have been underway between political actors concerning the finalization of the constitution, reshuffling of the government and dates of future elections.

The uprising highlighted significant development gaps between Tunisia's relatively prosperous coastal areas and the marginalized interior. The transition authorities have struggled to address this challenge through short-term social protection schemes targeting the poor and the unemployed. This issue is likely to persist in the coming years unless the root causes of socio-economic disparities have been addressed, including unaccountable budgeting processes, unbalanced regional development strategies and centralized decision-making. The situation of civil and political rights, particularly freedom of expression and assembly as well as freedom from torture, has improved since the downfall of the Ben Ali regime. Notwithstanding noticeable episodes of political violence (including the assassination of two left-wing militants in 2013) and cases in which freedom of expression or assembly were violated, Tunisians now enjoy more civil and political rights.

On 13 July 2011, OHCHR established a Country Office in Tunis with a full mandate to protect and promote human rights. It focuses its activities on a broad range of human rights issues, including strengthening accountability and the rule of law; combating inequality and poverty; increasing engagement with international human rights mechanisms; and monitoring the country's compliance with its international human rights obligations. Through its various activities, the Office supports national stakeholders' efforts towards the establishment of an effective national human rights protection system, including through the provision of capacity-building programmes and other relevant activities. This role is undertaken with an inclusive approach that ensures the participation of all relevant stakeholders, in close cooperation with the UNCT. Whenever possible, the Office reaches out to groups living in the country's rural areas, which continue to experience social, political and economic marginalization.

### Thematic priorities

- ▶ Strengthening the effectiveness of international human rights mechanisms with the focus on: withdrawal of reservations; submissions of overdue reports; submission of information by civil society actors to treaty bodies; establishment of a national participatory body for reporting and implementing recommendations of human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere with the focus on: business and human rights; land, water and sanitation and housing rights; post-2015 development agenda and public policies and budget processes.
- ▶ Enhancing equality and countering discrimination with the focus areas: women; racial and religious discrimination, migrants and persons with disabilities.
- ▶ Widening the democratic space with the focus on: "public freedoms" (freedom of expression, assembly and association and incitement to hatred); media freedom; national human rights institution (NHRI) established and/or working in compliance with international standards (Paris Principles).
- ▶ Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law with the focus on: human rights in the administration of justice; transitional justice mechanism established; legislation and policies on torture, deprivation of liberty; legal and judicial protection of economic, social and cultural rights.

## OHCHR expected contribution

## ALL HUMAN RIGHTS FOR ALL IN TUNISIA

RIGHTS-HOLDERS	DUTY-BEARERS
<p><b>[EA5]</b> ▶ Increased number of civil society organizations (CSOs) monitoring and being engaged in preparation of selected budgets and/or development policies.</p> <p>▶ Increased number of strategic litigation cases on ESCR brought before the Courts.</p>	<p><b>[EA1]</b> ▶ Increased number of budgets and development policies are designed using a rights-based approach.</p> <p>▶ The Constitution and other policies that may constrain freedom of expression are brought into compliance with international human rights standards.</p> <p>▶ Oversight and accountability in the media sector lie with the Independent Audio-visual Regulatory Body.</p> <p>▶ Tunisian NHRI established and functioning in accordance with Paris Principles.</p> <p>▶ Legislation governing the penal system is revised to reflect international standards.</p> <p>▶ A justice reform process establishes guarantees for the independence, impartiality and effectiveness of the judiciary.</p> <p>▶ Legislation regarding deprivation of liberty, including pre-trial detention, is revised to reduce prison crowding; security sector reform leads to the adoption of policies, guidelines and codes of conduct for law enforcement officials in conformity with international human rights standards.</p> <p><b>[EA2]</b> ▶ Reservations to at least one treaty (CEDAW, CRC or OP-CRC) withdrawn.</p> <p><b>[EA3]</b> ▶ A coherent transitional justice process is underway; a fully functional Truth and Dignity Commission is in place, has duly addressed the rights and participation of discriminated groups and has generated structural reform proposals.</p> <p>▶ A National Preventive Mechanism against torture is established and functioning in compliance with OP-CAT.</p> <p>▶ The Employers Union applies a human rights-based approach to its work.</p> <p><b>[EA4]</b> ▶ Legislation and policies in compliance with international human rights standards are adopted in the areas of equality of women and other persons at-risk; migrants; and access to education and employment for persons with disabilities.</p>
<p><b>[EA7]</b> ▶ Increased number of CSOs submitting information to CESCR and CAT.</p>	<p><b>[EA6]</b> ▶ Establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all human rights mechanisms.</p> <p>▶ Submission of pending periodic reports to CESCR and to CAT.</p>
<p><b>[EA10]</b> ▶ The international community increasingly coordinates its support and interventions on freedom of expression and the media.</p>	
<p><b>[EA11]</b> ▶ The UNDAF 2015-2019 integrates a human rights-based approach.</p>	

By 2017, OHCHR expects to have contributed to the achievement of the results outlined on the table above, in support of national efforts in the different thematic priority areas (colour scheme). OHCHR will pursue these behavioural, institutional and legislative changes in cooperation with relevant partners, using the different strategic tools at its disposal – monitoring and reporting, capacity-building and advisory services, advocacy and awareness-raising (see chapter one) – on the basis of an assessment of the specific context. It is expected that if achieved, these results will contribute to improving the duty-bearers' compliance with their international human rights obligations and to the rights-holders' ability to claim their rights and thereby to the enjoyment of all rights for all in Tunisia.