Background

The Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division (FOTCD) is composed of three geographic branches and three specialized sections (the National Institutions, Regional Mechanisms and Civil Society Section (NRCS), the Peace Missions Support Section (PMSS) and the Emergency Response Section (ERS)). The Division is responsible for overseeing and supporting the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) at the country and regional levels, including through advisory services, technical cooperation and the provision of support for the work of field presences as they address human rights challenges and seize opportunities to encourage positive change. This work is carried out in close cooperation with national, regional and international partners, including UN partners, government actors, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and civil society organizations. The Division also aims to strengthen national human rights protection systems, promote the implementation of international human rights norms at the country level and prevent and reduce human rights violations. In addition, the Division supports national-level follow-up action to recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms, including the Human Rights Treaty Bodies, Special Procedures and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). In cooperation with other parts of the Office, the Division strengthens the understanding of national authorities and civil society actors regarding international human rights standards, in particular by improving their knowledge about how to translate these standards into laws, regulations and policies at the national level and enhancing their capacity to effectively address human rights concerns. The ultimate objective of this work is to ensure that duty-bearers are better equipped to meet their obligations and rights-holders are better protected and empowered.

The ERS coordinates OHCHR’s effective responses to and engagement in potential, emerging or ongoing emergency situations. This includes mandated activities, such as commissions of inquiry or fact-finding missions, humanitarian action in the context of complex emergencies or natural disasters and undertaking preventive action, including the deployment of multidisciplinary Light Teams under the Human Rights up Front (HRUF) Action Plan. The ERS also contributes to the provision of early warning information and analysis into various UN wide processes, including OHCHR’s engagement in the UN Operations and Crisis Centre and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee’s (IASC) Early Warning Early Action process, particularly in relation to implementation of the Secretary-General’s HRUF Action Plan. In addition, the ERS works on the development of information management initiatives, such as the roll-out of the UN common information management system on violations and the increased use of new technologies for human rights monitoring, such as satellite imagery. The PMSS, which is now located in OHCHR’s New York Office, ensures that the UN peace and security agenda integrates human rights at the political, strategic and operational levels. It also provides strategic advice on human rights in peace operations to OHCHR leadership. The PMSS facilitates the gathering of good practices and the sharing of information among human rights components, including through the maintenance of a resource centre on the integration of human rights into peace missions. The Office’s wide-reaching capacities to support NHRIs, regional mechanisms and civil society from headquarters have been consolidated into the NRCS. This will enable the Office to provide coordinated and strategic policy guidance and advice with regard to these groups.

Workshop with civil society actors in Afghanistan to encourage their engagement with the international human rights mechanisms. © UNAMA/Sayed Barez
Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- Increased compliance and engagement of Member States with international human rights mechanisms (EA 6)
  OHCHR provided technical assistance, advice and capacity-building to governments, NHRIs, civil society and United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) in order to support their implementation of and follow-up to recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. For instance, OHCHR facilitated a workshop from 25-29 January on international human rights mechanisms for representatives of key government ministries in Saudi Arabia, including the Shura Council, the Human Rights Commission and the Ministries of Education, Social Affairs, Justice, Islamic Affairs and Foreign Affairs. Seven Palestinian government officials also participated in capacity-building visits to Geneva and observed various treaty bodies during public sessions, met with OHCHR colleagues and received specific training on working with the international human rights mechanisms.

- Establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all international human rights mechanisms (EA 6)
  Support was provided to the Governments of Argentina, Barbados, Botswana, the Central African Republic, Chile, Dominica, the Gambia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Panama, Republic of the Congo, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia in order to strengthen their national mechanisms to report and follow-up on the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. Assistance was also provided to the Governments of Barbados, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines to establish a plan of action to implement UPR recommendations. As a result, government officials have a better knowledge of the UN human rights mechanisms, can submit more substantive reports in the context of the review process and have begun the process of establishing more effective mechanisms to follow up on their recommendations.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

- Legislation, policies and practices increasingly comply with anti-discrimination and equality standards (EA 4)
  OHCHR provided technical advice and advocated for the amendment of legislation, policies and practices so that they comply with international anti-discrimination and equality standards. For example, OHCHR advised on the human rights elements of Grenada’s constitutional reform initiative, such as the Rights and Freedoms Bill. In Nepal, the Office worked closely with the UNCT to ensure that the rights of indigenous peoples and minority ethnic groups are respected in key national laws and policies.

- Increased integration of human rights in international and regional processes relevant to migration (EA 10)
  OHCHR responded to ongoing concerns about the human rights of migrants and refugees in Europe with a range of efforts aimed at documenting challenges and encouraging governments and other actors to take action to prevent or mitigate human rights violations. During 2016, OHCHR carried out monitoring and advocacy missions to Bulgaria, France, Greece, Italy and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. As a result, the High Commissioner engaged with Member States and the European Union and stressed the importance of aligning policy, law and practice with international human rights standards. In addition, OHCHR supported civil society efforts to provide direct responses in the field. For example, in Serbia, OHCHR supported organizations, such as the International Aid Network, to provide emergency medical and psychosocial support to migrants and refugees.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- Counter-terrorism legal frameworks, policies, strategies and institutions increasingly aligned with international human rights standards (EA 1)
  OHCHR continued to advocate for the closure of the Guantanamo Bay detention facility through, for instance, a press statement that was issued in February and during his opening statement to the 33rd session of the Human Rights Council, in September. OHCHR also provided Secretariat support to the Committee against Torture in relation to its upcoming review of the United States of...
Egyptians living in settlements are in violation of the right to adequate housing." The Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, Leilani Farha noted "[t]here are reportedly 583 informal settlements across Serbia, of varying sizes. Many of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians living in settlements are originally from Serbia; others are internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Kosovo* or the former Yugoslavia. Living conditions in settlements are often inadequate, with virtually no utilities or infrastructure, such as electricity, piped drinking water, sewage or regular garbage collection. In some cases, other essential services, such as ambulances or public transport, are not available. Many are isolated from employment, schools and medical centres. Some settlements that the Special Rapporteur visited were overrun with rodents; in others, children had nowhere to play except on garbage heaps, on broken glass, in complete squalor. These conditions are in violation of the right to adequate housing." The adoption of a new Strategy of Social Inclusion of Roma in Serbia for the period 2016-2025, in March 2016, signaled an important positive step that sets out a range of key measures for the coming period.

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OHCHR’s efforts in Serbia have increasingly focused on supporting cultures of diversity for human rights in Serbia. The FRKA Festival provided an important national forum to bring together governmental officials while countering terrorism. A number of these courses were carried out in the context of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force programme for enhancing the capacity of law enforcement officials in Iraq, Jordan and Tunisia. In November, OHCHR participated in a high-level dialogue on the proposed counter-terrorism policy framework for Sri Lanka. The meeting, which was jointly organized by the UNCT and the Government of Sri Lanka, aimed to share good practices and develop a common understanding about the draft legislation.

In September, OHCHR worked with the Roma Cultural Centre of Serbia, the Roma Minority National Council, the Know How Centre and UNDP to support three days of Roma culture and activism. More than 150 Roma rights activists, government officials and interested members of the public took part in the events, which examined key human rights issues facing Roma in Serbia and offered various fora for discussions on the way forward.

The situation of Roma in Serbia, as is the case elsewhere in Europe, is a human rights priority. United Nations and Council of Europe bodies have regularly and repeatedly urged action to improve the situation of Roma in Serbia. In her March 2016 report to the Human Rights Council on her 2015 mission to Serbia, the Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing, Leilani Farha noted "[t]here are reportedly 583 informal settlements across Serbia, of varying sizes. Many of the Roma, Ashkali and Egyptians living in settlements are originally from Serbia; others are internally displaced persons (IDPs) from Kosovo* or the former Yugoslavia. Living conditions in settlements are often inadequate, with virtually no utilities or infrastructure, such as electricity, piped drinking water, sewage or regular garbage collection. In some cases, other essential services, such as ambulances or public transport, are not available. Many are isolated from employment, schools and medical centres. Some settlements that the Special Rapporteur visited were overrun with rodents; in others, children had nowhere to play except on garbage heaps, on broken glass, in complete squalor. These conditions are in violation of the right to adequate housing." The adoption of a new Strategy of Social Inclusion of Roma in Serbia for the period 2016-2025, in March 2016, signaled an important positive step that sets out a range of key measures for the coming period.

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The FRKA Festival also included programming for Romani and non-Romani children to come together to discuss issues of diversity and intolerance. The evening programme featured performances by some of Serbia’s leading contemporary musicians.

In the wake of the festival, OHCHR continued to work with its civil society and governmental partners on the human rights of Roma in Serbia, with a focus on stopping forced evictions in the cities of Belgrade and Nis in the second half of 2016. It also supported efforts related to the adoption of a human rights-compliant Law on Housing. On 10 December, Human Rights Day 2016, OHCHR collaborated with the Serbian Government’s Human and Minority Rights Office to convene “Mosaic Serbia,” an event celebrating the plurality of Serbia’s communities in support of human rights.

OHCHR highlighted key areas of the draft that required amendments to ensure its compliance with Sri Lanka’s international human rights obligations.

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

In 2016, the High Commissioner addressed the issue of the death penalty on several occasions and in various fora. After the Government of the Maldives announced that it would proceed with an execution, the High Commissioner, the Human Rights Committee and the special procedures undertook sustained advocacy with the authorities, requesting that they retain the long-standing de facto moratorium on the death penalty. Despite the decision of the Supreme Court to uphold the death penalty, no individual was executed in 2016. In April, OHCHR called on Bangladesh to respect its obligations under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and expressed concern that the Bangladesh International Crimes Tribunal handed down death sentences for leaders of an opposition party. While recognizing Bangladesh’s determination to address past crimes, OHCHR noted that the trials conducted before the Tribunal did not meet international standards for the right to a fair trial and due process, as outlined in the ICCPR. As a first step, OHCHR renewed its call to the Government to halt all executions and institute a moratorium on the application of the death penalty.

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

In Sri Lanka, OHCHR worked with the Foreign Ministry and the Secretariat for the Coordination of Reconciliation Mechanisms on the design and implementation of the National Consultations process. The Office further contributed to the development of the UN road map on transitional justice and participated in different civil society and governmental events on reconciliation. In Nepal, OHCHR provided technical advice and guidance on elements of the transitional justice process, particularly on the failure to comply with international laws and standards, such as provisions allowing amnesties for serious human rights violations. In mid-2016, the Government of Nepal made a commitment to amend the legislation, however, as of the end of the year, draft amendments had not been finalized.

**Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere**

- **Global and regional actors increasingly integrate international human rights principles and standards, including the right to development, into their finance, trade and investment policies (EA 10)**
  
  OHCHR collaborated with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Foundation on a human rights impact assessment of the Continental Free Trade Area Agreement in Africa. The scoping study of the assessment identified three risk areas from a human rights standpoint: food security, decent jobs and freedom of movement. In 2016, OHCHR contributed to the organization of a meeting of experts in charge of finalizing the assessment, which also included consultations with international organizations, such as WTO, ILO and FAO, trade union representatives, civil society groups and think tanks, in order to brainstorm on the risks identified in the scoping study and determine how to design the next phase of the human rights impact assessment.

- **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)**

  With the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, raising awareness on the importance of mainstreaming a human rights-based approach into the Sustainable Development Goals, and in turn ensuring that this approach is part of the regional and national development plans, was critical for OHCHR in 2016. As a result of the support provided by the Office, the capacity of UNCTs to apply a human rights-based approach was enhanced in countries that began the roll-out of their United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) in 2016, including in Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, the Gambia, Ghana, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan, Republic of Moldova, Senegal and Ukraine. OHCHR also provided inputs for the finalization of UNDAF documents in Albania and Montenegro.
FIELD OPERATIONS AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION DIVISION

Uganda, Ukraine, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay and Zimbabwe.

As the Secretariat of the Global Alliance of NHRIs (GANHRI), the FOTCD organized two GANHRI Bureau meetings, in Geneva and Berlin, and the annual meeting, which was held in Geneva, in March. It also provided substantial support to the review of 31 NHRIs by the Sub-Committee on Accreditation. As of December 2016, 74 of 111 accredited NHRIs have been granted “A” status. Furthermore, the FOTCD provided expert advice to support NHRIs in their interaction with the international human rights mechanisms. As a result, 30 written statements, 23 video statements and 41 oral statements were delivered by NHRIs during the Council sessions of 2016. In addition, OHCHR continued to offer a fellowship programme for staff of NHRIs and, during the year, fellows from NHRIs in Egypt, India, Indonesia, Malawi, Qatar, the Russian Federation, Rwanda and the United Republic of Tanzania participated in the programme.

Civil society, in particular youth and women, increasingly advocate and claim their rights; and protect themselves more effectively from reprisals (EA 5)

In the context of the December 2015 agreement between Japan and the Republic of Korea regarding the comfort women issue, OHCHR developed an analytical paper on the rights of the victims who claimed that their voices had been marginalized in the preparation and conclusion of the agreement. The analytical paper outlined the solid legal framework that underpinned the High Commissioner’s advocacy on this issue, as well as that of the international human rights mechanisms. As a consequence, there was a significant change in the international discourse concerning the agreement and included a call from the Secretary-General for a human rights principled and victim-centred resolution.

Young human rights defenders named as Ambassadors

Caleb, Ishimwe, Maite, Jessy, Reine, Damel and 62 others students have been named “Young ambassadors for human rights in Burundi.” These primary and secondary school students took part in a nationwide art competition on the theme “Racconter-moi les droits de l’homme” (“Tell me about human rights”). The selected artwork was used to illustrate a child-friendly and accessible booklet on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The paintings depict the daily lives and the perceptions of the artists about human rights in their own environments. For Ishimwe, aged 14, “freedom of speech is a fundamental right for the reason that it enables people to get educated and change their mentalities. Nobody should be afraid because of a difference in opinion.”

According to Caleb, who is 9 years old, “nobody should be forced to leave his home. The one that has the power should use it to make good. I wish that my neighbour and his family that was forced to leave would come back so we could again go to school together.”

Widening the democratic space

National human rights institutions established and effectively functioning in accordance with the Paris Principles and other relevant international standards and recommendations (EA 1)

OHCHR supported the establishment and/or strengthening of 63 NHRIs by working with relevant stakeholders to emphasize the added value of having a NHRI that is compliant with the Paris Principles and outline the roles and responsibilities of a NHRI in promoting and protecting human rights. This was done through the provision of legal advice, the organization of seminars on the Paris Principles and regional workshops on strengthening NHRRs and the support for technical cooperation projects. Advice on strengthening NHRRs was also provided to institutions in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Croatia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Ireland, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Oman, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, the Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Samoa, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Somalia, South Africa, the State of Palestine, Sudan, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey, 6

Field monitoring mission jointly undertaken by OHCHR and human rights observers of the African Union in Burundi. © OHCHR/Burundi

Reference to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.
The Civil Society Space Guide (published in January 2015 in the six UN languages) has now been translated into 20 local languages. This practical guide was designed to assist civil society actors to become familiar with the UN human rights system. It highlights issues relevant to the work of civil society, including essential elements for creating and maintaining an enabling environment for civil society and ways to deal with challenges.

In 2016, the Secretary-General, in consultation with the High Commissioner, asked the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights to lead the engagement with all stakeholders to promote the prevention of, protection against and accountability for reprisals and intimidation related to cooperation with the UN on human rights. These efforts will be developed through constructive dialogue with Member States, civil society and others.

**The African Human Rights Moot Court Competition**

As part of its efforts to support African Union human rights initiatives, OHCHR supported the 25th edition of the African Human Rights Moot Court Competition. The event was co-organized, in October, by the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, the Centre for Human Rights of the University of Pretoria and the University of the Gambia. The Moot Court Competition is an essential event that seeks to educate future legal practitioners and academics from across Africa about international and regional human rights law, in particular before the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights.

**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 all forms of human exploitation, including trafficking and sexual and gender-based violence (EA 1)**

  Pursuant to the recommendations issued by the High-level Independent Panel on UN Peace Operations and the Secretary-General’s report on the future of peace operations, OHCHR and the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations provided joint leadership to strengthen functions within the human rights components of peace missions to protect women and children from violence in armed conflict, with a special focus on the prevention of sexual violence. During 2016, peace missions in the Central African Republic, Mali and Somalia were prioritized for support.

- **Mechanisms and initiatives are adopted to increase human rights protection in contexts of conflict, violence and insecurity (EA 3)**

  In September, OHCHR presented its annual report on the situation of human rights in Yemen to the Human Rights Council, pursuant to resolution 30/18. The report was based on monitoring undertaken by a team of OHCHR staff that was deployed in the country in order to help gather and analyze allegations of violations and provide technical assistance to the Yemeni National Commission of Inquiry. OHCHR followed up on the report with an advocacy campaign to mobilize the Council and other fora to take steps to promote the protection of civilians in Yemen and support accountability mechanisms for the different parties to the conflict. The OHCHR office in Yemen also used collected data to produce regular monthly updates that informed the work of the UNCT, the Humanitarian Appeal and several other beneficiaries. In turn, these updates influenced protection policies in the country and helped to apply pressure to the parties to the conflict by identifying allegations of possible war crimes and advocating for accountability.

- **Increased responsiveness of the international community to potential, emerging or existing human rights crisis situations, with the inclusion of human rights protection as an integral element of this response (EA 10)**

  OHCHR participated in the UNHCR/IOM Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for Europe and facilitated the deployment of monitoring and advocacy missions to Bulgaria, France, Greece, Italy and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. The missions focused on the human rights of migrants in transit and adhering to the border governance measures set out in OHCHR’s recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders.

  Significant support was also provided by the Office to investigations that were carried out pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions on Iraq and Libya. This reflected an increased responsiveness of the international community to ensure greater accountability for gross human rights violations. These initiatives have led to an improved understanding and awareness of the human rights concerns that are at stake in both crises. The Office deployed more than 80 staff members to provide support in relation to various crises and mandates, including commissions of inquiry (Eritrea, Gaza and Syria), fact-finding missions (Central African Republic, Iraq, Libya and South Sudan), and humanitarian missions (Mauritania, Nepal, Syria, Ukraine and Yemen). In the case of Syria, OHCHR’s engagement with humanitarian actors led to the inclusion of human rights concerns in the Strategic Response Plan and the Humanitarian Process Cycle.

  In coordination with the United Nations Department of Political Affairs (DPA), and in the context of the HRUF Action Plan, OHCHR developed the idea of
deploying Light Teams as a part of a new mechanism to get capacity on the ground in response to emerging or actual crisis situations. Moreover, under the HRUF Action Plan, the Office led an Inter-Agency Task Force on the development of a comprehensive proposal for the establishment of a common UN information management system on violations. The final report, which was presented to the Deputy Secretary-General in November, offers concrete suggestions to significantly improve the manner in which human rights early warning information is managed by the UN.

Human rights are integrated into United Nations preparedness, response and recovery efforts of crises emanating from natural disasters, conflict and other situations of violence and insecurity (EA 11).

OHCHR continued to ensure the integration of human rights principles into humanitarian processes by participating in IASC meetings at Principals, Working Group and Emergency Directors levels. The Deputy High Commissioner participated in the World Humanitarian Summit, in May, where she delivered the Office’s 32 commitments to strengthening its engagement in humanitarian action. As co-lead of the Global Protection Cluster Task Team, with NGO InterAction, OHCHR completed the preparation of the IASC Protection Priority Guidelines, which were endorsed in October.

In the West Nile region of Uganda, several traditional practices still exist which violate the rights of girls. Rwoth Ovari of the Alur Kingdom noted, “[f]or generations, the Alur Kingdom in West Nile in Uganda enjoyed marriage ceremonies. For every marriage, the celebration usually lasted for a minimum of four days. Interestingly, every woman and man, girl and boy from that village must attend the functions. Our tradition and culture dictated that marrying between the ages of 13 and 14 years, particularly for girls, was a blessing to the families and the Kingdom. This was our heritage.”

In light of these practices, OHCHR partnered with UN Women and the Uganda Human Rights Commission to provide training for all of the cultural leaders from the West Nile region, in July. The training focused on international human rights standards and principles and the integration of human rights and gender equality principles into the programmes and policies of cultural institutions. In their feedback on the training, the cultural leaders indicated that they realized that part of their heritage, particularly forcing small girls into early marriage, had violated the rights and dignity of the girls.

Following the training, officials from the Alur Kingdom resolved to advocate against any form of early and forced marriage within the Kingdom and to have this resolution implemented. In August, they reduced the marriage celebration period from four to two days. In addition, the Courts at the Chief’s Palace, which were previously composed of only men, added women in order to balance the opinions and outcomes of the Court.

The progressive advancement of the Kingdom was affirmed by the Rt. Hon. Haruna Ndema, Prime Minister of Lugbara Kari. “OHCHR’s human rights empowerment has gradually started to inform policy changes within the cultural institutions in West Nile and change attitudes among the chiefs. Although this will take time, there are already ongoing discussions among the chiefs to establish structures within the cultural institutions with mandates to handle emerging human rights issues and inform policy changes that are human rights-compliant. Also, the training has started to increase the participation of women in the decision-making processes within the cultural institutions.”
Global Management Outputs

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

A gender perspective was integrated into the work of the Division and information on gender-related issues was regularly shared with field presences, including guidance to actively apply gender equality principles to planning and programming exercises. A gender perspective was also mainstreamed into the Office’s interventions in the context of technical cooperation programmes, UNDAFs, the Sustainable Development Goals, elections, security sector reform, human rights monitoring and the implementation of the Human Rights up Front Action Plan.

The FOTCD worked closely with other UN agencies to ensure that expertise on gender and women’s human rights were integrated into mandates established by the Human Rights Council. Collaboration with UN Women led to the secondment of gender advisers to the Commission of Investigation on Burundi, the UN Independent Investigation on Burundi, the Commission on Human Rights on South Sudan, the Commission of Inquiry on Eritrea, the Commission of Inquiry on Syria and the OHCHR field-based presence in South Korea.

Increased effectiveness in supporting human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

The FOTCD implemented resolutions of the Human Rights Council by providing continued support for 12 special procedures country mandates, the Independent Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic, the Commission of Inquiry on human rights in Eritrea, the Commission of Investigation on Burundi, the UN Independent Investigation on Burundi, the OHCHR assessment team on South Sudan, the three-member Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan and the two experts to support the work of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea.

Increased effectiveness in supporting field operations (GMO 5)

Supported by the FOTCD, the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights and of the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the UPR met in Ukraine and Guatemala and analyzed successes achieved and challenges faced in OHCHR’s work during discussions with all partners in the respective countries. Guidance was provided to strengthen the Office’s technical cooperation at the field level.

The FOTCD ensured the timely recruitment and deployment of human rights advisers in line with the United Nations Development Group’s (UNDG) Strategy for the Deployment of Human Rights Advisers. At the beginning of 2016, OHCHR supported 28 advisers across multiple regions. Nevertheless, funds received during the year were insufficient to maintain this level of existing deployment or to respond positively to new requests. Consequently, the posts in Bangladesh, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia and the UNDG regional human rights advisers for Asia and the Pacific and for Latin America and the Caribbean were discontinued.

The Division managed the emergency deployment of staff in order to: monitor the human rights situation of migrants and refugees in France, Greece, Italy and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; monitor the deteriorating human rights situations in the Republic of the Congo; assess the human rights situation in the lead up to presidential elections in the Gambia; and support a number of special procedures mandates, including in the context of commissions of inquiry, fact-finding missions and humanitarian response.

In June, a meeting of the Heads of field presences was organized, in Geneva, to discuss the over-
all vision, priorities and agenda of the Office and provide updates on major policy developments. Among other activities, focused training was conducted for Heads of field presences on how to engage with the media, including social media.

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

- The FOTCD facilitated a series of tailor-made workshops on protection strategies for a number of field presences (Bolivia, Burundi, Cambodia and the Regional Office for South-East Asia). The workshops were adapted according to country-specific circumstances and requirements and designed to strengthen their capacities on the ground to engage with State actors and civil society. The workshops focused on making practical use of the field presences’ knowledge and analysis about their respective human rights situations to develop sound support programmes at the national level, including through technical cooperation and advisory services. Particular emphasis was placed on the strengthening of local capacities to ensure the sustainability of the programmes.

**Improved awareness and understanding of and support to OHCHR’s mission and programme by Member States and other stakeholders (GMO 7)**

- In 2016, over 150 press statements, press briefings, media statements and media advisories on country situations were issued by OHCHR with the input of the FOTCD and concerned field presences. In addition, the Division reviewed 25 reports on country situations that were published by the High Commissioner and United Nations peace missions, as well as 70 reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly.