

Funds administered by OHCHR

Voluntary contributions to support UN Human Rights activities at headquarters and in the field are channelled and managed through 10 trust funds. This chapter provides a short description of each of these funds and the voluntary contributions received in 2016 that sustained the funds. Additional financial information related to the funds can be found in the statement of extrabudgetary income and expenditure for 2016 (on page 92). 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 UN Human Rights activities. It is the largest fund administered by the Office, through which 76.4 per cent of all extrabudgetary funds, including unearmarked funds and 79.6 per cent of extrabudgetary expenditures, were managed in 2016.

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

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, 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 Secretary-General entrusted the Board 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 (UPR).

In 2016, the Board was composed of Ms. Mariclaire Acosta Urquidi, Mr. Christopher Sidoti, Chairperson, Ms. Lin Lim, Ms. Esi Sutherland-Addy and Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris. The Board meets twice a year, which includes visits to the field, to review the programmes it supports, discuss thematic issues, methodologies and procedures; to examine financial, administrative and fundraising matters; and to brief Member States on its activities.

The 42nd session of the Board was held in Geneva, in February, and in Kyiv, Ukraine. The 43rd session of the Board took place in Guatemala City, Guatemala, in October. Through these sessions, the Board Members observed the on-site work of UN Human Rights field presences, evaluated their cooperation with partners on the ground and discussed the status of implementation of technical cooperation programmes, funding trends, challenges and opportunities for the Fund with UN Human Rights staff members in Geneva.

In 2016, the Fund received a total of US\$12,054,243 in voluntary contributions. In 2016, the total expenditure of the Fund was US\$13,179,139. This amount was substantially less than projections for the year due to a number of unforeseen reductions in country-level programmes. The Fund provided resources for technical cooperation programmes that were designed to build strong human rights frameworks at the national level in 27 regions, countries and territories through 13 human rights advisers (Chad, Kenya, Madagascar, Niger, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Serbia, South Caucasus (Georgia), Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste); 10 human rights components of peace missions (Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Kosovo*, Liberia, Libya, Somalia and Sudan (Darfur)); and four country/stand-alone offices (Bolivia, Mauritania, Mexico and the State of Palestine⁷).

Through the Fund, the Office facilitates efforts at the country level to incorporate international human rights standards into national laws, policies and practices, including through follow-up to recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms, and by supporting the establishment and strengthening of national structures, institutions and capacities to ensure adherence to these standards. Strengthening the administration of justice, including by supporting increased access for individuals and groups facing discrimination and exclusion and increasing capacities to promote gender equality and women's rights, featured prominently in numerous programmes receiving support from the Fund. The establishment and functioning of responsive national human rights institutions that are compliant with the Paris Principles and human rights education programmes continued to receive support. The human rights capacity of United Nations Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) was strengthened through the deployment of human rights advisers that are supported by the Fund.

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

UN Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation (VFTC) Voluntary contributions in 2016

Donor	US\$	Earmarking
Finland	893,855	VFTC
Germany	1,535,231	VFTC
India	100,000	VFTC
Liechtenstein	40,120	VFTC
South Africa	11,095	VFTC
Switzerland	510,725	VFTC
United States of America*	1,100,000	VFTC
(a) total contributions earmarked to VFTC	4,191,026	
	74,683	Activities in the Asia-Pacific region (allocated to Afghanistan)
	74,683	Activities in the Asia-Pacific region (allocated to Papua New Guinea)
Australia	164,302	Activities in the Asia-Pacific region (allocated to Philippines)
	74,683	Activities in the Asia-Pacific region (allocated to Sri Lanka)
	74,683	Activities in the Asia-Pacific region (allocated to Timor Leste)
Canada	44,317	Afghanistan (Violence against women)
France	44,593	Mauritania
	71,032	Human Rights Adviser in Serbia (human rights of migrants and refugees: Serbia and the Balkan land route)
Germany	167,224	Mauritania (supporting implementation of treaty bodies recommendations)
	120,401	Mexico (monitoring, support to victims and advocacy for structural measures)
International Organization for Migration	22,000	Mauritania
Netherlands	143,900	Elections in Kenya
Norway	253,283	Palestine (support to Palestine's implementation of HR treaty obligations)
	179,996	Strategy to widen the democratic space
Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie	33,186	Madagascar (women empowerment and violence against women)
	400,000	Russian Federation (consolidation of the Human Rights Master Programme)
Russian Federation	100,000	Russian Federation (activities of Federal and Regional Ombudspersons for HR in the RF)

Donor	US\$	Earmarking
Saudi Arabia	200,000	Palestine (monitoring the Israeli HR violations in the occupied Arab territories)
	280,000	Mauritania
Switzerland	340,000	Palestine (office in East Jerusalem - 4th instalment)
	23,000	Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine
United States of America	700,000	Technical assistance in the Americas (allocated to Mexico)
	400,000	Technical assistance in the Americas (allocated to Bolivia)
(b) total contributions earmarked to specific projects	3,985,965	
Unearmarked funds allocated to VFTC	3,877,253	Unearmarked
(c) total unearmarked funds	3,877,253	
TOTAL (a) + (b) + (c)	12,054,243	

* Out of this pledged amount, the United States of America decided to withhold an amount of US\$100,000 in accordance with section 307 of the U.S.A. Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

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 2016 can be found on page 218 of the annexed USB key). In 2016, the Trust Fund received US\$672,097 in voluntary contributions.

Trust Fund for a Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia Voluntary contributions in 2016

Donor	US\$
Australia ¹	74,683
Japan	60,000
Norway ²	18,923
Spain ³	155,383
Sweden	363,108
TOTAL	672,097

¹ Allocated from a contribution earmarked for activities in the Asia-Pacific Region.

² Allocated from a contribution earmarked to support the strategy to widen democratic space.

³ Allocated from a contribution earmarked for country offices.

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 of official representatives of developing countries, in particular the Least Developed Countries, to Geneva, in order 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. In 2016, the Fund received US\$41,888 in voluntary contributions.

In 2016, with the support of the Fund, 29 delegates representing 20 countries participated in the UPR Working Group sessions and the adoption of outcome documents by the Human Rights Council.

UN Voluntary Fund for Participation in the UPR Voluntary contributions in 2016

Donor	US\$
Cuba	1,888
Republic of Korea	25,000
Singapore	15,000
TOTAL	41,888

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 countries concerned. The Trust Fund has been primarily used to strengthen the national structures empowered to follow up on and coordinate the implementation of recommendations, such as supporting the creation or strengthening of standing interministerial structures for reporting and follow-up, as well as the development of enabling tools, such as national implementation plans and databases for tracking purposes. Technical cooperation for support in implementing thematic recommendations has also been extended within the context of the work of national structures for follow-up. Support continued to be provided through United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs); a vital tool for enabling UNCTs to better mainstream the recommendations issued by international human rights mechanisms into their country programming.

In 2016, the Fund received US\$503,318 and a total of 24 projects were supported during the year. The projects primarily focused on establishing and/or strengthening inter-institutional bodies to coordinate follow-up to recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms; mainstreaming those recommendations into national human rights action plans; implementing key priority human rights recommendations; and providing support in the context of UNDAFs.

UN Voluntary Fund for Implementation of the UPR Voluntary contributions in 2016

Donor	US\$
Germany	109,649
Norway	238,175
Republic of Korea	25,000
Saudi Arabia	75,000
Spain	55,494
TOTAL	503,318

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 (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) 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 2016, the Trust Fund received US\$801,200 in voluntary contributions. Over the year, it supported the participation of 24 delegates, including 19 women, from LDCs and SIDS, including Antigua and Barbuda, Belize, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tomé and Príncipe, Suriname, Tonga, Tuvalu and Vanuatu. The Trust Fund also contributed to the holding of the first universal session of the Human Rights Council, with the participation of all 193 Member States, on the occasion of the Council's 10th anniversary. In addition, on 15 June, the Secretariat of the Trust Fund launched an exhibition entitled "Ensuring that the Voices of All UN Member States are Heard: Voices of the Beneficiary Delegates of the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of LDCs and SIDS in the work of the Human Rights Council," featuring the testimonies of 30 delegates who were beneficiaries of the Trust Fund between 1 January 2014 and 31 March 2016. It also includes statements from the 10 Permanent Representatives of the donor countries to the Trust Fund.

Voluntary Fund for Participation of LDCs and SIDS in the work of the Human Rights Council Voluntary contributions in 2016

Donor*	US\$
Australia	150,844
Belgium (Wallonia-Brussels)	10,616
France	106,157
Georgia	3,000
Germany	146,804
Ireland	56,625
Italy	58,997
Kuwait	10,000
Morocco	10,000
Republic of Korea	100,000
Saudi Arabia	20,640
Spain	77,691
Turkey	10,000
United Kingdom	39,826
TOTAL	801,200

*Switzerland provided a contribution of \$25,000 in 2016 to support the participation of delegates of LDCs and SIDS in the HRC 10th anniversary session, which was recorded under another Trust Fund with the rest of its contribution in support of activities related to the 10th anniversary of the HRC.

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples

The Fund was established by General Assembly resolution 40/131 in 1985 as a response to the needs of indigenous peoples to participate in and self-represent their nations and organizations at the UN Working Group on Indigenous Populations. Since that time, the mandate and scope of the Fund has significantly broadened and today it 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 (EMRIP), the Human Rights Council and the human rights treaty bodies. 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 2016, the Board was composed of Ms. Claire Charters, Ms. Myrna Cunningham, Mr. Binota Dhamai, Ms. Anne Nuorgam and Mr. Legborsi Saro Pyagbara.

In 2016, the Fund allocated 94 grants to support the participation of representatives from indigenous peo-

ples' organizations and communities in the fifteenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (25), the ninth session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (20), the Expert Workshop on the EMRIP mandate review (14), the sessions of the Human Rights Council (2), the UPR Working Group (1), the General Assembly consultation process (19), the Human Rights Committee (1), the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (4), the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (1), the Committee on the Rights of the Child (1), the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (4) and the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (1).

Feedback from past grantees of the Fund demonstrates the significant positive impact that the Fund has had on both grantees and the indigenous communities that they represent. For example, following the participation of a grantee at a session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, indigenous women and girls with disabilities were mentioned, for the first time, in the Committee's concluding observations for that State Party. Other grantees also reported that their participation in sessions of the human rights treaty bodies and other UN meetings provided them with valuable networking opportunities, which improved the effectiveness of their advocacy efforts on the issues affecting their indigenous communities.

Due to the expansion of the mandate of the Fund, 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 2016, the Fund received US\$409,989 from 10 Member States. The Board estimates that the Fund will require approximately 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 2016

Donor	US\$
Argentina	10,000
Australia	112,024
Chile	5,000
Estonia	21,231
Finland	56,370
Holy See	2,000
Mexico	15,946
Norway	166,722
Peru	3,973
Spain	16,722
TOTAL	409,989

Humanitarian Funds

UN Human Rights 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 2016, 28 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 by General Assembly resolution 36/151 in 1981, 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 2016, the Board members were Ms. Gaby Ore Aguilar, Mr. Morad El-Shazly, Ms. Maria Cristina Nunes de Mendonça, Ms. Anastasia Pinto and Mr. Mikolaj Pietrzak (who joined the Board, in February, following the resignation of Mr. Adam Bodnar).

In 2016, the Fund supported 178 regular projects for direct assistance to victims of torture and their families in more than 80 countries for a total amount of US\$7,169,300. In addition, the Fund continued to support a number of emergency projects implemented in Burundi, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Israel, Nigeria, Poland, Serbia, South Sudan, the State of Palestine and Thailand. Victims assisted included human rights defenders, asylum-seekers, refugees and undocumented migrants, victims of sexual violence in armed conflict, victims of enforced disappearances, indigenous peoples, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender

and intersex persons and individuals who had been tortured in detention. Practitioners sponsored by the Fund included medical doctors, psychiatrists and psychologists, human rights lawyers and social workers.

The Fund also invested resources in monitoring and evaluating project proposals, in particular through visits to applicants and grantees. In 2016, a total of 58 projects were visited by the Secretariat team, field presences and the Fund's Trustees. Recommendations were subsequently formulated and partnerships were renewed or terminated.

In April, the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture convened a specialized Expert Workshop on redress and rehabilitation for child and adolescent victims of torture in order to respond to an increasing number of children affected by torture and in need of urgent assistance. A public event entitled "How can children survive torture," was organized to share testimonies and findings with Member States, civil society organizations and relevant UN mechanisms and entities. The next knowledge-sharing workshop for rehabilitation practitioners will be convened in 2017 on the theme of "torture in the context of migration," with a particular focus on the early identification of torture victims.

UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture Voluntary contributions in 2016

Donor	US\$
Algeria	5,000
Andorra	11,099
Argentina	15,000
Austria	21,739
Canada	42,796
Chile	5,000
Czech Republic	7,849
Denmark	439,303
France	128,454
Germany	654,674
Holy See	2,000
India	25,000
Ireland	39,638
Kuwait	10,000
Liechtenstein	25,075
Luxembourg	16,760
Mexico	10,000
Morocco	2,000
Norway	95,270
Peru	1,470
Saudi Arabia	75,000
South Africa	7,396
Switzerland	202,840
United Arab Emirates	10,000
United States of America*	6,550,000
Individual donors	7,464
TOTAL	8,410,826

*Out of this pledged amount, the United States of America decided to withhold an amount of US\$800,000 in accordance with section 307 of the U.S.A. Foreign Assistance Act of 1961.

Thirty-fifth anniversary of the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture is the oldest and largest humanitarian fund managed by OHCHR. In 2016, the Fund marked its thirty-fifth anniversary since its establishment by the General Assembly in 1981. This commemorative year provided a timely opportunity for renewed and increased support to this vital mechanism that supports victims of torture worldwide. It was also a stark reminder of the continuous plight being faced by thousands of victims who are in dire need of assistance.

To mark the International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, on 26 June, a dedicated campaign page was created on the UN Human Rights website and its link

was widely publicized and disseminated. The campaign page contains videos and multiple communications products which can be downloaded and/or shared via social media. A publication was also launched entitled “From horror to healing: A life-saving journey supported by the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture.”

In April, a public event entitled “How can children survive torture,” was organized to facilitate an informative exchange between representatives of the Fund, United Nations Member States, civil society organizations and relevant UN mechanisms and entities. The panel featured the High Commissioner for Human Rights and a number of specialized practitioners.

United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

The United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, established by General Assembly resolution 46/122 in 1991, provides financial support to non-governmental organizations that are assisting victims of contemporary forms of slavery to obtain assistance and redress. Modern forms of slavery are brought to light on a regular basis and include serfdom, forced labour, bonded labour, trafficking in persons and in human organs, sexual slavery, the worst forms of child labour, early and forced marriage, inherited widows, the sale of wives and other 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 2016, the Board members were Ms. Nevena Vuckovic Sahovic, Mr. Mike Dottridge, Mr. George Omona, Ms. Renu Rajbhandari and Mr. Leonardo Sakamoto.

In 2016, the Fund supported 42 projects for direct assistance to victims of contemporary forms of slavery and their families in 34 countries for a total amount of US\$561,000. Through the Fund’s grants, over 20,000 victims were provided with redress and reha-

ilitation services, such as legal assistance, psychosocial support and food and medical care, after having been freed from slavery, including the worst forms of child labour, domestic servitude, forced and early marriage, bonded and forced labour, sexual exploitation and trafficking in persons for labour and sexual exploitation. Despite its underfunding, the Secretariat and the Trustees of the Fund invested in the thorough evaluation of project proposals, including 23 on-site project visits and close coordination with other funding organizations. Projects were selected by taking into account the geography and the expertise of the applicants, as well as the comparative advantage of the victim-focused mandate of the Fund.

On 2 December, the Fund held an Expert Panel on “Revealing the Child Faces of Modern Slavery,” to shed light on the child victims of contemporary forms of slavery. The panel featured the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the UN Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences, representatives of the International Labour Organization and experts from civil society organizations from around the world who are working with child victims of contemporary forms of slavery with the support of the Fund.

Over the next three years, the Fund will continue to prioritize projects providing specialized direct assistance to victims, in particular women and children, in situations of conflict and humanitarian crises. By doing so, the Fund will contribute to meeting Sustainable Development Goal #8.7, which requires the undertaking of “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 2016

Donor	US\$
Australia	191,187
Germany	222,965
Holy See	5,000
India	25,000
Luxembourg	16,760
Qatar	10,000
Saudi Arabia	75,000
South Africa	3,698
Spain	38,846
United Arab Emirates	30,000
United Kingdom	137,484
TOTAL	755,941

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 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. Since its first call for applications for projects to be implemented in 2012, the Fund has supported a variety of technical cooperation projects in 11 countries around the world. These projects resulted in legislative changes, such as aligning respective laws with international human rights standards on torture prevention, as well as laws seeking to establish NPMs; institutional changes, such as establishing or strengthening the effective functioning of NPMs or other relevant institutions, or the establishment of registers of detainees; operational changes due to enhanced knowledge and skills of the judiciary, law enforcement and medical personnel; and changes in the lives of individuals, including a reported decrease of violence against children in detention facilities. The projects also contributed to an increased awareness of persons deprived of their liberty about their rights through the development and dissemination of manuals.

In 2016, the Special Fund received US\$279,625 in voluntary contributions. A total of sixteen eligible States and one eligible NPM were invited to submit project proposals and 19 applications were received. After a thorough review, eight grants were awarded to projects aimed at implementing recommendations made by the SPT in seven eligible States.

OP-CAT Special Fund Voluntary contributions in 2016

Donor	US\$
Argentina	10,000
Czech Republic	7,849
Germany	222,930
Spain	38,846
TOTAL	279,625

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 ap-

proximately 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 significantly increased.

In 2016, UN Human Rights used its Contingency Fund to deploy staff to the following countries or regions in light of deteriorating or potentially deteriorating human rights situations: the Republic of the Congo to assess the human rights situation in relation to a surge in violence after the country's presidential elections and to provide advice to the UN Resident Coordinator; France, Greece, Italy and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia to monitor the migrant situation in Europe; and Iraqi Kurdistan to assist the Human Rights Division of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq to monitor the human rights situation in Mosul.

In 2016, the Fund received US\$116,890 in voluntary contributions. As of December, US\$385,887 had been disbursed or committed to the abovementioned activities. As of the end of the year, the balance stood at US\$751,173.

Contingency Fund Voluntary contributions in 2016	
Donor	US\$
France	66,890
Republic of Korea	50,000
TOTAL	116,890

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. The aim of the Fund is to facilitate the broadest possible participation of civil society representatives and other relevant stakeholders in the annual meetings of the three fora. In 2016, the Special Fund received US\$50,000 in new contributions.

Over 500 participants attended the ninth Forum on Minority Issues and at least 50 per cent of the attendees were from civil society organizations. Participants discussed key issues of global concern regarding minorities in situations of humanitarian crises and made specific recommendations to protect and promote their rights. Funding was provided for a number of civil society participants to take part in the Forum as panelists.

The Forum on Business and Human Rights brought together more than 2,000 participants from 140 countries in order to participate in a three-day programme that featured three plenary sessions and 64 thematic panels. It examined three main areas, specifically State leadership and leverage; business leadership and leverage; and the role of financial institutions. Representation of NGO groups at the meeting was significantly high (30 per cent of total participants) due to support that was received from the Special Fund.

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 2016	
Donor	US\$
Russian Federation	50,000
TOTAL	50,000