

Research and Right to Development Division

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Background

The Research and Right to Development Division (RRDD) conducts thematic research and contributes to policy development and the mainstreaming of human rights across the work of the United Nations, develops tools and learning packages and provides expertise on human rights themes to many stakeholders, including mechanisms, as mandated by the Human Rights Council (HRC), the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. The Division also leads efforts to advance the right to development in accordance with the High Commissioner's mandate to "promote and protect the realization of the right to development and to enhance support from relevant bodies of the United Nations system for this purpose." RRDD undertakes human rights research and advocacy work and contributes to country-level implementation through the provision of advisory services, legal and policy reviews and capacity-development, which is often undertaken by OHCHR field presences.

The Division's main functions are:

- ▶ Providing expert advice on thematic issues and support in relation to the High Commissioner's global leadership role of spearheading advocacy on thematic human rights issues: RRDD responded to all of OHCHR's six thematic priorities for the period 2014-2017 in terms of research, advice, advocacy and capacity-development. RRDD took the lead in the implementation of Global Management Output (GMO) 3, which requires that a "gender perspective is effectively integrated in all OHCHR policies, programmes and processes" and also contributed to the enhancement of staff skills (GMO 6) through human rights methodology.
- ▶ Undertaking policy and methodology development: This is the "how to" of human



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

rights work, namely translating international human rights law and principles into practical methods, approaches, standards, procedures and tools for application in the human rights work that is being carried out by OHCHR and other UN, international and national actors. In addition, human rights methodology is based on the integration of lessons-learned into guidance tools. The Human Rights Up Front (HRUF) Action Plan required considerable OHCHR participation.

- ▶ Integrating all human rights into the work related to development, peace and security, humanitarian affairs and economic and social affairs: One of RRDD's functions is to encourage the integration of human rights into all policy, management and operational work of the UN. This is primarily done in the course of OHCHR's work with the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), in connection with the HRUF Action Plan, and through participation with inter-agency groups, during meetings and through bilateral cooperation with agencies and programmes, including UN Women, UNESCO, FAO, WHO, ILO and United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs).
- ▶ Promoting and implementing human rights education and training: RRDD contributes to increased knowledge and understanding of

human rights issues through education and training, the development of materials, policies, methodologies and programmes and the provision of training, advice and coordination under the Plan of Action for the Third Phase (2015-2019) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education.

- ▶ Providing support to mechanisms: RRDD supports human rights mechanisms and provides substantive input and organizational assistance to the HRC.

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

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

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

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

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

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

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

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

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

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



Voters queuing to participate in the elections in Burkina Faso.

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

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

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

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

► *Implementation of the Secretary-General's Guidance Notes and Guidelines on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the UN Indigenous Peoples' Partnership (EA 11)*

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

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

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

► *Increased number of States that have abolished the death penalty and/or, pending abolition, increasingly comply with relevant international human rights obligations (EA 1)*

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



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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

Climate change

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

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *Constitutions, laws and policies increasingly protect human rights, especially land and housing rights, with particular attention paid to non-discrimination and gender equality, in the context of development and the exploitation of natural resources (EA 1)*

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

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

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

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

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

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

- ▶ *Global, regional, and national actors increasingly integrate international human rights principles and standards, including the right to development, in their development, finance, trade and investment policies (EA 10)*

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



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

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

- ▶ *Human rights standards and principles are integrated into UN development frameworks and the work of UN agencies, particularly on housing, water, sanitation and land (EA 11)*

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

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

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

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

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

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

UNDG Guidance Note on Human Rights for Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams

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

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

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

Widening the democratic space

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

- ▶ *Legal frameworks, public policies and institutions are in place and functioning to combat sexual and gender-based violence, trafficking and related exploitation (EA 1)*

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

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

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

Financing for Development

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

Global Management Outputs

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

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

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

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

Increased effectiveness in supporting human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- ▶ The Division provided substantive, secretariat and logistical support to a number of human rights mechanisms, including: the Working Group on the right to development; the Social Forum; the Expert Mechanism on the rights of indigenous peoples; and the mechanisms established to follow up on the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. RRDD also assisted open-ended intergovernmental working groups, such as the open-ended intergovernmental working group to consider the possibility of elaborating an international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies; the open-ended intergovernmental working group on a United Nations declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas; and the open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights.
- ▶ Of the 20 plenary panel discussions that took place during the 2015 sessions of the Human Rights Council, 17 were related to thematic human rights issues covered by RRDD. The Division provided conceptual, substantive and administrative support for the organization of panel discussions on various issues, including: the death penalty; child rights; climate change and human rights; a human rights-based approach to good governance in public service; women's rights and gender integration; rights of indigenous peoples; unilateral coercive measures and human rights; the effects of terrorism on the enjoyment by all persons of human rights and fundamental freedoms; and the impact of the world drug problem on the enjoyment of human rights. RRDD also prepared 45 reports to the Human Rights Council.



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



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

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

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

- ▶ Staff skills in human rights monitoring and investigation were enhanced through nine courses (one in Geneva and eight in field locations, seven of which were in Africa) that were attended by 178 staff members, 43 per cent of whom were women. For the first time, remote training on human rights monitoring was tested for OHCHR staff members based in Burundi as the security situation did not allow for onsite training.
- ▶ The ability of staff members to use the Human Rights Case Database improved through 46 remote briefings (held in English, French and Spanish) that were attended by 210 participants (42 per cent of whom were women).
- ▶ The new Integrated Library System was successfully implemented and 26 new translations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights were added to the system. In 2015, a total of 408,771 visits were registered on the library's online catalogue.
- ▶ The OHCHR Human Rights Education and Training Database contains information on 1,207 institutions and 322 active human rights training programmes.