

Funds administered by OHCHR

Voluntary contributions to support OHCHR's activities at headquarters and in the field are channelled and managed through nine trust funds. This chapter provides a short description of each of these funds and the voluntary contributions received in 2015 that sustained the funds. Additional financial information related to the funds can be found in the statement of extrabudgetary income and expenditure for 2015 (on page 73). In addition, this chapter includes the description of three small funds managed by OHCHR that are not trust funds as defined by the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, namely the Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Contingency Fund and the Special Fund for the Participation of Civil Society in the Social Forum, the Forum on Minority Issues and the Forum on Business and Human Rights.

United Nations Trust Fund for the Support of the Activities of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

The United Nations Trust Fund for the Support of the Activities of the High Commissioner for Human Rights was established by the Secretary-General in 1993 to cover contributions intended to support the substantive work programme of the former Centre for Human Rights and to supplement existing regular budget resources. Since then, the Trust Fund has been used as a general funding pool to support a wide range of OHCHR activities. It is the largest fund administered by OHCHR, through which 79.9 per cent of all extrabudgetary funds, including unearmarked funds, and 76.2 per cent of extrabudgetary expenditures were managed in 2015.

Detailed information on the implemented activities and the voluntary contributions managed through the Trust Fund are described in the chapters presented in the annexed CD.

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights

The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights (VFTC) was established by the Secretary-General in 1987 in response to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1987/83. The VFTC is the second largest trust fund administered by OHCHR and provides resources to national efforts that are focused on building a strong human rights framework, including through legal frameworks, effective national human rights institutions (NHRIs), independent judiciaries and vibrant civil society organizations.

Since 1993, a Board of Trustees, appointed by the Secretary-General, has provided administrative and operational guidance. In recent years, its role has evolved to include the provision of advice on policy orientation, strategies on technical cooperation at a broader programme level and a global vision on the work of the Fund. In 2013, the Board was entrusted by the Secretary-General to serve as a Board of Trustees for the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review. In 2015, the Board was composed of Ms. Marieclaire Acosta Urquidi, Ms. Lin Lim, Ms. Esi Sutherland-Addy, Mr. Chris Sidoti and Mr. Valeriu Nicolae.

The Board meets twice a year, which includes visits to the field, to review the programmes it supports; discuss thematic issues, methodologies and procedures; examine financial, administrative and fundraising matters; and brief Member States on its activities.

The forty-first session of the Board was held in Phnom Penh, Cambodia and Bangkok, Thailand, where the Board Members had the opportunity to observe the work of the OHCHR field presences on-site and their cooperation with relevant partners on the ground.

In 2015, the VFTC's total expenditures amounted to US\$18.1 million and the Fund received a total of US\$14.1 million in voluntary contributions. The resulting deficit at the end of 2015 was covered by existing reserves. The total amount of voluntary

contributions received for 2015 has decreased by US\$3.6 million from 2014. In 2016, the estimated expenditures of the VFTC will be US\$16.7 million.

During 2015, the Fund provided resources for technical cooperation to build strong human rights frameworks at the national level in 30 regions, States and territories. This included support for 15 human rights advisers (Chad, Ecuador (closed in 2015), Honduras, Kenya, Madagascar, Niger, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Serbia, South Caucasus (Georgia), Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste); nine human rights components of peace missions (Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire,

Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Liberia, Libya, Somalia and Sudan (Darfur)); and six country/stand-alone offices (Bolivia, Kosovo⁶ (closed in 2015), Mauritania, Mexico, the State of Palestine⁷ and Togo (closed in 2015)).

Through the VFTC, the Office facilitates efforts at the country level to incorporate international human rights standards into national laws, policies

⁶ Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

⁷ Reference to Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.

UN Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation (VFTC) Voluntary contributions in 2015

Donor	US\$	Earmarking
Finland	773,481	VFTC
Germany	848,356	VFTC
India	100,000	VFTC
Liechtenstein	39,841	VFTC
Switzerland	1,554,404	VFTC
United States of America	1,250,000	VFTC
(a) total contributions earmarked to VFTC	4,566,082	
Australia	109,048	Activities in the Asia-Pacific region (<i>allocated to Papua New Guinea</i>)
	72,699	Activities in the Asia-Pacific region (<i>allocated to Sri Lanka</i>)
	109,048	Activities in the Asia-Pacific region (<i>allocated to Timor Leste</i>)
Belgium	133,690	Côte d'Ivoire
	55,310	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
Canada	13,067	Côte d'Ivoire
European Commission	-30,929	Bolivia (<i>closed project - adjustment final payment</i>)
France	44,893	Mauritania
International Organization for Migration	30,800	Mauritania
Lithuania	12,195	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
Mexico (Oaxaca)	80,443	Mexico
Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie	24,401	Chad
	22,658	Haiti
	9,100	Madagascar
	38,344	Togo
Poland	32,268	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
Russian Federation	400,000	Russian Federation (<i>consolidation of the Human Rights Master Programme</i>)
Sweden	540,833	Kenya
Switzerland	-10,000	oPt (<i>Office in East Jerusalem - adjustment revised contribution 2014-2015</i>)
	200,000	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
UNDP	39,994	Moldova
United States of America	1,500,000	Technical assistance in the Americas
	300,000	Sri Lanka
(b) total contributions earmarked to specific projects	3,727,862	
Unearmarked funds allocated to VFTC	5,763,270	Unearmarked
(c) total unearmarked funds	5,763,270	
TOTAL (a) + (b) + (c)	14,057,214	

and practices and contributes to the establishment and reinforcement of the capacities of the national protection systems to adhere to these standards. Programmes supported by the Fund helped to strengthen the administration of justice, including by promoting an independent judiciary and increased access to justice, particularly for excluded and disadvantaged groups at the national level. In addition, national capacities to promote gender equality and women's rights were increased through numerous programmes. Various OHCHR field presences engaged in the establishment and functioning of responsive NHRIs and assisted with the development and implementation of human rights education programmes. Through the Fund, OHCHR helped Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams to strengthen their human rights capacities through the deployment of human rights advisers in coordination with the United Nations Development Group and in line with the Strategy for the Deployment of Human Rights Advisers.

United Nations Trust Fund for a Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia

The United Nations Trust Fund for a Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia was established by the Secretary-General in 1992. The Trust Fund was set up as a financial mechanism, financed through voluntary contributions and administered by OHCHR, to contribute to the development and implementation of a human rights education programme to promote the understanding of and respect for human rights in Cambodia. Since then, it has been used to implement all of the activities of OHCHR's Office in Cambodia (detailed information on the activities carried out in Cambodia in 2015 can be found on page 197 of the CD). In 2015, the Trust Fund received US\$643,091 in voluntary contributions.

Trust Fund for a Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia Voluntary contributions in 2015	
Donor	US\$
Australia	72,699
Japan	90,000
Sweden	462,392
Switzerland	18,000
TOTAL	643,091

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism

The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review mechanism was established by the Secretary-General in 2008, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 6/17. The Fund is administered by OHCHR. The Fund was set up as a financial mechanism to provide: (a) funding for the travel to Geneva of official representatives of developing countries, in particular the Least Developed Countries, to present their national reports, take part in the interactive dialogue and be involved in the adoption of the reports during the UPR Working Group sessions when their countries are being considered; (b) funding for the travel of official representatives of developing countries that are members of the Human Rights Council, but do not have a permanent mission in Geneva, in order to serve as a rapporteur (i.e., member of the 'troika'); and (c) training for Member States in the preparation of national reports. The Fund received US\$25,000 in voluntary contributions in 2015.

As it did during the first UPR cycle, the Fund supported the participation of delegations in the sessions of the UPR Working Group, the UPR segment of the Council's plenary sessions and the field-based pre-session briefings. This assistance contributed to ensuring a 100 per cent participation rate up until the twenty-third session of the Working Group. In 2015, out of the 30 States which could have benefited from the travel assistance of the Fund, a total of 17 requested financial assistance, namely: Armenia, Grenada, Guinea-Bissau, Jamaica, Kenya, Kiribati, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Liberia, Malawi, Marshall Islands, Mauritania, Micronesia, Myanmar, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Sao Tomé and Príncipe.

Briefings and regional seminars continued to be held in Geneva and in the field. In February, the fourth regional seminar for Asia-Pacific parliamentarians was co-organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union and OHCHR and held in Manila. A compilation of good practices collected during the regional seminars is being prepared and should be released in 2016.

OHCHR continued its series of seminars focusing on the needs of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States. The seminars aimed at enabling States to share their experiences relating to the implementation of recommendations emanating

from the UPR in preparation for their second UPR cycle. In 2015, three seminars were organized, including: one for English-speaking Caribbean States in Barbados (July); one for Portuguese-speaking States in Brazil (July); and one for Pacific Island States in Fiji (November). The Trust Fund supported a total of 122 participants to participate in the seminars, including four representatives from 23 countries and a representative from three resource countries. The seminars enabled the States to discuss the usefulness of inter-institutional structures for reporting and the implementation of human rights recommendations, as well as the requirements for developing national human rights action plans. Moreover, the seminars provided an opportunity to collect and compile national practices and experiences put forward by small States with limited resources in complying with their UPR reporting requirements and implementing the UPR recommendations.

UN Voluntary Fund for Participation in the UPR

Voluntary contributions in 2015

Donor	US\$
Singapore	25,000
TOTAL	25,000

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review

The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review was established in 2008, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 6/17. This financial mechanism was established to provide, in conjunction with multilateral funding mechanisms, a source of financial and technical assistance to help countries implement the recommendations emanating from the UPR, in consultation with and with the consent of the country concerned. The Fund has been utilized by OHCHR to systematically provide technical assistance to a number of States with a focus on strengthening their national follow-up processes. To this end, the Fund has primarily been used to strengthen national structures, such as standing interministerial structures, to report and follow up on and coordinate the implementation of recommendations and to develop national implementation plans

and databases for tracking purposes. Technical cooperation has been provided to support the implementation of thematic recommendations within the context of the work of such national structures.

In 2015, the Fund received US\$448,025. A total of 29 projects were supported during the year. The projects primarily focused on establishing and/or strengthening inter-institutional bodies, designing implementation action plans, mainstreaming recommendations from the human rights mechanisms into national human rights action plans, implementing priority recommendations and providing support in the context of United Nations Development Action Frameworks. Some examples of the work achieved at the national level with the support of the Fund were shared with Member States during a side event that took place in parallel to the Human Rights Council, in September.

UN Voluntary Fund for Implementation of the UPR

Voluntary contributions in 2015

Donor	US\$
Germany	106,045
Kazakhstan	33,915
Netherlands	30,000
Norway	268,066
Oman	10,000
TOTAL	448,025

Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the work of the Human Rights Council

The Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the work of the Human Rights Council was established under Human Rights Council resolution 19/26. The objective of the Trust Fund was to enhance their institutional and human rights capacities through targeted training courses, travel assistance for delegates attending Council sessions and fellowship programmes.

In 2015, the Trust Fund received US\$81,349 in voluntary contributions. Over the year, available resources enabled the Trust Fund to support the

participation of 20 government representatives (11 of which were women) in three regular sessions of the Human Rights Council and to organize induction programmes for diplomats. The representatives were from Benin, Burkina Faso, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Fiji, Grenada, Haiti, Jamaica, Lao PDR, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Niger, Sierra Leone and Togo. Of special note, the Trust Fund supported the participation of the President of Kiribati and the Prime Minister of Tuvalu as high-level panellists in the Council's annual discussion on human rights and climate change, held in March. In addition, the Trust Fund financed six fellowships for representatives from the Bahamas, Nepal, Rwanda, Saint Lucia, Sierra Leone and the Solomon Islands to promote the increased capacity of their countries to engage with the Human Rights Council and its subsidiary mechanisms. In 2015, a *Practical Guide on the Trust Fund*, intended to provide beneficiary and donor countries with background and procedural information on the Fund, was launched and is now available on the OHCHR website.

Voluntary Fund for Participation of LDCs and SIDS in the work of the Human Rights Council Voluntary contributions in 2015

Donor	US\$
Australia	36,349
Italy	10,000
Netherlands	35,000
TOTAL	81,349

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples

The year 2015 marked the celebration of the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples. The Fund was established in 1985 by General Assembly resolution 40/131 as a response to the needs of indigenous peoples to participate and self-represent their nations and organizations in the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations. Since that time, the mandate and scope of the Fund has significantly broadened and today it provides support that enables representatives of indigenous peoples to participate in sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Human Rights Council

and the human rights treaty bodies.⁸ The Fund is administered by OHCHR, on behalf of the Secretary-General, and acts on the advice of a five-member Board of Trustees. In 2015, the Board was composed of Ms. Anne Nuorgam, Mr. Binota Dhamai, Ms. Claire Charters, Mr. Legborsi Saro Pyagbara and Ms. Mirna Cunningham.

Indigenous peoples have historically faced gross discrimination and, in many instances, they continue to belong to the poorest and most vulnerable communities in the world. By making certain that indigenous peoples have the means to travel from their often remote communities to UN meetings where issues affecting them are being discussed, the Fund ensures that indigenous peoples are able to raise their concerns and propose solutions, in their own voices, during the deliberations.

In 2015, 99 grants were allocated to support the participation of representatives from indigenous peoples' organizations and communities in the fourteenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (32), the eighth session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (32), the sessions of the Human Rights Council (12), the UPR Working Group (11), the Human Rights Committee (2), the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (1), the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (2), the Committee on the Rights of the Child (2), the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (3), the Committee Against Torture (1) and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (1).

The Fund also employed resources to increase the capacity of indigenous peoples to effectively participate in UN meetings and, in 2015, it organized four human rights training modules in Geneva and New York. Moreover, in cooperation with NGO partners, the Fund provided training to indigenous peoples' representatives on targeting their advocacy, making constructive interventions tailored to each session and contributing to the national-level implementation of the recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms and of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

⁸ In December 2015, the General Assembly extended the mandate of the Fund to assist representatives of indigenous peoples organizations and institutions to participate in the consultation process on the procedural and institutional steps to enable the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives and institutions in meetings of relevant United Nations bodies on issues affecting them during the seventieth and seventy-first session of the General Assembly.

Due to the expansion of the mandate of the Fund to cover participation at the sessions of the human rights mechanisms and in the follow-up of the Outcome Document of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, there are increasing demands for substantial financial funding. In 2015, the Fund received US\$556,956 from 10 Member States. The Board estimates that the Fund will require US\$700,000 annually to enable it to support the robust participation of indigenous peoples' representatives at relevant UN meetings.

UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples Voluntary contributions in 2015	
Donor	US\$
Argentina	10,000
Australia	109,048
Chile	10,000
Denmark	231,225
Estonia	10,989
Finland	22,371
Holy See	2,000
Mexico	21,021
Norway	120,630
Spain	19,672
TOTAL	556,956

Humanitarian Funds

OHCHR provides Secretariat support to two grant-making funds, namely the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and the Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery. Together, the two funds are known as the OHCHR humanitarian funds. They were established by a resolution of the General Assembly with the purpose of providing direct assistance and rehabilitation to individuals whose rights have been violated in the context of torture and contemporary forms of slavery, respectively. Support is extended through grants that are awarded to civil society organizations that provide humanitarian, medical, psychological, social and legal aid to victims. The funds are financed through voluntary contributions that are formally administered by the Secretary-General who acts on the advice of Boards of Trustees. The Boards distribute the grants in accordance with the mandates of the respective funds. In 2015, 27 Member States and a handful of private donors made contributions to these funds for a total of almost US\$10 million. Contributions to these funds are not used to support OHCHR's wider work.

United Nations Voluntary Fund for the Victims of Torture

The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, established in 1981 by General Assembly resolution 36/151, aims to support projects around the world which offer remedies and reparations, including rehabilitation, to victims of torture and their families. The Fund is administered by OHCHR on behalf of the Secretary-General, with the advice of a Board of Trustees that is composed of five persons. In 2015, the Board members were: Mr. Morad El-Shazly, Ms. Anastasia Pinto, Ms. Gaby Ore Aguilar, Ms. Maria Cristina Nunes de Mendonça and Mr. Adam Bodnar (who resigned in February 2016 and was replaced by Mr. Mikolaj Pietrzak).

In 2015, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture – the largest humanitarian fund managed by OHCHR – channelled a total of US\$6,528,000 to more than 170 organizations in more than 80 countries. The organizations then delivered direct assistance to approximately 47,000 victims of torture and their family members, who received vital services for the healing of physical and psychological wounds and their social reintegration. Assisted victims included human rights defenders, asylum-seekers, refugees and undocumented migrants, victims of sexual violence in armed conflict, victims of enforced disappearances, indigenous peoples, LGBTI persons and individuals who had been tortured in detention. Practitioners sponsored by the Fund included medical doctors, psychiatrists, psychologists, human rights lawyers and social workers.

Of the total amount disbursed in grants, US\$410,000 was awarded through the Fund's enhanced emergency procedure that enables it to provide rapid financial support for the relief of torture victims in the context of current crises. In 2015, emergency grants were awarded to ensure the availability of vital rehabilitation services in Ukraine for victims displaced from the eastern regions of the country; in northern Iraq and Jordan for the relief of Syrian and Iraqi victims; in Burundi to support victims of the ongoing political violence; and in Serbia and Hungary in the context of the increased influx of asylum-seekers and migrants to those countries.

The Fund also invested resources in monitoring and evaluating project proposals, in particular through on-site visits to applicants and grantees. During the year, a total of 75 projects were visited by OHCHR and the Fund's Trustees which resulted in the formulation of recommendations and the renewal or termination of partnerships.

In line with a renewed vision adopted by the Board of Trustees in 2014, the Fund facilitated the sharing of knowledge and good practices among its grantees and partners regarding redress and rehabilitation for victims of torture. In April, the Trustees convened a one-day expert workshop on the issue of rehabilitation in the context of emergencies and the long-term needs of victims. A public event was subsequently organized to share testimonies and findings with representatives of the Permanent Missions based in Geneva and other relevant stakeholders. The next knowledge-sharing workshop will be convened in 2016 on the theme of “children and torture rehabilitation.”

UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture Voluntary contributions in 2015	
Donor	US\$
Andorra	10,929
Argentina	15,000
Austria	28,058
Chile	20,000
Czech Republic	4,045
Denmark	456,760
Finland	220,994
France	54,705
Germany	763,139
Holy See	2,000
India	25,000
Ireland	146,262
Italy	31,746
Kuwait	10,000
Liechtenstein	24,900
Luxembourg	10,834
Mexico	10,000
Morocco	4,000
Netherlands	30,000
Norway	107,226
Oman	5,000
Peru	1,542
South Africa	8,088
United Arab Emirates	10,000
United Kingdom	508,500
United States of America	6,500,000
Individual donors	5,345
TOTAL	9,014,074

United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

The United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, established in 1991 by General Assembly resolution 46/122, provides financial support to NGOs that are assisting victims of contemporary forms of slavery to obtain assistance and redress. Modern forms of slavery include serfdom, forced labour, bonded labour, trafficking in persons and in human organs, sexual slavery, worst forms of child labour, early and forced marriage, inherited widows, the sale of wives and other forms of slavery, many of which are brought to light on a regular basis. The Trust Fund supported a variety of projects, including those related to the provision of housing and emergency shelter, legal assistance at the national and regional levels, psychosocial support, food, medical care, vocational training and income-generating activities for victims of contemporary forms of slavery.

The Trust Fund is administered by OHCHR on behalf of the Secretary-General, acting on the advice of a five-member Board of Trustees. The Board meets annually to determine priorities and policies, review working methods and adopt recommendations on new grants. In 2015, the Board was composed of Mr. Mike Dottridge, Mr. George Omona, Ms. Renu Rajbhandari, Ms. Nevena Vuckovic Sahovic and Mr. Leonardo Sakamoto.

During the year, the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery awarded US\$587,000 to 44 organizations around the world which in turn provided direct assistance to approximately 10,000 victims who have been freed from slavery. Despite its underfunding, OHCHR and the Board of Trustees undertook a thorough evaluation of project proposals, which included on-site project visits and closer coordination with other funding organizations. Projects were selected by taking into account the geography and the expertise of the applicant, as well as the comparative advantage of the victim-focused mandate of the Fund.

In 2015, in anticipation of the 25th anniversary of the Fund, the Trustees undertook a comprehensive stocktaking exercise, which yielded a more focused strategy for the coming years. In 2016-2019, the Fund will distribute grants ranging from US\$20,000 to US\$30,000, and prioritize projects that are providing specialized direct assistance to victims, in particular to women and children in situations of conflict and humanitarian crises. By doing so, the Fund hopes to help contribute to the achievement of Sustainable

Development Goal 8.7 by supporting “immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking.”

UN Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery	
Voluntary contributions in 2015	
Donor	US\$
Australia	145,398
Germany	265,111
Holy See	2,500
India	25,000
Luxembourg	10,834
Netherlands	30,000
South Africa	7,845
United Arab Emirates	30,000
TOTAL	516,688

Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT) was adopted by the General Assembly on December 2002 and entered into force in June 2006. The OP-CAT created a two-pillar system, at the international and national levels, designed to prevent torture and other forms of ill-treatment in places where persons may be deprived of their liberty. At the international level, it established the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT) which has been in operation since February 2007. The SPT is mandated to visit all places of detention in States Parties and to provide assistance and advice to both States Parties and National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs). In addition, the SPT cooperates with relevant UN organs and mechanisms and international, regional and national institutions or organizations to prevent torture.

The Special Fund was established by article 26 of the OP-CAT to help finance the implementation of recommendations issued by the SPT after a visit to a State Party, as well as education programmes for NPMs. The Fund is administered by OHCHR,

in conformity with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations and the relevant policies and procedures promulgated by the Secretary-General. Applications for grants can be submitted in relation to projects that are designed to implement recommendations issued by the SPT, provided that they are contained in a report that has been made public at the request of the State Party. Applications may be submitted by States Parties, NPMs, NHRIs that are compliant with the Paris Principles and NGOs on the condition that the proposed projects are implemented in cooperation with States Parties or NPMs. Since 2012, the number of eligible countries has grown from six to 16.

In 2015, the Special Fund received US\$44,045 in voluntary contributions and used its limited resources to award seven grants, for a total amount of US\$228,670. Since its establishment, the Fund has awarded 28 grants to projects in Argentina, Benin, Brazil, Honduras, Maldives, Mexico, Paraguay and Senegal. The funded projects focus on: ensuring that laws on the prevention of torture comply with international human rights standards; establishing or strengthening effective NPMs; enhancing the skills of members of the judiciary and law enforcement personnel; and developing and disseminating materials on the rights of detained persons. The Special Fund requires further financial support to implement its work more efficiently.

OP-CAT Special Fund	
Voluntary contributions in 2015	
Donor	US\$
Argentina	10,000
Czech Republic	4,045
Netherlands	30,000
TOTAL	44,045

Contingency Fund

The Contingency Fund is a flexible funding mechanism that was established in 2006 to carry out activities and implement the priorities and strategies of the High Commissioner, particularly in response to human rights emergencies, through the rapid deployment of human rights personnel and the provision of necessary logistical support. The Fund, which is financed through voluntary contributions, aims to maintain approximately US\$1 million at all times. Cash advances are drawn from the Fund to

allow for the initiation of rapid response activities without administrative delays. When subsequent funding is received from other sources, the Fund is reimbursed. Since the inception of the Fund, OHCHR's capacity to provide conceptual and operational support to unforeseen mandates or situations requiring rapid response has increased significantly.

In 2015, OHCHR used its Contingency Fund to deploy staff to the following countries or regions in light of deteriorating or potentially deteriorating human rights situations in:

- ▶ Cameroon and Nigeria, to monitor the human rights situation in the context of the Boko Haram-related violence.
- ▶ Jordan, to support the Amman-based OHCHR team working on Yemen to set up an information gathering plan with respect to the deteriorating human rights situation in the country.
- ▶ Nepal, to mainstream human rights within the work of the Protection Cluster, provide technical assistance to the National Human Rights Commission and carry out human rights monitoring.
- ▶ Haiti, to monitor the situation of people who went to Haiti in the context of the Dominican Republic's change of nationality laws, which primarily affected people of Haitian descent.
- ▶ The Republic of Moldova, to monitor the human rights situation and provide advice to the UN Resident Coordinator against a background of political instability.
- ▶ Guatemala, to provide surge capacity to support the OHCHR country office's monitoring of the human rights situation in the context of political instability linked to the presidential elections.
- ▶ The State of Palestine, to strengthen the capacity of OHCHR's Palestine Office to monitor the deteriorating human rights situation.

In 2015, the Fund received US\$67,340 in voluntary contributions. As of December, US\$125,380 had been disbursed or committed to the abovementioned activities. At the end of the year, the balance stood at US\$646,890.

Contingency Fund Voluntary contributions in 2015	
France	67,340
TOTAL	67,340

Special Fund for the Participation of Civil Society in the Social Forum, the Forum on Minority Issues and the Forum on Business and Human Rights

The Special Fund for the Participation of Civil Society in the Social Forum, the Forum on Minority Issues and the Forum on Business and Human Rights was created by Human Rights Council decision 24/118 of 27 September 2013, with the aim of facilitating the broadest possible participation of civil society representatives and other relevant stakeholders in the annual meetings of the three fora. In 2015, the Fund supported the participation of nine civil society representatives in the Social Forum and the Forum on Business and Human Rights. The Special Fund received US\$50,000 in voluntary contributions in 2015.

Special Fund for the Participation of Civil Society in the Social Forum, the Forum on Minority Issues and the Forum on Business and Human Rights Voluntary contributions in 2015	
Donor	US\$
Russian Federation	50,000
TOTAL	50,000