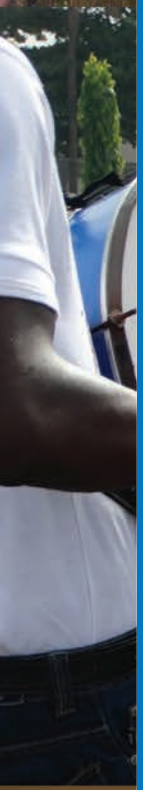
Highlights of results



On 10 December, the UN Human Rights Office launched a year-long campaign entitled "Stand up for someone's rights today." For the launch, the High Commissioner took part in a Facebook Live session and turned on Geneva's iconic Jet d'Eau, which was lit up with blue lights at night. The Office participated in the Geneva Lux Festival with a symbolic "tree of human rights" that was artistically illuminated in the Old Town of Geneva. Selfie stands were set up at the airport, downtown Geneva and at the Palais des Nations to inform people about the campaign. Other activities were organized elsewhere by UN Human Rights field presences, the United Nations family and the global human rights community. The "Stand up" campaign will continue to call for action on numerous occasions in 2017. © OHCHR

Highlights of results

This section highlights the results to which the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR or UN Human Rights) made a meaningful contribution – along side the work of others – in 2016. The results are organized according to thematic priorities established in the OHCHR Management Plan 2014-2017 (OMP). The Office's work is grounded in a theory of change and thematic expected accomplishments (see annex I) that define the intermediate results towards which the Office contributes in the pursuit of its long-term goal – all human rights for all. OHCHR's current planning cycle will end in 2017. The majority of our expected accomplishments and targets set out in the OMP therefore are forecasted to be achieved by the end of that year.

In 2016, an estimated 18 per cent of national expected accomplishments, planned to be realized by the end of the four-year planning cycle covering 2014-2017, were fully or partially achieved and good progress was made on 29 per cent of those expected accomplishments. Annex II provides an overview of the extent to which the targets have been achieved.

For a general overview of OHCHR's role in the human rights developments set out below, please refer to the end of this chapter. For a more detailed description of OHCHR's specific role in these results, please refer to the chapters on OHCHR's field presences and headquarter divisions that can be found on the USB key that is annexed to this report or on the Office's website.

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

In 2016, 24 per cent of planned national expected accomplishments were reported as fully or partially achieved and good progress was made on an additional 33 per cent of them.

Ratification

In total, 44 new ratifications of or accessions to the human rights treaties were deposited with the Secretary-General in 2016. A few examples are listed below to illustrate this achievement.

In the African region, the **Central African Republic** ratified the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT) and its Optional Protocol (OP-CAT), the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and its Optional Protocol (OP-CRPD), the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (OP-ICESCR) and the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (OP-CEDAW); **Madagascar** adopted legislation on the ratification of the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR-OP2) and the OP-CAT; and **Sao Tomé and Principe** adopted a bill for the ratification of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

In the Americas, **Peru** ratified the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure (OP-CRC-IC) and **Venezuela** ratified the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW). In Europe, the **Netherlands** ratified the CRPD; **Finland** ratified the CRPD and the OP-CRPD; and **Switzerland** ratified the ICPPED. In the Pacific, **Fiji** ratified CAT; **Samoa** ratified the CRPD and all three optional protocols under the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC); and the **Federated States of Micronesia** also ratified the CRPD.

Member States' engagement with international human rights mechanisms

Member States continued to engage with international human rights mechanisms and complied with their findings and recommendations. In relation to the

The Human Rights Council held, in June 2016, a high-level panel discussion on the occasion of its 10th anniversary. Members of the panel included eight former Presidents of the Human Rights Council, the former Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, and the Deputy High Commissioner. © UN Photo/Jean-Marc Ferré

Human Rights Council (HRC), more than 100 different States have served as members of the Council since its 2006 establishment. Moreover, in 2016, States were involved in 159 meetings, including the Council's regular and special sessions, interactive dialogues and panels, representing a 50 per cent increase in meeting times since its inception. Furthermore, as a result of assistance from 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, 24 delegates, including 19 women, from 21 LDCs and SIDS were able to participate in regular HRC sessions over the year. Member States continued to engage with the second Universal Periodic Review (UPR) cycle and, in 2016, the last 39 Member States that were expected to undergo the review had their human rights records assessed by the mechanism. The increasing engagement of Member States with the HRC, the UPR and other international human rights mechanisms contributed to the achievement of the following results.

Coordination mechanisms

Progress has been achieved in relation to the establishment or strengthening of national coordination bodies for reporting and following up on the recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms.

2016 marked the tenth anniversary of the Human Rights Council

UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL
TENTH ANNIVERSARY • 2006-2016

More than **100** different countries have served as members

50 per cent increase in meeting times since its establishment

26 special sessions held

Approximately **1,000** texts adopted on thematic and country-specific human rights issues

30 countries noted in country-specific resolutions

23 commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions established

50 per cent increase in the number of independent experts of the Council appointed since its establishment

3,400 communications submitted to the Council's complaint procedure each year

42 States are reviewed by the UPR annually with about **8,000** recommendations made per year

In **Burundi**, the Committee for reporting and follow-up adopted a road map for its mandate and prepared two State Party reports that have been submitted to the human rights treaty bodies. In **Ethiopia**, legislation was adopted which transferred responsibility for reporting and follow-up to the Office of the Attorney General. In **the Gambia**, the inter-ministerial task force on reporting and follow-up adopted a plan of action for the establishment of a permanent national mechanism. In the case of **Rwanda**, a road map for establishing a national mechanism for following up on recommendations was jointly adopted by the Government, the National Commission for Human Rights and civil society representatives. Additionally, a Standing Technical Interministerial Committee was established in **Mauritius** and draft terms of reference for the establishment of similar mechanisms were prepared in **Lesotho** and in **Swaziland**. **Samoa** also established a National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-Up and, in addition, a draft plan was developed for the implementation of all recommendations and a website was created to monitor the implementation.

Through the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the UPR, support was provided to **Costa Rica** to enable its Inter-Institutional Commission for reporting and follow-up to define its working methods, prepare its 2016 workplan, analyse and cluster the recommendations received from the human rights bodies, and establish a mechanism to ensure the participation of civil society in this. A draft decree was produced for the establishment of a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up in **Honduras** and it is now awaiting approval by the Council of Ministers. Support was provided to the Governments of **Argentina**, **Barbados**, **Botswana**, **the Central African Republic**, **Chile**, **Dominica**, **the Gambia**, **Jamaica**, **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 establish or strengthen their respective national mechanisms to report and follow-up on recommendations.

In **Tajikistan**, the Government made considerable efforts to improve the operations of the Commission on the Implementation of International Obligations in the Field of Human Rights, including by enhancing the mechanism's monitoring and follow-up functions with the appointment of human rights focal points at the ministerial and municipal levels and by hosting public consultations with civil society organizations. The Parliament of **Georgia**, following a decision to strengthen its oversight role, will consider periodically the status of Georgia's implementation of its international human rights obligations.

To assist follow-up on the implementation of recommendations, an online database was launched in **Uganda**. The database has been tested in five ministries and departments. In **Bolivia**, the monitoring system, which was launched in 2015, enables public access to all recommendations to the Bolivian State and to information on follow-up actions undertaken by the State. Significant progress was achieved in development of a standard National Human Rights Recommendations Tracking Database to facilitate the monitoring and follow-up of international human rights recommendations at the national level. This tool will enable States to access the Universal Human Rights Index (UHRI), download recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies, the UPR and the special procedures, cluster them by thematic issues and groups of persons affected, assign responsibilities as to their implementation, monitor related activities and record the status of implementation. The database will be available by mid-2017.

Development of a National Human Rights Recommendations Tracking Database

The National Human Rights Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD) will assist States download recommendations from the Universal Human Rights Index as issued by the human rights treaty bodies, the Universal Periodic Review and the special procedures. Users will be able to align and cluster the recommendations according to thematic issues and groups of persons affected, assign responsibilities as to their implementation, monitor related activities and budgets and record the status of their implementation, which in turn will facilitate future reporting. This should assist States coordinate implementation and expedite follow-up. The Database will be available by mid-2017.

National Human Rights Action Plans

Member States have developed, adopted and implemented national human rights plans or programmes, with realistic activities and achievable targets, in order to follow up on the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms and to establish or strengthen legal frameworks and national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights.

For instance, a plan of action for the implementation of UPR recommendations was validated after consultations were held between the Government of **Chad** and civil society actors. Likewise, the Governments of **Côte d'Ivoire** and **Niger** adopted action plans for the implementation of recommendations issued by

Through the Treaty Body Capacity-Building Programme, State officials from the Pacific region enhanced their understanding in relation to the international human rights treaties. © OHCHR/Pacific

the UPR. A national action plan was drafted in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**. In **Senegal**, a new national action plan was approved for the implementation of UPR and treaty body recommendations which, among other actions, provides for the establishment of a national reporting and follow-up mechanism.

In the **Dominican Republic**, the launch of the National Human Rights Action Plan, originally planned for December, was postponed until 2017. In **Mexico**, human rights assessments were developed in the states of Estado de México, Querétaro and San Luis Potosí and the Estado de México elaborated its first human rights programme.

The Government of **Kazakhstan** drafted a plan of action to follow up on recommendations issued by the UPR. In the **former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**, the national mechanism for reporting and follow-up developed a matrix that clustered the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms, and began drafting an integrated implementation plan.

In **Iraq**, the Kurdistan Regional Government developed a UPR implementation action plan. The **State of Palestine's**[1] final draft of the National Policy Agenda includes overarching commitments on the integration of international human rights treaties as part of its State-building activities. The Government is working on translating the National Policy Agenda priorities into national sector strategies that will incorporate interventions on human rights implementation.

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

Reporting

In 2016, the human rights treaty bodies considered a total of 168 State Party reports and received an additional 138 State Party reports. Furthermore, State officials from approximately 50 countries increased their knowledge and skills in relation to the human rights treaties and the reporting process as a result of activities conducted by UN Human Rights through the Treaty Body Capacity-Building Programme, which was established by General Assembly resolution 68/268.

Among the reports submitted, it is worth noting that **Liberia** finalized its report under ICCPR; **Mozambique's** national coordinating body drafted the country's UPR report and their periodic report under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW); Mauritius submitted its overdue reports under ICCPR and CAT; **Lesotho** and **Seychelles** submitted their respective reports under CRC; **Burkina Faso** submitted its overdue reports under CEDAW, ICESCR and ICPPED; **Honduras** submitted its reports under ICESCR, CEDAW and ICRMW; **Panama** submitted its overdue reports under CAT and CRC; **Paraguay** prepared its reports for the UPR second cycle and under the International Convention

Canada launches national inquiry into violence against indigenous women

In August, after more than a decade of tireless advocacy by families of murdered and missing women and girls and activism by indigenous and women's rights advocates, the Canadian Government launched a long-awaited national inquiry into the murders and disappearances of indigenous women and girls across the country. The inquiry, which began in September 2016 and will continue until the end of 2018, will examine the root causes of the high rate of violence suffered by indigenous women and girls. It will also consider the role of institutions such as police forces. In 2013, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) conducted a confidential inquiry into allegations by Canadian NGOs that indigenous women in Canada face grave and systematic violations of their rights. The Committee then published two reports on its findings. In its 2013 report, the Committee concluded that there had been a grave violation of the rights of indigenous women under the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and that indigenous women and their families have experienced serious acts of violence that significantly affect the right to life and personal security; the right to physical and mental integrity; and the right to health. The Committee made a series of recommendations to combat violence, including the establishment of an independent national inquiry into the cases of missing and murdered Indigenous women and girls. Along with calls from civil society, indigenous and women's rights advocates, the CEDAW inquiry was instrumental in the creation of a national inquiry.

on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD); **Samoa** drafted its UPR report; **Thailand** presented its initial report under CRPD; and **Timor-Leste** submitted its initial report under CAT.

Engagement with the special procedures

Special procedures mandate holders carried out 96 country visits to 65 States and territories. Two more Member States extended a standing invitation in 2016, namely, **Mozambique** and **Somalia**, bringing the total number of States that have done so to 117. Mandate holders transmitted a total of 526 communications to 119 States and 23 communications to non-State actors. A total of 431 replies were received, 313 of which were related to communications sent in 2016. In addition, the Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances transmitted information to States in relation to 801 new cases of enforced disappearance, 206 of which were clarified. With regard to cases of arbitrary detention, at least 20 individuals, who were the sub-

The Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association meets with the Minister of the Office for Government Policy Coordination of the Republic of Korea, January 2016. © Jeff Vize for the UN Special Rapporteur Maina Kiai

jects of opinions issued by the Working Group on arbitrary detention, were released in the course of the year.

Member States also reacted to findings and recommendations of the special procedures. For example, during a visit to **Brazil**, in March, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples raised concerns about violations of the rights of the Munduruku indigenous peoples in the context of a dam project due to the failure to hold consultations to obtain the free, prior and informed consent of the affected peoples and to conduct adequate environmental and social impact assessments regarding the dam. Following the Special Rapporteur's visit, the Ministry of the Environment suspended the licensing procedure for the project on the grounds that it was incompatible with the constitutional rights of indigenous peoples. In another case, a joint communication was issued by several mandate holders regarding a well-known anthropologist researcher of Iranian, Canadian and Irish nationalities, who has studied a range of issues related to women's roles and status in Muslim contexts. She was arrested and detained in **Iran** and reportedly investigated for "dabbling in feminism and security matters," although no charges were brought against her while she was in detention. After a second communication was sent to the relevant authorities, the anthropologist was released, on 26 September.

Rights-holders engagement with human rights mechanisms

Civil society actors, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and other stakeholders promoted human rights at the local and regional levels and directed the attention of the international community towards issues of concern, including in the context of their engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.

During 2016, the participation of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in HRC sessions increased by 25 per cent. Specifically, NGOs submitted 25 per cent more written statements (551) and delivered 17 per cent more oral statements (2,080) than in 2015. In addition, NGOs organized a total of 437 side events in parallel with sessions of the Council. They also submitted contributions to the stakeholder summaries in anticipation of the second cycle of the UPR related to their respective countries. For instance, 28 civil society organizations submitted reports for the second cycle of the UPR of **Ecuador**; more than 60 civil society organizations prepared a joint submission for **Mozambique's** second cycle of the UPR; at least 20 reports were prepared by NGOs for the review of **Paraguay**; the NHRI of the **Republic of Moldova** submitted two reports and civil society organizations prepared 34 submissions; civil society organizations and the NHRI submitted eight reports in relation to the UPR of **South Sudan**; approximately 100 civil society organizations submitted a joint report for **Tanzania's** review; 37 civil society organizations and the NHRI in **Timor-Leste** submitted four reports; and a shadow report was submitted by civil society organizations in **Uganda**.

The number of registered individual communications addressed to the human rights treaty bodies increased from 170 in 2013 to 314 in 2016. It is notable that the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) received the first individual communication regarding **Cambodia** from a national NGO and five individual communications were sent in relation to the **Republic of Moldova** (two under ICERD and three under OP-CEDAW). Furthermore, the number of registered requests under the Committee on Enforced Disappearances' urgent action procedure rose from 50 in 2014 to over 350 in 2016. Civil society actors and NHRIs also engaged with the treaty bodies through the submission of alternative reports and inputs for the review of **Cameroon** by the ICESCR; of the **Dominican Republic** by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR); of **Jamaica** by the Human Rights Committee; of **Honduras**, **Mauritania**, **Nicaragua** and **Senegal** by the Committee on Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW); of **Paraguay** by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination; of **Trinidad and Tobago** by the Human Rights Committee; and of **Tunisia** by the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, CAT and CESCR.

In addition, civil society actors used the special procedures to raise the awareness of the international community regarding issues of concern. For instance, twelve communications were sent to the special procedures by civil society organizations in **Indonesia** and three communications were sent by NGOs in **Paraguay**.

To support this increased engagement, the international human rights mechanisms undertook a number of actions to address reprisals against individuals and organizations cooperating or seeking to cooperate with them. As of the end of 2016, all of the treaty bodies had taken action in this regard, including by establishing working groups or focal points on reprisals. A procedure was established to respond to and follow up on allegations of threats and reported cases of reprisals against civil society representatives during UPR or HRC sessions, and to bring them to the attention of the President of the Council. In the course of 2016, the President of the HRC systematically followed up on a number of reported cases through informal/bilateral meetings, formal correspondence or indirectly during the sessions.

Progressive development of international and regional human rights law

A number of mandate holders contributed to the development of international human rights law and good practices through the preparation of reports and guidelines. In her report to the General Assembly, in 2016, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples presented recommendations on how to ensure that the rights of indigenous peoples are better protected in conservation policies and practice. In a positive development, the World Conservation Congress, which is based in Hawaii, adopted several important resolutions in line with some of the recommendations outlined in the Special Rapporteur's report, including on the need to safeguard indigenous lands, territories and resources from unsustainable developments. Furthermore, since the submission of reports on the intentional destruction of cultural heritage, in 2011 and 2016, the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights has been invited to take part in meetings organized by NATO, ICRC and UNESCO about the importance of adopting a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to preventing the destruction of cultural heritage.

In relation to the treaty bodies, work proceeded on various draft general comments/general recommendations, including in relation to the right to inclusive education (CRPD); disaster risk reduction and the rights of women (CEDAW); the rights of children and migration (CMW and the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)); public expenditure (CRC); violence against women (update of General Recommendation No. 19) (CEDAW); and the right to just and favourable conditions at work and the right to sexual and reproductive health (CESCR).

Enhanced coherence between human rights mechanisms

During the twenty-eighth annual Meeting of Chairpersons of the Human Rights Treaty Bodies, held in New York, treaty body experts held discussions with representatives of the Inter-American Court of Human Rights and the Secretariat and Commissioners of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights in order to explore various means to further strengthen cooperation between international and regional human rights mechanisms. The Inter-American Commission also agreed with UN Human Rights field presences in the Americas to enhance the exchange of information, consider undertaking joint country missions, issue joint communications and monitor the implementation of recommendations and precautionary measures for the protection of human rights defenders in the region.

OHCHR staff member monitors the situation of migrants in Izabal and Petén, Guatemala. © OHCHR/Guatemala

The special procedures also strengthened their engagement with other human rights mechanisms and undertook several joint activities. For example, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women prioritized integrating a gender perspective into the work of other mechanisms, including by participating in consultative meetings and issuing joint statements with other mandate holders, CEDAW and regional mechanisms working on gender equality and human rights, such as the rapporteurs of the Inter-American and African human rights systems. The Special Rapporteur also participated in CEDAW's working group on the revision of its General Recommendation No. 19 on violence against women.

In addition, to support a more coherent implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms, work continued on upgrading the UHRI. This tool has become useful for all relevant stakeholders in the preparation of their reports and in relation to following up on recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms.

International human rights mechanisms and early warning

In 2016, the Human Rights Council addressed a number of emerging and ongoing human rights crises during its regular sessions. For instance, it established the Commission on Human Rights in **South Sudan** and a commission on inquiry of **Burundi**. The Coun-

cil further debated on the human rights situations in **Libya**, **Myanmar, Sudan**, **Ukraine** and **Yemen**, among other countries. It also mandated the submission of OHCHR reports on the human rights situation in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** at each session in 2017.

On 21 October, the Council held a special session on the deteriorating human rights situation in the **Syrian Arab Republic**, at which it requested the Commission of Inquiry to conduct a comprehensive, independent special inquiry into events in Aleppo; and identify, whenever possible, individuals for whom there are reasonable grounds to believe that they are responsible for alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law. Furthermore, following the deterioration of the human rights situation in **South Sudan**, on 14 December the Council held a special session that reaffirmed the mandate of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan and emphasized the need to establish the facts and circumstances of alleged violations and abuses of human rights with a view to ensure that those responsible are held to account.

96

country visits or missions by special procedures

Subsequent to special procedures' intervention, the Brazilian authorities suspended a dam project which was considered incompatible with indigenous peoples' constitutional rights.

168

State party reports to the Human Rights Treaty Bodies reviewed

475

NGO side-events organized during Human Rights Council sessions

2,080

oral statements, delivered by NGOs, during HRC sessions

Promoting and protecting the rights of all migrants: OHCHR's work on migration

While millions of women, men and children embarked on perilous journeys in search of respect for their human rights, the world was witness to increasing criminalization of migrants, greater reliance on detention, deportation and harsh law enforcement measures and further securitization and militarization of national borders. More than 7,000 people lost their lives along migratory routes during the course of 2016 and many more were trafficked and/or subjected to gender-based violence during their journey or at their destination. Migrants continued to be used as scapegoats; populist political figures, among others, deployed xenophobic narratives and expressed hostility towards migration and migrants themselves. In light of these disturbing trends, UN Human Rights enhanced its focus on the human rights of people on the move, seeking to counter xenophobia and strengthen the human rights of all migrants, regardless of their legal status.

Consequently, UN Human Rights and the international human rights mechanisms it supports called on the international community to ensure the human rights, safety and dignity of all people on the move. States were also cautioned against dividing human beings into the false categories of those who are "deserving" and those "undeserving" of rights due to their legal status.

The High Commissioner led the Office's active engagement in the high-level plenary meeting of the General Assembly on addressing large movements of refugees and migrants (the UN Summit for Refugees and Migrants) that was held in September. The High Commissioner issued an open letter, posted a video message and published an Op Ed urging States to undertake targeted action to: address human rights protection gaps for migrants in vulnerable situations; challenge the criminalization of migrants; end immigration detention; confront xenophobia; and initiate a paradigm shift in the governance of migration. A number of human rights mechanisms, including special procedures and the human rights treaty bodies, which are supported by UN Human Rights, also engaged with the high-level plenary meeting and added their voices to that of the High Commissioner calling for integration of the human rights of migrants into the international response to large movements of people.

On 19 September, the Summit adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants (A/RES/71/1). This landmark document contains over 100 explicit references to human rights, as well as concrete commitments to uphold international law, and marks the beginning of a two-year process to elaborate two global compacts on safe, orderly and regular migration and on responsibility-sharing towards refugees. In 2017, UN Human Rights will continue its work to position human rights issues within the two global compacts.

In anticipation of the Summit, UN Human Rights collaborated with civil society partners and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants through a number of strategic multi-stakeholder discussions in order to better understand the human rights challenges and protection gaps faced by migrants in vulnerable situations. The discussions were stimulated by the development of analytical studies on the situation of migrants in transit (A/HRC/31/35) and the human rights situation of migrants in the context of large movements (A/HRC/33/67), which were presented to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-first and thirty-third sessions, respectively.

In June, the Office held an expert discussion on the scope and content of the principle of non-refoulement under international human rights law. As co-chair of the Global Migration Group's (GMG) Working Group on Human Rights and Gender Equality, the Office led the development of a set of Principles and Guidelines on the human rights protection of migrants in vulnerable situations. The General Assembly recognized this endeavour in the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants and the Human Rights Council included a discussion of the Principles and Guidelines in its programme of work.

With prejudice against and stigmatization of migrants on the rise, UN Human Rights organized an expert round-table, in April, with the participation of journalists, photojournalists, social media experts, filmmakers, photographers, academics, civil society and regional and international organizations. Participants examined how to re-frame public narratives to promote respect for migrants' human rights and to support the Secretary-General's "TOGETHER" campaign which is deigned to confront xenophobia against migrants and refugees. OHCHR also supported the Special Rapporteur on racism to develop the first set of global policy recommendations on xenophobia aimed at providing concrete guidance to States on how to tackle increasing xenophobia, including against migrants.

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(cont.)

Considering the role that climate change plays in the precarious movement of people, UN Human Rights organized a half-day discussion on human rights, migration and displacement in the context of climate change. The event was held as part of OHCHR's two-day expert meeting on human rights and climate change that took place from 6-7 October. At the twenty-second Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in November, UN Human Rights participated in a number of events related to migration and climate change and presented its recommendations from the half-day discussion.

In March, the Human Rights Council dedicated its annual panel on technical cooperation to the issue of promoting and protecting the human rights of all migrants. OHCHR's report (A/HRC/31/80) detailed a number of practical activities that have been undertaken by the Office and other UN and regional bodies in the past five years. Also, in commemoration of International Migrants Day, on 18 December, the Office featured a series of stories, videos, reports and statements to highlight OHCHR's work on migration and to call for a renewed global commitment to uphold and protect the human rights of all migrants.

At the field level, UN Human Rights sought to build the capacity of authorities and civil society organizations to understand and implement human rights standards in their work on migration. In this respect, UN Human Rights delivered a variety of trainings on migration and human rights, including to the personnel of the EU Naval Force in the Mediterranean and to civil society organizations, national human rights institutions and government officials in the Middle East. The High Commissioner also dispatched monitoring missions to a series of European border and transit locations, including Bulgaria, France, Greece, Italy and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, in order to assess the human rights protection needs of migrants in transit and at borders and to better assist States in implementing human rights-based responses. OHCHR's Recommended Principles and Guidelines on human rights at international borders (2014) served as a driving methodology for the missions. Also, in Serbia, UN Human Rights trained front-line responders on human rights law, provided support to the national human rights institution to monitor places of migrant detention, and worked closely with UN partners to advance the human rights of migrants. Additionally, based primarily on information gathered in the course of human rights monitoring activities, OHCHR and UNSMIL jointly published a report, in 2016, on the human rights situation of migrants in Libya, including on abuses and violations of international human rights law committed in the course of the year.

In the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, governments committed themselves to cooperating internationally to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration involving full respect for human rights. To further this goal, UN Human Rights, in collaboration with UN partners and the Government of Tunisia, held a national consultation in Tunis, in February, to assess the scope and content of a set of indicators on the right of migrants to health, education and decent work. Also in relation to Tunisia, a national road map and action plan for the development of migration policies was agreed upon between the Ministry of Social Welfare, the Secretariat of State on Migration, the Labour Union and the Employers' Union. The activities outlined in the road map include, inter alia, capacity-building programmes to protect the rights of migrants, programmes for strengthening the social dialogue on migration policy and efforts to be taken towards the reform of the law governing labour migration in Tunisia.

Finally, the High Commissioner intervened as a third party before the European Court of Human Rights, in September, in the case of Raoufi and Others v Greece, pertaining to the right to liberty and security of the person, the prohibition of arbitrary detention and the prohibition of torture and ill-treatment in cases of immigration detention.

Women demanding equal rights during International Women's Day Celebration in Juba, South Sudan. © UN Photo/JC McIlwaine

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

In 2016, 8 per cent of planned national expected accomplishments were reported as fully or partially achieved and good progress made on an additional 41 per cent of them.

Compliance of national laws, policies and institutions

A number of legislative and institutional changes were implemented by Member States to tackle multiple forms of discrimination, including those based on race, gender, disability, ethnicity, sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics.

Ending racial discrimination

The National Committee against Racism and All Forms of Discrimination of **Bolivia** developed an Action Plan for 2016-2020 and trained administrative judges who consequently elaborated a protocol for the prosecution of cases of racism and discrimination in the public administration. The protocol was approved and circulated for application by all levels of the Government. The Government of **Peru** approved the National Development Plan for Afrodescendants, while in **Mauritania**, the National Action Plan on Racial Discrimination is pending finalization by the Commissioner for Human Rights and Humanitarian Action. The Government of the **former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** adopted a new strategy on addressing discrimination that prioritizes the alignment of the 2010 Anti-Discrimination Law and other relevant national legislation with international standards.

Ending gender discrimination

In Africa, at the regional level, UN Human Rights collaborated with the African Union (AU) and UN Women and issued a joint report on the state of women's rights in Africa. The report outlines progress that has been achieved and offers recommendations for further action in order to close ongoing protection gaps in areas such as sexual and gender-based violence, women, peace and security, harmful practices, including early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation and discrimination in customary laws. The report is expected to guide the work of the AU gender architecture on women's rights. At the national level, the **Gambia** adopted legisla-

tion to prohibit female genital mutilation and early marriage and in **Uganda**, technical officers whose financial instruments had failed to comply with gender equality standards were able to revise and re-submit them to the Parliament in accordance with the Public Finance Management Act 2015, which requires compliance of financial instruments with gender and equity requirements. In **Nigeria**, public demonstrations were held to oppose a decision of the Senate to vote against the Gender and Equal Opportunities Bill, which seeks to address discrimination against women in various spheres of life. As a result, the Senate took steps to reconsider the Bill.

Other countries adopted, or are in the process of adopting, legislation to combat discrimination on the basis of gender and violence against women. In **Serbia**, a new Law on the Prevention of Domestic Violence was adopted in November; the Parliament of **Tunisia** adopted the new Elections Law, which enshrines the principle of horizontal and vertical gender parity and the Government established a special Council for Gender Equality to empower women and ensure equal access to opportunities; in **Iraq**, a group of NGOs drafted a bill for protecting women and children from sexual and gender-based violence that is currently pending adoption by the Parliament. In addition, in **Costa Rica**, the Inter-Institutional Commission on sexual and reproductive rights held its first meeting, which resulted in a set of recommendations that were taken into account for the elaboration of an action plan within the framework of the National Policy on Sexual and Reproductive Rights 2015-2019. The Government of **Indonesia** drafted a bill on the elimination of violence against women which will be discussed by the Parliament in 2017.

Ending discrimination against people with disabilities

The Parliament of **Indonesia** passed, in March, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill, which strengthens the institutional capacity and legal framework for the implementation of inclusive public policies for persons with disabilities. The **Tunisian** Parliament passed a bill, in May, to amend the framework Law on the Promotion and Protection of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The amendments provide for better accessibility in the workplace and include a requirement to double the employment quota of persons with disabilities in the public and private sectors. In addition, in the **Republic of Moldova**, new public policies were developed on the rights of persons with disabilities, most notably in relation to deinstitutionalization, legal capacity and community-based social services. In addition, the Constitutional Court struck down national legislation that prevented persons with disabilities deprived of their legal capacity to challenge that status. Furthermore, in **Bolivia**, the National Committee of Persons with Disabilities developed its strategic plan and a training module, which is addressed to municipalities and civil servants for the implementation of inclusive public policies for persons with disabilities.

In relation to the rights of persons with albinism in **Malawi**, the Anatomy Bill and the Penal Code Amendment Bill were revised and now include new offences and harsher penalties for those that attack persons with albinism. The Government of **Tanzania** also made efforts to reinforce its legal response to crimes against people with albinism, including through attempts to regulate the activity of traditional healers and the appointment of a person with albinism as the Deputy Minister responsible for policy coordination, parliamentary affairs, employment and persons with disabilities.

At the global level, in May, during the World Humanitarian Summit, 70 stakeholders, including States, UN agencies and civil society organizations, endorsed the "Charter on inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action," which was developed by UN Human Rights in cooperation with various partners. Furthermore, the advocacy undertaken by UN Human Rights at the Summit contributed to the creation of a task team within the Inter-Agency Standing Committee that will develop the first guidelines for the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action.

Ending discrimination against minorities

Regarding the human rights of Roma, **Serbia** adopted a new Roma Inclusion Strategy for the period 2016-2025, covering housing, health, employment, education and social protection. The first Action Plan on the Development of Roma Community Mediators was prepared in the **Republic of Moldova**.

In **Iraq**, an anti-discrimination bill was drafted by a group of NGOs, with support from the Office, based on extensive consultations with members of ethnic and religious minorities on gaps in their protection and respect for their rights. The draft was presented to the Parliamentary Human Rights Committee for review.

Ending discrimination against migrants and refugees

In **Tunisia**, a national road map and action plan for the development of migration policies was agreed upon between the Ministry of Social Welfare, the Secretariat of State on Migration, the Labour Union and the Employers' Union. The outlined activities include capacity-building programmes to protect the rights

A Roma mediator helps a young Roma girl from a rural community in the Republic of Moldova to prepare for her attendance at school.
© OHCHR/Republic of Moldova

The Roma mediator driving community development

At 34 years of age, Silvia Feraru, from the village of Carpineni in central Moldova, is a true example of self-initiative and social involvement. Silvia is a Roma Community Mediator who is officially employed at the Mayor's Office. She also fulfils accounting responsibilities and is the head of a non-governmental organization. "When she came to us, Silvia had no computer literacy at all. Today she is a valuable resource for our mayoralty, being fully involved in the team and writing community development projects. She has surpassed the barrier put in front of Roma and became a true support for the entire community," says Mr. Ion Carpineanu, the Mayor of Carpineni.

The village of Carpineni is a model of community development. At the entrance of the City Hall, there is an access ramp. A bit further along, there are posters displaying information about domestic violence, migration, elimination of corruption and other human rights issues. The team is active in a daily effort to raise funds for village development in order to create a better life for the locals.

Silvia directly contributes to these achievements. For example, as a result of her efforts, a playground was created where all of the local children, Roma and non-Roma, can play together. In cooperation with the paralegal staff, Silvia also raised funds and obtained permission to install 10 loudspeakers in the village. "We were thinking about how to distribute information as widely as possible and we came to this idea. Very soon all of the villagers, from the very young to the oldest, will know how to react in emergencies and natural disasters, what rights they have and what useful information they can find at the City Hall," she says.

Silvia also helps Roma feel welcome to participate in all activities organized in the village as equal members of the community. National holidays and other celebrations are organized with the participation of all children. Adults seek her help with writing official letters and asking for services. "Silvia helped me to get social support. My husband is disabled and for several years, I tried to get this help. Silvia guided me in the right direction so that we could get access to the assistance that we deserve," says Maria, a local Roma, who has only praise for the mediator. With the support of UN Human Rights in the Republic of Moldova, Silvia has achieved positive results, which need to be shared and replicated in other communities.

UN Human Rights contributes to empowering community mediators, who serve as an essential link between the local community and the Roma to ensure equal rights for all people. According to official data, over 12,700 Roma people are living in the Republic of Moldova. Romani activists estimate their number to be 200,000.

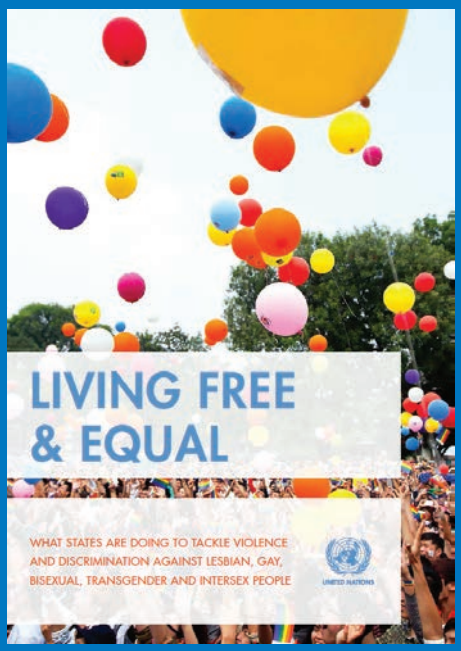
of migrants, programmes for strengthening the social dialogue on migration policy and efforts to be taken towards the reform of the law governing labour migration in Tunisia. UN Human Rights took steps to raise public awareness about the rights of refugees and asylum-seekers in Nauru, including by issuing a public statement in relation to the Australian High Court case, submitting a letter from the High Commissioner to the Government of Australia and undertaking a monitoring mission to **Nauru**, in August. None of the asylum-seekers involved in the case have been returned to Nauru from Australia.

Ending discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons

At the global level, the Human Rights Council decided to appoint an Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. The Council mandated the Independent Expert to, among other things, work with States in order to promote the implementation of measures that can contribute to the protection of all persons against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity. In June, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief organized a conference and public event on freedom of religion or belief and sexuality, which helped to raise awareness about the need to address issues of sexual orientation and gender identity through the application of a holistic human rights approach. In addition, a group of United Nations and international human rights experts, including the Committee on the Rights of the Child, five special procedures mandate holders, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights and the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Council of Europe, called on States to reform medical classifications to stop branding lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons as ill, and to put an urgent end to unnecessary surgery and medical practices on intersex children. Furthermore, the Office launched a new study, "Living Free and Equal," that features more than 200 examples of initiatives undertaken in 65 countries aimed at addressing violence and discrimination against LGBTI persons.

The UN Free & Equal campaign reached 1.5 billion people around the world through its website, and social and traditional media. The campaign produced 13 new videos, two fact sheets and the world's first set of LGBT equality postage stamps in collaboration with the UN Postal Administration. A mini-campaign was also launched to promote awareness of the human rights needs of intersex people.

New UN Human Rights publication maps State action taken to tackle violence and discrimination against LGBTI persons



To help States meet their obligations and commitments, UN Human Rights launched the publication "Living free and equal," in December, which analyses more than 200 examples of positive initiatives undertaken in 65 countries with the aim of protecting LGBTI persons from violence and discrimination. The publication offers practical guidance and inspiration for States based on initiatives undertaken by national and local governments, courts, parliaments, national human rights institutions and others. "Living free and equal" also identifies where there are gaps and challenges in State action and makes recommendations on how to address these. The full publication can be downloaded from **http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Discrimination/Pages/LivingFreeEqual.aspx**

At the country level, **Nauru** and **Seychelles** decriminalized consensual same-sex relations; the Court of Appeal of **Botswana** upheld the right to freedom of association of LGBTI persons; in **Mexico**, a bill allowing same-sex marriage was approved in the state of Michoacán; and the Constitutional Court of **Colombia** held that same-sex couples have the right to contract civil marriage.

Participation

In **Guatemala**, in the framework of the national dialogue on justice reform, 225 indigenous Mayan, Garifuna and Xinka authorities participated in seven regional events to articulate proposals on the general

OHCHR supported indigenous peoples from Costa Rica in the development of a mechanism to facilitate prior consultation.
© OHCHR/Central America

content of constitutional reforms and highlight the limitations of the recognition of indigenous jurisdiction in the Constitution. In addition, through the Maya Programme, indigenous peoples and the Government received technical assistance from UN Human Rights on the application of relevant international standards in relation to 11 litigation cases, including on the rights to land and resources, the protection of traditional knowledge in textile weavings, the legal recognition of indigenous community radio stations and the recognition of culturally appropriate health services.

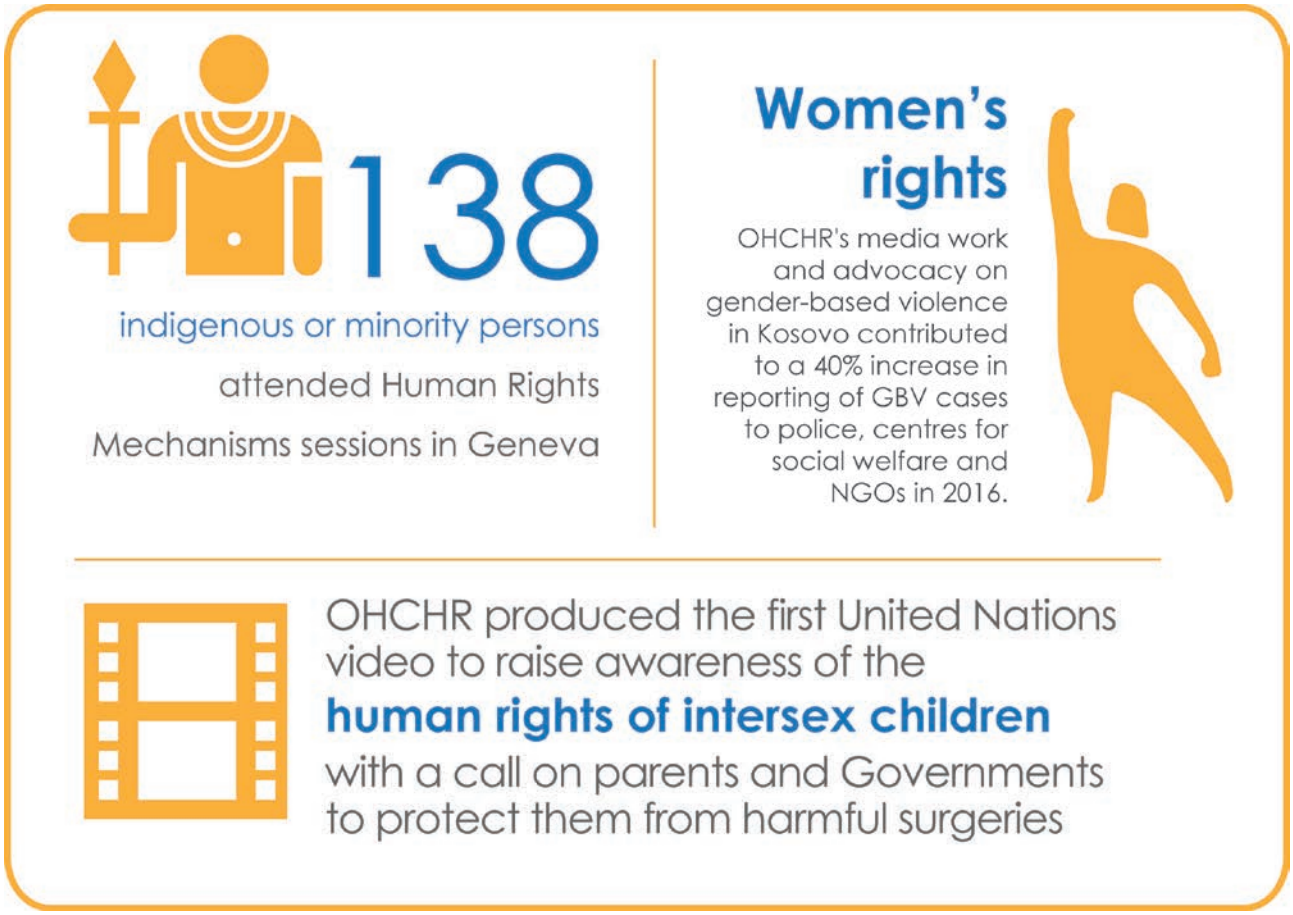
Capacity-building opportunities were also provided to enable civil society actors to participate, in an informed manner, in public processes related to their rights. In **Paraguay**, the first national seminar on human rights defenders brought together more than 200 participants to discuss the challenges related to their work and identify potential joint advocacy strategies. A series of events are being organized in the run up to the FIFA World Cup 2018, with the aim of firmly integrating anti-discrimination policies into the preparations for the next World Cup and beyond. Through the International Sports Forum, "Russia – Country of Sports," OHCHR, the **Russian Federation's** Ministry of Sport, the Russian Football Union and Football Supporters Europe gathered together football fans and club representatives from across Europe, at a meeting in Russia, to discuss good practices and ways to ensure non-discrimination in stadiums.

In addition, through the 2016 Annual OHCHR Fellowship Programme for People of African Descent, 10 participants (all women) from Barbados, Brazil, Canada, Jamaica, Spain, Switzerland, the United States of America and Venezuela, enriched their understanding of the United Nations human rights system, instruments and mechanisms, with a focus on issues of particular relevance to people of African descent. After returning to their countries, several fellows carried out human rights awareness-raising and capacity-building initiatives, including training programmes for civil society representatives and organizations working to promote the rights of people of African descent. The fellows also participated in discussions at the grassroots level aimed at contributing to national plans of action on combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance.

Engagement by the international community

As noted earlier, at the first UN General Assembly Summit for Refugees and Migrants, held on 19 September, Member States adopted the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants, by consensus. The substantively human rights-based Declaration explicitly recognizes the leading role of UN Human Rights in taking steps to alleviate the situation of vulnerable migrants and advancing a global compact on safe migration over the next two years. UN Human Rights also focused the attention of the international community on the continued concerns about the situation of migrants and refugees in Europe in order to encourage governments and other actors to take action to prevent or mitigate human rights violations. During 2016, monitoring and advocacy missions were deployed 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.

The Human Rights Council took steps to enhance the accessibility for persons with disabilities to the physical environment and the work of the Council. Thanks to advocacy efforts undertaken with the delegations that introduced resolutions on mandating panels, specific language was adopted in four resolutions to ensure that panels held in 2017 would be accessible to persons with disabilities, including through captioning in English, international sign interpretation, webcasts and the printing of documents in Braille, on demand. A number of other resources, communication and information materials are also accessible to persons with disabilities, including the Council's extranet page, which contains tabled draft resolutions, voting results and oral statements in accessible formats.



The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and the Director of the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office visit a detention facility in Lubumbashi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, November 2016. © MONUSCO

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

In 2016, 10 per cent of planned national expected accomplishments were reported as fully or partially achieved and good progress made on an additional 40 per cent of them.

Compliance of national laws, policies and institutions

Constitutional reform

The new Constitution of the **Republic of Congo** abolishes the death penalty and provides for greater protection of human rights. The Constitutional Drafting Assembly of **Libya** finalized the latest draft of the Constitution, which is pending approval. The draft includes important human rights considerations, such as the prohibition of torture and other forms of ill-treatment and the prohibition of discrimination based on ethnicity, language, sex, birth, political opinion or disability. Provisions on full equality between women and men and the abolition of the death penalty are not included in the draft. In **Yemen**, the ongoing conflict and its impact on the proper functioning of governmental entities prevented the planned review of the Constitution.

Administration of justice

Significant progress was made in a number of countries in relation to the drafting, review and adoption of legislation or policies that would enable the judiciary to hand down decisions in compliance with human rights standards. For instance, in **Cambodia**, the Juvenile Justice Law was enacted. The legislation provides for the development of a separate juvenile justice system that focuses on “diversion” rather than punishment, in compliance with the principles of the Convention on the Rights of the Child. The Parliament of **Cameroon** adopted a new Penal Code which is

more closely aligned with human rights standards. In **Guinea**, the new Criminal Law and the Criminal Code of Procedure, which are both compliant with human rights standards and abolish the death penalty, were adopted. A Criminal Code Bill was drafted in **Honduras**, which includes a revised definition of certain crimes in accordance with human right standards, while human rights standards are reflected in the final draft of the Criminal Procedure Code of **Kyrgyzstan**. In **Tunisia**, a partial amendment to the Criminal Procedures Code was adopted which reduces pretrial detention and ensures the right to a lawyer during the pretrial phase.

In terms of the functioning of judicial institutions, the Constitutional Court of **Guatemala** issued important decisions on the protection of the rights of indigenous peoples, the unconstitutionality of the death penalty in murder cases and the unconstitutionality of the diminution of the minimum wage in some municipalities. Furthermore, an analysis of the jurisprudence of the Constitutional Court on the rights of indigenous peoples demonstrates that international human rights standards have progressively been incorporated into the decisions of the Court. In addition, sentences handed down by judges and magistrates, including at the Supreme Court of Justice, are increasingly based on human rights standards. In **Sudan**, efforts to enhance access to justice by the Federal Ministry of Justice, saw deployment of 160 prosecutors and strengthening of the presence of law enforcement institutions in all five Darfur states. In **South Sudan**, however, the continuing conflict further weakened the justice system. This resulted in an absence of judicial and law enforcement actors across the country, thereby further limiting administration of justice in accordance with international human rights standards.

Combating torture and ill-treatment

In a number of countries, important legislative changes were adopted to prevent torture and ill-treatment. In **Mexico**, the Senate approved draft legislation on torture and other forms of ill-treatment that is almost entirely in accordance with international human rights standards. The draft is awaiting approval from the Chamber of Deputies. In **Georgia**, Members of the Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights and Civil Integration agreed on a series of draft amendments to several pieces of legislation in order to bring them in line with CAT and other international instruments. In **Guinea**, the definition of torture was integrated into the new Criminal Code in line with CAT.

Less progress was made in some States, however, on the conditions of detention in prisons. In **Cambodia**, although detention conditions and the treatment of prisoners improved in some prisons, most detention facilities still face severe challenges, including overcrowding. The new General Director of Prisons agreed to develop standards on prison construction and draft sub-legislation on prison inspections and various prison procedures, in particular regarding internal rules, sentence reductions and pardons. In **Afghanistan**, little progress was achieved in meeting the commitments set out in its 2015 National Plan on the Elimination of Torture. The draft Anti-Torture Law, which is being finalized, provides for the establishment of a National Commission for the Prevention of Torture, but lacks the required functional and operational independence as outlined in the draft.

Detention conditions in Burundi

OHCHR has undertaken the monitoring of the situation of women in prisons in Burundi.

"N," a prisoner at Mpimba revealed, "[e]ven if we have made mistakes and we have to pay, we must be treated with dignity. In the prison we live in very bad conditions. Moreover, in our society, when a woman is imprisoned, her family is destroyed. We receive notifications of divorce in prison. Our husbands repudiate us instead of supporting us. Our children are left to themselves. I have three children between the ages of 5 and 12 and they have become street children. I have no one to take care of them and they can't even come to see me in prison because they have no means to pay the transport to arrive here."

In its report, OHCHR recommended that State authorities undertake measures to improve the living conditions of incarcerated persons and implement international human rights standards, including the Bangkok Rules on the Detention of Women to ensure respect for their dignity and human rights. As a result, the Minister of Justice established a commission for the census of the prison population in all prisons, both women and men, in order to correct irregularities in files and speed up procedures. In addition, mobile courts were established to relieve congestion in prisons and conditional release measures were implemented for some women, including those who were living with their children in prison, nursing and elderly women. OHCHR supported these initiatives and set up a legal aid fund which enabled 65 per cent of the female prison population to gain access to legal assistance.

Ending the death penalty

UN Human Rights sought to increase awareness among Member States about the human rights dimensions of the death penalty, with a view to encouraging Member States to adopt a moratorium or abolish the death penalty. For instance, the Office issued a new publication, "Death Penalty and the Victims," which highlights recent academic research on the impact of capital punishment on a broad range of victims, such as murder victims' families, the wrongfully convicted and the 'hidden' third parties, including on the children of the condemned, on legal actors and prison personnel who oversee executions. This, along with other activities, was intended to meaningfully add to the General Assembly's debate on the biannual resolution on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty. A total of 117 Member States supported the resolution, the same number as in 2014, while the number of those voting against the resolution increased from 37 to 40.

At the country level, in **Somalia**, efforts to advocate for a moratorium on the application of the death penalty had limited effect, although the number of executions decreased from 30 in 2015 to 20 in 2016. **South Sudan** continued to impose death sentences; the Government of **Iraq** made it clear that it intends to continue calling for the application of the death penalty; executions resumed in **Gaza**, the first since 2014; and the Government of the **Philippines**, which is a State Party to the ICCPR-OP2, signalled its intention to re-introduce the death penalty with a bill to this end awaiting approval of the Senate.

On a more positive note, **Afghanistan** announced that it would be reviewing all death penalty cases; **Guinea** removed the death penalty from the Criminal Code; the **Kenyan** Government commuted all death sentences and carried out public consultations on the use of the death penalty; **Belarus** established a parliamentary committee to review the use of the death penalty; and despite a Supreme Court decision in the **Maldives** to uphold the death penalty, no individual was executed in 2016.

Training of the judiciary and security forces

Judges, prosecutors, lawyers and security forces increased their understanding and knowledge of human rights principles, concepts and methodologies following various capacity-building activities and technical advice provided around the world by UN Human Rights. In **Bolivia**, the Plurinational Public Defence Service carried out the first postgraduate course in Human Rights and Administration of Justice for 50 public defenders from the nine departments of the country and the Public University facilitated the first postgraduate course on human rights in police work for a group of 47 justice officials. In **Cambodia**, the capacity of 54 trainee lawyers was enhanced as a result of a joint human rights training programme that was facilitated by UN Human Rights, the Raoul Wallenberg Institute and the Lawyers Training Centre and good progress was achieved in the development of a curriculum for prison officers. Law enforcement officials in **Djibouti** increased their understanding about the international standards governing the rights to peaceful demonstration and assembly and the definition of torture following a two-day training session, in September. In **Guinea**, 40 representatives from the security forces were trained on the use of human rights modules that were specifically developed for their training centres. The national police, the armed forces and the **Liberia** Immigration Service integrated human rights monitoring into their respective accountability mechanisms and enhanced their human rights training. In addition, training modules were developed for police officers in **Thailand**; two human rights training modules were developed for the Royal **Papua New Guinea** Constabulary; while in **Timor-Leste**, four training sessions were conducted for 86 police officers and a human rights manual was drafted for the army.

Recognizing that harmful gender bias can be an obstacle to women's access to justice, UN Human Rights deepened its research on judicial stereotyping by focusing on cases related to sexual and reproductive health and rights. Capacity-building initiatives on gender stereotyping were made available to the judiciary in several countries, specifically **Burundi**, the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, **Rwanda**, **Uganda** and the **United Republic of Tanzania**, and steps were taken to institutionalize these trainings in **Guatemala**.

Introducing human rights indicators

Human rights indicators were developed and implemented in various States to measure progress made by the judiciary in the protection of a number of rights. In **Mexico**, the judiciary's fair trial indicators system was redefined to include a gender perspective and incorporate human rights measurement into all stages of the penal process. The system was officially adopted in March and implemented by all 32 judicial powers. Efforts were also put in place to develop indicators and mechanisms for measuring the human rights of detained persons; the implementation of penal reform and the impact of capacity-building activities undertaken by the Attorney General; the effectiveness of the National Preventive Mechanism; and the results and impact of

the National Human Rights Action Plan. In **Paraguay**, the General Prosecutor's Office prepared a set of indicators on the right to a fair trial, which draws upon previous experience with the Supreme Court of Justice.

Protection systems and accountability mechanisms

Progress for transitional justice and accountability

There was significant progress in the establishment and functioning of transitional justice and accountability mechanisms. In **Burundi**, the Law on the Protection of Victims, Witnesses and Other Persons at Risk was promulgated on 27 June, thereby enabling the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, established in 2014, to begin its hearings and investigations. The Commission needs additional resources to set up a protection unit and fully implement its mandate. In **Colombia**, the Government and the FARC-EP signed the Peace Accords in November. The six chapters of the Accords are rights-based and OHCHR was assigned important tasks, including in relation to transitional justice and victims' rights. **Côte d'Ivoire's** National Commission for Reconciliation and Compensation of Victims ceased its activities after presenting its final report to the President. The report includes a consolidated list of victims of the crisis between 1990 and 2012, a proposal for a national reparation policy and a draft reconciliation action plan. Moreover, the final report of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission was officially released in October.

The Government of the **Central African Republic** set up a technical task force to study the process for establishment of a truth, reconciliation, justice and reparations commission. In addition, a mapping was undertaken of serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law that had been committed in the country since 2003. Its findings will inform the functioning of future transitional justice initiatives. Following the Misrata-Tawergha dialogue in **Libya**, an agreement was signed to implement the road map that was agreed upon in 2015. The agreement includes the payment of reparations to victims and the return of internally displaced persons (IDPs). In **Mali**, the national strategy on transitional justice was finalized and is awaiting adoption by the Council of Ministers, while in **Sri Lanka**, national consultations were held with stakeholders on transitional justice institutions and processes in order to promote accountability and reconciliation. In **Tunisia**, the Truth and Dignity Commission established its sub-commissions and opened four regional offices located in the cities of Sfax, Sidi Bouzid, Kasserine and Gafsa, in compliance with the Law on Transitional Justice. The process of the submission of complaints pertaining to alleged past human rights violations was closed on 15 June. A total of 62,000 cases were recorded by the Commission.

OHCHR staff members monitor the presidential election in Uganda, February 2016. © OHCHR/Uganda

Supporting the transitional justice process in Tunisia

Victims provide their testimonies during the first public hearings of the Truth and Dignity Commission in Tunisia. © IVD Media Center

Since the establishment of a country presence in Tunisia, UN Human Rights has focused its programmatic attention on supporting the transitional justice process. Engagement in this area is conducted through a joint project with UNDP, in partnership with the International Center for Transitional Justice, the Ministry of Justice, the Truth and Dignity Commission and the Provisional Judicial Authority (which has been replaced by the recently established Supreme Judicial Council). The project advocates for the active involvement of civil society.

In November, a milestone was reached with the holding of the first public hearings of the Truth and Dignity Commission. The testimonies were delivered by a diverse group of victims and highlighted the inclusive victim centred and gender-sensitive approach that currently characterizes the transitional justice process in the country. Following the collapse of the Ben Ali regime on 14 January 2011, several transitional justice mechanisms were created to deal with past human rights violations. The mechanisms included the "National Fact Finding Commission on Abuses Committed from 17 December 2010 to the End of its Mandate," the "National Commission of Investigation on Corruption and Embezzlement" and other ad hoc initiatives, such a general amnesty for former political prisoners and reparation programmes. The Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, Pablo de Greiff, visited the country in November 2012. In his report, the Special Rapporteur indicated that the development of "event-based initiatives had created different categories of victims of past and gross human rights violations, which had in turn led to serious fragmentation between the groups as well as within society itself."

With a view to better coordinating transitional justice initiatives, a National Dialogue on Transitional Justice was launched in April 2012. In addition, a technical committee composed of civil society representatives and a member of the Ministry of Justice, Human Rights and Transitional Justice was tasked with drafting the Organic Law on Establishing and Organizing Transitional Justice, which the Tunisian National Constituent Assembly adopted on 24 December 2013. The Organic Law established the Truth and Dignity Commission (TDC), which is mandated to establish the truth regarding the commission of all serious or systematic violations of human rights from 1 July 1955 to 23 December 2013. To this end, the TDC is mandated to receive complaints from victims, conduct private and public hearings and investigate received allegations. As of the submission deadline of 15 June, the TDC had received 62,000 complaints and, to date, it has conducted private hearings with over 15,000 victims.

During the hearing, victims delivered their testimonies in front of a large audience composed of the TDC Commissioners, family members of the victims, national authorities, civil society representatives, public and political figures, international organizations, diplomatic missions and members of the national and international media. The victims who testified were chosen in a manner that ensured a balanced representation of the type of violation suffered, political affiliation, gender and region of origin. This was a key achievement that reflected the efforts undertaken to adopt an inclusive approach when dealing with victims, who are each entitled to truth, justice and reparation under a comprehensive and transparent framework.

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The hearings were opened by the testimonies of the mothers of the martyrs of the revolution. Their powerful testimonies described their frustration that justice had not been achieved. Fatima, the mother of Anis Alfarhani, stated "[t]he killer of my son, I know him personally, I know where he works (...) but the court didn't do anything for us." Sami Brahim, a prominent Islamist intellectual, described the horrific acts of torture, including sexual violence, to which he was subjected. "I want this to be written down in history, this dark period. I don't want this to happen to anyone's daughter or son." The hearings also revealed patterns of persecution of political dissidents, including harassment, abduction, enforced disappearance, torture, murder and cover-ups. Following their powerful accounts, victims underlined the need for the truth to be revealed, for justice to be served and to receive a guarantee that the gross violations that they and their loved ones had suffered would never again be repeated.

The hearings were broadcast live to a large audience through web channels and national and international television programming. The event was widely covered by the national and international media and recognized by many as an historical moment for Tunisia. Speaking publicly about violations that occurred between 1955 and 2013 was seen as an important step in the country's transition. Additional public hearings will take place during the coming year.

With regard to accountability, the High Peace Council of **Afghanistan** adopted a five-year strategy. The strategy focuses on reconciliation with high-level leaders of anti-government armed groups and outlines a peace agreement between the Government and Hezb-i-Islami Gulbuddin Hekmatyar, which provides for judicial immunity of the parties. The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission and civil society groups have voiced concerns over the peace agreement and called for the rights of victims to be fully respected and ensured in the peace process. Furthermore, the President of the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** promulgated legislation to implement the Rome Statute. The new legislation addresses a gap in the previous legislative framework by adding definitions of international crimes to the Penal Code, abolishing immunity for officials, including the President and Members of Parliament, and providing that there can be no amnesty for international crimes. The legislation, however, provides that the death penalty may be imposed for war crimes, crimes against humanity and genocide.

National Preventive Mechanisms

Some achievements were recorded in relation to the establishment of National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs). The Government of **Thailand** agreed to ratify OP-CAT by 2017 and requested technical cooperation on the establishment of a NPM. In the **Philippines**, two bills aimed at establishing a NPM were introduced to the 17th Congress and one of them was discussed in the House Committee on Human Rights, in November. In **Panama**, draft legislation to establish a NPM was approved in the first reading by the Parliament.

Efforts were also undertaken in some countries to enhance the functioning of their respective NPMs. The NPM in **Cambodia** does not comply with OP-CAT and the Government committed to a review of its legal framework. In **Kazakhstan**, the NPM improved its ability to operate in line with OP-CAT as a result of capacity-building activities and the Parliament took steps to initiate amendments to legislation that would empower the NPM to cover all places of deprivation of liberty. The newly appointed members of **Mauritania's** NPM are deepening understanding of their mandate and roles and, in **Tunisia**, the Parliament elected 16 members of the NPM, in March. The NPM of **Senegal** adopted a strategic plan for 2016-2018, monitored the situation of detainees in places of detention in four departments of the country and strengthened the capacities of more than 40 law enforcement officials. In **South America**, although most of the countries have established NPMs, their mandates and resources are generally limited. Work was carried out during the year, including through various high-level meetings, to advocate for the approval of laws establishing strong NPM mandates and the adequate allocation of resources to these mechanisms.

Engagement by the international community

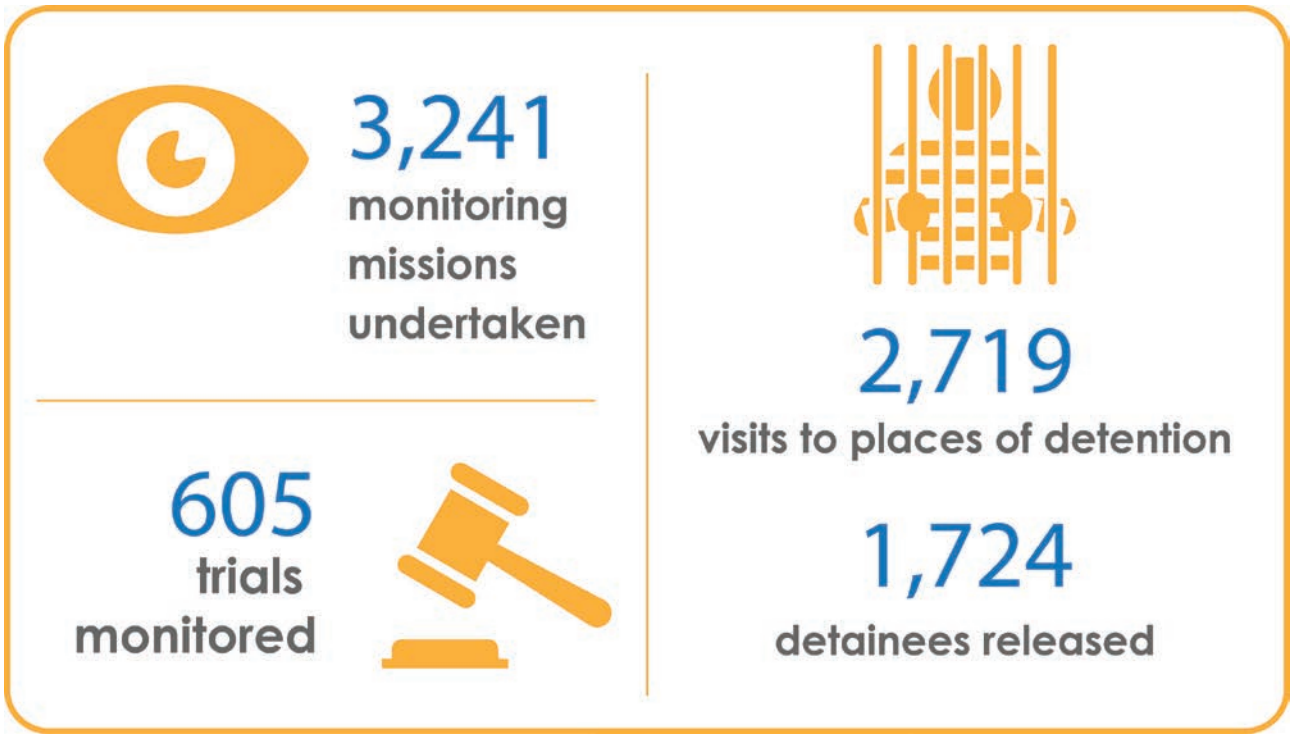
Throughout the year, the High Commissioner advocated for the increased responsiveness of the international community to ensure accountability for human rights violations and abuses and other international crimes. This advocacy was undertaken through numerous speaking engagements on accountability, transitional justice and international criminal justice.

UN Human Rights also supported judicial accountability mechanisms by responding to a number of requests for information from national, regional and international judicial institutions, including the International Criminal Court. Moreover, the High Commissioner strongly advocated for accountability in cases of sexual exploitation and abuse, particularly when committed by members of international forces or UN peacekeeping forces. To this end, special internal protocols were drafted and adopted to ensure the effective reporting of such allegations.

Also, following a General Assembly resolution of December 2014, which invited the Secretary-General to commission an in-depth global study on children deprived of liberty, the United Nations Task Force set up to mobilize support for the global study decided, in October, to entrust the commissioning of the study to Manfred Nowak. In December, the General Assembly adopted resolution A/RES/71/177 on the rights of the child, through which it invited the independent expert who will lead the study to submit a final report to the General Assembly at its seventy-third session. OHCHR is providing logistical and technical support for the realization of the global study.

International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism on Syria

On 21 December 2016, the General Assembly adopted resolution 71/248 and decided "to establish the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Those Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011 under the auspices of the United Nations to closely cooperate with the Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Syrian Arab Republic to collect, consolidate, preserve and analyse evidence of violations of international humanitarian law and human rights violations and abuses and to prepare files in order to facilitate and expedite fair and independent criminal proceedings, in accordance with international law standards, in national, regional or international courts or tribunals that have or may in the future have jurisdiction over these crimes, in accordance with international law." The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights was requested by the General Assembly to provide support to enable the Mechanism's initial establishment.



OHCHR training aimed at empowering indigenous communities in Cambodia to facilitate their participation in processes that affect their land and housing rights. © OHCHR/Cambodia

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

In 2016, 23 per cent of planned national expected accomplishments were reported as fully or partially achieved and good progress made on an additional 41 per cent of them.

Compliance of national laws, policies and institutions

The Government of **Colombia** prioritized the incorporation of a HRBA into its public policies to ensure that local authorities base their policies on this approach. An assessment of the territorial entities demonstrated that nearly 80 per cent had effectively incorporated HRBA into their development plans. Other countries in the Americas undertook efforts to address development from a human rights standpoint. For instance, initial steps were taken towards the preparation of national action plans on human rights in **Chile** and **Uruguay**. In **Bolivia**, the Ministry of Development prepared its 2017 budget according to the new National Economic and Social Development Plan. It also incorporated many of the human rights indicators that were developed by the Ministry of Justice and the National Institute of Statistics based on OHCHR's methodology. Moreover, in **Paraguay**, human rights indicators related to the rights to education, health, food and an adequate standard of living, are included in poverty eradication programmes implemented by the Secretariat for Social Action.

Regarding land rights, the Government of **Cambodia** vowed that the issue of land registration would be tackled by 2018. As of August, land titles had been provided to 62 per cent of the country's estimated 7 million parcels of land and only 800 land disputes were awaiting resolution. Progress was also noted in relation to the number of indigenous communities engaged in the Communal Land Title process. As of October, the Ministry of Rural Development had recognized 118 communities as indigenous communities and the Ministry of Interior had endorsed and registered 90 indigenous communities as legal entities. Despite this progress, only 13 communal titles have been issued by the Ministry of Land, which committed to issuing 10 land titles per year in 2014. In **Kenya**, the Community Land Bill, endorsed by the Parliament, is gender-sensitive and includes provisions that address women's rights. The Government of **Indonesia** reiterated its commitment to strengthen the rights of local communities over land and forests and, in December, recognized nine indigenous communities' rights to customary forests covering a total of 13,100 hectares. The Government has committed to returning a total of 12.7 million hectares of community forests by 2019.

In relation to business and human rights, a Steering Committee was established by the Government of **Kenya** to develop an Action Plan on Business and Human Rights aimed at customizing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The Government of **Colombia** began a training process for business leaders in the cities of Bogotá, Cali and Medellín on the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the National Action Plan. The trainings contributed to the improved integration of human rights standards in their business operations. In addition, following OHCHR's training events, representatives from mining companies in the southern and eastern regions of **Madagascar** agreed on action plans to increase their compliance with human rights standards.

At the global level, the adoption of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, and its promise to "leave no one behind," will determine the direction of global and national policy for the next 15 years as it will provide new avenues to mainstream all human rights into global and national development policies across the world. In 2016, UN Human Rights focused on the development of a set of tools that will support the implementation of the Agenda in accordance with human rights norms, standards and principles. Furthermore, the adoption of the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, in December 2015, marked the first time that a universal, binding climate agreement explicitly referenced human rights, thereby opening additional space and a demand for OHCHR's work on human rights, climate change and the environment.

Conflict resolution

Dispute resolution mechanisms in **Cambodia** have neither significantly improved the way land issues are handled, nor have they improved their implementation of business and human rights standards. Nevertheless, following the engagement of OHCHR with the private sector, some progress was achieved in the promotion of non-judicial resolution mechanisms. In 2016, five international companies operating in Cambodia sought support from

Defending housing, land and property rights in Jalal-Abad

On 2 June, a construction company that was authorized by the Mayor's Office of Jalal-Abad (a city in the south of Kyrgyzstan) initiated the controlled demolition of 38 residential buildings. The demolition was part of the Mayor's urban development plan to broaden Jalal-Abad's Lenin Street, in line with the so-called master plan, and in preparation of Independence Day in the Kyrgyz Republic on 31 August 2016. The measures were initiated without a prior agreement between the Mayor's Office and the 38 homeowners, despite the fact that the Land Code of the Kyrgyz Republic mandates such an agreement.

In addition, all of the homeowners were members of the Uzbek ethnic minority and had suffered arson attacks on their houses during the violent events in June 2010. Proposed compensation for the land plots and buildings was considered inadequate by the homeowners, particularly given that the Mayor's Office proposed compensation that was significantly below current market levels. Local human rights organizations reported that although all 38 homeowners had submitted a written refusal, the Mayor's Office illegally initiated the demolition process with the support of law enforcement. The same organizations also reported that homeowners were pressured into signing agreements aimed at legalizing the demolition measures. The situation was exacerbated by the Mayor's Office, which claimed that six homeowners were entirely ineligible for compensation due to their construction of housing in violation of the so-called master plan. The plan, however, has never been publicly available.

Due to the legal and vocal nature of the engagement of civil society in support of the homeowners, the Mayor publicly derided human rights activists as the "enemy of the nation" and threatened to expel one activist from Jalal-Abad. The Mayor allegedly also announced that one human rights organization should be barred from implementing activities in the city. The attacks of the Mayor's Office were specifically directed towards two human rights organizations that are long-standing partners of OHCHR's Regional Office for Central Asia and beneficiaries of grant support for the provision of legal aid.

Although the two organizations were exposed to an array of insults and threats, they took the deliberate decision to challenge the injustice and initiated comprehensive litigation actions against the Mayor's Office. Surprised by the legal challenge, the Mayor's Office and its lawyers resorted to stalling tactics, hoping that the civil society activists would eventually withdraw the case. In December, however, Jalal-Abad's Inter-District Court confirmed the arguments of the human rights lawyers and, in an unprecedented court ruling, declared that the actions of the Mayor's Office were unlawful. The two organizations are now engaged in follow-up suits to secure adequate compensation for the affected homeowners.

the Office to facilitate discussions with indigenous peoples, local communities and workers in order to identify consensual solutions for land and work environment-related disputes. One of the companies is elaborating an external grievance policy for Cambodia, is in discussions regarding several compensation agreements and is engaging in a dialogue process concerning disputed lands in an emblematic rubber plantation case.

In **Colombia,** UN Human Rights provided input to businesses in relation to their discussions with communities, thereby contributing to finding just solutions in cases of involuntary resettlement, socio-environmental conflicts and ensuring that appropriate attention is paid to environmental emergencies and prior consultation processes. In **Mexico**, UN Human Rights monitored at least eight cases related to alleged violations of economic, social and cultural rights and the rights of indigenous peoples to prior consultation in the states of Sonora, Oaxaca and Campeche. In a case relating to the right to consultation in Campeche, the authorities took into account OHCHR's observations on the consultation process.

Promoting meaningful participation

Rights-holders enhanced their capacity to meaningfully participate in processes that affect their rights. In **Cambodia**, training facilitated by UN Human Rights contributed to the capacity of rights-holders to meaningfully participate in processes that affect them with regard to land and housing rights. As a result of this support, four indigenous communities from two provinces are empowered to participate in the communal land titling process and obtain their titles.

In several regions of **Colombia**, additional measures were taken regarding the right of ethnic peoples to participate in processes that had an impact on their rights. Prior consultation and free, prior and informed consent protocols were developed for the Arhuaco people of the Sierra Nevada de Santa Marta, the Nasa peoples of the Cerro Tijeras reservation in Cauca, three Nasa communities in Southern Tolima and four Afrodescendant communities from the Raposo, Anchicayá and the Campo Poblado communities. Protection measures were administered in relation to the right to land for the Afrodescendant communities of Alto Mira and Frontera, the Awá people of Nariño and Putumayo and the Bari people of Norte de Santander. Furthermore, following advocacy efforts and proposals made by the Inter-Ethnic Commission on Peace and the Defence of Ethnic Peoples' Territorial Rights, the Peace Accords between the Government of Colombia and the FARC-EP include an ethnic chapter that guarantees that an ethnic and cultural perspective will be mainstreamed into the interpretation and implementation of all points of the agreement. Progress was also made in the rural communities of Neiva, Tolima and El Bagre in relation to building the capacities of civil society organizations to apply a HRBA in the formulation of public policies.

In **Costa Rica**, the process for establishing a national mechanism for consulting with indigenous peoples was initiated, in January, with the participation of the eight ethnic groups from the 24 indigenous territories in the country. The process is expected to be finalized in 2017. In **Panama**, UN Human Rights provided technical advice on international human rights standards to support the dialogue between the Government and indigenous authorities from the Comarca Ngäbe-Bugle in relation to the decision-making process connected to the exploitation of natural resources that is affecting the rights of the Ngäbe people. The dialogue is expected to lead to an agreement that would include compensation for the communities affected by a dam as well as measures to reduce the social, economic, cultural and environmental impact of the project.

As a result of training on the monitoring of economic, social and cultural rights, 400 members of a community-based association in **Madagascar** increased their knowledge about human rights standards and principles and set up local associations for the improved protection of their rights. For instance, communities in Toliary were able to negotiate compensations and accompaniment measures for the displacement and resettlement of their family burial vaults. In addition, communities closer to the capital claimed their rights to participate in the decision-making processes related to the exploitation of natural resources, which impacts on their use of lands.

Engagement by the international community

As a result of OHCHR's efforts with regard to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including by engaging with civil society organizations and Member States on integrating gender and a HRBA and by providing inputs to the development of indicators for the SDGs, a HRBA and a gender perspective were incorporated as a single and interconnected principle into the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) guidelines. Several of the human rights indicators recommended by OHCHR were included in the list of SDG indicators that will be considered for adoption at the next session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, in 2017. Furthermore, UN Human Rights began developing a methodology on indicators about violence against human rights defenders, conflict-related deaths and the prevalence of discrimination.

In the context of UN Habitat III, various human rights issues were central elements of the New Urban Agen-

da, including the right to adequate housing, monitoring and accountability and the protection of groups living in situations of vulnerability in cities, such as persons with disabilities, older persons, migrants (regardless of their legal status) and homeless persons.

The international human rights mechanisms also raised the awareness of the international community in relation to the impact of economic measures on the enjoyment of human rights. For instance, the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, advocated for the human rights-compliant implementation of austerity measures and economic reform programmes that are supported by European Institutions. In discussions with representatives from the European Commission, the Rapporteur highlighted the need to undertake human rights impact assessments and enhance consultations with social partners and civil society before imposing lending conditionalities undermining the enjoyment of human rights (A/HRC/34/57/Add.1). In his latest report (A/HRC/32/40), the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants argues that the power imbalances, protectionism and national interests that influence the global economy have resulted in trade systems that exacerbate the precarious situations of low-wage migrant workers and directly infringe upon their human rights.

At the regional level, African development priorities, as outlined by the AU, are increasingly taking precautionary measures to mainstream human rights and prevent the potential negative impact of trade agreements. In 2016, UN Human Rights 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 assessment resulted in the enhanced understanding of representatives of the AU, civil society organizations, trade unions, the Pan-African Chamber of Commerce and academia regarding

Human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (ASD), with its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets, offers important opportunities for a closer integration of human rights and development to ensure freedom from fear and want for all people, without discrimination. Adopted unanimously by all UN Member States, the 2030 ASD is explicitly grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the international human rights treaties as well as other instruments, such as the Declaration on the Right to Development (2030 ASD, para. 10). Universally applicable to all people in all countries, including both developed and developing countries, the new Agenda is to be implemented in a manner that is consistent with international law (2030 ASD, para. 18).

Mirroring the content of human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, as well as civil and political rights and the right to development, the new Agenda also situates equality and non-discrimination at its core, including through a commitment to "leave no one behind," dedicated goals to reduce inequalities and combat discrimination and a call for progress to be monitored using disaggregated data.

In 2016, UN Human Rights sought to contribute to States' implementation of the new 2030 ASD and the SDGs by:

- Promoting SDG implementation that is aligned with international human rights standards at global and country levels;
- Advocating for "leaving no one behind," focusing on the reduction of inequalities and discrimination and monitoring progress for all groups using disaggregated data;
- Outlining a human rights-based approach to data and contributing to the development of SDG indicators, as well as identifying new indicators, including in relation to persons with disabilities;
- Building synergies between SDG monitoring mechanisms and the international human rights mechanisms, including by integrating their recommendations into SDG reporting; and
- Encouraging international cooperation on the means of implementation targets and Goal 17 as well as the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development, in line with the right to development.

Throughout 2016, UN Human Rights supported Member States in their efforts to develop SDG indicators under the UN Statistical Commission's Inter-Agency Agenda and Expert Group (IAEG) on the Sustainable Development Goals. Specifically, the IAEG requested that UN Human Rights serve as a custodial agency. In this role, UN Human Rights will be responsible for developing methodologies collecting data and reporting on a number of indicators. UN Human Rights also developed a Guidance Note on a Human Rights-Based Approach to Data, which identifies how to better protect human rights through measures that are undertaken to improve data collection and data disaggregation.

The Deputy High Commissioner meets with civil society representatives during the UN Habitat III Conference in Ecuador, October 2016.
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the potential negative impact of the Continental Free Trade Area on the enjoyment of the rights to food, an adequate standard of living, work (decent jobs) and freedom of movement, particularly for women and migrants engaged in the informal business sector.

Human rights integrated into UN policies and programmes

UN Human Rights led efforts to mainstream human rights into the work of the UN at the global and country levels. Through the United Nations Development Group's Human Rights Working Group (UNDG-HRWG), the Office ensured the timely recruitment and deployment of human rights advisers in line with the UNDG Strategy for the Deployment of Human Rights Advisers. In 2016, a total of 28 advisers were supported by the Office across multiple regions. Within the framework of the UNDG, UN Human Rights co-led the process to revise the guidance on UNDAFs and the guidance on the use of programming principles, including human rights and gender equality, and actively participated in the revision of the Common Country Assessment (CCA) guidance.

At the field level, the capacity of United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) to apply a HRBA was enhanced in countries that began the roll-out of their UNDAFs in 2016, including **Benin**, **Burkina Faso**, **Cabo Verde**, **Fiji**, **the Gambia**, **Ghana**, **Guinea**, **India**, **Kyrgyzstan**, **Maldives**, **Nepal**, **Pakistan**, **Papua New Guinea**, **the Republic of Moldova**, **Samoa**, **Senegal** and **Ukraine**.

Human rights concepts and recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms were mainstreamed into UNDAFs and other UN joint programmes. For example, the **Central African Republic's** five-year post-conflict recovery strategy integrates the promotion and protection of human rights through its support for the establishment and strengthening of the National Commission for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms. Joint programmes of the UNCT in **Liberia**, including in the area of the rule of law, integrated a HRBA into the development and delivery of a set of activities that aim to improve human rights compliance in law-making and strengthen the accountability mechanism of the national police. In **Malawi**, the UNCT finalized a country assessment on the cycle of accountability for sexual, reproductive, maternal child and neonatal health and human rights and developed a related action plan. The six **Caribbean** UNCTs agreed on a Multi-Country Sustainable Development Framework that integrates a HRBA. The UNDAFs of **Brazil** and **Peru** integrate human rights principles and include a matrix which matches each strategic component of the UNDAFs with relevant SDGs and recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

The new United Nations Common Development Plan 2016-2020 that was developed by the United Nations **Kosovo** Team integrates a HRBA and addresses various strategic priority areas, including governance and the rule of law. Human rights are at the core of the CCA for **Palestine**[2], launched on 24 November, which identifies the key structural drivers and challenges being faced by some of the most disadvantaged groups. In **Papua New Guinea**, the CCA highlights human rights issues of

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

concern in relation to discrimination and the draft UNDAF provides a framework to address them. In **Serbia**, the provisional UNDAF includes a number of key human rights targets and prioritizes groups in vulnerable situations, including Roma and persons with disabilities. The UNDAF 2016-2020 of the **former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia** focuses on the participation of rights-holders in the design and implementation of decisions affecting their lives, reducing inequalities, improving accountability and other interventions as recommended by the international human rights mechanisms.

UN Human Rights also contributed to integrating human rights approaches into the plans and projects of other UN agencies. For instance, in **Sierra Leone**, a joint project on sexual and gender-based violence, developed by UN Women and UNICEF, took international human rights standards into consideration. UN agencies in **Timor-Leste** also included human rights concepts and methods in their programmes, such as the World Health Organization project on climate change, the UNDP Justice Support Programme and the World Food Programme internal accountability systems.

Mainstreaming human rights and gender equality into programmes at the grassroots level

During the conflict in northern Uganda, incidences of gender-based violence and discriminatory practices against women were prevalent. Following the conflict, these practices have persisted. As such, there has been a need to build the capacity of civil society organizations working on human rights and gender equality. In July, as part of a series of interventions, UN Human Rights collaborated with UN Women to strengthen the capacity of 34 civil society representatives (14 women, 20 men) from organizations operating in northern Uganda. A pre-training evaluation indicated that 66 per cent of the participating organizations were unfamiliar with the frameworks for mainstreaming gender into programmes. Following the training, participants immediately implemented what they had learned.

According to Peter Ogenga, programme coordinator of the COW Foundation, a civil society organization operating in Kitgum district, "I always found it difficult to integrate human rights and gender into our organizational programmes. However, after the OHCHR training for the organizations from the Acholi subregion, in July, my organization, the COW Foundation in Kitgum District, successfully developed its first gender policy. Currently, every staff member at the organization is expected to adhere to this policy and use it as a guide in all of their operations. At the training, I understood the added value of mainstreaming human rights and gender into our programmes, particularly for the strengthening of our results and processes. I could not wait to implement it at the organization so I immediately convened a board meeting where a resolution was adopted to put this policy in place. Gradually, the COW Foundation has started to see great improvements in our programme delivery. We are currently experiencing greater accountability both at the organizational level and towards rights-holders."

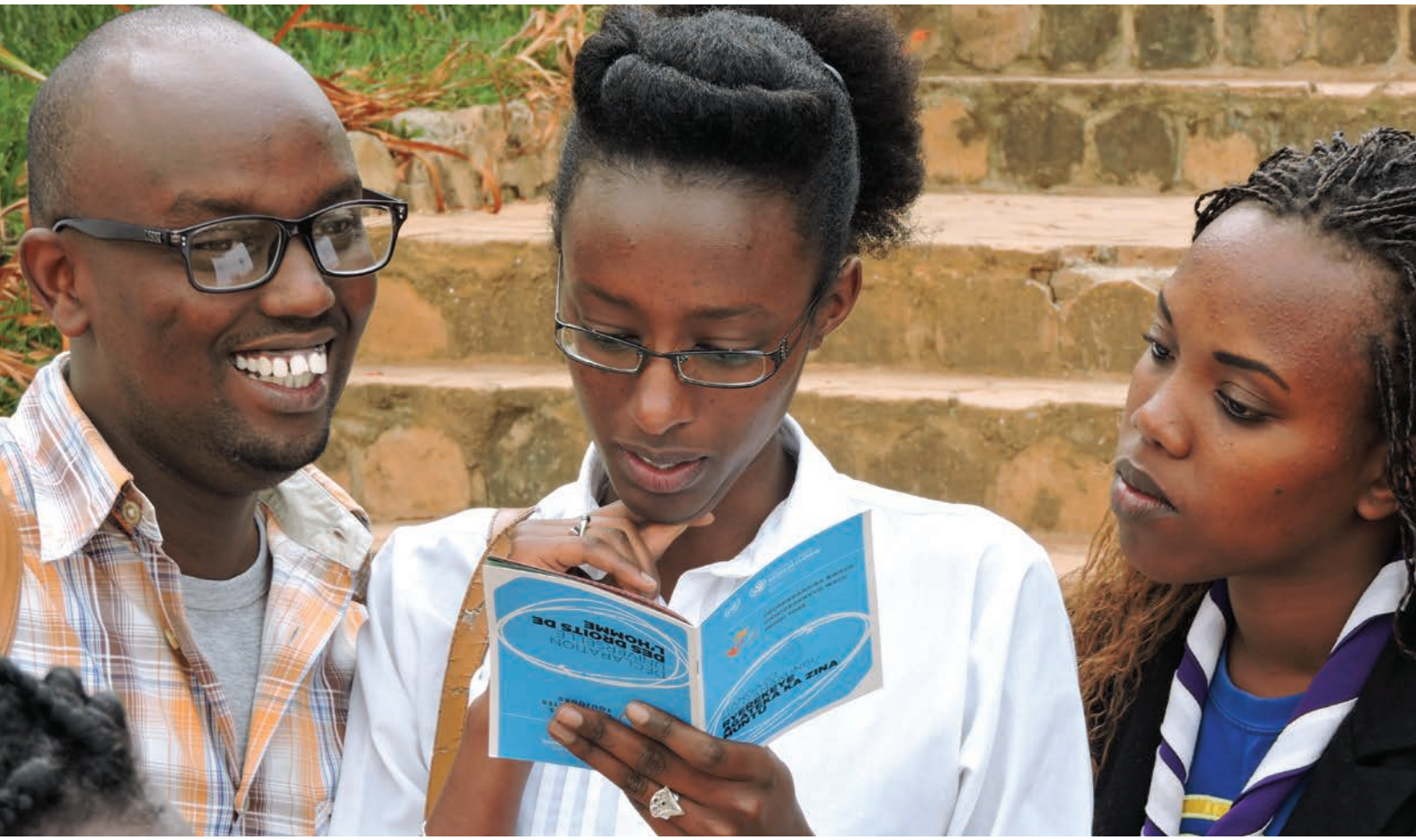
Participants created a social networking group called "Gender Integration" which is open to all interested organizations, including those that did not participate in the training. Importantly, the platform is being used to enhance peer learning, share good practices and address common challenges that are being faced by the organizations with regard to mainstreaming, monitoring and evaluation, human rights and gender equality.

Human rights were incorporated in UN-wide policies and processes

such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the UN Habitat III's New Urban Agenda, the UN Economic Commission for Africa's work on free trade in Africa and continued to increase in significance in UN Development Assistance Frameworks and Common Country Assessment guidance.

Human rights indicators

were established in Jamaica, Mexico and Paraguay



OHCHR awareness-raising activity for civil society in Burundi. © OHCHR/Burundi

Widening the democratic space

In 2016, 16 per cent of planned national expected accomplishments were reported as fully or partially achieved and good progress made on an additional 41 per cent of them.

Compliance of national laws, policies and institutions

National human rights institutions

National human rights institutions are State bodies with a mandate to protect and promote human rights. NHRIs that are in compliance with the Paris Principles are the cornerstone of national human rights protection systems and enable States to implement their international obligations at the national level. In 2016, UN Human Rights 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. UN Human Rights also served as the Secretariat of the Global Alliance of NHRIs, through which it provided substantial support to the review of 31 NHRIs by the Sub-Committee on Accreditation. As of December, 74 of 111 accredited NHRIs have been granted "A" status. The following examples illustrate the achievement of results in terms of the establishment and/or strengthening of NHRIs.

Regarding the establishment of NHRIs, legislation was drafted in the **Central African Republic** for the creation of the National Commission for Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms and is awaiting adoption by the Parliament. The Government of **Lebanon** adopted a law establishing a NHRI in October; **the Gambia** drafted a bill establishing a NHRI in accordance with international standards; and, in August, the legislation for the Federal Human Rights Commission of **Somalia** was enacted.

Existing NHRIs also made efforts to strengthen their capacities to work in greater compliance with the Paris Principles. In Africa, the National Human Rights Commission of **Côte d'Ivoire** developed its 2017-2020

strategic document that focuses on the implementation of the recommendations issued by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions with regard to its accreditation and the elaboration of a manual on how to process complaints. The NHRI in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** developed a strategic plan in consultation with rights-holders, elaborated a draft law on the protection of human rights defenders, undertook a number of monitoring missions and issued its first annual report on the human rights situation in the country. The 11 members of the Independent National Human Rights Commission of **Madagascar** were sworn in, its budget was adopted by the National Assembly and, between October and December, the Commission issued three press releases on cases of human rights violations. In **Uganda**, 230 staff members of the Human Rights Commission were deployed to 92 districts to conduct human rights monitoring during the elections, which enabled the Commission to implement its mandate during a politically sensitive period.

As part of the implementation process of the Peace Accords in **Colombia**, the National Ombudsperson's Office began a training process to improve its response related to the protection of the rights of the communities where the FARC-EP will concentrate, enhanced its protection measures for leaders in these same territories and reviewed its intervention strategies in these zones. In **Guatemala**, the NHRI operated in increased compliance with human rights standards and, in 2016, undertook several joint investigations with OHCHR and developed a study on the issue of pretrial detention. The recommendations were shared with relevant State actors for their feedback and implementation.

In the Asia Pacific region, the Office of the Ombudsman of **Samoa** was credited with "A" status, making it the only NHRI in the Pacific Island countries to have achieved this status. In **Timor-Leste**, staff members of the NHRI (Office of the Provedor for Human Rights and Justice) increased their knowledge of and skills in the area of monitoring and investigation as a result of a number of training sessions. Furthermore, the Provedor revived the Consultative Council for the NHRI after more than five years of inactivity.

On a less positive note, although **Mozambique's** NHRI undertook a number of investigations into alleged human rights violations and issued strong public statements to highlight its concerns about human rights issues, it continued to face structural and resource challenges that affect its functioning. The **South Sudan** Human Rights Commission was unable to establish offices in at least four conflict-affected states and the National Commission on Human Rights of **Honduras** had its "B" status confirmed as it is not compliant with the Paris Principles in areas such as independence, immunity and representativeness.

Freedom of expression, freedom of association and media

In 2016, legislation was drafted or adopted in various countries that could be harmful to the freedoms of expression and association and to the work of the media. In **Cambodia**, the Trade Union Law was adopted, in April, despite concerns that were raised by trade unions and other civil society actors about requirements that are inconsistent with human rights standards and could have a negative impact on independent unions. In **Mauritania**, the draft Law on Civilian Associations, which has not yet been discussed by relevant parliamentary commissions, is not in compliance with international human rights treaties or the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms in relation to Mauritania. **Poland** adopted a number of laws relating to the media and to peaceful assembly which contain undue restrictions or limitations on freedom of expression and assembly. The **Somali** Media Bill was adopted, in January. Although the bill guarantees certain freedoms and protects the right to information for journalists, there are concerns that the lack of clarity of some terminology could result in the application of undue restrictions or limitations on the right to freedom of expression. In the **United Republic of Tanzania**, the current draft of the Access to Information Act may leave journalists, media houses and potential whistleblowers at greater risk when collecting and publishing their information. The Government of **Tunisia** finalized the first draft of the Law on Media Broadcasting, however, concerns remain regarding the independence and representation of the broadcasting media regulatory body and the independence of the public broadcasting media's services.

Protecting human rights defenders

Legislative advances were also achieved in relation to the protection of human rights defenders. In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, a draft Law for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, which has not yet been submitted for review by the Parliament, was elaborated and endorsed by a large number of human rights defenders. A draft policy for the protection of human rights defenders was also developed by the **Kenya** National Commission on Human Rights but it has not been adopted by the Government.

Misuse of criminal law against human rights defenders in Guatemala

On 22 July, seven Guatemalan human rights defenders, many of them indigenous ancestral authorities, were released from prison where they had spent between 14 and 18 months awaiting trial. Their cases had been followed closely by UN Human Rights.

"We have understood that there is an intention to criminalize your actions." With that affirmation, Judge Iris Yassmin Barrios Aguilar, President of the High Risk Court Tribunal B in Guatemala City, ended the judgment that absolved the seven indigenous leaders of the criminal charges brought against them for acts carried out in defence of their lands and resources in the context of the construction of hydroelectric projects in Huehuetenango, Guatemala.

The indigenous leaders remained in pretrial detention following numerous delays in their criminal processes, which were marked by irregularities documented by UN Human Rights. All charges were dismissed for five of the defendants, who were immediately released from detention. Two of the defendants were found guilty of lesser crimes and sentenced to six months and three years in prison, respectively; however, their sentences were commuted given the time served. They have been released.

The judgment referred to the important role of indigenous authorities in resolving conflicts in their communities in accordance with customary norms and procedures.

Over the last year, UN Human Rights documented several cases of the misuse of criminal law against human rights defenders, particularly in the context of hydroelectric and mining projects. Their findings have been shared with State institutions in order to identify measures to end this practice, which hinders and weakens the work of individuals and organizations defending human rights in the country.

The criminalization of human rights defenders can have ripple effects throughout communities, driving fear into those carrying out legitimate activities for the promotion and protection of human rights and of social and cultural disintegration.

Such consequences were observed during numerous monitoring missions carried out by UN Human Rights, as well as in face-to-face meetings with the seven human right defenders, who were in detention centres awaiting trial. The visits were carried out with delegates of the international community in Guatemala.

This case reflects a troubling pattern throughout the Latin American region and is a key area of work for UN Human Rights. In this regard, UN Human Rights regional and country offices from Latin America and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights issued a statement, on 4 December, regarding an agreement to develop measures to jointly monitor the situation of human rights defenders in the region, in collaboration with relevant thematic mandates in the United Nations and Inter-American system.

Protection systems and accountability mechanisms

Some progress was made in the establishment and functioning of national protection mechanisms for human rights defenders. In **Colombia**, the National Protection Unit improved its decision-making process following information and advice that was provided by human rights organizations and OHCHR. Moreover, six municipalities, including Tibú, Medellín, El Bagre, Tumaco and Barrancabermeja, incorporated prevention measures into their respective prevention and contingency plans that apply relevant human rights standards. Advances were also made with respect to increased effectiveness in the criminal investigation of homicides of human rights defenders. In 2016, the Attorney General's Office designed a registry of the cases of attacks against human rights defenders to ensure a clearer understanding of the situation and enable the suggestion of suitable measures to the Colombian State.

In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, the number of provincial protection networks, which are composed of local NGOs, increased to 11. The networks are currently active in Goma (North Kivu), Bukavu (South Kivu), Bunia (Ituri), Kisangani (Tshopo), Kinshasa (Kinshasa), Kalemie (Tanganyika), Matadi (Kongo Central), Mbuji Maui (Kasia Oriental), Loja (Sankuru), Equateur (Mbandaka) and Gbadolite (North Ubangi). As part of their activities, the networks have established many protective measures for persons who are under threat by, for instance, providing them with medical, psychosocial, socioeconomic and legal assistance.

Efforts were also undertaken by the Government of **Honduras** to advance the implementation of the Law for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, Journalists, Social Communicators and Justice Personnel, which was adopted in 2015. These efforts included the adoption of the regulation of the law, the appointment of the Director of the National Mechanism for the Protection of Human Rights Defenders and the recruit-

ment of key personnel. From the time of its inception, in 2015, until September 2016, the Mechanism received 60 requests for protection; 35 of which were found to fall within its purview. The protective measures that were granted include 29 police measures, three temporary rehousing measures and one assisted exit from the country. While these efforts are commendable, concerns remain regarding the limited progress achieved in terms of accountability for crimes against human rights defenders.

In **Mexico**, the Office consistently participated in meetings of the National Protection Mechanism's Governing Board and monitored the decisions that were taken related to the protection schemes for human rights defenders and at-risk journalists. UN Human Rights provided written observations for 47 cases and, in most cases, successfully advocated for adequate protection measures. Furthermore, in the state of Chihuahua, support was provided for the implementation of an early warning system for human rights defenders and at-risk journalists. In **Thailand**, the Government established a Working Group on the Protection of Human Rights Defenders, which paved the way for an institutional framework that was developed for their protection.

Participation in public life

Through a variety of activities, UN Human Rights sought to contribute to the increased engagement of rights-holders in public life and to their enhanced capacities to claim their rights. The Civil Society Space Guide, which was published in the six UN languages, in 2015, has now been translated into 20 local languages. This practical guide was designed to familiarize civil society actors 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. Furthermore, 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.

UN Human Rights also worked with indigenous peoples to secure increased space and more effective tools to claim their rights. The OHCHR Indigenous

Training on human rights for youth in Timor-Leste, August 2016. © OHCHR/Timor-Leste

"Stand Up" Campaign and Human Rights Day 2016

On 10 December, on the occasion of Human Rights Day, UN Human Rights launched a campaign entitled "Stand up for someone's rights today." The objective of the global campaign is to encourage, support and amplify what people around the world do in their everyday lives to defend the human rights of others, including in the workplace, on the sports field, at school and in the streets.

An interactive and multimedia microsite, **www.standup4humanrights.org**, was developed to coincide with the campaign launch. The microsite includes features such as calls to spread the word through social media platforms and to stand up for human rights in different ways, including by taking the online pledge to promote and protect the human rights of others. By the end of 2016, over 5,000 people had pledged their commitment to do so.

On the microsite, a group of human rights champions shared their commitments to speak out and stand up for the human rights of others and lent their voices to the campaign. The human rights champions included Yazidi human rights activist, Nadia Murad; Malian reggae singer, Tiken Jah Fakoli; Italian photographer, Oliviero Toscani; and Honduran indigenous and environmental activist, Laura Zúñiga Cáceres. They, in addition to others, told their stories and inspired others to act. The site also features the "We can all be human rights champions" wall, an online space where all of the actions and stories sent by the public, including messages, images and videos, are displayed under the hashtag #standup4humanrights. As of the end of the year, more than 50,000 contributions had been posted to the wall.

The microsite is the primary repository for information and downloadable publications regarding the campaign. In addition, the microsite highlights visual designs and promotional materials that were specifically designed for the campaign and includes statements, videos and personal stories. For the first time, UN Human Rights engaged in digital promotion and advertising to boost traffic to the microsite. As of 31 December, the site had received over 90,000 page views by 43,000 users from 197 countries.

For the launch of the campaign, the High Commissioner took part in a Facebook Live session, on Human Rights Day, and answered questions from hundreds of participants from around the world. In addition, Geneva's iconic Jet d'Eau was turned on by the High Commissioner and the Mayor of Geneva and lit up with blue lights at night. UN Human Rights participated in the Geneva Lux Festival with a symbolic "tree of human rights" that was artistically illuminated in the Old Town of Geneva. Selfie stands were set up at the airport, downtown and at the Palais des Nations to inform people about the campaign and to stimulate its promotion across social media platforms.

In New York, a panel discussion and a performance by the UN Chamber Music Society took place at the Roosevelt House, at Hunter College, with senior UN and OHCHR staff members. A photo-booth was also installed to promote the "Stand up for someone's rights today" campaign via social media.

On the occasion of Human Rights Day and the launch of the campaign, a number of activities were organized by the United Nations family and the global human rights community, and included film activities in Austria, Pakistan, South Africa and Russia; debates in Iran and Mauritius; drama and poetry recitals in Bangladesh; children's art exhibitions in Armenia, Senegal and Yemen; student activities in Nigeria and the Republic of the Congo and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; local initiatives highlighting personal stories in Belgium and Kosovo[3]; media initiatives in Chile, Panama and the occupied Palestinian territories; and the public engagement of celebrities and human rights defenders in Ukraine.

The "Stand up for someone's rights today" campaign will continue to call for action on numerous occasions in 2017: from the World Economic Forum in Davos to key commemorative days such as International Women's Day, International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, International Day against Homophobia, World Refugee Day, International Day in Support of Victims of Torture, International Youth Day, and at cultural and sporting events.

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

Fellowship, offered in English, French, Russian and Spanish, brought together 29 indigenous advocates to learn new and concrete advocacy skills. At the same time, former fellows championed the rights of indigenous peoples on many fronts, including by leading indigenous advocacy in the negotiations for the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, creating the first indigenous community television station in Nepal and chairing both the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Through the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples, close to 100 indigenous representatives raised their concerns before the human rights treaty bodies, the Human Rights Council, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. This engagement also resulted in a decision of the Human Rights Council, in September, to expand the mandate of the Expert Mechanism to include a stronger focus on country engagement. Moreover, OHCHR's Minority Fellowship helped to develop the capacity of 12 minority representatives to engage with the international human rights mechanisms.

At the field level, in **Guatemala**, the National Strategy for Citizenship Education was launched by the Ministry of Education, in November, representing a key step in advancing human rights education in the official education system. The National Commission for the State Language in **Kyrgyzstan** developed training materials in the Kyrgyz language for civil servants in order to enhance the participation of minorities in political life. In 2016, free classes were held for 511 civil servants, including 212 individuals from ethnic minority communities.

In terms of support provided to civil society organizations, a series of capacity-building activities that were undertaken by UN Human Rights Regional Gender Advisers helped to empower civil society actors to claim their rights. For instance, a workshop on sexual and reproductive health and rights, held in **Senegal**, enabled civil society participants to identify concrete ways to engage with the international human rights mechanisms. In **Costa Rica**, civil society actors provided inputs to the framework of the National Policy on sexual and reproductive rights. In the context of the African Decade for Human Rights and the development of the **African Union** Ten-Year Action and Implementation Plan for the promotion and protection of human rights in Africa (2017-2027), UN Human Rights supported the organization of a civil society consultation to ensure that the Plan incorporates the views of human rights defenders and civil society. Human rights defenders in **Timor-Leste** established a network that is focused on protecting civil society space and human rights advocacy, which became operational in July. The network began collecting data on violations against human rights defenders and issued its first press release in December. In **Uganda**, OHCHR trained member organizations of the National Coalition of Human Rights Defenders on human rights monitoring, documentation and reporting in the context of the elections and disseminated a human rights database tailored to the needs of its member organizations.

Youth participation in democracy

The role that young people should play in public decision-making was the focus of the first UN Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, held at the Palais des Nations, in Geneva, from 21-22 November. The theme of this Forum, organized by UN Human Rights, was "Widening the democratic space: the role of youth in public decision-making."

Young people aged 15 to 25, the largest number in human history, constitute a fifth of the world's population. Yet, they are not often involved in formal politics and they rarely occupy important political roles. As a result, this brings risks that the quality and legitimacy of democratic institutions is lessened and that young people are marginalized. Young women, in particular, are underrepresented among parliamentarians, in political parties, electoral processes and public administration. During the two days of the Forum, over 600 participants discussed ways to promote the involvement of young people in politics and public life. Issues on the agenda included identifying strategies to transform online activism into long-term and lasting political participation; drawing up programmes to increase the participation of young people in conflict-resolution and peacebuilding; finding ways for youth to participate in monitoring the implementation of the SDGs and facilitating the participation of young people in drawing up strategies to prevent violent extremism.

Most of the invited speakers drawn from all regions of the world were under 30 years of age. Many play key roles in mobilizing their communities and contributing to realizing the right of young people to participate and be included in public life.

At the Forum, the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, UN Human Rights and other partners launched the campaign "Not Too Young To Run," which aims at raising awareness about the challenges young people face in running for elected office. More information about this campaign can be found at **http://nottooyoungtorun.org/**.

Capacity-building for thousands of civil society represenatives

including some 50 National Human Rights Institutions worldwide.

Strengthened protection programmes for civil society through direct monitoring of threats and attacks, technical advice on laws and policies, and advocacy, including in Brazil, DRC, Guatemala, Kenya, Mauritania, Myanmar, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Tunisia, as well as in Central America in collaboration with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights.

250,000

publications and materials promoting human rights distributed around the world from headquarters and field presences

In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the High Commissioner for Human Rights meets with several women during his visit to the Panzi Hospital for survivors of sexual and gender-based violence, July 2016. © MONUSCO

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

In 2016, 25 per cent of planned national expected accomplishments were reported as fully or partially achieved and good progress made on an additional 42 per cent of them.

Compliance of national laws, policies and institutions

Gender-based violence and trafficking

Efforts continued to be undertaken by the Government of **Afghanistan** to address violence against women and girls. The President inaugurated a dedicated fund to provide women who are survivors of acts of violence with support, including medical treatment and temporary accommodation. In addition, the Government approved the 2016-2020 Strategy and Action Plan on the Elimination of Violence against Women. In **Côte d'Ivoire**, the President signed a decree, in June, on the creation of a national committee mandated to coordinate governmental efforts to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence. On the other hand, the implementation of the National Strategy on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence, adopted in 2014, remains limited.

The National Strategic Action Plan for Ending Gender-Based Violence in **Jamaica** was finalized, in June, and submitted to the Cabinet for approval. In **Paraguay**, a law protecting women from all forms of violence, including the crime of feminicide, was adopted by the Congress. Advocacy activities contributed to ensuring that the legislation was more closely aligned with international standards, although some recommendations, such as the inclusion of references to gender, were not taken into account. In addition, the Government of **Sudan** made a number of amendments to the Criminal Act 1991, in particular relating to personal security and violence against women. For instance, a new provision was added to combat female genital mutilation, which is now considered a criminal offence.

In relation to the justice system, a protocol was developed for the judiciary in **Bolivia** to ensure that judicial activities are undertaken in line with a gender-based approach. In **Guatemala**, a toolkit was developed to encourage the judiciary to apply a HRBA and a gender perspective in verdicts related to feminicide cases and other forms of violence against women. The toolkit was disseminated to all judges of specialized tribunals and 75 judges of the ordinary tribunals.

At the global level, UN Human Rights is a member of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, which is a policy forum mandated by the UN General Assembly to improve coordination among UN agencies to facilitate a comprehensive approach to preventing and combating trafficking in persons. In the context of this Group, UN Human Rights contributed to the inclusion of a human rights-based approach in joint policy papers, such as one entitled "Pivoting toward the evidence: Building effective counter-trafficking responses using accumulated knowledge and a shared approach to monitoring, evaluation and learning."

Security sector

The Ministry of Defence in **Colombia** strengthened the promotion and protection of human rights principles by issuing a directive to the Armed Forces Command and the national police to incorporate key provisions to ensure that human rights are respected and guaranteed in line with its human rights policy. The Ministry also designed "Comprehensive Citizen Security Plans," which include human rights standards. In the **Dominican Republic**, the new Law for the Police was approved, in 2016, and includes some recommendations made by OHCHR, particularly regarding the need to establish independent and robust external and internal oversight mechanisms.

Guatemala made progress in incorporating a HRBA into its security policies. Specifically, the police revised their internal procedures to limit the use of force in the context of judicial evictions. The Federal Congress in **Mexico** adopted a bill aligning military justice procedures with the new justice system. However, it also included some regulations that would extend military jurisdiction to civil matters. In relation to the draft laws on torture and disappearances, OHCHR's recommendations were included, namely, to establish that torture, other forms of mistreatment and disappearances will always be investigated by civil authorities.

The **Nigerian** Army established a Human Rights Desk to receive and investigate complaints of allegations of abuse and violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law against army personnel; review and update existing human rights training materials; provide an institutional framework for the training of army personnel on human rights issues; strengthen their capacity to protect human rights; and facilitate the interaction between the army and human rights organizations. The Human Rights Desk prepared a human rights policy for the army, which was adopted in December.

Internal conflict

After years of political dialogue, the Government of **Sudan** and armed opposition movements agreed upon and signed a road map, in August, which can be considered a major milestone in the Darfur peace process. In **Colombia**, the municipal Government of Neiva, the Public Ministry, the local community, the Attorney General's Office and public security forces designed and implemented an intervention strategy to prevent human rights violations by post-demobilization groups and the FARC-EP. The preliminary results are positive and demonstrate a significant reduction in extortion cases as community members report feeling better protected by State entities.

Protection systems and accountability mechanisms

Protection mechanisms were put in place and/or strengthened by a number of States in an effort to provide enhanced protection to their populations and bring those responsible for human rights violations to justice. The Government of **Afghanistan** established a senior-level Protection Working Group aimed at facilitating a policy-driven dialogue on existing protection measures related to civilian concerns and supporting the implementation of improved practices to reduce civilian casualties. In the context of the elections in **Côte d'Ivoire**, 250 observers of the NHRI were deployed and no major human rights violations were documented. In the **Democratic Republic of the Congo**, 13 Joint Human Rights Investigation Teams were deployed and six mobile court hearings were held for grave human rights violations, including in relation to an investigation which led to the arrest of a provincial Member of Parliament and the first national trial in a civilian court for international crimes. In addition, 16 mobile trials were organized at the request of judicial authorities from eight provinces, which resulted in 126 convictions. Furthermore, 1,405 victims of sexual violence were assisted through 23 NGO-run legal clinics in 13 provinces, which provided victims with free legal assistance and information. This resulted in

The search for missing persons in Bojayá

OHCHR staff member supports the search for missing persons in Bojayá. © OHCHR/Colombia

In the midst of combat between paramilitary groups and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC-EP) on 2 May 2002, members of the FARC-EP launched a cylinder bomb against the Bellavista church, in the municipality of Bojayá, Department of Chocó, where about 300 individuals had taken refuge.

The attack resulted in the death of approximately 81 persons, 60 per cent of whom were minors, and caused injuries to another 120 individuals. The attack also resulted in the enforced displacement of the surviving families, who had to flee and abandon the dead and disappeared. This prevented the community from holding their traditional funeral rituals, such as the "gualíes," "alabaos" and "levantamientos de tumba." For this reason, the community has been holding public and private commemorative acts during the past 14 years, trying to restore the bonds that were broken between the living and the dead. The grieving process of the inhabitants of the Rio Atrato has been interrupted by a practical problem that compromises their traditions. "The dead should be [buried] in the high areas and the living can be in the water." After the attack, their dead were buried in a cemetery next to the river.

During the peace negotiations between the FARC-EP and the Colombian Government, several members of the FARC-EP acknowledged responsibility for the attack and asked the community of Bojayá for "forgiveness" for the harm that they caused on that fatidic day in 2002.

In 2014, the community established the Committee for the Rights of Victims of Bojayá. The Committee is composed of a group of 14 social leaders who voluntarily represent and promote the interests and demands of the community. Since then, the Committee members have been asking the Colombian State to search for the disappeared and identify and deliver the bodies of the victims of the 2 May 2002 massacre, so that the entire community can begin and conclude its mourning process.

UN Human Rights has provided advice and support to the Committee and urged State institutions to comply with their international obligations on the rights to truth and collective reparation. Thanks to the work of the Office, the coordination of the institutional response has improved and trust in the work of the institutions is slowly recovering. As Yuber Palacios said a couple of months ago, "[w]ith the progress made in the process, I feel that we can finally be at peace with our dead."

As a result of the persistence of the community, representatives of the Attorney General's Office and the National Institute of Legal Medicine explained to the entire community, for the first time and in detail, the forensic procedures that had been conducted on the bodies of their loved ones in the weeks after the massacre. This two-day session, held from 25-26 November, also raised awareness among officials about the pain that the survivors continue to feel and enabled the families to learn from forensic officials which tombs correspond to their family members in the neglected cemetery of Bellavista.

While it was painful for the families to hear about how authorities had found the bodies, it also enabled them to finally know their whereabouts. During the identification of the victims' clothing, 65-year-old Maria said, "[w]hat you are saying is true. These are the clothes that my son was wearing." Voices of hope, however, were also heard during this reopening of the grieving process. For Aristarco Rivas Palacios who did not know of the whereabouts of his 8-year-old daughter Yorleicy Rivas Mena, the event gave him a moment of some closure - he learned that at last some of his little daughter's remains had been recovered and that he would soon be able to make his final goodbyes and give her the burial he wanted for her.

Increased understanding by public officials about the social and cultural impacts of the 2002 massacre will also make it possible to transform a technical and judicial process into one that is participatory and is respectful of the customs and traditions of the Afrodescendant and indigenous peoples that continue to seek the truth and construct a collective memory about the cruelty of the war. In 2017, UN Human Rights will continue working so that these victims and the community can receive the remains of their loved ones, with dignity, and hold the funeral rituals that will facilitate their mourning process.

OHCHR staff member during a monitoring mission in Yemen. © OHCHR/Yemen

the conviction of 174 perpetrators of sexual violence. In terms of accountability, in **Mexico**, a law was adopted by the Coahuila state Congress that establishes the obligations of authorities to identify all human remains, recognizes the rights of the families of the disappeared to participate in the processes to locate, identify and return all human remains, with full respect for their dignity, and regulates the management of information to facilitate identifications.

UN Human Rights further contributed to protection efforts through its monitoring work and its presence in areas of conflict. For instance, during peasant protests in **Colombia**, the Office deployed staff to 47 locations. OHCHR staff interventions helped to prevent confrontations between protesters and public security forces in at least 15 of these locations. OHCHR conducted 81 field missions and over 400 regular field visits to assess the human rights situation in the **Central African Republic**. In addition, more than 193 field missions in **Mali** contributed to building trust with local communities, thereby creating spaces for the exchange of ideas and concerns. In **Ukraine**, as a result of its continuous monitoring, the Office outlined human rights issues in territories controlled by armed groups and problems affecting IDPs. Furthermore, in **Yemen**, OHCHR deployed human rights monitors to conflict-affected areas in order to help gather and analyse allegations of violations and provide technical assistance to the NHRI. The information gathered through this mechanism fed into monthly updates on the human rights situation in Yemen, contributed to a report that was presented to the Human Rights Council and was used in advocacy messages issued by the Office of the Special Assistant to the Secretary-General.

Engagement by the international community

UN Human Rights took steps to ensure that human rights issues of concern were brought to the attention of the international community. Despite its limited access to **Libya**, UN Human Rights consistently monitored, reported on and undertook advocacy in relation to cases of human rights violations and abuses by publishing monthly reports on civilian casualties and a report on abuses against migrants. Furthermore, the Human Rights Council considered the OHCHR investigation report, issued in March, and asked the High Commissioner for Human Rights to continue to report

on Libya, including through an oral update (September 2016) and a written report (March 2017). Public advocacy was conducted to ensure that critical human rights issues in **Myanmar** were raised by international actors regarding accountability issues, discrimination and the situation in Rakhine State. Other advocacy efforts included drafting a report on the "Situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar" (A/HRC/32/18), and supporting missions undertaken by high-level UN officials, such as the visit of the Secretary-General and the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights, in August. Through the various reports issued by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Secretary-General, UN Human Rights provided the international community with factual information about incidents and alleged violations of human rights in the **State of Palestine**[4]. The Office's monitoring in **Ukraine** led to the delivery of a statement by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, on 2 August, calling on all parties to the conflict to prioritize the protection of civilians and take urgent steps to de-escalate the tense situation.

UN Human Rights also provided significant support to investigations that were carried out pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions. 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 (the **Central African Republic**, **Iraq**, **Libya** and **South Sudan**), and humanitarian missions (**Mauritania**, **Nepal**, **Syria**, **Ukraine** and **Yemen**). In 2016, OHCHR finalized the internal guidance on the integration of a gender perspective in the work of commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions and, together with UN Women, supported the deployment and work of gender advisers to the secretariats of these bodies.

UN Human Rights also participated in the UNHCR/IOM Regional Refugee and Migrant Response Plan for Europe and deployed teams to **Bulgaria**, **France**, **Greece**, **Italy** and the **former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**. The teams collected information on the human rights situation of migrants in transit and the adherence to the border governance measures set out in OHCHR's recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders.

In coordination with the United Nations Department of Political Affairs (DPA), and in the context of the Human Rights up Front (HRUF) Action Plan, UN Human Rights developed the idea of deploying Light Teams as a new mechanism to get capacity on the ground in response to emerging or actual crisis situations. Based on the close monitoring of the situation in the **Republic of the Congo**, in anticipation of the presidential election, a Light Team was deployed in February. By ensuring that human rights issues were raised with relevant actors, the Light Team contributed to promoting non-violent elections. Also 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 integrated into UN policies and programmes

Human Rights Due Diligence Policy

The Office undertook efforts to operationalize the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) at the field level within UN peacekeeping and political missions. In the **Central African Republic**, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General signed a new standard operating procedure for the implementation of the HRDDP, which became effective in December. Compliance with the standard operating procedure is now mandatory for all UNCT entities that are providing support to national security forces. The HRDDP Secretariat in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** created 421 new records in the database with profiles of perpetrators of grave human rights violations, and also responded in a timely manner to over one thousand screening requests on individual commanders of the armed forces and police units, who were benefiting from UN support, whether through joint operations, logistics, transport or other forms of assistance. Implementation of the HRDDP began in **Libya**, including with the drafting of a general and preliminary risk assessment. Also, in **Mali** and **Somalia**, regular risk assessments were undertaken and mitigating measures were recommended in line with the HRDDP.

Humanitarian work

UN Human Rights continued to ensure the integration of human rights principles into humanitarian processes by participating in Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) meetings at the 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

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

commitments to strengthening its engagement in humanitarian action. Furthermore, as co-lead of the Global Protection Cluster Task Team, with the NGO InterAction, OHCHR completed the preparation of the IASC Protection Priority Guidelines, which were endorsed in October.

At the field level, UN Human Rights engaged with Humanitarian Country Teams to ensure that human rights principles and standards were taken into consideration in humanitarian planning processes and that protection concerns were at the core of the UN's response to emergencies. After Tropical Cyclone Winston hit **Fiji** in late February, UN Human Rights conducted several missions to monitor the protection situation around the eastern and northern parts of Fiji's largest island and identified several issues of concern, which were shared with the Protection Cluster. In **Nigeria**, following advocacy undertaken by OHCHR, the Humanitarian Needs Overview and the Humanitarian Response Plan now underline the centrality of protection in the humanitarian response and include proposals for the deployment of human rights officers to support the response. The Humanitarian Response Plan for the **State of Palestine**[5] identifies protection as one of its main strategic objectives as a result of OHCHR's leadership of the Protection Cluster and its active participation in meetings of the Humanitarian Country Team. In the case of **Syria**, OHCHR's engagement with humanitarian actors led to the inclusion of human rights and protection concerns in the overall humanitarian response to the crisis as reflected in both the Humanitarian Needs Overview and the Response Plan.

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

Human Rights up Front

The Secretary-General's Human Rights up Front (HRUF) initiative continued to promote more timely, effective and predictable UN-wide responses to situations involving risks of or ongoing serious human rights violations. The initiative saw positive developments in 2016.

While the HRUF initiative is a collective endeavour across the UN system, UN Human Rights has the lead responsibility in several areas. Following the endorsement of the Deputy Secretary-General, the initiative to establish a common UN information management system on violations is underway. At headquarters, system-wide regional reviews were held to analyse situations and respond to potential risks. OHCHR's role helps ensure human rights considerations are a key focus of the analysis. UN Human Rights developed a methodological tool to improve action-oriented early warning analysis and input in relation to various avenues, including through new "situational awareness briefings" to the Security Council. Moreover, the HRUF initiative has improved the UN's operational response, including through the UN Human Rights co-led deployment of multidisciplinary Light Teams, which have political and human rights expertise, that are sent in a preventive mode to situations of concern.

Under the United Nations Development Group's (UNDG) Human Rights Working Group, UN Human Rights developed a strategy for strengthening the human rights leadership of United Nations Resident Coordinators, and also led efforts to update policy guidance and support United Nations Country Teams in meeting the needs of Member States. This included the development of new guidance on the United Nations Development Assistance Framework and common country programming, which identifies human rights as a central principle.

It also included co-chairing a process to develop a principled United Nations Leadership Model that was endorsed by the Chief Executive Board in late 2016, which aims to strengthen the UN's commitment to the values and principles that guide its work. A main focus of inter-agency efforts in 2016 was to provide "thought leadership" on critical challenges for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and identify how human rights can contribute to their implementation. To this end, a "Dialogue Series on Frontier Issues" was co-convened with other UN entities under the auspices of the UNDG's Human Rights Working Group.

An online mandatory course for UN staff on the UN's human rights responsibilities, which was developed by UN Human Rights in coordination with UN partners, provides action-oriented options for UN staff to address situations involving human rights concerns. The Secretary-General instructed all UN staff to complete the course within six months. As of the end of December, the course had been taken by nearly 13,000 UN colleagues, including more than 200 UN Human Rights staff members. This training is an important step in consolidating the cultural change that the HRUF initiative requires.

UN Human Rights engagement at the World Humanitarian Summit

At the World Humanitarian Summit, in May, UN Human Rights pledged it would strengthen its engagement in humanitarian action, including through the delivery of 32 commitments from 2017 to 2019. UN Human Rights made commitments under the following three main outcomes:

- "Uphold the norms that safeguard humanity," which includes commitments aimed at achieving increased compliance with international human rights law and humanitarian law; monitoring and reporting on violations of human rights law and humanitarian law; supporting States in enhancing respect for international human rights law; strengthening advocacy and technical assistance to government representatives and armed forces.
- "Leave no one behind," which includes commitments aimed at supporting the establishment and functioning of protection systems for migrants in humanitarian contexts; supporting and monitoring the inclusion of persons with disabilities in all stages of the humanitarian management cycle; and increasing the responsiveness and integration of women's human rights concerns into the international community's response to humanitarian situations.
- "From delivering aid to ending needs," which includes commitments to ensure that the Office strengthens its engagement and role in humanitarian responses, while supporting national protection mechanisms and their involvement in humanitarian coordination structures. It also includes follow-up on various work streams created by the World Humanitarian Summit and Grand Bargain at the global level; and support for the increased integration of human rights in the plans of States and other actors to address climate change and its adverse impacts, including climate-related disasters and the displacement of persons.

A few examples of the humanitarian work carried out by the Office, in 2016, to fulfil its commitments include:

- At the field level, OHCHR supported the UN humanitarian response to the crisis in Syria (from Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey) and contributed to protection analysis, advocacy and responses in other field presences such as Haiti, Mauritania, Myanmar, the State of Palestine and Ukraine and in the Pacific region.
- At the global level, OHCHR, as co-chair of the Global Protection Cluster Task Team, developed the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Protection Priority, which was endorsed by the IASC Principals in October.
- OHCHR was at the forefront of the development of the Charter on Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action, whose guidelines will be developed in 2017.

The President of the World Federation of the Deaf, Colin Allen, addresses a special session on "Inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action" during the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey, May 2016.
© OCHA/Oktay Çilesiz

Through its commitments, UN Human Rights strives to ensure that human rights protection, in particular for those in vulnerable situations, is central to UN humanitarian programmes and responses. To do so, UN Human Rights intends to further strengthen its engagement in humanitarian action through active participation in humanitarian programmes and processes at the field level; train its staff to better engage in emergency responses; deploy additional capacities, where needed; and advise the humanitarian leadership in relation to human rights protection issues.

Peacebuilding and sustaining peace

At UN Headquarters, OHCHR strengthened its partnership with the Peacebuilding Support Office to ensure the enhanced integration of human rights into the UN's peacebuilding work, processes and activities, in particular in light of the adoption of resolutions, in April, on the review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture by the Security Council (S/RES/2282) and the General Assembly (A/RES/70/262). The Office provided advice on the role of human rights in peacebuilding and sustaining peace; participated in UN peacebuilding fora, like the Senior Peacebuilding Group, the Peacebuilding Contact Group and the Working Group on Transitions; and briefed the Peacebuilding Commission on country-specific situations.

In **Colombia**, UN Human Rights engaged with the UNCT to ensure the incorporation of a HRBA in its work to support the implementation of the Peace Accord. In particular, UN Human Rights worked with FAO, UNODC and WHO, as well as the Ministry of Justice and Law, on a road map for the formulation of a public policy on drugs and to ensure that the implementation of Point 4 of the Peace Accord, "Solution to the Drug Problem," was undertaken with a HRBA. Furthermore, UN Human Rights drafted a document identifying the types of human rights complaints that the Special Political Mission would have to be prepared to address in its deployment and operations. As a result, UN Human Rights and the Mission agreed to focus on the following areas of collaboration regarding human rights issues: personnel screening; orientation on human rights and the human rights context; protocols on human rights cases and situation management, information sharing and reporting; accountability of Mission staff for human rights misconduct, especially relating to sexual exploitation and abuse; population and civil society engagement under the "Do No Harm" principle; and public information.

OHCHR's response to the Syrian crisis

In 2016, despite the lack of access to the Syrian Arab Republic, UN Human Rights continued to work proactively on human rights with regard to Syria through a number of means. Operating from Geneva, Beirut, Amman and Gaziantep, the OHCHR Syria Team actively monitored and reported on violations and abuses of international human rights law and international humanitarian law by all parties to the conflict. UN Human Rights also stepped up its engagement with humanitarian partners at the strategic and operational levels as well as with the Office of the Special Envoy for Syria to ensure adequate integration of human rights in the political process. Building for the future, UN Human Rights expanded its support to Syrian civil society to increase their capacity to report on violations of international law and to strengthen their advocacy efforts. UN Human Rights further developed its role as a facilitator in consultations on options for dealing with the past in the Syrian context. The OHCHR Syria Team works in complementarity with the Independent Commission of Inquiry on Syria as it will with the separate International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism recently established by the General Assembly.

OHCHR's role

UN Human Rights contributed to the results outlined above through a wide variety of means, including extensive advocacy and awareness-raising with government partners and civil society, the provision of technical cooperation and advisory services to regional and national partners and undertaking monitoring and reporting activities. More specifically, it provided technical and secretariat support to the human rights mechanisms; engaged with and supported Member States in their efforts to comply with international human rights norms and standards; provided legal advice and advisory services; and conducted research on thematic issues of concern. Moreover, it provided technical assistance to civil society actors, including groups in vulnerable situations, to support their increased participation in public life and enhance their capacity to claim and defend their rights. Much of the work highlighted above was also achieved through trainings and workshops on various topics, including human rights monitoring and documentation, treaty body and UPR reporting, and human rights standards for judges, prosecutors and police.

The Office further promoted human rights in intergovernmental and inter-agency deliberations and processes, such as the World Humanitarian Summit, the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and the United Nations Summit for Refugees and Migrants, including through advocacy, research, consultations and expert meetings.

In particular, OHCHR's work consists of the following areas of expertise:

Supporting standard setting

UN Human Rights provides the various international human rights mechanisms and bodies with substantive and technical assistance as they undertake their standard setting functions. Specifically, the Office contributes to the normative work of the Human Rights Council, its Advisory Committee and the special procedures. The Office also supports the progressive development of international law by carrying out legal research and providing secretariat assistance to the human rights treaty bodies for the preparation of general comments/general observations and jurisprudence related to individual complaints.

Monitoring and reporting

Through its human rights monitoring work, which is undertaken in accordance with international human rights standards, UN Human Rights collects, verifies and uses information to address human rights concerns. Human rights monitoring includes gathering information about incidents, observing events (elections, trials, demonstrations), and visiting sites, such as indigenous communities, places of detention and refugee camps. The result of OHCHR's monitoring serves as an early warning tool which helps national authorities and other relevant actors to take steps to prevent or mitigate human rights violations. It also provides government authorities and other stakeholders with relevant information to trigger corrective actions and other immediate follow-up.

Technical cooperation and advisory services

Through its technical cooperation activities, UN Human Rights aims to translate international human rights law and principles into practical methods, approaches, procedures and tools to be applied by international, regional and national actors in their human rights work. Technical assistance is provided to facilitate the implementation of and follow-up to recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms; ensure the preparation of reports to these mechanisms in accordance with relevant reporting guidelines; develop and implement training programmes and materials; develop national human rights action plans; build and strengthen national protection structures capable of promoting and protecting human rights; review legislation and policies; and implement human rights indicators. Technical cooperation can take the form of expert advisory services, training courses, workshops and seminars, fellowships, grants, the provision of information and documentation and assessments of domestic human rights needs.

In implementing its technical cooperation work, UN Human Rights collaborates with all relevant stakeholders at the national and regional levels, including civil society, national institutions and representatives of governments, parliaments and the courts.

Advocacy and awareness-raising

Through research, education, public information and advocacy activities, UN Human Rights contributes to the increased awareness and understanding by dif-

OHCHR staff member during a monitoring mission to the Donetsk region in Ukraine. © OHCHR/Ukraine

ferent stakeholders of concrete human rights issues. The Office uses every available opportunity to speak out objectively in the face of human rights violations around the world and to highlight human rights challenges that require the attention of concerned stakeholders and a wider audience.

Advocacy and awareness-raising involves speaking out on behalf of victims; developing and implementing appropriate responses to violations; documenting and sharing good practices and preparing learning tools; reaching out to multiple stakeholders; implementing awareness-raising campaigns on thematic issues or on the occasion of special dates and anniversaries; and facilitating the integration of a human rights perspective into the work of the United Nations as a whole. UN Human Rights fulfils its advocacy and awareness-raising role by maintaining a continuous dialogue with Member States, civil society and other stakeholders. Moreover, the High Commissioner's leading role for human rights is visible and relevant through regular public statements, speeches, opinion articles, country visits, high-level meetings and other key outreach activities. In addition to the traditional media, the Office uses social media platforms to extend its global outreach and engage with a wider audience in order to increase awareness about human rights issues.

Building partnerships

In implementing its mandate to promote and protect human rights, UN Human Rights works in close partnership with numerous stakeholders at the global, regional, national and local levels, both within and outside the United Nations system. Partners include Member States, NHRIs, civil society organizations, the private sector, foundations, regional and international organizations, UN Secretariat departments, UN peace missions and agencies, funds and programmes. In addition, the Office cooperates with the international human rights machinery to find effective ways to work together in order to address global human rights issues. By working with these partners, the Office tries to maximize the impact of its work while making efficient use of its available resources.