

Executive Direction and Management

The High Commissioner for Human Rights, as the principal advocate for human rights in the United Nations system, continued to be the voice for victims of human rights violations worldwide. His global advocacy for the promotion and protection of human rights for all included engaging in dialogue and fostering partnerships with Member States and other relevant stakeholders, such as civil society actors, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), United Nations system entities and regional organizations. Through his country visits, participation in high-level meetings, briefings to the Human Rights Council (HRC) and the Security Council and his public outreach activities (speeches, statements, opinion articles and interviews), the High Commissioner brought attention to the most egregious human rights violations and warned the international community about critical situations. Building on the expertise of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

(OHCHR), both at headquarters and in the field, the High Commissioner ensured that human rights were mainstreamed across the United Nations system. The High Commissioner's leadership role is reinforced by the Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights and the New York-based Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights. The Executive Direction and Management (EDM) provides support to the High Commissioner, the Deputy High Commissioner and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights in their endeavours. It is composed of the Executive Office, the New York Office (NYO), the Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Service (PPMES), the Programme Support and Management Services (PSMS), the External Outreach Service (EOS) (which includes the Communications Section, the Donor and External Relations Section and the Meetings, Documents and Publications Unit) and the Safety and Security Section (SSS).



The High Commissioner for Human Rights addresses the General Assembly on the implementation of human rights instruments, October 2016.
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Executive Office

Background

The Executive Office provides direct support to the High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner in their daily work as well as in their management and strategic leadership of the Office and their interactions with different stakeholders. It ensures that all documentation submitted for their attention is processed in a timely manner and disseminated within the Office for appropriate coordination, consultation and follow-up. The Executive Office also guarantees that OHCHR contributions to UN-system wide processes are timely and well-coordinated, including in relation to the preparation of meetings and the elaboration of joint UN system responses, policies and other documents.

In 2016, the High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner undertook missions to Albania, Austria, Belgium, Canada, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, France, Germany, the Holy See, Honduras, Iraq, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands, Norway, Qatar, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America. The Deputy also visited Sri Lanka and Myanmar as part of Secretary-General's delegation.

Results

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

Throughout the year, the High Commissioner, supported by the Executive Office, advocated for the increased responsiveness of the international community in ensuring accountability for human rights violations and abuses and other international crimes, including at several speaking engagements on accountability, transitional justice and international criminal justice. The Executive Office also assisted the High Commissioner in supporting judicial accountability mechanisms by responding to the significantly increased number of requests from national, regional and international judicial institutions, including the International Criminal Court. OHCHR provided these institutions with relevant information that could be used in investigations and/or court proceedings. Support was similarly provided to the High Commissioner's ongoing efforts to strongly advocate for accountability in cases of sexual exploitation and abuse, particu-



The Deputy High Commissioner briefs journalists on the human rights situation in Iraq at the end of her visit to the country, April 2016. © UN Photo/Elma Okic

larly when committed by members of international forces or UN peacekeeping forces. Special internal protocols were drafted and adopted to ensure the effective reporting of such allegations.

In the course of 2016, the High Commissioner participated in numerous high-level panel debates and informal public discussions. He also delivered more than 100 formal speeches in person, including during his official missions, and via video recordings. The speeches and lectures covered issues such as human rights-based migration governance, the right to development and the 50th anniversary of the International Covenants on Human Rights. In addition, global updates and briefings were given to the Human Rights Council on thematic, regional and country-specific issues of concern.

Global Management Outputs

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

- The Executive Office supported the High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner in ensuring the integration of a gender perspective into the Office's work in accordance with the OHCHR Gender Equality Policy (2011) and the Gender Equality Strategic Plan (2014-2017). This included paying due attention to the representation of women in senior positions at headquarters and in the

field. To this end, a new procedure was institutionalized which involves the review of recruitments to senior posts by the Staff Committee gender focal points. A “Diversity Working Group” was also established with a mandate of pointing the way forward in strengthening gender diversity.

Increased effectiveness in supporting human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- ▶ The Executive Office ensured that the High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner, in their engagements with relevant stakeholders, raised the importance of ratifying the core human rights treaties, engaging with all human rights mechanisms and following up on their recommendations.

The Deputy High Commissioner regularly engaged with the Human Rights Council, including on country-specific issues and by introducing OHCHR’s thematic and country reports. In addition to her speeches at conferences and other events, she delivered statements at a number of Human Rights Council panels, annual discussions and side events, including on topics such as the human rights dimensions of preventing and countering violent extremism, widening the democratic space, women’s human rights and the rights of the child.

New York Office

Background

OHCHR’s New York Office is headed by an Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights. Its principal objective is to integrate a human rights perspective into discussions and decisions made at United Nations Headquarters by engaging with other UN agencies and departments, Member States, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the media. In recent years, a concerted effort has been made to increase OHCHR’s participation in intergovernmental discussions in New York, including in the General Assembly and its various committees and in the Security Council. The NYO works closely with other UN departments and agencies to inform and assist in the development of UN Secretariat and system-wide policies. The Office also provides direct advice and support on human rights-related matters to the Secretary-General and his Executive Office.

The Office leads OHCHR’s global engagement on human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity issues, including through the ongoing UN Free & Equal

public information campaign. It also leads the Office’s engagement with the peace and security pillar, including the peacebuilding architecture, the conflict prevention strategy and the new Sustaining Peace Agenda as adopted in the General Assembly and the Security Council. Furthermore, it co-leads OHCHR’s advocacy for the universal abolition of the death penalty and its work on counter-terrorism and human rights. The NYO is also responsible for providing OHCHR’s support to the Security Council Team of Experts under Security Council resolution 1888 on sexual violence in conflict.

During 2016, OHCHR’s presence in New York was reinforced in order to strengthen its engagement in relation to peace operations and the follow-up to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

In 2016, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights undertook missions to Austria, Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Republic of Moldova, South Sudan and Ukraine.

Results

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

The UN Free & Equal campaign reached 1.5 billion people around the world through its website, social and traditional media. The campaign produced 13 new videos, two fact sheets and, in a first for the UN, the campaign also launched a mini-campaign promoting awareness of the human rights needs of intersex people. National spin-off campaigns and events were organized by UN teams in 25 countries, including Albania, Bhutan, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Fiji, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Peru, Senegal and Sri Lanka. A dedicated micro-campaign



The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights briefs the Security Council on the human rights situation in the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, December 2016. © UN Photo/Manuel Elias

was launched, in October, to raise awareness about abuses that are experienced by intersex children. In addition, a collection of postage stamps was launched, in collaboration with the UN Postal Administration. The collection represented the world's first stamp set dedicated to promoting equality for lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons and generated widespread international media interest. The Office also supported a General Assembly high-level event on the rights of LGBTI persons, which was attended by Heads of State and government representatives. Finally, the NYO 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. In relation to the first General Assembly Summit for Refugees and Migrants, the High Commissioner's statement at the plenary session generated extensive media coverage. The Office also successfully advocated for the inclusion of human rights language in the final declaration, which contains over 100 explicit references to human rights. As a result, human rights is one of the thematic issues that is mentioned in the draft resolution on the negotiation modalities of the proposed Global Compact on migration.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

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

OHCHR undertook a series of activities intended 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. The Office organized a high-level event in New York, in September, which was opened by the Secretary-General and explored the perspective of victims. In addition to this event, the Office issued a new publication, "Death Penalty and the Victims," which highlights recent global academic research on the impact of capital punishment on a broad array of persons. Both activities were intended to meaningfully add to the General Assembly's debate on the biannual resolution on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty. The number of Member States that supported the resolution was 117, the same as in 2014, while the number of those voting against the resolution increased from 37 to 40.

- ▶ *Enhanced coherence and effectiveness of the UN in supporting the rule of law and human rights-compliant counter-terrorism policies (EA 11)*
As a co-chair of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) Working Group on Promot-

ing and Protecting Human Rights and the Rule of Law while Countering Terrorism, OHCHR led the coordination of four meetings in 2016 where UN entities discussed and contributed to the implementation of several human rights projects, including human rights training modules for law enforcement officials in Iraq, Jordan, Nigeria and Tunisia. OHCHR was involved in the development and delivery of the training materials and in the establishment of the methodology of the project, which included the tailoring of materials to each country through context-specific scenarios and exercises. OHCHR participates in ten of the twelve CTITF Working Groups, including the new Working Group on Gender and Violent Extremism.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

- ▶ *Human rights are integrated into the formulation of and follow-up to the Post-2015 Development Agenda (EA 10)*

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 human rights-based approach and by providing inputs to the development of indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals, a human rights-based approach and a gender perspective were incorporated as a single and interconnected principle into the new United Nations Development Assistance Framework guidelines.

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

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

The Office accompanied the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict on missions to Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire and Guinea, and continued to provide technical support to the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict. In Guinea, for example, increased cooperation between the Team of Experts and judicial partners from neighbouring countries resulted in 16 indictments of high-level military officers, the hearings of over 400 victims and witnesses of sexual violence, the arrest of key suspects and the development of a comprehensive reparations strategy for victims. In Colombia, the support provided by OHCHR to the Team of Experts contributed to the inclusion of sexual and gender-based violence considerations and related issues of discrimination in the peace process and the final peace agreement.

- ▶ *Increased responsiveness of the international community to potential, emerging or existing human*

rights crisis situations, with human rights protection as an integral element of this response (EA 10)

As a result of the Office's advocacy and strategic engagement, there is continued interest from the Security Council in receiving human rights information and analysis. In addition to various formal and informal briefings that were delivered by OHCHR senior officials, the Security Council engaged with the special procedures and the treaty bodies in formal and informal meetings. The Office further supported a number of human rights awareness-raising briefings for Security Council members, including eight briefings to the Security Council Informal Expert Group on Women, Peace and Security (two each on Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Iraq and Mali), which were co-organized with UN Women and other agencies, and ensured that key human rights considerations were included in the briefings and the outcome documents. The Office also engaged with system-wide coordination mechanisms relating to women, peace and security issues. In addition to its contribution to the work of the Team of Experts and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict, the Office worked with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Public Affairs to co-organize the annual workshop of Women Protection Advisers, which was held in New York.

Moreover, the field visits of the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights provided advocacy opportunities to address country-specific situations and resulted in the issuing of follow-up recom-

mendations and consolidated cooperation with key stakeholders. In particular, his participation at the African Union (AU) Summit in Addis Ababa, in January, facilitated high-level advocacy on country-specific situations and emphasized the importance of strengthening cooperation between the UN and the AU with regard to human rights. Furthermore, the February visit to Burundi provided an opportunity to encourage Burundian authorities to undertake a series of measures, including the release of detainees arrested in the context of the current crisis who were not involved in violent activities, the withdrawal of related arrest warrants, the authorization of the reopening of private media outlets that were closed following the coup attempt and allowing civil society organizations to resume their suspended activities.

- ▶ *The protection of human rights is an integral part of the international community's preparedness, response and recovery efforts in the context of humanitarian crises and is effectively integrated into the mandates, policies and actions of United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions (EA 11)*

The New York Office stepped up its engagement on peacebuilding matters in a year when the UN was re-evaluating its approach to this subject. 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

UN Free & Equal

Launched in 2013 and led by OHCHR, UN Free & Equal is a global campaign for equal rights and the fair treatment of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) persons. In 2016, the campaign reached 1.5 billion people through its website, and social and traditional media. Highlights included 13 new videos, two fact sheets and, in a first for the UN, a mini-campaign promoting awareness of the human rights needs of intersex people. National spin-off campaigns and events were held in 25 countries including Albania, Bhutan, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Colombia, Fiji, Honduras, Jamaica, Panama, Peru, Senegal and Sri Lanka. In conjunction with the UN Postal Administration, the campaign launched a series of UN Free & Equal postage stamps, the world's first stamp set dedicated to the cause of LGBTI equality. The campaign also supported several high-profile initiatives at United Nations Headquarters in New York, including a rainbow crosswalk that was installed in front of the UN complex in coordination with the opening of the seventy-first session of the General Assembly, in September, and



One of the UN Free & Equal postage stamps launched by OHCHR in conjunction with the UN Postal Administration.
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a high-level meeting which included speakers such as the Secretary-General, the President of Chile, the Prime Minister of Norway and the Vice President of the United States of America.

Security Council (S/RES/2282) and the General Assembly (A/RES/70/262). The Office contributed to this result by providing advice on the role of human rights in peacebuilding and sustaining peace; participating more regularly in UN peacebuilding fora, like the Senior Peacebuilding Group, Peacebuilding Contact Group and the Working Group on Transitions; briefing the Peacebuilding Commission on country-specific situations like Burundi; and engaging in UN inter-agency processes related to peacebuilding. To this end, OHCHR provided substantive inputs to a toolkit on Women's Access to Justice that was developed with UN Women on issues related to legal systems and transitional justice.

Global Management Outputs

Increased effectiveness in supporting human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- ▶ The New York Office provided support to all agenda items related to human rights discussed by the Third Committee of the General Assembly during its 71st session, including on issues pertaining to the human rights treaty body system. The Office also participated in side events that were organized in the context of the General Assembly, such as the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.
- ▶ The New York Office supported the participation in General Assembly meetings of several special procedures and three chairs of the human rights treaty bodies. The Office also provided support to the annual visit of the Coordinating Committee of Special Procedures, in November, including by organizing a meeting between members of the Committee and members of the Security Council. Technical support was also provided to sessions of the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, held in July, and the Working Group on discrimination against women in law and in practice, also held in July.
- ▶ The New York Office provided support to the 28th Meeting of Chairpersons of the Human Rights Treaty Bodies and helped organize briefings on the treaty body strengthening process to Member States, in June and October, respectively.
- ▶ In June, the Office provided support to the 9th Session of the Conference of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which elected nine members to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Office also organized meetings of States Parties to the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and the International Covenant

on Civil and Political Rights, which elected its respective members.

Increased effectiveness in supporting field operations (GMO 5)

- ▶ Through the provision of technical and substantive support, materials and guidance, OHCHR field presences, in all regions, were enabled to monitor and address human rights violations faced by LGBTI persons. OHCHR also finalized the electronic training module on the human rights of LGBTI persons, which was uploaded to UN Women's e-learning platform course, "I Know Gender."

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

- ▶ The New York Office contributed to the awareness and understanding of and support for OHCHR's mission and programme among Member States and other stakeholders by organizing briefings on a number of topics or countries, including on Boko Haram and the Lake Chad Basin, Burundi and South Sudan.
- ▶ Together with UNITAR, OHCHR organized the annual Human Rights Orientation Workshop for New York Diplomats. Over 30 delegates took part in the event.

External Outreach Service

Background

The External Outreach Service is composed of the Communications Section, the Donor and External Relations Section and the Meetings, Documents and Publications Unit.

The Communications Section develops and implements strategies for public information outreach to a broad constituency about the work of OHCHR. The public information output helps the High Commissioner and the Office to draw attention to critical human rights situations, inform rights-holders about their human rights and advocate for the upholding human rights standards. The main functions of the Communications Section include the development and distribution of public information campaigns, the production of print, audiovisual and online outreach materials, interaction with the media, engagement with the public through social media and providing relevant communications support to the Office as a whole, including field presences. The Section coordinates with the United Nations Department of Public Information to

mainstream human rights and strengthen coherence for increased visibility. The Section also works closely with communications officers based in field presences. Nevertheless, the communications capacity of the Office outside of headquarters is limited and unbalanced among all regions, which consequently impacts on OHCHR's global visibility.

The Donor and External Relations Section (DEXREL) has the primary responsibility for mobilizing adequate financial resources to enable OHCHR to implement its programme of work by building robust relationships with existing donors and exploring further funding opportunities with potential donors. In addition to mobilizing funds, negotiating and managing a large number of contribution agreements, organizing and servicing numerous meetings, briefings and consultations with donors, the Section serves as an entry point to Member States and others seeking general information on OHCHR's current work, future priorities and funding needs.

The Meetings, Documents and Publications Unit (MDPU) prepares and maintains the calendar of official OHCHR meetings, monitors the implementation of the Office's reporting obligations, prepares the document forecasts and channels all OHCHR documents for onward processing, including editing. MDPU is also responsible for the OHCHR publications programme. It organizes the meetings of the Publications Committee, advises on publishing and design, processes manuscripts and distributes publications around the world.

Global Management Outputs

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

- ▶ Gender integration is highlighted as a standard and priority in the OHCHR Publications Policy. In implementing the Policy, gender equality and women's empowerment continued to be promoted and applied at each phase of the publishing process, from the conceptualization and planning stages to the development of methodology and content, during peer review and throughout the vetting process undertaken by the OHCHR Publications Committee and in the final steps of editing and production.

Increased effectiveness in supporting human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- ▶ The Communications Section contributed to the increased visibility of the international human rights mechanisms. Coverage of the work of the special procedures became more manageable during the last three months of the year due to additional temporary editorial assistance. In 2016, OHCHR

issued 461 media communications, including advisories and press releases, relating to the work of the special procedures and 313 relating to the work of the human rights treaty bodies. Furthermore, a project was launched to increase the engagement of the special rapporteurs on social media, thereby strengthening the Office's news outreach, advocacy and campaigning.

- ▶ DEXREL helped to secure additional funding for the UN human rights mechanisms through ongoing engagement with donors. As a result, donors increased their contributions from US\$6 million in 2015 to almost US\$9 million in 2016 in order to enable OHCHR to continue providing support to the human rights mechanisms and to specific special procedures mandate holders. Contributions were also made to the mechanisms and dedicated trust funds, including the UPR trust funds and the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the work of the Human Rights Council, by Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Canada, Chile, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Republic of Korea, Kuwait, Morocco, Saudi Arabia, Switzerland, Turkey, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America, as well as other donors.
- ▶ MDPU provided in-session support to the Human Rights Council during its three sessions in 2016. MDPU also sent out reminders to submitting officers ahead of the document submission deadlines for the Human Rights Council. Over the coming sessions, MDPU will continue to monitor whether these reminders have had a consistent positive impact on submission compliance in an effort to move towards the 90 per cent target set out in the High Commissioner's Compact.

Increased effectiveness in supporting field operations (GMO 5)

- ▶ DEXREL continued to support OHCHR's field presences by advocating for renewed and additional funding for activities implemented at the country level. OHCHR field presences received support and advice on fundraising with donors at the country level, including regarding the negotiation of specific funding arrangements. This led to an increase of 3.1 per cent in funds received for fieldwork (US\$53.1 million in 2016 compared to US\$51.5 million in 2015).
- ▶ MDPU maintained and updated a centralized online repository of in-progress and completed English and local language publications produced by field presences. The repository raised awareness about the variety of materials that have been published outside of Geneva, fostered coherence within the OHCHR publishing programme and encouraged policy compliance.

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

- ▶ On Human Rights Day, OHCHR launched the campaign “Stand up for someone’s rights today” to encourage and amplify what people do in their everyday life to defend human rights. An interactive microsite, www.standup4humanrights.org, was developed, which features calls to action and requests that users take an online pledge to promote and protect the human rights of others. By the end of 2016, over 5,000 people had taken the pledge. The site also features online space that is dedicated to stories submitted by the public. As of the end of the year, more than 50,000 contributions had been received and the site had received 90,000 views by 43,000 users from 197 countries.
- ▶ The “Stand up for someone’s rights today” campaign was also launched through other events. The High Commissioner took part in a Facebook Live session and answered questions posed by hundreds of participants from around the world. The event was viewed by more than 100,000 people and received more than 6,000 comments. Geneva’s iconic Jet d’eau was lit up with blue lights at night, photo booths and social media stands were set up in various sites around Geneva and in the lobby of UN Headquarters in New York and a number of activities were organized by the UN and the global human rights community around the world.
- ▶ Other campaigns were organized to support the increased understanding of OHCHR’s work by different audiences. For instance, at the World Humanitarian Summit, a stand was set up to disseminate OHCHR’s work in emergency situations; a campaign was launched, in June, to mark the 10th anniversary of the Human Rights Council; a photo exhibition by Italian photographer Oliviero Toscani, “Razza Umana,” was presented at the Palais des Nations. In October, the exhibition was featured on billboards along the promenade of Geneva’s Lac Lemman.
- ▶ In 2016, the visibility of the Office in the media increased with 28,800 referencing articles. The addition of a Media Officer has led to an increase in the production of media products. Over the year, 944 media products were issued, including press briefing notes, news releases and advisories, 186 statements, speeches and op-eds were published and contributions were made to speeches delivered by the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General.
- ▶ OHCHR reached more than 5 million followers through 45 social media accounts, including its English-language central accounts (1.55 million on Twitter, 1.71 million on Facebook, 95,000 on Instagram) as well as those managed at the field level. The Office also transitioned its message to a new generation of social media that is designed for mobile platforms and driven by visual imagery, such as Snapchat and Instagram. In addition, a new series of Facebook Live sessions were launched to answer the public’s questions about various human rights issues. As a result, social media is quickly becoming the Office’s lead tool for public engagement.
- ▶ After the re-design of OHCHR’s homepage in 2015, the Office began developing a web governance framework and a content inventory and strategy. It also selected a new Content Management System that is better suited for public websites and in line with UN practice. Work also started on the design of a new website for the Human Rights Council, which is expected to be launched in mid-2017.
- ▶ The Office continued to increase its video production. In 2016, a total of 115 videos were produced or repackaged, including 22 video stories, 62 YouTube video interviews and three promotional videos, including a fundraising video for the Burundi office, a video commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Human Rights Council and another commemorating the 30th anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development. Furthermore, 30 video messages were filmed and edited featuring the High Commissioner, the Deputy High Commissioner, senior OHCHR staff members and special rapporteurs. The videos were distributed through various channels, including social media platforms, the Office’s YouTube channel (which has more than 14,000 subscribers), the UN Audiovisual Library (UNIFEED) and traditional television media outlets through the European Broadcasting Union.
- ▶ DEXREL worked to generate broad based support for OHCHR within the donor community. In addition to appealing to potential donors, the Section negotiated new agreements, followed up on contributions received and served as the focal point for Member States and others seeking information on OHCHR’s needs, activities and priorities. Under its leadership, and with an office-wide effort to reach out to donors in 2016, a total of US\$129.5 million was raised in extrabudgetary contributions, representing an increase of 2.9 per cent compared to 2015 (US\$126.8 million). While this can be considered a significant improvement in the current economic climate, it should be noted that some of the contributions received during the year were earmarked for new and/or additional activities rather than the regular work detailed in the 2016 Annual Appeal and others were one-time, non-recurring contributions.
- ▶ The proportion of unearmarked funding increased slightly to 38 per cent (up from 37 per cent in 2015) of total income received. The Office received more earmarked contributions due to ongoing efforts to attract more local funding for field activities and by tapping into non-traditional budget lines from which donors can provide earmarked funds.

- ▶ Contributions from Member States remained stable with just under US\$111 million, compared to US\$105.9 million in 2015. These contributions represented 85.6 per cent of the income received by the Office in 2016. During the year, 65 Member States made contributions to OHCHR, compared to 62 in 2015. In spite of the High Commissioner's repeated appeals to broaden the donor base, no Member States pledged funds for the first time. While almost all of the countries from the Western Group (24) contributed in 2016, only seven of the 33 States in the Latin American Group made a contribution. In the Asian Group, 16 out of 54 Member States contributed, as was the case in 2015. The Eastern European and African Groups saw some slight increases in comparison to 2015, with 13 of 23 Eastern European Member States contributing (compared to 9 in 2015) and five of the 54 African Member States (compared to 3 in 2015).
- ▶ DEXREL also explored new funding avenues with existing and potential donors. For instance, the Section managed to secure additional resources for joint submissions with UN partners and through its participation in pooled funds, such as the UNDP-managed Multi-Partner Trust Funds (MPTFs). Total funds received through the MPTFs, however, continued to decrease in 2016. The funds amounted to US\$5.7 million, representing a decrease from US\$6.3 million received in 2015).
- ▶ DEXREL's support to field presences was instrumental in increasing the funds raised in the field to approximately US\$21.2 million, compared to US\$20.5 million received in 2015. Following the deployment of a DEXREL staff member to Brussels in 2014, consistent engagement with the European Commission has resulted in an increase in OHCHR's participation in calls for proposals. In 2016, a total of 57 calls were reviewed, 21 of which were shared with OHCHR colleagues on the basis that the Office was eligible to participate and the objectives of the calls matched those of OHCHR's plans and programmes. Eventually, two submissions from the field were made and one of those was successful and resulted in the project being funded. In 2016, two other projects were funded by the European Commission, which arose from submissions to calls for proposals issued in 2015.
- ▶ In 2016, the Office concluded its first strategic partnership with a major corporation, namely, Microsoft. The partnership will span five years and cover areas such as digital rights, business and human rights, innovation, outreach and collaboration on themes of mutual concern, including LGBTI rights, freedom of expression and discrimination. Microsoft pledged US\$5 million to OHCHR for these activities, which will be implemented in line with an agreed workplan. Support was also provided to the



The Jet d'Eau in Geneva, Switzerland, lit up with blue lights to mark Human Rights Day and the launch of the "Stand up for someone's rights today" campaign. © OHCHR

- High Commissioner and other senior managers for their meetings with private sector contacts, which included the High Commissioner's attendance at the World Economic Forum in Davos.
- ▶ Some headway has been made on the mobile application developed for outreach and fundraising purposes. The app was finalized and published on the Apple and Google stores, in October. As of the end of the year, more than 1,000 individuals had downloaded the app from the two platforms.
- ▶ The number of individual donations made through OHCHR's website has been steadily increasing. Close to US\$1,000 was raised each month and additional donations were made during peak events, such as Human Rights Day and the International Day against Torture. An external consultant with expertise in digital communications was hired to analyse how OHCHR could better leverage its brand and communication in the digital sphere. The results of the study will be presented in 2017 and it is expected that a recommendation will be forthcoming to establish a dedicated capacity in EOS to work on digital outreach and fundraising.
- ▶ In 2016, DEXREL organized 33 donor consultations and briefings for Member States, including the launch of the OHCHR Report 2015 by the High Commissioner, on 31 May, and its technical briefing, on 5 July. Through these meetings, and with the support of senior managers and OHCHR colleagues, DEXREL sought to increase the awareness of Member States about the Office's work, plans, achievements, outputs and funding requirements.
- ▶ OHCHR sustained the breadth and high quality of its electronic and printed materials, which promoted the work and knowledge of human rights experts and supported the High Commissioner in his advocacy on human rights issues and challenges. OHCHR distributed, from headquarters alone, over 60,000 printed publications and other materials worldwide for their use in meetings, conferences and trainings and to stock libraries and

resource centres. Furthermore, the Office recorded over 4.7 million downloads of publications from the OHCHR website. The Office boosted its online presence by continually updating and issuing a digital catalogue of publications and e-products, comprehensive publication lists and order forms in multiple languages. Quarterly notification e-mails of new titles were sent to organizational contacts and networks. Social media platforms were used to publicize and market OHCHR publications to all audiences.

Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Service

Background

The Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Service continues to lead OHCHR's efforts to become a fully results-based organization. It supports the entire Office and is central to turning the High Commissioner's strategic vision into actionable priorities and operational plans, policies and procedures. By working with the entire Office in a service-oriented approach, PPMES ensures that implementation efforts are monitored, results are evaluated and lessons learned are identified and factored into planning and programming processes.

Global Management Outputs

OHCHR strategic decisions are implemented in a timely manner (GMO 1)

- ▶ In June, the Committee for Programme Coordination approved the 2018-2019 Strategic Framework of OHCHR, by consensus. PPMES contributed to the drafting of the document, coordinated consultations with Member States and presented the document to the Committee.
- ▶ In preparation for the development of the OHCHR Management Plan (OMP) for 2018-2021, PPMES presented a background paper to senior managers on adjustments to the programming architecture and a timeline for the process. It also commissioned an update of the academic review on emerging trends that was initially prepared four years ago and will serve as an input to the development of the new OMP.
- ▶ Following the 2015 establishment of the Policy Advisory Group (PAG), PPMES coordinated the finalization of the body's terms of reference and working methods. Throughout 2016, the PAG met on a weekly basis, which provided a forum for senior managers to exchange views on policy-related matters.
- ▶ Likewise, the terms of reference of the Senior Management Team (SMT) were reviewed in 2016. The SMT met 12 times and made decisions related to the Change Initiative and wider policy issues (i.e., the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms, engagement with resident coordinators, innovation, internal communication and fundraising).
- ▶ The Programme and Budget Review Board (PBRB), which is also serviced by PPMES, held nine in-person and 14 virtual meetings to monitor expenditures, resource mobilization and human resources; manage the financial sustainability of the Office; and oversee the implementation of its decisions. In 2016, its terms of reference were amended to include the review of the implementation of recommendations that were issued during evaluation and audit processes.
- ▶ In view of the preparation of workplans for 2017, the PBRB agreed on the thematic areas of enhanced focus and decided to strengthen the critical administrative and outreach functions of OHCHR. This could lead to good financial returns in the medium term.
- ▶ Programmatic proposals submitted for PBRB review showed an increase in the implementation of the results-based management (RBM) principles. In addition, a peer review process was established to determine the RBM compliance of all 2017 workplans submitted for PBRB consideration. PPMES facilitated the increased use of RBM principles through ongoing advice and the review of proposals.
- ▶ Progress was made regarding the application of RBM principles to monitoring. For example, the OHCHR Report 2015 highlighted the progress made towards the achievement of the thematic results and global management outputs and indicated that progress was also made towards the achievement of OHCHR's targets for the programming cycle. PPMES supported the preparation of the OHCHR Report by providing feedback and guidance to colleagues on RBM-related issues when they reported on results achieved.
- ▶ Progress made in relation to RBM enabled the Office to use the data gathered through its Performance Monitoring System to inform strategic decision-making. PPMES analyzed the data on the progress made towards the achievement of outputs and thematic expected accomplishments across the Office and presented its findings during a Strategic Leadership retreat, in January.
- ▶ In relation to the 2016 end-of-year reports, PPMES released revised indicator protocols, including for global management outputs, which contributed to more focused reporting against targets.

- ▶ Regarding the Performance Monitoring System, a number of screens and modules were updated and others were developed. For the 2016 end-of-year reports, changes were implemented to allow for the collection of additional facts and data that can be used for external reporting and the development of visual materials, such as infographics. Other updates focused on making the system more user-friendly. As an example, the system now features a dashboard, which provides a visual indication of key data related to the status of output implementation and progress reported under OHCHR's thematic priorities.
- ▶ In terms of evaluation, the follow-up action plan for the evaluation of national human rights institutions was submitted to the PBRB, as was an update of the plans being implemented for the evaluation of the Regional Office for Central Asia and the Country Programme Review in Mexico. The evaluation of human rights advisers and the Country Programme Review for Uganda were finalized this year and two more evaluations were initiated as part of the evaluation plan for the biennium 2016-2017, namely, the evaluation of the finalized Maya Programme in Guatemala and the evaluation of the regional gender advisers structure. The development of evaluation methodological tools and guidance continued, including through the participation in the United Nations Evaluation Group. The new UN system-wide norms and standards for evaluation now include a norm on human rights and gender equality and the new evaluation competency framework integrates human rights and gender perspectives.

Organizational work processes and structures are aligned for increased efficiency (GMO 2)

- ▶ PPMES supported and facilitated the work of the internal task forces established to define the proposed structural and functional changes within the context of the Change Initiative. The consultative process contributed to increasing the ownership of the issued recommendations, most of which are pending review and approval by the General Assembly. With regard to the 2016 review of the Change Initiative that was undertaken by the Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions and the Fifth Committee, PPMES coordinated the preparation of the report and developed key messages, questions and answers and strategies for engagement with Member States.
- ▶ PPMES facilitated the office-wide Task Force to review the trust funds managed by OHCHR. The Task Force, established at the end of 2015 and composed of 14 staff members, gathered all rel-

evant data regarding each trust fund managed by the Office; undertook a workload analysis for each of the trust funds and reviewed their work streams in order to provide evidence-based views and recommendations. The recommendations included a proposal on better integrating the work of the trust funds into OHCHR's programme and the establishment of a Trust Fund Management Unit, which could lead to increased efficiency and savings.

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

- ▶ Particular attention has been paid to the integration of a gender perspective into OHCHR's planning. All guidelines for OHCHR's programming documents provide instructions on how to integrate a gender perspective. The Performance Monitoring System now integrates a binary gender marker so that all planned activities which feature gender equality as the main focus are clearly indicated.

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

- ▶ PPMES contributed to a number of briefings for Member States, both in Geneva and in New York, including on the proposed regional restructuring of OHCHR.

Efficient management of human and financial resources (GMO 8)

- ▶ With the deployment of Umoja, finance and programme officers will be able to access financial data from units and field presences in real-time. To ensure efficient programme implementation, there is a need for access to programmatic information in OHCHR's Performance Monitoring System. PPMES contributed to a UN Secretariat-wide project that will present this information in a dashboard. A beta version of the dashboard is being reviewed. In the context of Umoja implementation, the UN will develop a solution for budget formulation, which will include processes of strategic planning, the formulation of results-based budgets, programme monitoring and evaluation, reporting and the publication of budget documents. OHCHR is actively involved in the project and, in 2016, seconded a PPMES staff member for two months to review different solutions for strategic planning, performance monitoring and evaluation. During this phase, OHCHR helped to ensure that the proposed system follows an RBM approach and that the end product will allow for transparent planning and monitoring processes.



Promotional material prepared for the “Stand up for someone’s rights today” campaign. © OHCHR

Programme Support and Management Services

Background

The Programme Support and Management Services provides administrative functions within the Office. Staff members handle budget and financial management, recruitment and human resources management, procurement, asset management and general logistical support to field activities, information technology and staff development and training. PSMS has an overall view of the resources of the Office and is consequently in charge of monitoring, coordinating and maximizing the use of those resources.

The transition to Umoja continued to present great challenges for PSMS. Although the new system is nominally self-service for OHCHR staff members, they still required considerable assistance from PSMS to complete simple administrative processes. Umoja also introduced changed responsibilities, additional functionalities and new requirements, which required PSMS to provide intensive training. The planned and ad hoc training requirements added to an already heightened workload. The introduction of the new UN Secretariat Staff Selection and Mobility System, applicable to human rights positions, led to further changes and required intensive interaction and coordination within OHCHR and the Office of Human Resources Management in New York.

Global Management Outputs

Organizational work processes and structures are aligned for increased efficiency (GMO 2)

- ▶ The introduction of Umoja, and the changes it necessitated in internal procedures, required the continued allocation of PSMS’s time to the necessary training programmes and the management of client expectations.
- ▶ By implementing a Digital Secretariat, PSMS created a number of extranet pages that enable internal and external stakeholders to concurrently work on documents in a secure, paperless environment. This new feature is used, for instance, by the human rights treaty bodies, which often post these documents on their extranet pages, in the various UN official languages, instead of distributing physical copies of documents at their sessions. This has dramatically reduced the need for paper copies.
- ▶ The implementation of an organization-wide records management system is an ongoing activity. The retention schedules for the Human Rights Treaties Division (HRTD), the Human Rights Council Branch (HRCB) and the Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division were finalized and reviewed. The configuration of the file plan in the Unite Docs system was completed for HRTD and HRCB and 90 per cent of HRTD’s content was successfully migrated. Regular training sessions were held, especially for users of the new system, and several advisory sessions were organized to help users become familiar with the file plan. Additionally, the final draft of the Access Policy was completed.

ed and submitted to management for its review. To date, OHCHR has the largest content in the Unite Docs system and has worked diligently with the Project Team in New York to improve on the delivery and user-friendliness of the system. The system enables the Office to store all of its records in a common repository, regardless of geographical location and without compromising security.

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

- ▶ The online course, “I Know Gender,” is included in the orientation for new OHCHR staff members and is facilitated by PSMS. It also provided guidance and support on integrating a gender aspect into recruitments and promotions, in line with Secretariat policies and within the Office’s authority under the new Staff Selection and Mobility System.

Increased effectiveness in supporting field operations (GMO 5)

- ▶ PSMS worked with field offices and the Umoja team to progressively integrate OHCHR activities in the field into the Umoja system.
- ▶ In collaboration with UNDP, PSMS managed to convert the contracts of many of the local UNDP-administered staff members to continuing appointments. This introduced a level of stability to the field offices and boosted staff morale. UNDP is now providing monthly updates from its ATLAS database so that OHCHR has a better overview of local staff with UNDP appointments.
- ▶ PSMS continued to support field offices in terms of information technology by, for instance, contributing to the development of a new national recommendations tracking database.
- ▶ Peer-to-peer learning opportunities on various topics were made available as podcasts on the OHCHR intranet site to ensure that all field colleagues had access to the same learning opportunities.

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

- ▶ PSMS contributed to enhancing the skills and competencies of OHCHR staff through mandatory trainings, the upgrading of substantive skills, peer learning activities, in-house trainings and coaching. During 2016, more than 147 staff members attended trainings organized by PSMS. It also supported access to learning opportunities for field-based staff members through the promotion of the new learning platform entitled Lynda.com.

- ▶ A total of 42 new staff members benefited from a two-day orientation programme on the mandate, strategy and functioning of OHCHR. A gender perspective was included in the 2016 orientation programme.

Efficient management of human and financial resources (GMO 8)

- ▶ While preparations for Umoja required a great deal of time and effort in the human resources management area, PSMS also concentrated on providing continued support to the Office with Inspira, the Secretariat’s portal for the recruitment of staff, consultants and interns and for performance management. The introduction of Umoja generated a number of new processes. This required adjustments regarding the procedures for selection and onboarding of recruited staff.
- ▶ As the financial reporting module of Umoja is not yet functional, the production of numerous financial reports for donors has been extremely labour intensive, particularly due to the increased tendency of donors to earmark their voluntary contributions with corresponding separate financial reporting requirements.
- ▶ The system for financial management in the field (the MAYA system) has been implemented in all field offices in Latin America with the exception of the Honduras Office where implementation is planned to begin in 2017. Until Umoja is rolled-out to field presences, the MAYA system will be maintained to provide the offices with a means of better managing their financial implementation and to enable them to follow up on the status of their financial requests made to UNDP.
- ▶ In 2016, PSMS certified approximately 4,000 travel requests and expense reports. With the roll-out of Umoja, the number of travel requests to be certified increased considerably as many requests are now initiated in field presences while the corresponding certification is still done in Geneva. This trend is likely to continue as the processing of travel via UNDP in the field will be phased out in the near future. PSMS provided briefings and training on the Umoja travel module to staff members and provided them with support and guidance on a daily basis.
- ▶ PSMS also focused on the implementation of the procurement and property management modules of Umoja. PSMS staff members reviewed more than 260 procurements in Geneva and 130 procurements in the field. The increase in the procurement authority from US\$4,000 to US\$10,000 and the phasing out of procurement processing via UNDP will increase the workload of PSMS.

Safety and Security Section

Background

The Safety and Security Section coordinates the security of OHCHR's global operations, staff and assets in close coordination with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security and in accordance with established UN Security Management System policies, guidelines and security risk management practices. At the operational level, the Section provides technical supervision and assistance on policies, procedures and minimum operating security standards for all staff, field presences and activities and manages the global security clearance and travel advisory service. The Section is an integral part of the OHCHR support mechanism to Human Rights Council activities, such as fact-finding missions and commissions of inquiry, and is also responsible for coordinating UN security management system coverage for officials and experts, including representatives of the human rights treaty bodies, working groups, special rapporteurs and commissioners, who are travelling on behalf of OHCHR. It further participates in system-wide policymaking fora on security to ensure that human rights

are mainstreamed into staff security policies and procedures that are applicable to all UN agencies, funds and programmes.

Global Management Outputs

Increased effectiveness in supporting human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- ▶ Based on detailed security concepts of operations and security risk assessments that were developed in accordance with the UN security management system policies, the Safety and Security Section supported 48 field missions in 2016, including 21 visits by the special procedures (compared to 16 in 2015) and 27 missions by commissions of inquiry, fact-finding and/or monitoring missions and visits of the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (compared to 28 in 2015).

Increased effectiveness in supporting field operations (GMO 5)

- ▶ The Security Section continued to deploy security officers to the field in relation to missions covering several countries and to conduct security assessment and coordination missions in connection with field operations. In 2016, the Section supported 57 elevated risk field missions, compared to 50 in 2015.

Research and Right to Development Division

Background

The Research and Right to Development Division (RRDD) conducts thematic research and contributes to policy development and the mainstreaming of human rights across the work of the United Nations, develops tools and learning packages and provides expertise on human rights themes to many stakeholders, as mandated by the Human Rights Council (HRC), the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council, as well as in accordance with internationally agreed development goals. The Division also leads efforts to advance the right to development in accordance with the mandate of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to “promote and protect the realization of the right to development and to enhance support from relevant bodies of the United Nations system

for this purpose.” RRDD undertakes human rights research and advocacy work and contributes to country-level implementation through the provision of advisory services, legal and policy reviews and capacity-development, which is often undertaken by field presences of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

The Division’s main functions are:

- ▶ Providing expert advice on thematic issues and support in relation to the High Commissioner’s global leadership role of spearheading advocacy on thematic human rights issues: RRDD responded to all of OHCHR’s six thematic priorities for the period 2014-2017 in terms of providing advice and undertaking research, advocacy and capacity-development activities. RRDD took the lead in the



Former Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon addresses a special session on “People with disabilities in humanitarian action” during the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul, Turkey, May 2016. © UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

implementation of Global Management Output (GMO) 3, which requires that a “gender perspective is effectively integrated into all OHCHR policies, programmes and processes.” It also contributed to the enhancement of staff skills (GMO 6) through the application of a human rights methodology.

- ▶ Undertaking policy and methodology development: This is the “how to” of human rights work, namely, translating international human rights law and principles into practical methods, approaches, standards, procedures and tools for application in the human rights work that is being carried out by OHCHR and other UN, international and national actors. The Human Rights up Front (HRUF) Action Plan required considerable OHCHR participation.
- ▶ Integrating all human rights into the work related to development, peace and security, humanitarian affairs and economic and social affairs: One of RRDD’s functions is to promote the integration of human rights into all policy, management and operational work of the UN, thereby strengthening its overall normative and operational linkages. This is primarily being undertaken in the course of OHCHR’s work with the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), in connection with the HRUF Action Plan, through participation with inter-agency groups during meetings and through bilateral cooperation with agencies and programmes, including UN Women, UNESCO, FAO, WHO, ILO and United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs). Since 2016, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda have provided the relevant frameworks for this work.
- ▶ Promoting and implementing human rights education and training: RRDD contributes to increased knowledge and an understanding of human rights issues through education and training, the development of materials, policies, methodologies and programmes and the provision of training, advice and coordination related to the Plan of Action for the Third Phase (2015-2019) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education.
- ▶ Providing support to international human rights mechanisms: RRDD supports the international human rights mechanisms and provides substantive input and organizational assistance to the HRC.

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

The interactive world maps that indicate the ratification of international human rights instruments, which OHCHR developed and regularly updates, have helped to highlight the universal approach of OHCHR’s work while also emphasizing the human rights commitments of States and their cooperation with international human rights mechanisms.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

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 OHCHR in cooperation with various partners. Furthermore, the advocacy undertaken by OHCHR 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. The guidelines will ensure that the task team includes a human rights perspective in its work. In April, OHCHR, the African Union (AU) and UN Women issued a joint report on the state of women’s rights in Africa. The report outlined progress that has been made and offered recommendations for further action in order to close 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. In cooperation with the Organization of American States, OHCHR began work to develop a tool to help promote and measure racial equality, taking into account the goals and targets outlined in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, with a particular focus on the reduction of inequality. In support of this initiative, OHCHR prepared an overarching study on good practices and challenges for Latin American and Caribbean States in implementing human rights standards and measuring the impact of their public policies related to racism and racial discrimination.

- ▶ *National human rights institutions and civil society create and support participatory mechanisms to enhance equality and counter discrimination (EA 5)* Twenty-four journalists from the Russian Federation and Ukraine improved their understanding of human rights norms and principles after OHCHR organized a workshop, in September, on “The Role of the Media in Preventing and Combating National, Racial or Religious Hatred that Constitutes Incitement to Discrimination, Hostility or Violence.” The event, which



Participants of the 2016 Annual OHCHR Fellowship Programme for People of African Descent. © OHCHR

was held in Geneva, under the auspices of the Russian and Ukrainian Unions of Journalists, enabled participants to discuss practical ideas about their ongoing projects and focus on the development of online platforms for combating incitement to hatred in the media.

OHCHR organized a series of events 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 enhance an environment in stadiums that discourages discrimination. Participants agreed on a number of practical recommendations that should be followed up on by all relevant stakeholders.

The 2016 Annual OHCHR Fellowship Programme for People of African Descent was held from 21 November to 9 December 2016. Ten participants (all women) from Barbados, Brazil, Canada, Jamaica, Spain, Switzerland, the United States of America and Venezuela attended the three-week event. The Fellowship Programme provided participants with a learning opportunity to enrich 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 at the national level, 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. In the past six years, a total of 49 individ-

uals of African descent from around the world have participated in the Programme.

- ▶ *Increased integration of human rights into international and regional processes relevant to migration (EA 10)*

At the 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 OHCHR in taking steps to alleviate the situation of vulnerable migrants and advancing a global compact on safe migration over the next two years. This is the first time that the issue of migration has been included in the formal agenda of the UN. In the period prior to, during and after the Summit, OHCHR collaborated with civil society and Member States to organize a number of multi-stakeholder strategic discussions, in New York and Geneva, on a range of issues related to the protection and promotion of the human rights of migrants in large movements and in vulnerable situations.

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *National justice systems established and functioning in accordance with international human rights norms and standards and increasingly apply these norms and standards, including economic, social and cultural rights (EA 1)*

In recognizing how harmful gender bias can translate into an obstacle to women’s access to justice, OHCHR 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 (i.e., Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Rwanda, Uganda and United Republic of Tanzania) and steps were taken to institutionalize these trainings (i.e., Guatemala). OHCHR also worked to strengthen the capacities of prosecutors to integrate a gender perspective into all phases of investigations of gender-related killings in Latin America, including through the development and piloting of an online course (available at <http://escuelapnud.org/iniciativas/ohchr/index.php>).

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

OHCHR enhanced awareness through advocacy efforts and the provision of legal and policy advice on death penalty-related issues with regard to: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Botswana, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Malawi, Maldives, Mauritania, Pakistan, Philippines, Saudi Arabia,

Bridging health and human rights

In 2016, OHCHR emphasized the importance of ensuring stronger linkages between the health and human rights communities. As the master of ceremonies for the closing session of the Women Deliver Conference, and through her participation in numerous other sessions, the Deputy High Commissioner provided a key voice, insisting on the centrality of human rights for improving the health of women and girls. Women Deliver is the largest global gathering on women's health and rights, bringing together over 6,000 people from a wide variety of backgrounds. The objective of the discussions was to contribute to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and ensure that this ambitious agenda fully serves women and girls.

Shortly after the Women Deliver Conference, OHCHR further demonstrated its commitment to ensuring an

integrated approach to health and human rights when it collaborated with the World Health Organization to co-establish the High-level Working Group on Health and Human Rights. The Working Group aims to generate high-level political support, at both the national and international levels, for the implementation of human rights-related measures to ensure the health of women, children and adolescents. The Group is co-chaired by former President of Finland, Ms. Tarja Halonen and leading human rights expert, Ms. Hina Jilani from Pakistan, a member of The Elders. Renowned humanitarian, Dr. Denis Mukwege of the Democratic Republic of Congo, will serve as the lead rapporteur for the Group. The Working Group's report will be presented to the World Health Assembly and the Human Rights Council in 2017.

Sri Lanka, Turkey, the United States of America and Zimbabwe. In some instances, these activities contributed to changing the attitudes of national authorities regarding the use of the death penalty. For example, authorities in Afghanistan announced the review of all death penalty cases; the Kenyan government commuted all death sentences and carried out public consultations on the use of the death penalty; and Belarus established a parliamentary committee to review the use of the death penalty.

- ▶ *Counter-terrorism legal frameworks, policies, strategies and institutions increasingly aligned with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

Following the November regional conference on Gender and Preventing and Countering Violent Extremism, which was jointly organized by OHCHR and

the African Union Peace and Security Department, the AU has been working closely with the Office to integrate gender into its programmes to counter violent extremism, including the development of a module on "Gender Dimensions of Criminal Justice Responses to Terrorism and Preventing Violent Extremism." The module will produce synergies with other AU training programmes that are being implemented at the national level on countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism. OHCHR is also supporting the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights in the development of guidelines for States on gender and preventing violent extremism.

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

OHCHR advised on the design, establishment and functioning of transitional justice processes from a human rights perspective in the Central African Republic, Colombia, Guinea, Libya, Mali, Nepal, South Sudan, the Sudan (Darfur), Sri Lanka and Tunisia. In addition, OHCHR supported a mapping exercise that was conducted by the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in the Central African Republic on serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law committed in the country since 2003. The findings of the mapping project will inform the establishment and functioning of future transitional justice initiatives. In Sri Lanka, OHCHR provided support to the national consultation process on transitional justice, in particular on the design, establishment and functioning of transitional justice mechanisms. It further supported national stakeholders in the Central African



Detail of the poster of the High-level event "The death penalty and victims" co-organized by the Permanent Missions of Argentina, France and Italy and OHCHR in New York, September 2016.
© UN Photo/Manuel Elias

Republic and Sri Lanka to put in place effective and credible frameworks for the protection of victims and witnesses, for the provision of assistance to victims of sexual violence and to ensure their participation in the development of reparation efforts in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guatemala, the Sudan (Darfur) and Tunisia.

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

The 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, which includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 related targets, is of vital importance as it will determine the direction of global and national policy for the next 15 years. The Agenda contains a collective promise to “leave no one behind,” to eliminate discrimination, reduce inequalities within and between countries and ensure that targets are met for all, with a special focus on those who are the furthest behind. The implementation of the Agenda will provide new avenues to mainstream all human rights into global and national development policies across the world. In 2016, OHCHR’s main focus was to develop a set of tools that will support the implementation of the Agenda in accordance with human rights norms, standards and principles. In addition, OHCHR and UN Women co-led a UN system-wide process to develop a framework to combat inequality and discrimination and support Member States in their efforts in this regard. The UN Chief Executive Board endorsed the framework in late 2016.

The adoption of the Paris Agreement of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC), in December 2015, marked the first time that a universal, binding climate agreement explicitly referenced human rights. This opened additional space and a demand for OHCHR’s work on human rights, climate change and the environment. This resulted in the Office’s participation in and organization of a number of related events, activities and negotiating processes. OHCHR’s advocacy contributed to the inclusion of human rights in, for instance, the decisions of the 22nd Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC on capacity-building and the extension of the Lima Work Programme on Gender, the outcome of the global conference on climate and health and the System-Wide Framework of Strategies on the Environment.

The OHCHR Business Accountability and Remedy Project was completed with a report to the Human Rights Council which contains normative and practical guidance on how to enhance the effectiveness



The High Commissioner addresses the High-level segment of the General Assembly to commemorate the 30th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development, September 2016. © UN Photo/Kim Haughton

of domestic legal systems in ensuring the accountability of perpetrators and remedies for victims in cases involving business-related human rights abuses. The Council welcomed OHCHR’s work in a consensus resolution and mandated follow-up work that will focus on the implementation of the guidance.

The 30th anniversary of the United Nations Declaration on the Right to Development was commemorated at several events. Relevant stakeholders at the highest levels reaffirmed and renewed their political commitment to the right to development. Commemorative events included a high-level segment of the General Assembly and a high-level human rights mainstreaming panel at the Human Rights Council. In combination with other activities, such as a video production and a social media campaign, these events raised the visibility of the Declaration and its renewed relevance in the contemporary global context.

- ▶ *Human rights are integrated into the formulation of and follow-up to the Post-2015 Development Agenda (EA 10)*

Several of the human rights indicators recommended by OHCHR were included on the list of SDGs indicators that will be considered for adoption at the next session of the United Nations Statistical Commission, in 2017. To a large extent, this is the result of the participation and engagement of OHCHR in the work of the international statistical community. In 2016, OHCHR reported on a global indicator for the first time, namely, the agreed upon SDG indicator on the compliance of national human rights institutions with the Paris Principles. OHCHR’s role in supporting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development in a manner that is consistent with human rights has been increasingly recognized. Furthermore, OHCHR’s advocacy for the application of a human rights-based approach to data disag-



The General Assembly marks the first anniversary of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. © UN Photo/Cia Pak

gregation gained momentum and support among national and international statisticians, human rights mechanisms and civil society organizations. OHCHR presented information on applying a human rights-based approach to data at international gatherings of statisticians, including the Inter-Agency and Expert Group Meeting on SDG Indicators (Geneva, 17-18 November), the Global Forum of Gender Statistics (Helsinki, 24-25 October) and the International Meeting on Data Disaggregation organized by UNICEF and the United Nations Statistics Division (New York, 27-29 June). In terms of specific SDG indicators, OHCHR also 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, OHCHR contributed to the integration of a human rights perspective and

Habitat III Process

Urbanization is a transformative force that can have major positive or negative impacts on the fulfilment of human rights.

In the past years, OHCHR has been one of the rare international actors that has advocated for the recognition of the link between human rights and urbanization. This advocacy resulted in the recognition of human rights at the centre of the urbanization process, including the Habitat III Conference. At the UN level, the Chief Executives Board for Coordination recognized the importance of a new conception of urbanization, with mechanisms and procedures that promote, protect and respect human rights. OHCHR's voice was key to the inclusion of human rights issues and language in the Habitat III process and the outcome document of the Habitat III Conference entitled "The new urban agenda."

ensured that various issues were central elements of the New Urban Agenda, 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.

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

With regard to work that is connected with development financing institutions, OHCHR provided extensive inputs to the preparation of environmental and social safeguard policies of the World Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank and the Dutch development bank, FMO, which helped to strengthen the human rights perspective of these policies.

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

OHCHR continued to lead inter-agency efforts to mainstream human rights into the work of the UN development system under the UNDG. OHCHR chaired the UNDG Human Rights Working Group and supported the organization of "Frontiers Dialogues" and a "Frontier Forum" to highlight contemporary human rights issues that the UN is facing. It also actively contributed to the work of other key working groups and processes. For example, OHCHR co-led the process to revise the guidance on United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF) and the guidance on the use of programming principles, including human rights and gender equality. OHCHR also actively participated in the revision of the Common Country Assessment guidance. In the context of the Leadership Working Group, OHCHR co-chaired a process to develop a UN Leadership Model, which was endorsed by the Chief Executive Board in late 2016.

Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *Increased participation of rights-holders, including women and discriminated groups, in public life at the national and local levels (EA 5)*

In November 2016, OHCHR organized the first Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, as established by the Human Rights Council. The theme of the Forum was "Widening the democratic space: participation of youth in public decision-making." Owing to the excellent turnout, with approximately 600 participants that included 80 States and a large number of youth representatives, the Forum provided an unprecedented opportunity within the context of the Human Rights Council to raise aware-

ness about youth rights, such as their right to participate in decision-making. Panellists and moderators discussed fundamental issues and made numerous recommendations on how to: promote a more conducive environment for youth participation; rejuvenate parliaments; encourage youth to participate in elections; use information and communication technologies and social media as forms of participation; and increase the role of youth in implementing SDGs. The co-chairs will present the outcome of the Forum, which will include a summary report of the discussions and recommendations, at the 34th session of the Human Rights Council, in 2017.

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

Capacity-building activities undertaken by OHCHR Regional Gender Advisers helped to empower civil society actors to claim their rights. For instance, a workshop on sexual and reproductive health and rights, in Senegal, enabled civil society participants to identify concrete actions on which to engage with 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 adoption of the African Union Human Rights Action and Implementation Plan (2017-2026), OHCHR supported civil society organizations to mobilize and ensure that their concerns on women's rights and gender issues were effectively reflected in the Plan.

OHCHR also worked with indigenous peoples to secure increased space and more effective tools to claim their rights, as guaranteed in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. The OHCHR Indigenous 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 climate agreement, 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 High Commissioner meets Ahmad Alhendawi, United Nations Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, during the first Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law, November 2016. © International Disability Alliance



One of the sessions of the 2016 Social Forum dedicated to the promotion of the human rights of persons with disabilities held in Geneva, October 2016. © International Disability Alliance

the Human Rights Council, the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. All beneficiaries of the Fund received training on how to engage these mechanisms in order to achieve concrete human rights progress on the ground. 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 and provided inputs to the General Assembly's ongoing work to find innovative ways to increase the participation of indigenous peoples in the work of the United Nations.

Moreover, OHCHR's Minority Fellowship helped to develop the capacity of 12 minority representatives to engage with the international human rights mechanisms. After their in-depth training in Geneva, fellows put their new skills to use in their own communities. OHCHR field presences offered practical follow-up trainings, including in Colombia, Kenya, the Republic of Moldova and Sri Lanka.

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

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

In the context of OHCHR's membership in the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons, OHCHR 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."

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

OHCHR advanced its work on providing guidance regarding economic, social and cultural rights in the context of conflict and early warning. In July, OHCHR submitted a thematic report on this issue to the Economic and Social Council, which presented an analytical framework with risk factors and indicators. OHCHR is now in the process of validating the analytical framework that was developed and is also focusing on specific countries to contribute to the Human Rights up Front Initiative and other conflict prevention mechanisms. With respect to indigenous peoples, OHCHR focused its country engagement on countries where there is a critical need for the UN to be particularly attentive to the rights of indigenous peoples from both a human rights and early warning perspective. A three-day round table was organized in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in June, to enhance the knowledge of State actors and civil society on how to advance the human rights of indigenous peoples, including by preventing violence and insecurity related to land tenure and further integrating the rights of indigenous peoples into early warning strategies. In September, a briefing was organized at the Parliament to sensitize parliamentarians regarding the need for a specific law on indigenous Pygmies as a means to prevent ethnic tensions in the country. The legislation is pending adoption.

- ▶ *Increased responsiveness and integration of human rights concerns into the international community response to potential, emerging or existing situations of conflict, violence and insecurity (EA 10)*

OHCHR increased its engagement with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) to develop a more consistent and predictable approach to integrating human rights considerations into the selection process for troops and police that are to be deployed to peacekeeping operations. The approach agreed upon with DPKO will enable the UN to more effectively manage the deployment of uniformed personnel and contribute to ensuring the highest standards of integrity of those who serve in the organization, including by filling gaps in situations where the policy on Human Rights Screening of United Nations Personnel does not provide sufficient safeguards to prevent the deployment of persons alleged to have been involved in human rights violations.

In 2016, OHCHR finalized the internal guidance on the integration of a gender perspective in the work of commissions of inquiry (Cols) and fact-finding missions (FFMs) and organized capacity-building sessions for colleagues supporting investigations. Together with UN Women, the Office supported the deployment and work of gender advisers to the secretariats of Cols/FFMs. As a result of these and broader Office efforts, there has been an improvement in the gender analysis contained in OHCHR's

public reports and inputs, as well as in the consistent attention paid to cases and trends of sexual and gender-based violence.

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

In December 2015, on the occasion of Human Rights Day, the Secretary-General launched a mandatory online course for all UN staff members on the United Nations Human Rights Responsibilities. The course was developed in cooperation with OHCHR and in 2016, it was revised in light of initial feedback. There are now two versions of the course that are more specifically targeted to staff functions. As of November 2016, approximately 13,000 staff members had completed the course on the UN Secretariat's and UNICEF's learning platforms, seven UN entities had made the course available to their staff on their learning platforms and five more entities had committed to following suit.

Global Management Outputs

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

- ▶ In 2016, special emphasis was placed on strengthening the capacity of OHCHR staff and managers to integrate gender into their work by developing concrete tools and guidance, such as the internal guidance note on the integration of gender into commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions; the handbook on gender integration in the work of the United Nations human rights mechanisms; the internal version of "Gender Equality, Human Rights and Me" that was made available on Inspira as part of the mandatory training package for OHCHR, as well as an external version for UN staff; and a dedicated chapter on gender integration in the online training for delegates of the Human Rights Council.
- ▶ Approximately 100 people were briefed on gender integration, including 60 delegates of the Human Rights Council, 20 new staff members of OHCHR, seven fellows of African descent and seven new mandate holders.
- ▶ A series of internal discussions and training sessions on unconscious bias and inclusive leadership were organized around the issue of gender and geographic diversity, leading to the creation of an Office-wide Task Force on Strengthening Diversity, which was tasked to come up with actionable recommendations for leadership.
- ▶ Approximately 40 female staff members benefited from knowledge and mentoring advice on women and leadership during an inter-agency workshop

that was co-organized by OHCHR, IOM and the UN Office at Geneva.

- ▶ At the UN system-wide level, OHCHR contributed to shaping UN frameworks and policies on gender integration, in line with the UN System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP), the UN's gender mainstreaming accountability framework.

Increased effectiveness in supporting human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- ▶ The Division provided substantive, secretariat and logistical support to a number of international human rights mechanisms, including the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development; the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; the mechanisms established to follow up on the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action; the Social Forum; and the recently created Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law. RRDD also assisted open-ended intergovernmental working groups, such as the open-ended intergovernmental working group to consider the possibility of elaborating an international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies; the open-ended intergovernmental working group on a United Nations declaration on the rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas; and the open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights.
- ▶ Of the 21 plenary panel discussions that took place during the 2016 sessions of the Human Rights Council, 17 were related to thematic human rights issues covered by RRDD. The Division provided conceptual, substantive and administrative support for the organization of panel discussions on various issues, including child rights, rights of persons with disabilities, climate change and the right to health, preventing violent extremism, women's rights and gender integration, the rights of indigenous peoples, incompatibility between democracy and racism and human rights and the HIV/AIDS epidemic. RRDD also prepared 45 reports to the Human Rights Council.
- ▶ OHCHR supported the review of the mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as requested in the Outcome Document of the 2014 World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. The review was formally completed with the adoption of Human Rights Council resolution 33/25. RRDD played a key role as the organizer of the mandated expert workshop on the review, in April, and also supported the main co-sponsors of resolution 33/25 throughout the consultation process. As a result, the Expert Mechanism has a significantly

broader mandate, which includes an expansion to seven members and a greater scope for country-level engagement.

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

- ▶ The skills on human rights monitoring of 157 staff members improved through nine training courses, eight of which were conducted at the field level to ensure that the learned skills are more immediately applicable to the respective country realities.
- ▶ Staff capacity to use the Human Rights Case Database improved as a result of 33 remote briefings that were attended by 223 participants (45 per cent of whom were women). The online course on the use of the database, which was launched in November, ensured that all OHCHR staff are now equipped with the knowledge of how to use the tool, regardless of their location. Furthermore, the new module on profiling, which was finalized in October, will assist staff at the country level to document and analyze the profiles of individuals and units. This will in turn strengthen accountability and the prevention of human rights violations and enhance the implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.
- ▶ The OHCHR Library maintains the Human Rights and Education and Training (HRET) database, which now contains updated information on 1,244 institutions and 338 active human rights training programmes. These training programmes are part of a global effort to increase knowledge about human rights. The Library's HRET collection increased by 137 items as a result of purchases or donations.
- ▶ A total of 36 new translations of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR) were produced, bringing the number of translations available to more than 500. The translations are being used by a project of the UN's Department of Public Information to create a database of audio recordings of the UDHR translations.
- ▶ In 2016, more than 720,000 visits were registered on the OHCHR Library's online catalogue, representing a 60 per cent increase in the number of visits in 2015.

Human Rights Treaties Division

Background

The human rights treaty bodies are independent committees that were established under the international human rights treaties. The treaty bodies are composed of experts, serving in their personal capacity, who are elected by States Parties. These committees monitor the practical implementation of the human rights treaties through a reporting process that is based on the review of periodic reports that are submitted by the States Parties to each treaty. All of the core international human rights treaties are supplemented by optional protocols or contain optional provisions that empower the committees to receive and consider individual complaints. The treaty bodies issue recommendations to States Parties in order to assist them with the implementation of their treaty-based obligations at the national level. The treaty bodies also publish general comments/general recommendations and statements on thematic issues and conduct inquiries regarding allegations of violations. The Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment undertakes visits to States Parties aimed at preventing torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

The 10 treaty bodies are:

- ▶ The Human Rights Committee (HR Committee)
- ▶ The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)
- ▶ The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)

- ▶ The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- ▶ The Committee against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- ▶ The Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT)
- ▶ The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- ▶ The Committee on Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW)
- ▶ The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- ▶ The Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED)

In 2016, the number of treaty body experts totalled 172 (versus 125 in 2010 and 97 in 2000). In addition, the allocated meeting time of the treaty bodies was increased to 99 weeks (versus 72 weeks in 2010 and 56 weeks in 2000).

The recommendations issued by the treaty bodies are used in a wide variety of contexts in the work of OHCHR, including as background documentation for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), reference material for thematic research undertaken by the Office and to support the work of the special procedures and the activities of OHCHR field presences.

In addition to supporting the treaty bodies by facilitating their activities, the Human Rights Treaties Division (HRTD) is responsible for:

- ▶ Administering the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and the Special Fund of the Optional Protocol to the



Regional event organized in Samoa by NOLA (an NGO working for the rights of persons with disabilities in Samoa), the Ministry of Women, Community and Social Development and OHCHR, to promote the ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

© NOLA

Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

- ▶ Promoting the continued improvement and harmonization of the work of the treaty bodies through the annual Meeting of Chairpersons of the Human Rights Treaty Bodies and consistent follow-up with the individual treaty bodies.
- ▶ Managing the Treaty Body Capacity-Building Programme that was established by General Assembly resolution 68/268 of 9 April 2014.

In recent years, the size of the human rights treaty body system expanded significantly with the creation of four new treaty bodies (CMW, CRPD, SPT and CED) and three new procedures for individual complaints under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC).

As noted above, all of the core human rights treaties have individual communications procedures. Only article 77 of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (ICRMW) has not entered into force. The number of registered individual communications to the treaty bodies increased from 170 in 2013 to 314 in 2016. The urgent action procedure under the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (ICPPED), which has been in force since December 2010, has faced a substantial increase in registered requests for urgent actions; from 50 in 2014 to over 350 as of the end of 2016.

As one of the outcomes of the treaty body strengthening process, the General Assembly adopted reso-

lution 68/268 which, among other measures, granted the treaty bodies an additional 20 weeks of meeting time, thereby enabling them to review more State Party reports and examine more individual communications. The resolution also established a comprehensive capacity-building programme, led by HRTD, to support States Parties in their timely reporting to the treaty bodies.

Treaty bodies in figures

9 core international human rights treaties

10 treaty bodies

44 new ratifications and accessions

168 State Party reports considered in 2016

138 reports received during the year and
278 reports pending consideration

Approximately **7,800** recommendations adopted annually

314 individual communications registered for consideration and **1,215** individual communications pending consideration as of the end of the year

Final decisions adopted on **186** communications. In addition, **350** registered requests for urgent actions under CED

99 weeks in session in 2016

10 country visits by the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture

The Treaty Body Strengthening Process

In August, the Secretary-General issued his first biennial report on the status of the treaty body system (A/71/118 + 20 statistical annexes), which demonstrates that the measures undertaken in accordance with resolution 68/268 have enabled the treaty body system to remain operational as some of the most pressing difficulties have been addressed by the General Assembly. The report assesses the implementation of and follow-up to resolution 68/268 as globally positive, but suggests that the linear growth of the treaty body system cannot be sustained. In response to the report, the General Assembly adopted, by consensus, a resolution reinforcing the argument that the treaty bodies should

be regarded as a comprehensive system when it comes to procedural and managerial matters. In another positive development, the Fifth Committee of the General Assembly approved the outline of the Secretary-General's biennium programme budget for 2018-2019. The programme budget includes additional resource needs based on the mathematical meeting time formula defined in resolution 68/268. Concretely, this means that the additional resource needs arising from changes in the meeting time, which in turn stem from changes in the workload of the treaty bodies, have been considered admissible for further discussion and decision by the General Assembly in 2017.

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

In 2016, a total of 44 new ratifications of or accessions to the human rights treaties were deposited with the Secretary-General. OHCHR worked to promote ratification and the withdrawal of reservations through various means, including by celebrating special anniversaries. For instance, together with the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, OHCHR led a year-long commemoration of the 50th anniversary of the two Covenants. This campaign focused on raising awareness of these treaties among a wider audience, in particular children and youth, and included the production of an easy-to-read version of the Covenants, fact sheets, a promotional leaflet entitled “Rights in Your Pocket,” a poster competition, videos on the impact of the work of the Committees, a photo exhibition and the development of a website about the Covenants. In addition, commemorative events were held during the plenary sessions of the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council on 19 October and 5 March, respectively. In addition the two Committees held a joint meeting on 23 June with a view to reinforcing their cooperation in the future. On the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the CRPD, a series of activities were held in New York and Geneva, in parallel to regional consultations that took place across regions.

- ▶ *Increased engagement of Member States and compliance with international human rights mechanisms (EA 6)*

In 2016, States took concrete steps to follow up on recommendations issued by the treaty bodies. For example, Lebanon’s Parliament passed, in October, a law establishing a national human rights institution and designated it as the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM). This brought Lebanon into compliance with its obligation under the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT) to set up an independent national mechanism to prevent torture, including through regular visits to the country’s detention centres to examine the treatment of detainees. The legislation was enacted following an inquiry that was undertaken by CAT, in 2014, which recommended that Lebanon establish a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles. The Government of Angola followed up on concluding observations issued by the Human Rights Committee and adopted Presidential

Decree 80/13 and Executive Decree 309/1 on free birth registration and the issuing of free identification cards for all children and adults.

In addition, State officials from approximately 50 countries increased their knowledge and skills on the human rights treaties and the reporting process as a result of activities conducted by OHCHR through the Treaty Body Capacity-Building Programme. Trained State officials committed to applying their new skills by replicating the training activities at the national level and assisting OHCHR in other sub-regional training activities to stimulate peer-to-peer learning and exchanges of good practices.

“In follow-up to OHCHR’s training-of-trainers in Barbados, I have conducted several training sessions with my federal, provincial and territorial colleagues responsible for human rights reporting based on all the useful training material you shared with me and the training techniques I learned. This included a mock session in preparation for our delegation before our review by CEDAW in October 2016 but also general training on treaty reporting to familiarize several ministries with the process. Colleagues very much appreciated increasing their knowledge in this regard. Thank you so much for all your support.”

Ms. Lily Pol Neveu, Coordinator of human rights and indigenous affairs, International Organizations and Global Affairs Division, Québec, Canada

- ▶ *Increased number and diversity of rights-holders, and of national human rights institutions and civil society actors acting on their behalf, making use of United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms and bodies (EA 7)*

The number of registered individual communications increased from 170 in 2013 to 314 in 2016. The total number of registered requests under CED’s urgent action procedure rose from 51 in 2014 to over 350 in 2016. In response, OHCHR supported initiatives that were undertaken by all of the human rights treaty bodies to address reprisals against individuals cooperating or seeking to cooperate with the treaty bodies. As of the end of 2016, all committees had taken action in this regard, including by establishing working groups or focal points on reprisals. CEDAW is currently studying how it will respond to the issue.

- ▶ *Advances in the progressive development of international and regional human rights law in areas relevant to the treaty bodies (EA 8)*

With the support of OHCHR, work proceeded on various draft general comments/general recommendations, including in relation to the rights to inclusive education (CRPD); disaster risk reduction and the rights of women (CEDAW); the rights of children and migration (CMW and CRC); public expenditure (CRC); violence against women (update of general

Good practices to achieve a “virtuous cycle for human rights progress”

For States, more active engagement in the human rights process, including through the ratification and implementation of treaties, results in greater protection for its people. With the constant growth of the human rights protection system, States are also faced with increasing requirements related to the implementation of treaties and the associated reporting process, as well as following up on numerous recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

Two new OHCHR publications aim to provide States with tools and suggestions on how to handle these multiple tasks while maintaining strong communication lines with civil society. The Practical Guide to Effective State Engagement with International Human Rights Mechanisms and its accompanying Study Guide outline good practices of States that have created central structures known as National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-Up (NMRFs). These mechanisms coordinate among the various government ministries, specialized institutions, national parliaments and the judiciary and initiate

consultations with civil society and national human rights institutions.

As noted by the High Commissioner for Human Rights in the foreword of the publications, the NMRFs help to ensure that ownership of the human rights process is nationally built, that human rights expertise is enhanced and that communication is strengthened between the various human rights stakeholders working at the country level.

“Through such institutionalized contacts, the voices of victims and their representatives will also increasingly be heard,” he said. “National mechanisms for reporting and follow-up would furthermore enhance the coherence and impact of each State’s human rights diplomacy.”

NMRFs therefore have the potential to become one of the key components of the national human rights protection system, including by facilitating the practical realization of international and regional human rights norms and law at the national level.

Committee on Enforced Disappearances clarifies the fate of the disappeared and helps to locate the victims

Under article 30 of the ICPPED, the Committee on Enforced Disappearances has the competence to receive and consider requests for urgent action to ensure that a State Party takes, as a matter of urgency, all necessary measures to seek and find a disappeared person.

The number of urgent actions registered by CED has increased exponentially from five cases in 2012 and in 2013, respectively, to 51 in 2014, 211 in 2015 and 86 in 2016. In the majority of registered urgent actions, the procedure helped family members, relatives or repre-

sentatives of the disappeared person(s) to gain access to previously inaccessible information about a search. The procedure also enabled them to transmit their concerns to the Committee and request a response, in compliance with its mandate. In 2016, six disappeared people, who were the subjects of urgent action requests, were located alive, including five in Mexico and one in Iraq. In all of these cases, the authors of the requests for urgent action emphasized that the procedure had provided them with essential support in their daily fight to locate their disappeared loved ones.

recommendation 19) (CEDAW); and the right to just and favourable conditions at work and on the right to sexual and reproductive health (CESCR). Additionally, OHCHR continued to analyze and reply to all individual communications submitted under the different treaties (approximately 9,500 per year) and ensured the adoption of final decisions in 186 cases.

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

To support the work of National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRFs) and a more coherent implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms,

work continued on upgrading the Universal Human Rights Index. This tool has become useful for all relevant stakeholders in the preparation of their reports and in relation to follow-up on treaty body recommendations and thematic issues. During the 28th 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.

Global Management Outputs

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

- ▶ The HRTD gender focal point assisted staff members from the Division to integrate gender issues into their performance appraisal documents. As a result, the performance appraisal documents of all HRTD staff members now include the goals of integrating a gender perspective into draft lists of issues, concluding observations, statements, briefing notes and talking points and of ensuring the equal representation of women and men in all capacity-building activities.
- ▶ Equal representation of women and men was ensured in most capacity-building activities undertaken by HRTD.

Increased effectiveness in supporting human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- ▶ In 2016, HRTD provided secretariat, logistical and substantive support to the 10 treaty bodies for the organization of 99 weeks of meetings, the consideration of 168 State Party reports, the drafting and adoption of approximately 7,800 recommendations and the adoption of final decisions on 186 communications. In August, the Secretary-General issued his first report on the status of the treaty body system (A/71/118 and 20 statistical annexes), which

notes that the measures undertaken in accordance with resolution 68/268 have enabled the treaty body system to remain effective by addressing some of its most pressing challenges. The report assesses the implementation of and follow-up to resolution 68/268 as globally positive, but stresses that the linear growth of the treaty body system is unsustainable.

- ▶ In line with General Assembly resolution 68/268 on treaty body strengthening, the HRTD started to provide live webcasts of treaty body meetings. Since July, though a pilot project that is being supported by extrabudgetary funding, OHCHR and the Department of Public Information, have been facilitating the broadcast of live and archived webcasts of all public meetings of the treaty bodies. As of June, webcast equipment has been operational in the two meeting rooms at OHCHR's headquarters, in Geneva.
- ▶ OHCHR supported the Special Fund of the OP-CAT, which provided financial assistance to eight projects focused on implementing the recommendations issued by the Subcommittee against Torture in seven eligible States. The funding will be used to contribute to a variety of initiatives, including the establishment and operationalization of NPMs and the development of training and educational programmes on the monitoring of torture and investigation techniques. With OHCHR's support, the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture awarded

Peru compensates woman in historic abortion case

In 2001, a 17-year-old Peruvian adolescent, named K.L., was 14 weeks pregnant when doctors at the public hospital in Lima diagnosed the foetus with anencephaly - a fatal birth defect in which the foetus lacks most or all of the forebrain and parts of the skull. Doctors recommended that she have an abortion on the grounds that continuing the pregnancy would put her life and health at risk. Abortion was legal in Peru for such reasons, but the hospital refused to carry out the termination, arguing that the State had not outlined clear regulations regarding the procedure. Consequently, K.L. was forced to carry the pregnancy to full term and breastfed the baby for the four days that it lived. The decision resulted in ongoing serious mental and physical consequences for the young woman.

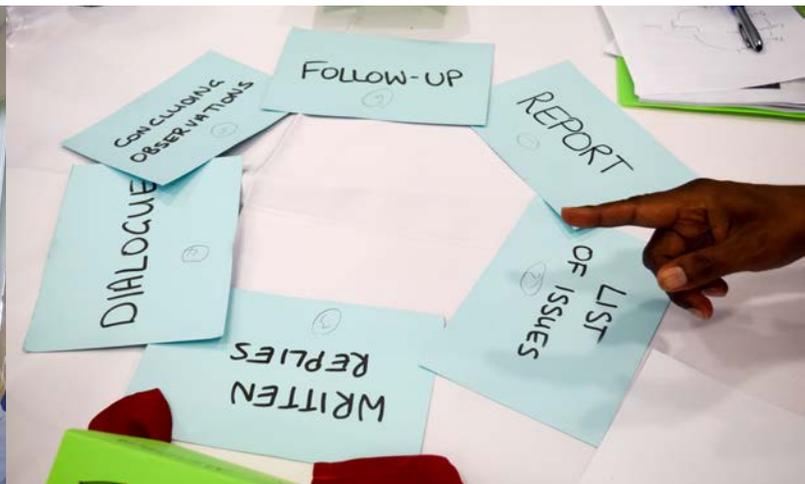
A complaint was filed with the Human Rights Committee, which stated that by denying K.L. access to a legal medical procedure her human rights had been violated. In 2015, the Committee agreed and recommended that Peru pay compensation to K.L.

Ten years later, in 2016, the Peruvian government finally agreed to pay the recommended compensation. The Committee's decision marked the first time that a UN human rights treaty body had held a government accountable for failing to ensure access to legal abortion services. The victim had to wait for a decade to obtain compensation, however, it is critical that the recognition of harm done to her was formally acknowledged.

K.L.'s case was brought to the Committee with the assistance of the Centre for Reproductive Rights, the Latin American and Caribbean Committee for the Defence of Women's Rights and the Counselling Centre for the Defence of Women's Rights. Shortly after the agreement was reached with Peru, a press release was issued, in December. In the release, Nancy Northrup, Chief Executive Office of the Centre for Reproductive Rights said that while the decision to compensate K.L. was important, much more needs to be done regarding access to reproductive health services.



Training on reporting to the treaty bodies for the Government of the Solomon Islands. © OHCHR



grants to support the redress and rehabilitation of over 47,000 victims in more than 80 countries. It also extended immediate support through emergency grants for projects that are providing assistance in Burundi, Iraq, Jordan and Ukraine and to refugees in Hungary and Serbia. Moreover, the Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery awarded grants to 42 projects in 34 countries, which helped approximately 10,000 victims to receive redress and access rehabilitation services after being freed from slavery.

Increased effectiveness in supporting field operations (GMO 5)

- ▶ Under the Treaty Body Capacity-Building Programme, all positions within the team spearheading the Programme were filled, with the exception of two that are under recruitment. Since the team's establishment, work processes were developed and are now running smoothly at 11 duty stations in all regions of the world. As of the end of 2016, mem-

bers of the team have engaged in approximately 80 activities, including by supporting OHCHR's work in the field to provide technical assistance to National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up and by providing much needed training materials and methodology on treaty reporting and individual communications.

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

- ▶ Staff members integrating the Treaty Body Capacity-Building Programme increased their knowledge and skills related to the human rights treaty bodies, became trained trainers and acquired training and knowledge management techniques. Based on the success of the Programme, a concept note regarding a training tools package was approved, which will guide the development of a general manual on treaty body reporting, specific manuals on training and guidelines for trainers.

Vanuatu: translating human rights standards into actions

Engaging with the United Nations human rights mechanisms can be a daunting task. There are many requirements and the sheer scale of the reporting process and the number of information sources that are available to UN experts can make going before a committee a difficult and stressful exercise.

This could have been the case with Vanuatu. In 2016, the Small Island State was scheduled to present a report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) on the progress it has made and the challenges it has faced in improving the rights of women under the CEDAW Convention. In the past, the delegation was unaware of the depth and breadth of information that the Committee would draw upon in order to determine to what extent the country was upholding its human rights obligations in relation to women.

But this time, as was noted by Jenny Tevi, acting head of the Treaties and Conventions Division of the Vanuatu Department of Foreign Affairs, the delegation would be ready. “Our delegation felt well prepared and able to give updated information beyond what we had already submitted in writing, to ensure our responses fully satisfied the experts,” she said.

Tevi, along with 10 other State officials, took part in a training on how to effectively engage with UN expert committees. The training was organized by the OHCHR Regional Office for the Pacific Region, along with UN Women and the Secretariat of the Pacific Community. It

was held a few weeks before Vanuatu was to meet with the CEDAW Committee.

The training was aimed at preparing government officials to better handle the interactive dialogue with CEDAW experts. Every four years, Vanuatu, as one of the 189 countries that has ratified CEDAW, must demonstrate to the Committee what steps it has taken to improve the situation of women in the country. In the training, officials learned about the international standards on women’s human rights and were shown how to translate those standards into tangible action.

The training helped the Vanuatu delegation impress during their CEDAW review session in February. After the review, Committee member Barbara Bailey said that the delegation was in total control when responding to the questions posed by the Committee during the interactive dialogue. Bailey, who was a resource person in a similar training programme, said the answers to questions posed by experts were candid and frank and, in instances where information was not readily available, the delegation was open and receptive to advice on what more needed to be done.

“The performance of the delegation was stellar,” she said. “The dialogue was refreshing and useful on both sides of the table. It is rewarding to see that capacity-building undertaken by OHCHR and UN Women can contribute to such a result and we look forward to future delegations following suit and taking their engagement with the expert committees as seriously.”

Overview of treaties, committees and competences

Treaty body	No. of States Parties	No. of weeks in session annually	Periodicity of obligation to report	Reviews, reports and issues/recommendations to States Parties	Considers individual complaints	Conducts visits to countries	Urgent action procedure
CESCR	164	10	5 years	Articles 16-17 Number of reports examined in 2016: 17 Number of reports pending examination: 14	Optional Protocol Number of registered communications pending examination: 10	Article 11 Optional Protocol Confidential inquiries on systematic violations	No
HR Committee	168	14.7	3, 4 or 5 years as per the Committee's decision	Article 40 Number of reports examined in 2016: 21 Number of reports pending examination: 20	Optional Protocol Number of registered communications pending examination: 645	No	No
CERD	177	10	2 years Allows the merging of two reports into one. De facto periodicity of 4 years	Article 9 Number of reports examined in 2016: 20 Number of reports pending examination: 27	Article 14 Number of registered communications pending examination: 5	No	No
CEDAW	189	15.3	4 years	Article 18 Number of reports examined in 2016: 27 Number of reports pending examination: 38	Optional Protocol Number of registered communications pending examination: 43	Articles 8-10 Optional Protocol Confidential inquiries on systematic violations	No
CRC	196 OP-CRC-AC: 166 OP-CRC-SC: 173 OP-CRC-IC: 29	15	5 years	Article 44 Number of reports examined in 2016: 36 (including OP-CRC-AC and OP-CRC-SC reports) Number of reports pending examination: 96 (including OP-CRC-AC and OP-CRC-SC reports)	Optional Protocol Number of registered communications pending examination: 6	Articles 13-14 Optional Protocol Confidential inquiries on systematic violations (entered into force on 14 April 2014)	No
CAT	160	11.5	4 years	Article 19 Number of reports examined in 2016: 17 Number of reports pending examination: 26	Article 22 Number of registered communications pending examination: 170	Article 20 Confidential inquiries on systematic violations	No
SPT	83	3	N/A	N/A	N/A	Articles 11-16 Subcommittee visits places of deprivation of liberty and communicates its recommendations by confidential report	No
CMW	49	3.6	5 years	Articles 73-74 Number of reports examined in 2016: 8 (including non-reporting States Parties) Number of reports pending examination: 2	Article 77 (not yet entered into force)	No	No

Treaty body	No. of States Parties	No. of weeks in session annually	Periodicity of obligation to report	Reviews, reports and issues/recommendations to States Parties	Considers individual complaints	Conducts visits to countries	Urgent action procedure
CRPD	172	8.5	4 years	Articles 35-36 Number of reports examined in 2016: 14 Number of reports pending examination: 52	Optional Protocol Number of registered communications pending examination: 27	Article 6 Optional Protocol Confidential inquiries on systematic violations	No
CED	54	4	As per Committee's decision	Article 29 Number of reports examined in 2016: 5 Number of reports pending examination: 16	Article 31 Number of registered communications pending examination: 0	Article 33 Visit on serious violations	Article 30 Urgent Actions being considered: 327 under active consideration

Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division

Background

The Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division (FOTCD) is composed of three geographic branches and three specialized sections (the National Institutions, Regional Mechanisms and Civil Society Section (NRCS), the Peace Missions Support Section (PMSS) and the Emergency Response Section (ERS)). The Division is responsible for overseeing and supporting the work of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) at the country and regional levels, including through advisory services, technical cooperation and the provision of support for the work of field presences as they address human rights challenges and seize opportunities to encourage positive change. This work is carried out in close cooperation with national, regional and international partners, including UN partners, government actors, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and civil society organizations. The Division also aims to strengthen national human rights protection systems, promote the implementation of international human rights norms at the country level and prevent and reduce human rights violations. In addition, the Division supports national-level follow-up action to recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms, including the human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and the Universal Periodic

Review (UPR). In cooperation with other parts of the Office, the Division strengthens the understanding of national authorities and civil society actors regarding international human rights standards, in particular by improving their knowledge about how to translate these standards into laws, regulations and policies at the national level and enhancing their capacity to effectively address human rights concerns. The ultimate objective of this work is to ensure that duty-bearers are better equipped to meet their obligations and rights-holders are better protected and empowered.

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



Workshop with civil society actors in Afghanistan to encourage their engagement with the international human rights mechanisms.
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Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Increased compliance and engagement of Member States with international human rights mechanisms (EA 6)*

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

- ▶ *Establishment of participatory standing national coordinating bodies on reporting/replying to individual communications and enquiries; and integrated follow-up to recommendations of all international human rights mechanisms (EA 6)*

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

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

OHCHR provided technical advice and advocated for the amendment of legislation, policies and practices so that they comply with international anti-discrimination and equality standards. For example, OHCHR advised on the human rights elements of



The Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Sudan interacts with South Sudanese refugees at the Khor Omer Camp in East Darfur. © UNAMID/Abdulrasheed Yakubu

Grenada's constitutional reform initiative, such as the Rights and Freedoms Bill. In Nepal, the Office worked closely with the UNCT to ensure that the rights of indigenous peoples and minority ethnic groups are respected in key national laws and policies.

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

Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Counter-terrorism legal frameworks, policies, strategies and institutions increasingly aligned with international human rights standards (EA 1)*

OHCHR continued to advocate for the closure of the Guantanamo Bay detention facility through, for instance, a press statement that was issued in February and during his opening statement to the 33rd session of the Human Rights Council, in September. OHCHR also provided Secretariat support to the Committee against Torture in relation to its upcoming review of the United States of

America (USA) and to the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention before its visit to the country, in October. While progress was made in releasing, transferring and prosecuting prisoners held in Guantanamo Bay during 2016, the Obama Administration's plan to close the facility was not approved by the United States Congress and legal restrictions remain in force regarding the transfer of detainees to mainland prisons in the USA.

OHCHR delivered training courses to increase the capacity of Member States to protect human rights

while countering terrorism. A number of these courses were carried out in the context of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force programme for enhancing the capacity of law enforcement officials in Iraq, Jordan and Tunisia. In November, OHCHR participated in a high-level dialogue on the proposed counter-terrorism policy framework for Sri Lanka. The meeting, which was jointly organized by the UNCT and the Government of Sri Lanka, aimed to share good practices and develop a common understanding about the draft legislation.

Supporting cultures of diversity for human rights in Serbia

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

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

OHCHR's efforts in Serbia have increasingly focused on supporting cultures of diversity for human rights in Serbia. The FRKA Festival provided an important national forum to bring together governmental officials

and civil society to discuss future initiatives. Issues discussed within the framework of the three-day event included the need to redouble efforts related to inclusive education and moving Romani children out of special education and desegregating primary education as a matter of urgency; improving policy in the field of employment, including by enabling real powers in the position of the Equality Commissioner and/or the Labour Inspectorate or another relevant body to oversee diversity in employers and by improving frameworks for the support of small business and small agriculture among very excluded Roma; improving the housing rights framework, including in the context of adopting a new Law on Housing; eliminating barriers on the integration of Romani IDPs from Kosovo*, as well as of Romani returnees from Western Europe; and significantly increasing the attention paid to the situation of Romani women and girls.

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

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

During 2016, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on cultural rights, Karima Bennouna, visited Serbia on official mission. Her report and recommendations for advancing cultural rights in Serbia will be presented to the Human Rights Council in 2017.



OHCHR staff member speaks with detention officers at the Pailin prison in Cambodia. © OHCHR/Cambodia

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

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

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

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

In Sri Lanka, OHCHR worked with the Foreign Ministry and the Secretariat for the Coordination of Reconciliation Mechanisms on the design and

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

Integrating human rights in development and in the economic sphere

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

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

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

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

Young human rights defenders named as Ambassadors

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

According to Caleb, who is 9 years old, “[n]obody should be forced to leave his home. The one that has the power should use it to make good. I wish that my neighbour and his family that was forced to leave would come back so we could again go to school together.”

Widening the democratic space

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

OHCHR supported the establishment and/or strengthening of 63 NHRIs by working with relevant stakeholders to emphasize the added value of having a NHRI that is compliant with the Paris Principles and outline the roles and responsibilities of a NHRI in promoting and protecting human rights. This was done through the provision of legal advice, the organization of seminars on the Paris Principles and regional workshops on strengthening NHRIs and the support for technical cooperation projects. Advice on strengthening NHRIs was also provided to institutions in Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Costa Rica, Croatia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Ireland, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kosovo*, Kyrgyzstan, Libya, Madagascar, Maldives, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Oman, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, the Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Samoa, Senegal, Serbia, Seychelles, Slovakia, Somalia, South Africa, the State of Palestine⁶, Sudan, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Thailand, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Turkey,

⁶ Reference to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.

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

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

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

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



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

The Civil Society Space Guide (published in January 2015 in the six UN languages) has now been translated into 20 local languages. This practical guide was designed to assist civil society actors to become familiar with the UN human rights system. It highlights issues relevant to the work of civil society, including essential elements for creating and maintaining an enabling environment for civil society and ways to deal with challenges.

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

The African Human Rights Moot Court Competition

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

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

- *Legal frameworks, public policies and institutions are in place and functioning to combat all forms of human exploitation, including trafficking and sexual and gender-based violence (EA 1)*

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

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

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

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

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

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

In coordination with the United Nations Department of Political Affairs (DPA), and in the context of the HRUF Action Plan, OHCHR developed the idea of



OHCHR staff member interviews a representative of a community affected by a natural resource exploitation project in Honduras.
© OHCHR/Honduras

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

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

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

Cultural leaders embrace human rights

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

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

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

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



OHCHR staff member facilitates a workshop on international human rights mechanisms for civil society in Bolivia. © OHCHR/Bolivia

Global Management Outputs

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

- ▶ A gender perspective was integrated into the work of the Division and information on gender-related issues was regularly shared with field presences, including guidance to actively apply gender equality principles to planning and programming exercises. A gender perspective was also mainstreamed into the Office's interventions in the context of technical cooperation programmes, UNDAFs, the Sustainable Development Goals, elections, security sector reform, human rights monitoring and the implementation of the Human Rights up Front Action Plan.
- ▶ The FOTCD worked closely with other UN agencies to ensure that expertise on gender and women's human rights were integrated into mandates established by the Human Rights Council. Collaboration with UN Women led to the secondment of gender advisers to the Commission of Investigation on Burundi, the UN Independent Investigation on Burundi, the Commission on Human Rights on South Sudan, the Commission of Inquiry on Eritrea, the Commission of Inquiry on Syria and the OHCHR field-based presence in South Korea.

Increased effectiveness in supporting human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

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

Increased effectiveness in supporting field operations (GMO 5)

- ▶ Supported by the FOTCD, the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights and of the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the UPR met in Ukraine and Guatemala and analyzed successes achieved and challenges faced in OHCHR's work during discussions with all partners in the respective countries. Guidance was provided to strengthen the Office's technical cooperation at the field level.
- ▶ The FOTCD ensured the timely recruitment and deployment of human rights advisers in line with the United Nations Development Group's (UNDG) Strategy for the Deployment of Human Rights Advisers. At the beginning of 2016, OHCHR supported 28 advisers across multiple regions. Nevertheless, funds received during the year were insufficient to maintain this level of existing deployment or to respond positively to new requests. Consequently, the posts in Bangladesh, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia and the UNDG regional human rights advisers for Asia and the Pacific and for Latin America and the Caribbean were discontinued.
- ▶ The Division managed the emergency deployment of staff in order to: monitor the human rights situation of migrants and refugees in France, Greece, Italy and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; monitor the deteriorating human rights situations in the Republic of the Congo; assess the human rights situation in the lead up to presidential elections in the Gambia; and support a number of special procedures mandates, including in the context of commissions of inquiry, fact-finding missions and humanitarian response.
- ▶ In June, a meeting of the Heads of field presences was organized, in Geneva, to discuss the over-



OHCHR awareness-raising event at a school in Yemen to commemorate Human Rights Day. © OHCHR/Yemen

all vision, priorities and agenda of the Office and provide updates on major policy developments. Among other activities, focused training was conducted for Heads of field presences on how to engage with the media, including social media.

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

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

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

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

Human Rights Council Mechanisms Division

Background

The Human Rights Council Mechanisms Division (HRCMD) is the Division of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) with a core mandate to support the Human Rights Council (HRC) and its subsidiary mechanisms, including the special procedures and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). It also administers the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the work of the Human Rights Council; the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review and the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review. The Division consists of an Office of the Director, the Human Rights Council Branch (HRCB), the Special Procedures Branch (SPB) and the Universal Periodic Review Branch (UPRB).

The Human Rights Council is an intergovernmental body that is composed of 47 Member States, which are elected by the General Assembly for a three-year period. The HRC was established by and is a subsidiary body of the General Assembly that is responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe. In 2016, the Council discussed a wide range of thematic issues at its three regular sessions and two special sessions, including during 21 panel discussions on topics such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and human rights, with an emphasis on the right to development, preventing and countering violent extremism, youth and human rights and using sport and the Olympic ideal to promote human rights for all. The Council continued to respond to human rights emergencies and emerging or chronic issues and addressed urgent situations in South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic. Overall, the Council adopted 107 resolutions and decisions in 2016.



Thirty-second session of the Human Rights Council in Geneva, June 2016. © UN Photo/Jean-Marc Ferré

In addition, the HRC marked its 10th anniversary and a series of events were organized to commemorate the occasion. The key event was a high-level panel discussion, held during the Council's 32nd regular session, which featured all nine former Council Presidents who came together to reflect on the various achievements of the Council in its first 10 years and to identify ongoing challenges. All 193 Member States of the United Nations participated, representing the first Human Rights Council session with universal participation of the Member States, along with various other stakeholders. Other activities were undertaken to mark the anniversary, including the publication of a leaflet outlining the Council's activities, which can be downloaded as a smartphone application.

History of the Human Rights Council

- December 2004: The High-level Panel on Threats, Challenges and Change issues a report recommending strengthening the UN Commission on Human Rights
- March 2005: UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan recommends replacing the Commission with a "Human Rights Council"
- 15 March 2006: The Human Rights Council replaces the Commission on Human Rights by General Assembly resolution 60/251
- 18-30 June 2006: The Human Rights Council holds its first session in Geneva
- 18 June 2007: The Human Rights Council adopts its "Institution-Building" package by resolution 5/1, establishing its subsidiary bodies
- 7-18 April 2008: The first session of the Universal Periodic Review Working Group is held and the first group of States is reviewed
- March 2011: The five-year review of the Human Rights Council is endorsed with the adoption of resolution 16/21 (by consensus)
- October 2011: The reviews of the first cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (with the participation of all 193 Member States) are concluded
- 13 June 2016: A High-level panel discussion is held on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Human Rights Council: achievements and challenges
- November 2016: The reviews of the second cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (with the participation of all 193 Member States) are concluded

The special procedures are mandates given to independent experts, through Human Rights Council resolutions, to address thematic human rights issues or human rights situations in specific countries. Special procedures conduct country visits; send communications to States or other actors about human rights issues and individual cases; undertake awareness-



Mock session organized by OHCHR and the Ministry of Justice for Timor-Leste's delegation attending the Universal Periodic Review, October 2016. © OHCHR/Timor-Leste

raising activities; contribute to the development of international human rights standards; undertake thematic studies; and provide advisory services. The special procedures system currently consists of 57 mandates (43 thematic and 14 country-specific), including two which were established in 2016, namely, an Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity and a Special Rapporteur on the right to development. There are currently 81 mandate holder positions, including those in working groups.

Special procedures in figures in 2016

96 country visits carried out by special procedures mandate holders to **65** States and territories

526 communications sent to **119** different States and **23** non-State actors, **86.5** per cent of which were jointly issued by two or more mandate holders. The response rate of States to these communications increased significantly to **59** per cent

134 reports submitted by mandate holders to the Human Rights Council and **39** to the General Assembly

2 new special procedures mandates established

2 more Member States extended a standing invitation to the special procedures. A total of **117** Member States and **1** non-Member Observer State have now extended a standing invitation to thematic mandates

The second UPR cycle continued to focus on progress made since the previous cycle. In 2016, OHCHR provided full substantive, technical and logistical support to the 24th, 25th and 26th sessions of the UPR Working Group, during which 39 State reviews were conducted. The Office prepared 78 pre-session reports, drafted 39 Working Group reports and the same number of

summaries from the UPR segment that took place during the Council plenary sessions. It also encouraged and supported the involvement of civil society actors in the UPR process by circulating information relating to the UPR in a timely manner and facilitating regular briefings to representatives of civil society prior to each session of the HRC. Through the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the UPR, the Office supported the efforts of Member States to, among other activities, establish and strengthen national follow-up mechanisms and processes and design and implement national human rights action plans.

Results

The following results were achieved following key interventions undertaken by the HRC and its mechanisms, with the support of OHCHR.

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

► *Increased compliance and engagement of Member States with international human rights mechanisms (EA 6)*

Member States continued to increase their engagement with the international human rights mechanisms. Through the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the work of the Human Rights Council, OHCHR provided support to 24 delegates from 19 Member States from Africa, Asia and the Pacific and the Caribbean and Latin America, which enabled them to represent their respective countries in sessions of the Council. Member States also continued to increase their engagement with the Working Group on Communications and the Working Group on Situations of the HRC's complaint procedure by sending substantive replies to questions posed by both working groups. The response rate to communications was higher than 85 per cent. Furthermore, many States complied with the findings and recommendations of the working groups. As a result, important results were achieved in 2016, including the release of imprisoned bloggers, the granting of compensations and the establishment of independent domestic procedures to investigate alleged violations committed by the States concerned.

In relation to the special procedures, mandate holders transmitted a total of 526 communications to 119 States and 23 communications to non-State actors, including business corporations, in relation to at least 1,282 individuals. A total of 431 replies were received, 313 of which were related to communications sent in 2016 (representing a reply rate of 59 per

cent). The replies varied from acknowledgements of receipt to substantive replies. In addition, the Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances transmitted information to States on 801 new cases of enforced disappearance, 206 of which were clarified. In relation to cases of arbitrary detention, at least 20 individuals, who were subjects of opinions issued by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention, were released in the course of the year.

States also responded to a number of findings and recommendations issued by 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 Mundurucu indigenous peoples in the context of a dam project. More specifically, there was a notable absence of consultations to obtain the free, prior and informed consent of the affected peoples, a failure to demarcate indigenous lands affected by the project and to conduct adequate environmental and social impact assessments regarding the dam. Following her 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 July, the Working Group on discrimination against women in law and in practice and the mandates on the right to health, on arbitrary detention, on the independence of judges and lawyers and on torture, sent a joint communication to Argentina regarding the case of a woman who was sentenced to eight years in prison after she suffered a miscarriage. Although doctors determined that she had miscarried, she was accused of and tried for inducing an abortion. Following the submission of the communication, the woman was released from jail, in mid-August. 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 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.

Non-state actors also engaged with the special procedures. For example, the Asia Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights, organized by OHCHR and the Working Group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises in Doha, Qatar, featured a session on sports events at which the FIFA publicly committed to aligning its policies and practices with the Guiding Principles, and the Supreme Committee for Delivery and Legacy of the Qatar

2022 World Cup committed to ensuring the dignity, security, health and welfare of migrant workers.

A number of outcomes were achieved as a result of the UPR process and the support of OHCHR and the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the UPR. In 2016, the Trust Fund supported 24 projects, including one in Costa Rica that will enable the Inter-Institutional Commission for reporting and follow-up to define its working methods; another in Iraq that was used by the Kurdistan Regional Government's Steering Board to develop a UPR implementation action plan; others that were used in Barbados, Mauritania, Saint Kitts and Nevis and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines for the development of action plans to implement UPR recommendations; and another in the Dominican Republic to promote a dialogue mechanism between civil society organizations and the Government that will be used to develop a national human rights action plan (NHRAP).

Work has advanced significantly on the development of a National Human Rights Recommendations Tracking Database, which will facilitate the monitoring and follow-up of international human rights recommendations at the national level. The Database, which will be available as of mid-2017, will enable States to access the Universal Human Rights Index, download the recommendations that were issued by the 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 budgets and record the status of implementation. In turn, this will facilitate future reporting.

- ▶ *Increased number and diversity of rights-holders, and of national human rights institutions and civil society actors acting on their behalf, making use of*

United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms and bodies (EA 7)

The number and diversity of NGO participants attending sessions of the HRC continues to grow. In 2016, the participation of NGOs increased by 25 per cent in relation to 2015 (835), which submitted 25 per cent more written statements (551) and delivered 17 per cent more oral statements (2,080). A large number of side events (437) were organized by NGOs in parallel with sessions of the Council. OHCHR held regular briefings for representatives of civil society prior to each session of the Council and facilitated regular meetings with the President of the Human Rights Council to provide organizations with the opportunity to raise their concerns regarding cases of reprisals. Moreover, in order to respond to allegations of threats and reported cases of reprisals against civil society representatives during UPR or HRC sessions, a procedure was established to follow up on the allegations and bring them to the attention of the President of the Council. In the course of 2016, the President systematically followed up on a number of reported cases through informal/bilateral meetings, formal correspondence or indirectly during the sessions. OHCHR further encouraged the participation of civil society actors in the UPR by, for instance, sharing information on the UPR sessions in a timely manner and updating its guidance note to civil society organizations on how to submit relevant contributions related to the background documents.

- ▶ *Advances in the progressive development of international and regional human rights law in areas relevant to the thematic priorities (EA 8)*

A number of mandate holders contributed to the development of international human rights law and good practices through the preparation of reports

How research leads to action: The role of the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council

Thanks to its critical role, the Advisory Committee, the research-based mechanism of the Human Rights Council (HRC), has successfully focused the attention of the international community on unknown human rights issues pertaining to specific cases of discrimination.

At the HRC's request, the Advisory Committee took the lead in drafting a set of principles and guidelines to eliminate discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members. The principles and guidelines were first endorsed by the Council and later by the General Assembly (resolution 65/215), in December 2010. The Advisory Committee will submit a progress report to the Human Rights Council at its thirty-fifth session in June 2017.

Furthermore, as a result of a recommendation formulated in the Advisory Committee's study on the issue of albinism, the Human Rights Council decided to establish the mandate of an Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human right of persons with albinism.

The 18 expert member body is currently working on the following four mandates: leprosy-related discrimination; the negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin on the enjoyment of human rights; regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights; and unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents.



OHCHR-sponsored consultation to validate Senegal's plan of action to implement Universal Periodic Review recommendations.

© OHCHR/West Africa

and guidelines. In her report to the General Assembly, in 2016, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples presented recommendations on how the rights of indigenous peoples can be better protected in conservation policy and practice. In a positive development, the World Conservation Congress in Hawaii adopted several important resolutions in line with some of the recommendations outlined in the Special Rapporteur's report, including on the need for safeguarding indigenous lands, territories and resources from unsustainable developments. The report encourages Governments to work with indigenous peoples to create, institute and enforce legal and management regimes of protected areas to enhance accountability and improve governance. Furthermore, since the submission of reports on the issue of 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 to preventing the destruction of cultural heritage.

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

In 2016, the special procedures 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, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (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 participated in the 60th session of the Commission on the Status of Women, during which she contributed to dis-

cussions on women's empowerment and its link to sustainable development and to the follow-up on the review theme on the elimination and prevention of all forms of violence against women and girls. She also conducted a consultation with CEDAW, in November, and participated in the Committee's working group on the revision of its General Recommendation No. 19 on violence against women.

► *Early warning functions of human rights mechanisms are enhanced (EA 10)*

The HRC continued to address emerging or ongoing human rights crises in a number of situations. Its two international commissions of inquiry, on Eritrea and on the Syrian Arab Republic, continued their work of investigating and documenting human rights violations. At the same time, the Council debated the outcomes of inquiries on violations and abuses of human rights in Belarus, Burundi, Iran, Libya, Myanmar, Sri Lanka, South Sudan and Ukraine. The Council also mandated the submission of regular OHCHR reports on the human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo at each session in 2017. The Council held a special session on the deteriorating human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic and in Aleppo (21 October). The Council requested that the Commission of Inquiry take action in accordance with its mandate to: conduct a comprehensive, independent special inquiry into the events in Aleppo; to identify, whenever possible, the individuals for whom there are reasonable grounds to believe that they are responsible for alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law; and to support efforts to ensure that the perpetrators of alleged abuses and violations are held accountable. Furthermore, following the deterioration of the human rights situation in South Sudan, the Council held a special session on 14 December, which reaffirmed the mandate of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan.

The Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children undertook research on the application of a rights-based approach to trafficking in conflict and on relevant global policy recommendations and presented a report to States. The report raised the visibility of this issue at the international level and contributed to discussions that took place at the Security Council, in November.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

Through its Task Force on Accessibility, the HRC supported accessibility for persons with disabilities to the physical environment and the work of the Council. Through advocacy efforts with individual delegations that led resolutions on mandating pan-

Forum on Business and Human Rights

The 2016 Forum on Business and Human Rights, held in Geneva from 14 to 16 November 2016, was devoted to the theme of “Leadership and Leverage: Embedding human rights in the rules and relationships that drive the global economy.” The Forum brought together more than 2,000 participants from 140 countries and was organized around a three-day programme of three plenary sessions and 64 thematic panels. Discussion explored how companies can contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals and examined three main areas: State leadership and leverage; business leadership and leverage; and the role of financial institutions.

The Forum saw an increase in the proportional representation of business (24 per cent compared to 22 per cent in 2015), and an increase in the representation of other main stakeholder groups, including: NGOs

(30 per cent), governments (14 per cent), academics (12 per cent) and international organizations (7 per cent). According to feedback received from the different stakeholder groups, the 2016 Forum surpassed that of previous years as a result of a more focused programme, a higher quality of thematic sessions and a greater variety of speakers. The Forum supported the development of national action plans to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (with four such plans published in December: Germany, Italy, Switzerland and the United States of America); facilitated dialogue between community representatives, NGOs, government representatives and investors who had not met face-to-face at the national level; and contributed to connecting civil society leaders with business leaders involved in initiatives on responsible business.

els, specific language was adopted in four resolutions in order to make all panels accessible to persons with disabilities in 2017, including through captioning in English, international sign interpretation, webcasts and the printing of documents in Braille, on demand. This will ensure that the corresponding financial resources will be appropriately budgeted for and allocated. A number of other resources, communication and information materials are also accessible to persons with disabilities, including the HRC webpage; the Council’s extranet page, which contains tabled draft resolutions, voting results and oral statements in accessible formats; and documents related to the application process for special procedures mandate holders and experts of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

In relation to the special procedures, the Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief organized a conference and public event on freedom of religion or belief and sexuality, in June, which helped to raise awareness about the need to address issues of sexual orientation and gender identity through the application of an holistic human rights approach. The conference also helped participants to understand the resistance, obstacles and conflicts that exist in allegedly contradictory and competing human rights issues, such as the right to freedom of religion or belief and the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. Furthermore, the conference explored a range of initiatives that have been undertaken to address discrimination or violence committed in the name of religion against those who openly express their religious identity or sexuality.

Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere

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

Following the conclusion of detailed research, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences submitted a report (A/HRC/33/46), containing recommendations for States on how to eradicate debt bondage, therefore contributing to an increased awareness and understanding about the issue for the international community, States and civil society actors. 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. 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. 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. The Rapporteur recommends that facilitated

and well-regulated mobility, which is supported by comprehensive and robust institutional frameworks, is necessary to ensure inclusivity and equity in the enjoyment of the benefits of trade for all migrants.

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

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

In a recent report (A/71/384), the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism addressed the negative impact of counter-terrorism measures on the human rights of migrants and refugees. The report notes that migration policies that build fences, engage in push-back operations, criminalize irregular migration and abandon international legal commitments related to refugees, lead to restricted access to safe territories and an increase in covert movements of people, particularly by traffickers. The study recommends recognizing that the vast majority of people fleeing Syria and other affected regions are victims of terrorism and should not be stigmatized as potential terrorists.

Global Management Outputs

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

- ▶ OHCHR continued to organize meetings with the main sponsors of HRC panel discussions in order to ensure a gender and geographical balance in the composition of the panels.
- ▶ Gender-related statistics were prepared and shared with the President of the Council and members of the Consultative Group in order to sensitize them to the gender and geographic distribution of current mandate holders during the selection and appointment process of new mandate holders. In 2016, the Consultative Group worked on filling 22 vacancies, which provided them with an opportunity to improve the gender distribution of mandate holders. As of the end of 2016, 41 per cent of mandate holders were women compared to 37 per cent in 2015.
- ▶ The number of women delegates participating in sessions of the Council, supported by the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the work of the Human Rights Council, increased from three in 2014 to 13 in 2016.

- ▶ In the context of the UPR briefings facilitated by the Office, while the importance of providing gender disaggregated data is always highlighted, references to women's rights and gender in the national reports remain uneven. This fact contributed to an increasing number of gender-related recommendations that were put forward during the Working Group's review and the interactive dialogue.
- ▶ OHCHR prepared a checklist on integrating gender in the UPR process, which identifies concrete and practical actions that need to be taken and issues that need to be considered throughout the process. The checklist is addressed to the Secretariat, States under review and States taking part in the interactive dialogue. It is also included in the handbook on integrating a gender perspective in the work of the United Nations human rights mechanisms, which is to be published in the near future.

Increased effectiveness in supporting human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- ▶ In 2016, OHCHR assisted the Human Rights Council to hold its three regular sessions and two special sessions. A total of 159 fully serviced meetings were organized, prepared and followed-up on by OHCHR, representing a 40 per cent increase over the number of meetings held in 2010. Furthermore, OHCHR serviced an unprecedented total of 57 in-

A new e-learning tool to enhance the participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in human rights activities

In June, in parallel to the Council's thirty-second session, the Secretariat of 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 developed and launched an e-Learning tool on the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms.

This is the first (free) online training tool on the Human Rights Council that was designed for LDCs/SIDS government officials, but it can also be used by any government official in charge of human rights issues. The e-Learning tool can also be useful for UN staff based in the field and at headquarters, staff members of regional and international organizations/groups, representatives of NGOs and civil society organizations, members of national human rights institutions and interns who would like to familiarize themselves with the work of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms.

The e-Learning tool is available at www.ohchr.org/sidsldc



The Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights meets with people living in poverty areas during his official visit to Mauritania, May 2016. © OHCHR/Mauritania

teractive dialogues and 21 panels on a wide array of topics.

- ▶ Progress was achieved in enhancing the visibility of the Council through various online tools and information technologies. The management of the Human Rights Council's social media accounts on Facebook, Twitter and Flickr effectively communicated and disseminated information about HRC activities, as evidenced by a significant increase in the number of followers on these platforms (i.e., an increase of 40,000 likes on Facebook and an additional 32,000 followers on Twitter). Moreover, five YouTube videos were produced on: the 10th anniversary of the Council; the conclusion of the second cycle of the UPR; the report of the Commission of Inquiry on Syria regarding ISIS crimes against Yazidis; the Olympic ideal and human rights; and the experience of HRC delegates at the screening of a virtual reality humanitarian film.
- ▶ OHCHR provided support to mandate holders in issuing 322 press releases, 42 media statements and 97 media advisories in order to raise awareness and express their concerns over a wide array of issues related to their mandates. OHCHR assisted the Coordination Committee of the Special Procedures to issue six press releases and public statements on: concerns regarding the financial crisis of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights; the attempt of some countries to retroactively block the creation of the mandate of an Independent Expert designed to tackle violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; Human Rights Day 2016; and the human rights situation in South Sudan.
- ▶ OHCHR convened the Coordination Committee of the Special Procedures in two annual meetings, in New York (2-6 November) and Geneva (12-16 December), respectively. At the meetings, the

Committee met with several UN entities and civil society organizations in order to find ways to improve cooperation.

- ▶ In 2016, OHCHR provided substantive and logistical support to the 96 country visits undertaken by mandate holders to 65 States and territories. The Office also assisted in the drafting and submission of 526 communications to States and 134 reports to the HRC and 39 reports to the General Assembly. The Office also organized two major annual fora in 2016: the 9th session of the Forum on Minority Issues and the 5th Forum on Business and Human Rights.
- ▶ In 2016, with the financial support of the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review, which is administered by OHCHR, 29 delegates representing 20 countries participated in the UPR sessions and the adoption of HRC outcome documents.

Increased effectiveness in supporting field operations (GMO 5)

- ▶ In 2016, a total of 96 country visits were undertaken by special procedures mandate holders, many of which took place with the logistical and substantive support of OHCHR field presences.
- ▶ Through the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review, a total of 24 projects in the field were funded to support States in: establishing and/or strengthening inter-institutional bodies to coordinate follow-up to recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms; mainstreaming those recommendations into national human rights action plans; implementing key priority human rights recommendations; and providing support in the context of the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks.

Human Rights Council – Outcomes of sessions held in 2016

31st session (29 February – 24 March)

The Council adopted resolutions, decisions and President's statements on the following subjects:

- ▶ The integrity of the judicial system; the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism: the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism; the question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights; the rights of persons with disabilities in situations of risk and humanitarian emergencies; the rights of the child: information and communication technologies and child sexual exploitation; human rights and the environment; adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and the right to non-discrimination in this context; the right to food; 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; the promotion of the enjoyment of the cultural rights of everyone and respect for cultural diversity; the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities; the role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights; the right to work; freedom of religion or belief; human rights education and training; the negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin to the countries of origin on the enjoyment of human rights, and the importance of improving international cooperation; promoting human rights through sport and the Olympic ideal; the effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights; torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment: safeguards to prevent torture during police custody and pretrial detention; protecting human rights defenders, whether individuals, groups or organs of society, addressing economic, social and cultural rights; the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests; and composition of staff of OHCHR.
- ▶ Commemoration of the 30th anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development; high-level panel on the occasion of the 10th anniversary of the Human Rights Council; commencement of the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review; and combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons based on religion or belief.
- ▶ The human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic; the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran; the situation of human rights in South Sudan; the situation of human rights in Myanmar; the situation of human rights in Haiti; human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan; the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination; the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem; ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem; Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan; technical assistance and capacity-building to improve human rights in Libya; technical assistance and capacity-building for Mali in the field of human rights; and strengthening technical cooperation and advisory services for Guinea.
- ▶ Outcomes of the Universal Periodic Review in relation to Australia, Austria, Georgia, Lebanon, Mauritania, Micronesia (Federated States of), Myanmar, Nauru, Nepal, Oman, Rwanda, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Sao Tomé and Príncipe.

32nd session (13 June – 1 July)

The Council adopted resolutions, decisions and President's statements on the following subjects:

- ▶ Youth and human rights; protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity; trafficking in persons, especially women and children: protecting victims of trafficking and people at risk of trafficking, especially women and children in conflict and post-conflict situations; the elimination of discrimination against women; the human rights and arbitrary deprivation of nationality; the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights; the right to a nationality: women's equal nationality rights in law and in practice; the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the right to food; human rights and international solidarity; business and human rights: improving accountability and access to remedy; the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons; the impact of arms transfers on human rights; the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet; the protection of the human rights of migrants: strengthening the promotion and protection of the human rights of migrants, including in large movements; access to medicines in the context of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; promoting the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health through enhancing capacity-building in public health; mental health and human rights; accelerating efforts to eliminate violence against women: preventing and responding to violence against women and girls, including indigenous women and girls; realizing the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl; the elimination of female genital mutilation; the right to education; protection of the family: the role of the family in supporting the protection and promotion of human rights of persons with disabilities; civil society space; the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; human rights and climate change; and regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights.

- ▶ Addressing the impact of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence in the context of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance on the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls; the Social Forum; and the Declaration on the Right to Peace.
- ▶ The situation of human rights in Eritrea; the human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic; the situation of human rights in Belarus; co-operation and assistance to Ukraine in the field of human rights; and capacity-building and technical co-operation with Côte d'Ivoire in the field of human rights.
- ▶ Outcomes of the Universal Periodic Review in relation to Belgium, Denmark, Estonia, Latvia, Mozambique, Namibia, the Niger, Palau, Paraguay, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands and Somalia.

33rd session (13 – 30 September)

The Council adopted resolutions, decisions and President's statements on the following subjects:

- ▶ The Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences; the safety of journalists; the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order; the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination; the human rights of older persons; the role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights; unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and human rights; local government and human rights; the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health; the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation; preventable mortality and morbidity of children under 5 years of age as a human rights concern; human rights and indigenous peoples; the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples; the right to development; preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights; human rights and transitional justice; cultural rights and the protection of cultural heritage; the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism; equal participation in political and public affairs; and arbitrary detention.
- ▶ The Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights; and reports of the Advisory Committee.
- ▶ The human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic; the situation of human rights in Burundi; technical assistance and capacity-building for Yemen in the field of human rights; assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights; technical assistance and capacity-building to improve human rights in the Sudan; technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the Central African Republic; technical assistance and capacity-building for human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; and enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights.
- ▶ Outcomes of the Universal Periodic Review in relation to Antigua and Barbuda, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Papua New Guinea, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, the Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago and the United Republic of Tanzania.

25th special session (21 October)

- ▶ The Council adopted a resolution on the deteriorating situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic and the recent situation in Aleppo.

26th special session (14 December)

- ▶ The Council adopted a resolution on the situation of human rights in South Sudan.

Special Procedures Mandate Holders 2016

Mandate	Established	Mandate-holder
Country mandates		
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus	2012	Mr. Miklós Haraszti (Hungary) since October 2012
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia	1993	Ms. Rhona Smith (United Kingdom) since May 2015
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Central African Republic	2013	Ms. Marie-Therese Keita Bocoum (Côte d'Ivoire) since January 2014
Independent Expert on capacity-building and technical cooperation with Côte d'Ivoire in the field of human rights	2014	Mr. Mohammed Ayat (Morocco) since December 2014
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Eritrea	2012	Ms. Sheila B. Keetharuth (Mauritius) since October 2012
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	2004	Mr. Tomás Ojea Quintana (Argentina) since August 2016
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti	1995	Mr. Gustavo Gallón (Colombia) since May 2013
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran	2011	Ms. Asma Jahangir (Pakistan) since October 2016
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Mali	2013	Mr. Suliman Baldo (Sudan) since October 2013
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar	1992	Ms. Yanghee Lee (Republic of Korea) since June 2014
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967	1993	Mr. Michael Lynk (Canada) since June 2016
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia	1993	Mr. Bahame Nyanduga (United Republic of Tanzania) since June 2014
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Sudan	2005 (SR) 2009 (IE)	Mr. Aristide Nononsi (Benin) since December 2014
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic	2012	Mr. Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro (Brazil) will start once the mandate of the commission of inquiry ends
Thematic mandates		
Working Group of experts on people of African descent	2002	Mr. Ahmed Reid (Jamaica) since November 2015 Mr. Michał Balcerzak (Poland) since December 2014 Mr. Ricardo Ill Sunga (the Philippines) since December 2014 Ms. Mireille Fanon- Mendes-France (France) since May 2011 Mr. Sabelo Gumedze (South Africa) since August 2014
Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism	2015	Ms. Ikponwosa Ero (Nigeria) since August 2015
Working Group on arbitrary detention	1991	Mr. Sètondji Roland Jean-Baptiste Adjovi (Benin) since June 2014 Mr. Seong-Phil Hong (Republic of Korea) since August 2014 Mr. Vladimir Tochilovsky (Ukraine) since May 2010 Ms. Leigh Toomey (Australia) since August 2015 Mr. José Guevara (Mexico) since June 2014
Working Group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises	2011	Mr. Surya Deva (India) since April 2016 Mr. Michael K. Addo (Ghana) since November 2011 Mr. Pavel Sulyandziga (Russian Federation) since November 2011 Mr. Dante Pesce (Chile) since May 2015 Ms. Anita Ramasastry (USA) since November 2016
Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights	2009	Ms. Karima Bennoune (USA) since November 2015
Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities	2014	Ms. Catalina Devandas Aguilar (Costa Rica) since December 2014

Mandate	Established	Mandate-holder
Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances	1980	Mr. Bernard Duhaime (Canada) since December 2014 Ms. Houria Es Slami (Morocco) since June 2014 Mr. Ariel Dulitzky (Argentina/USA) since August 2010 Mr. Henrikas Mickevičius (Lithuania) since November 2015 Mr. Tae-Ung Baik (Republic of Korea) since August 2015
Special Rapporteur on the right to development	2016	To be appointed at the 34th session of the Human Rights Council
Special Rapporteur on the right to education	1998	Ms. Boly Barry Koumbou (Burkina Faso) since August 2016
Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment	2012	Mr. John Knox (USA) since August 2012
Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions	1982	Ms. Agnes Callamard (France) since August 2016
Special Rapporteur on the right to food	2000	Ms. Hilal Elver (Turkey) since June 2014
Independent Expert on foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights	2000	Mr. Juan Bohoslavsky (Argentina) since June 2014
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression	1993	Mr. David Kaye (USA) since August 2014
Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association	2010	Mr. Maina Kiai (Kenya) since May 2011
Special Rapporteur on the human rights obligations related to environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes	1995	Mr. Baskut Tuncak (Turkey) since June 2014
Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health	2002	Mr. Dainius Pūras (Lithuania) since August 2014
Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context	2000	Ms. Leilani Farha (Canada) since June 2014
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders	2000	Mr. Michel Forst (France) since June 2014
Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers	1994	Mr. Diego García-Sayán (Peru) since December 2016
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples	2001	Ms. Victoria Lucia Tauli-Corpuz (Philippines) since June 2014
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons	2004	Ms. Cecilia Jimenez (Philippines) since November 2016
Independent expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order	2011	Mr. Alfred de Zayas (USA) since May 2012
Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity	2005	Ms. Virginia Dandan (Philippines) since August 2011
Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination	2005	Mr. Anton Katz (South Africa), Chair-Rapporteur, since August 2011 Mr. Saeed Mokbil (Yemen) since June 2014 Ms. Patricia Arias (Chile) since August 2011 Ms. Elzbieta Karska (Poland) since August 2011 Mr. Gabor Rona (USA/Hungary) since August 2011
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants	1999	Mr. François Crépeau (Canada) since August 2011
Special Rapporteur on minority issues	2005	Ms. Rita Izsak (Hungary) since August 2011

Mandate	Established	Mandate-holder
Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons	2013	Ms. Rosa Kornfeld-Matte (Chile) since June 2014
Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights	1998	Mr. Philip Alston (Australia) since June 2014
Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy	2015	Mr. Joseph Cannataci (Malta) since July 2015
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism , racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance	1993	Mr. Mutuma Ruteere (Kenya) since November 2011
Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief	1986	Mr. Ahmed Shaheed (Maldives) since November 2016
Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography	1990	Ms. Maud De Boer-Buquicchio (the Netherlands) since June 2014
Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity	2016	Mr. Vitit Muntarbhorn (Thailand) since November 2016
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery , including its causes and consequences	2007	Ms. Urmila Bhoola (South Africa) since June 2014
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism	2005	Mr. Ben Emmerson (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) since August 2011
Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	1985	Mr. Nils Melzer (Switzerland) since November 2016
Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons , especially women and children	2004	Ms. Maria Grazia Giammarinaro (Italy) since August 2014
Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees on non-recurrence	2011	Mr. Pablo De Greiff (Colombia) since May 2012
Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights	2014	Mr. Idriss Jazairy (Algeria) since May 2015
Special Rapporteur on violence against women , its causes and consequences	1994	Ms. Dubravka Šimonovic (Croatia) since August 2015
Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation	2008	Mr. Léo Heller (Brazil) since December 2014
Working Group on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice	2010	Ms. Kamala Chandrakirana (Indonesia) since May 2011 Ms. Emna Aouij (Tunisia) since May 2011 Ms. Alda Facio (Costa Rica) since June 2014 Ms. Frances Raday (Israel/United Kingdom) since May 2011 Ms. Eleonora Zielinska (Poland) since May 2011