

# 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, produces 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 or under internationally agreed development goals. The Division leads efforts to advance the right to development in accordance with the High Commissioner's mandate 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 OHCHR field presences.

The Division's main functions are:

- ▶ Supporting the High Commissioner's global leadership role in advocacy on thematic human rights issues. The Division led the global engagement around themes in relation to all six thematic priorities for the period 2014-2017 in terms of research, advice, advocacy and capacity-development.
- ▶ Developing methodology and policies relating to human rights work, namely translating international human rights law and principles into practical methods, approaches, standards, procedures and tools for the human rights work that is being carried out by OHCHR and other UN, international and national actors.
- ▶ Promoting the integration of human rights into all policy, management and operational work of the UN, development, peace and security, humanitarian affairs and economic and social affairs in order to strengthen the overall normative and operational linkages. This is primarily done in the course of OHCHR's work with the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), in connection with the Human Rights up Front (HRUF) Action Plan and 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). The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda provide the framework for this work.

- ▶ Contributing to increased knowledge and understanding of human rights through education and training, the development of materials, policies, methodologies and programmes and the provision of training, advice and coordination under the Plan of Action for the Third Phase (2015-2019) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education.
- ▶ Supporting the international human rights mechanisms and providing substantive input and organizational assistance to the HRC.
- ▶ Taking the lead in the implementation of OHCHR's Global Management Output 3, which requires that a "gender perspective is effectively integrated into all OHCHR policies, programmes and processes" and contributing to the enhancement of staff skills in line with Global Management Output 6.

## Results

### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

- ▶ *Advances in the progressive development of international and regional human rights law in areas relevant to the Office's thematic priorities (EA 8)*  
OHCHR has been instrumental in supporting normative development and has undertaken a more proactive role in advising the human rights mechanisms and Member States on existing gaps and areas where additional guidance was required. Positive examples of the successful engagement with the human rights treaty bodies are General Comment No. 22 by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights on the right to sexual and reproductive health and General Recommendation No. 35 by the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on gender-based violence against women. Both texts contain ground-breaking guidance in key areas of women's rights and gender equality. These standards

have already been applied by human rights mechanisms in specific national contexts, including in decisions on individual complaints (i.e., *Mellet v. Ireland*, *Whelan v. Ireland*), as well as in submissions by special procedures to national judicial processes in the form of amicus briefs relating to reproductive health and rights issues in Brazil and the United Kingdom. The Office also supported the elaboration of general recommendations on racist hate speech and on people of African descent by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination.

OHCHR supported the eighth session of the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing, as part of the joint Secretariat with UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs, which is mandated to consider the feasibility of developing a new international instrument dedicated to the human rights of older persons. The Office contributed to greater awareness of older persons' human rights issues and focused on normative gaps, through thematic discussions on equality and non-discrimination, as well as neglect, violence and abuse. The Office took steps to strengthen the role of national human rights institutions (NHRIs) in this process, which participated in the Working Group for the first time after a landmark decision that enabled NHRIs that had been accredited with 'A' status to participate in all General Assembly subsidiary bodies except the Human Rights Council. In addition, the Office contributed to ensuring the recognition of the human rights of older persons in the regional five-year review of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing and in other international fora, such as the second International Conference on the Human Rights of Older Persons that was held in September within the framework of the Asia-Europe Meeting.

On 3 October 2017, the Third Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights issued a judgment on the case of *N.D. and N.T. v Spain* and found that there had been a violation of the prohibition of collective expulsions and of the right to an effective remedy, in line with the arguments put forward by the High Commissioner in 2015 as a third party.

### Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

#### ► *Increased use of anti-discrimination and equality standards by judges and prosecutors (EA 1)*

OHCHR's research on judicial gender stereotyping with a focus on case law and practices unearthed a significant number of legal cases where gender stereotyping occurs, either because judges have not addressed stereotypes in their deliberations or decisions or because they themselves have perpetuated gender stereotypes, negatively impacting on the rights of women. The Council of Europe has recognized the importance of this work. In 2016, the Office and the Council of Europe cooperated to



Eighth working session of the General Assembly's Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing, July 2017. © UN Photo/Eskinder Debebe

support the development of the Training Manual for Judges and Prosecutors on Ensuring Women's Access to Justice.

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

Through the provision of technical advice and guidance, OHCHR contributed to the adoption of gender equality laws in the Republic of Moldova, Tanzania and Zambia. Legislation on specific women's rights issues has benefited from OHCHR expertise, including on domestic violence in Belarus and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, criminal codes in Burundi and Haiti, female genital mutilation in the Gambia and forced marriage in Kyrgyzstan. To this end, OHCHR provided materials on international human rights standards related to women's human rights, including a publication entitled *Women's Rights are Human Rights* and an information series on sexual and reproductive health and rights. Based on a request by the Government of the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, the Office provided comments on a draft law to combat discrimination in line with existing international standards, which is still under consideration.

In 2017, OHCHR launched an online course of the Latin American Model Protocol for the investigation of gender-related killings of women as part of its efforts to promote the application and dissemination of tools seeking to strengthen the capacities of justice systems to apply human rights standards on gender-related crimes. In its first year of implementation, the online course has benefited more than 250 judicial officials and key actors dealing with femicide cases from Argentina, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Honduras, El Salvador and Panama.

OHCHR also worked closely with indigenous peoples and Member States to advance the implementation of indigenous peoples' rights through its annual reporting to the Human Rights Council and the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and at side events, panels and through other tools. In terms of country-level engagement, in a number of countries in Central and South America and in other regions, the Office helped to integrate the rights of indige-

nous peoples into national law by providing technical assistance to national partners seeking to align their legal frameworks with the rights outlined in the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Additionally, the Office played a leading role as the coordinator of the UN Network on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities. Together with UN and civil society partners, OHCHR launched a Guidance Tool on Descent-Based Discrimination in Nepal, in March 2017, at a gathering of governmental and civil society representatives from several countries in the region. The Office further organized a seminar, in Santiago de Chile, on integrating minorities into development programming in line with the Guidance Note of the Secretary-General on racial discrimination and the protection of minorities.

- ▶ *National human rights institutions and civil society create and support participatory mechanisms to enhance equality and counter discrimination (EA 5)*  
The 2017 edition of OHCHR's minorities and indigenous fellowship programmes helped 48 advocates from 46 indigenous and minority communities to learn about the UN human rights machinery and enhance their international advocacy skills. Many of the fellows subsequently invoked their rights in UN bodies and mechanisms. The impact of the fellowship programmes was showcased in a promotional video that was launched in February 2017 and through other outreach materials.
- ▶ *Increased integration of human rights into international and regional processes relevant to migration (EA 10)*

Through the Global Migration Group, OHCHR provided support to and actively intervened in the inter-governmental process of the Global Compact on Migration. It also continued to support the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on International Migration, including through seconding a staff member to her office. Furthermore, the Human Rights Council continued to address the issue of migrants in vulnerable situations. Civil society actors at the international and regional levels increas-

ingly made reference to the work of the Office in advocating for the human rights of migrants.

The Office organized the Second Regional Meeting of the International Decade for people of African descent focussing on trends, priorities and challenges at the national and regional levels to effectively implement the Decade's Programme of Activities, and exchange good practices. This second regional meeting provided an opportunity to reflect on ways and means that governments from Central Asia, Europe and North America may integrate the provisions of the Programmes of Activities in their policies, programmes and strategies. The meeting brought together Member States, United Nations agencies, regional organizations, national human rights institutions, equality bodies and civil society representatives. OHCHR also organized the Annual Fellowship Programme for people of African descent, which benefitted 12 fellows from Australia, Brazil, Canada, Colombia, Guyana, Italy, the Netherlands, Spain, United States of America, United Kingdom and Venezuela, who deepened their understanding of the United Nations human rights system, with a focus on issues of particular relevance to people of African descent. OHCHR further supported the Working Group of Experts on people of African descent in undertaking country visits to Germany and Guyana, and its 20th session on the theme "Leaving no one behind: people of African descent and the Sustainable Development Goals." The Working Group concluded that the Sustainable Development Goals provide a comprehensive framework to effectively combat the racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia, Afrophobia and related intolerance that people of African descent face every day around the world, and urged Member States to make a genuine commitment to the standard of leaving no one behind.

#### Combating impunity and strengthening accountability and the rule of law

- ▶ *Constitutions, laws, administrative measures and policies respect, protect and guarantee freedom of opinion and expression, including the prohibition of*

So, I think that's a huge part of combatting xenophobia. It's redefining community.



#StandUp4HumanRights



Snapshots of two of the animated videos, released by OHCHR, featuring stories about migrants and their communities.

## Human rights and technology

Digital technology increasingly shapes our world, creating both great opportunities and risks for the promotion and protection of human rights. UN Human Rights has taken up the challenge and began engaging on some of the new and emerging issues arising in this context. In statements and at events, the High Commissioner has spoken out on diverse topics, such as online freedom of expression, hate speech, misinformation, online bullying, the gender digital divide, artificial intelligence, privacy and the fourth industrial revolution. One of his most notable statements was delivered during a mission to Silicon Valley, in September 2017, where he attended key events at the World Economic Forum and Berkeley University.



The Deputy High Commissioner speaks at the Geneva Lecture Series on Internet governance challenges, Geneva, November 2017. © UN Photo/Elma Okic

UN Human Rights contributed extensively to the AI for Good Global Summit, a multi-stakeholder event that took place in June 2017 and shed light on the latest developments in artificial intelligence and their implications for regulation, ethics, security and privacy. The Office was also involved in the Internet Governance Forum 2017, which included sessions on cybersecurity, violent online extremism and the gender digital divide. Cybersecurity featured prominently in a widely attended high-level dis-

cussion between the Deputy High Commissioner and Microsoft's Chief Legal Officer, Brad Smith. Finally, work has been carried out on gender and digital technology. UN Human Rights presented a well-received report to the Human Rights Council, entitled "Ways to bridge the gender digital divide from a human rights perspective." The findings of the report will be used as a springboard for ongoing work in this field.

*incitement to hatred, peaceful assembly, association, conscience, religion and belief (EA 1)*

The Office addressed issues around freedom of expression online by co-organizing two events at the Internet Governance Forum 2017, a multi-stakeholder forum for policy dialogue on issues of Internet governance. A half-day event, co-organized with civil society actors, focused on developing a human rights-based approach to cybersecurity, while another session focused on responses to violent extremism online. Civil society actors, human rights experts and business representatives from across the globe analysed law-related trends in this context.

- ▶ *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 2017, OHCHR elaborated guidance for trial monitoring and co-organized and participated in a number of trainings at the national level on human rights in the administration of justice. For instance, in Eritrea, the Office collaborated with the Government to organize a workshop on the human rights aspects of the administration of justice, such as the independence of the judiciary, the protection of persons deprived of their liberty, the right to a fair trial and the rights of persons in situations of vulnerability. About 70 representatives attended the event, including judges, prosecutors, police, correction personnel, the Ministry of Justice, the Ministry of the Interior and civil society representatives. Also at the national level, the Office provided technical assistance to the Government of Colombia in the development of a policy to eradicate the cultivation of illicit drugs in a manner that is compatible with human rights. At the global level, under the umbrella of a project led by UNDP and the Inter-

national Centre for Drug Policy and Human Rights, the Office contributed to the drafting of the International Guidelines on Drug Policy, which will seek to provide guidance to States and other stakeholders on issues related to human rights and drug policy.

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

The Office provided technical advice and carried out advocacy with States that retain the death penalty in order to encourage a moratorium in accordance with General Assembly resolution 67/176, and urge the implementation of international standards guaranteeing the protection of the rights of those facing the death penalty, including in Belarus, Iran, Iraq, Malaysia, Mauritania, Pakistan, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, the State of Palestine and the United States of America. The Office also engaged with the Government of Maldives to urge it to maintain its long-standing de facto moratorium on the death penalty. In addition, with a view to encouraging States to move away from the death penalty, the Office provided support to the UNCT for Barbados in hosting a seminar, in September 2017, on attitudes towards the death penalty in the Caribbean. The seminar was linked to an ongoing research project that explores public opinion on the death penalty in the Caribbean and followed a day of discussions with the public to survey their views on the death penalty in Barbados.

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

Through the “Faith for Rights” initiative, the Office engaged with faith-based actors to provide space for cross-disciplinary reflections on the connections between religions and human rights. In March 2017, the theistic, non-theistic and atheistic participants of an OHCHR expert workshop adopted the Beirut Decla-

ration and its corresponding 18 commitments, which articulate how “faith” can more effectively stand up for “rights” so that both can enhance the other. The Beirut Declaration addresses incitement to religious hatred (following up on the Rabat Plan of Action) and covers the full spectrum of human rights responsibilities of religious leaders. Furthermore, in July 2017, the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women raised the “Faith for Rights” framework in their dialogues with three States Parties.

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

The Office actively contributed to transitional justice discussions within the UN system and in the Gambia, Iraq, Kosovo<sup>16</sup>, Nepal, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan (Darfur) and Tunisia, in particular regarding laws establishing transitional justice mechanisms. For instance, OHCHR provided support to the national consultation taskforce on reconciliation mechanisms, established by the Government of Sri Lanka, and provided training to members and advisory panels, representatives and experts of the taskforce on the substantive content of transitional justice. In the Gambia, support was provided for the development of strategies to integrate a gender perspective into transitional justice initiatives, while advocacy was carried out to promote the participation of women and girls in transitional justice mechanisms. In Colombia, the Office supported the national efforts for the establishment of judicial and non-judicial mechanisms to deal with serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law committed during the armed conflict. In Guatemala, OHCHR facilitated the participation of civil society and victims in the Zepur

<sup>16</sup> Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

## Faith for Rights

To provide space for and enlarge human rights engagement with religious leaders and faith-based actors, UN Human Rights has spearheaded the “Faith for Rights” initiative. It is hoped that this initiative will facilitate reflections across disciplines regarding the connections between religion and human rights. In March 2017, the theistic, non-theistic and atheistic participants of a UN Human Rights expert workshop adopted the Beirut Declaration and its corresponding 18 commitments, which articulate how “faith” can stand up for “rights” more effectively so that each one enhances the other. The Beirut Declaration addresses incitement to re-

ligious hatred and sets out the human rights responsibilities of religious leaders. Several thematic and country-specific reports by the Secretary-General, High Commissioner, special procedures and treaty bodies make reference to this Declaration. Furthermore, in December, more than 100 States, national human rights institutions, regional organizations, religious authorities and civil society actors participated in a symposium, in Rabat, to present projects and areas of future cooperation in order to combat discrimination on the basis of religion and enhance the role of faith-based actors in the defence of human rights.

Sarco trial that resulted in the conviction of military officials for the sexual exploitation of indigenous women and it is providing technical assistance for the implementation of appropriate reparation measures. In the Central African Republic, the Office collaborated in the preparation of the mapping report which documents the serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law that were committed in the country between 2003 and 2015 by Government forces and various local and foreign armed groups, as well as international and foreign defence forces. The report, which was released in May 2017, provides an important factual basis for transitional justice processes, including vetting and truth seeking mechanisms and the appointment of members of the National Human Rights Commission.

### 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)*

In the areas of land and housing rights, the Office supported the human rights-based implementation of the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11, including by strengthening partnerships with local and regional authorities and facilitating interactions with UN human rights mechanisms and other key stakeholders. The Office also supported the joint “Make the Shift” initiative with the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing and the United Cities and Local Governments organization, which will provide a platform for a multiplicity of local, national and regional voices and actions to reclaim housing and land as human rights.

As a follow-up to Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/32/10, the Office convened two expert workshops to discuss the interface between human rights due diligence and standards for legal liability and to explore how to more effectively prosecute companies involved with human rights abuses. These discussions enhanced the understanding of States about the challenges and complexities deriving from their obligations to provide an effective remedy to victims of corporate-related human rights abuse. It also contributed to an increased focus on access to remedy in law and policy. The workshops fed into some of the normative and practical discussions during the 2017 Annual Forum on Business and Human Rights, which focused on challenges faced and progress made in ensuring that domestic public law regimes provide access to remedy. The Office supported the OECD to incorporate core concepts from the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights into its processes and guidance

documents, thereby contributing to the development of sector-specific guidance for the footwear and garment sector and institutional investors and ensuring an increased focus on the human rights chapter of the OECD guidelines for multinational enterprises and the work of the OECD National Contact Points.

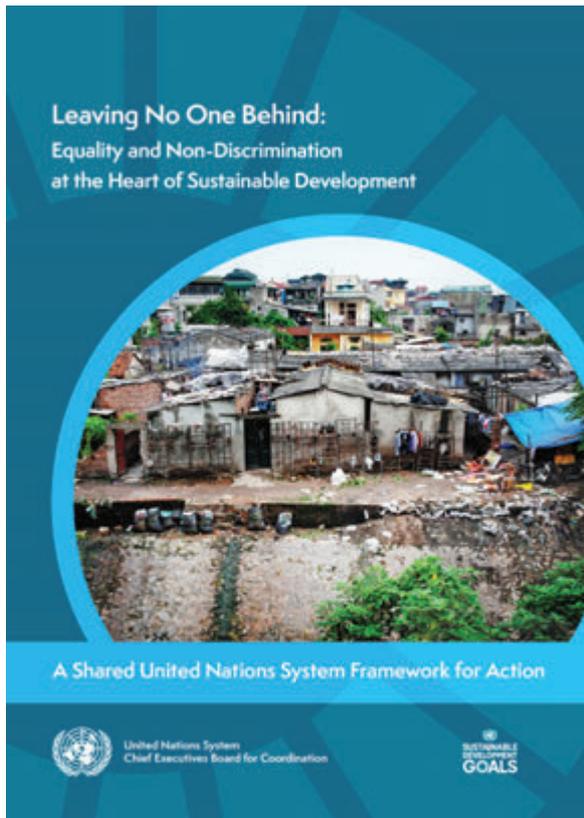
- ▶ *Rights-holders meaningfully participate in the design and monitoring of public policies, budgets and development projects particularly affecting their human rights (EA 5)*

OHCHR engaged with the World Bank in relation to the integration of indigenous peoples’ rights in its guidance notes on new environmental and social safeguards. The Office also developed a tool to empower stakeholders to explore the linkages between international human rights obligations and national budgets, highlighting the importance of human rights-based budgets in the context of SDG implementation.

- ▶ *Human rights are integrated into the formulation of and follow-up to the post-2015 development agenda (EA 10)*

OHCHR helped to ensure that UN development system guidance on SDG implementation and monitoring integrates human rights, including the recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms. The Office co-led a UN system-wide initiative to place the imperative of addressing inequalities and discrimination at the heart of the UN’s support to SDG implementation, focusing on practical strategies for reducing inequalities within and among countries and eliminating multiple forms of discrimination. The UN’s Chief Executive Board adopted this framework (entitled Leaving No One Behind: Equality and Non-Discrimination at the Heart of Sustainable Development) for the UN system and published it in 2017.

As part of strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights in SDG implementation at the country level, the Office led efforts to integrate human rights into the UN system-wide development policies and programmes under the UNDG, including by co-leading the update of the 2017 United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) Guidance. It further organized two retreats for resident coordinators on “Leveraging synergies in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs and human rights,” in the Latin America and Middle East and North Africa regions. These events contributed to increasing the awareness of participants about the linkages between the SDGs and human rights and between the international human rights system and its recommendations. As a result, participants made commitments to integrate human rights into SDG implementation at the national level and to build relationships between SDG decision makers and human rights actors at the national level, including by opening spaces for civil society wherever possible. In addition, the Office held



a series of “Dialogues on SDGs and human rights,” in New York, to identify good practices across different countries in terms of integrating human rights into the implementation of SDGs.

The majority of the SDG indicators adopted by the General Assembly are directly related to the realization of human rights, including the right to development. In fact, the interdependence between human rights and sustainable development is increasingly recognized in the development of SDG indicators, including for data disaggregation. This is reflected by the growing support for implementation of the guidance developed by the Office on a human rights-based approach to data. The Office also advanced methodological work for the compilation and reporting on SDG indicators for which it received custodianship by the international community, including indicators on the prevalence of discrimination, violence against human rights defenders, existence of national human rights institutions and conflict-related deaths (not covered by traditional homicide statistics). At the country level, the Office was able to facilitate dialogue and cooperation between human rights and statistical organizations for the development of indicators in Kenya, the Philippines, Rwanda, Serbia, the State of Palestine, Tunisia, the United Kingdom and Uzbekistan. In July, the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights and the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics signed an agreement to collaborate on the development and use of indicators that are relevant to human rights.

In terms of work on health and human rights, OHCHR carried out capacity-building on human rights monitoring in health care settings, supported the increased prioritization of sexual and reproductive health by national human rights institutions and enhanced its engagement with the judiciary on economic, social and cultural rights. The Office, together with WHO, also supported the High-Level Working Group on the Health and Rights of Women, Children and Adolescents (HLWG), which is mandated to secure political support, at both national and international levels, for the implementation of the human rights-related actions of the Global Strategy on Women’s, Children’s and Adolescents’ Health. The Global Strategy is a key implementing platform for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which emphasizes the role of human rights in securing improved health outcomes for women, children and adolescents. In May 2017, the HLWG issued its report, the first to be presented to both the Human Rights Council and the World Health Assembly, with recommendations for the creation of an enabling environment, partnering with people and strengthening evidence and accountability. Furthermore, in response to the call by HLWG for OHCHR and WHO to establish a joint programme of work to support the implementation of its recommendations, the organizations signed a Framework of Cooperation to this effect on 21 November 2017.

During 2017, the Office chaired the Inter-Agency Group against Trafficking in Persons, successfully leading the Group through the General Assembly’s appraisal of the Global Plan of Action to combat trafficking. The Group’s submission, coordinated by OHCHR, contained a number of provisions with direct relevance to human rights issues and was featured prominently in the political declaration adopted by the General Assembly. The Office was also successful in mainstreaming the human rights-based approach into the Inter-Agency Group’s joint policy papers, such as the issue brief on trafficking in persons and conflict, trafficking in persons and gender and the intersectionality between trafficking in persons and refugee status.

- ▶ *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)*

In July 2017, the Human Rights Impact Assessment of the Continental Free Trade Area agreement in Africa was launched. The Office shared policy recommendations with negotiators and policymakers to help with the design of a more inclusive, human rights-compliant trade agreement. The next step is to ensure that the findings of the assessment are implemented.

## International Conference on Human Rights Education “Bridging our Diversities”

UN Human Rights, together with Equitas, co-organized the International Conference on Human Rights Education, “Bridging our Diversities,” which was held in Canada from 30 November to 3 December 2017. Approximately 300 educators, scholars and human rights defenders from over 50 countries participated in the four-day event. The conference documented and shared good human rights education practices in addressing today’s most pressing global challenges, such as countering extremist violence, ensuring the inclusion of refugees and migrants, supporting human rights defenders, empowering women and girls; eliminating inequality and discrimination and ensuring renewed relationships with indigenous peoples.

In October 2017, the Office collaborated with the University for Peace in Costa Rica and the UN University’s International Institute for Global Health in Malaysia to launch an interactive e-learning module on operationalizing the right to development in implementing the SDGs. This module brings together the combined contributions of 10 experts from around the world with a common commitment to ensure the mainstreaming of the right to development in the process of SDG implementation in a rights-based manner. The course will be launched in 2018.

- ▶ *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)*

The Office continued to advocate for the integration of human rights language into climate laws and policies, including at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. The twenty-third session of the Conference of the Parties decided to establish the first Gender Action Plan and the Local Communities and Indigenous Peoples Knowledge Platform, which contain clear human rights references.

### 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)*

The Office, in collaboration with The Carter Center, concluded a two-year project aimed at bringing together the electoral observation and human rights communities. The objective was to advance strategies for collaboration and strengthen a human rights-based approach to elections, including through the increased use of jurisprudence of human rights mechanisms by electoral observers. As a

result, a group of experts endorsed a Human Rights and Elections Plan of Action, which identified key ways these stakeholders can work towards more inclusive and credible elections.

The issue of safety of women journalists was featured in all sessions of the Multi-stakeholder Consultation to review the UN Plan of Action on the Safety of Journalists. The Issue of Impunity, co-organized by OHCHR and UNESCO, in June, brought together approximately 250 representatives of UN agencies, Member States, regional intergovernmental organizations, civil society, media, Internet intermediaries and academia. The resulting Outcome Document contains a number of recommendations directed at different stakeholders that are specifically aimed at addressing the safety of women journalists. This is also a priority area of the newly re-established UN network of focal points for the safety of journalists.

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

The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples continued to play a crucial role in facilitating the participation of 94 indigenous representatives in international human rights mechanisms, including in the UPR process and meetings of the human rights treaty bodies. The beneficiaries of the Fund also played a key role in launching the new mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the rights of indigenous peoples. A new booklet on the Fund was released to show its impact at the country level to donors, indigenous representatives and other stakeholders.

### 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 situations of conflict, violence and insecurity (EA3)*

The Office contributed to substantive discussions and the development of strategies to prevent and counter violent extremism, including the Barcelona Plan of Action (January 2017), the Beirut Declaration on “Faith for Rights” (March 2017) and the Rabat+5 Symposium (December 2017). Furthermore at the global level, OHCHR worked with the Office of Counter-Terrorism and as Chair of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force Working Group on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights and the Rule of Law while Countering Terrorism. In so doing, the Office moved forward with the delivery of a global human rights capacity-building project for law enforcement in order to support the integration of human rights into the counter-terrorism initiatives of security and law enforcement officials and through their cross-border and regional cooperation. Training sessions and engagement with senior govern-

ment officials have taken place in Iraq, Jordan, Mali, Nigeria and Tunisia, with further plans to provide training sessions in Cameroon, as well as nationalized training curricula and trainings of trainers in all six countries. In Tunisia, with technical support from OHCHR, the Independent High Authority for audio-visual communication developed a national barometer to monitor incitement to hatred, which is based on the Rabat Plan of Action. This initiative is being replicated in Côte d'Ivoire and Morocco.

Moreover, the first report to the Human Rights Council on the impact of arms transfers on the enjoyment of human rights (A/HRC/35/8), highlighted some key aspects of its impact, set out the relevant international and regional legal frameworks and suggested elements that may be used by States and other stakeholders to assess the relationship between arms transfers and human rights. In his report to the General Assembly (A/72/316), the Secretary-General highlighted the critical role of human rights in preventing violent extremism and countering terrorism, with reference to observations by and initiatives of OHCHR, the Human Rights Council, the special procedures mandate-holders and human rights treaty bodies. The good practices that were identified included policies and laws that combat social exclusion and marginalization as essential elements in the effective prevention and countering of violent extremism. The Office also engaged in capacity-building initiatives, including a joint project with UNODC for offi-

cial and civil society representatives in countries in the Lake Chad Basin region. In this context, the Office helped to develop guidance materials and delivered training on mainstreaming a gender perspective and women's rights into the investigation and prosecution of offences by terrorist groups, as well as into the support provided to victims. Additionally, the Office supported capacity-development on human rights in the context of trafficking and slavery through technical assistance to processes aimed at drafting national action plans in the Middle East and North Africa region.

Furthermore, at the request of the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan, OHCHR facilitated a workshop, in Juba, where the Commissioners and the Secretariat had the opportunity to discuss internally its strategy to overcome challenges for the investigation and documentation of sexual violence. As a result, the report of the Commission included a comprehensive section on sexual and gender-based violence, which captures the experiences of women, men, girls and boys as well as the long lasting impact of sexual violence crimes in the lives of survivors.

- ▶ *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 line with OHCHR's commitments at the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, the Office developed two methodological tools on integrating human rights into humanitarian action, an assessment and analysis tool for OHCHR staff in emergencies and a new chapter in the OHCHR manual on human rights monitoring addressing the specificities in monitoring in emergencies. In addition, OHCHR launched the Arabic version of the online mandatory course for United Nations staff on United Nations human rights responsibilities. The course is now available in four languages on the learning platforms of the UN Secretariat and UNICEF. As of December 2017, 21,170 staff members had completed the course. As of July, six UN entities have made the course available to their staff on their learning platforms, while five other have committed to doing so.

OHCHR continued to provide advice and support on the implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) to UN entities in the field and at headquarters level. It also facilitated exchanges of experiences enabling the UN system as a whole to more coherently and consistently implement the HRDDP. In the field, advice was provided to the United Nations Support Mission in Libya in the adoption of its standard operating procedure (SOP) and its General and Preliminary Risk Assessment Framework (GPRAF). In addition, advice was extended to the United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office



UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples:  
30 years of empowering indigenous peoples  
to claim their rights



UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

in Guinea-Bissau on strategies to ensure HRDDP implementation, to the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo for the SOP for its HRDDP Secretariat and to the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali on the revision of its SOP. The Office supported field presences in Guinea, Kenya and Lebanon to develop and finalize GPRAFs and establish HRDDP working groups within the local UNCTs. At headquarters level, the HRDDP was integrated into the United Nations Military Observers Policy as well as into a number of United Nations Police guidelines. The “Screening Plus” framework was agreed upon between OHCHR and DPKO, whereby assessments of the human rights record of existing and prospective troop/police contributing countries will systematically inform UN decisions on recruitment and rotation.

In the context of the Human Rights up Front (HRUF) initiative, OHCHR integrated HRUF requirements into UN action at the country and headquarters levels, including early warning analysis when engaging with other UN entities on human rights issues. The inter-agency report on establishing a common UN information management system on violations, led by OHCHR, served as a reference point guiding relevant UN colleagues on issues related to human rights and information management. OHCHR also continued the development of an analytical framework to integrate economic, social and cultural rights into early warning analysis, which was first presented in the 2016 report of the High Commissioner to the Economic and Social Council and tested at the field level in Fiji, in December.

Upon taking office, the Secretary-General set out to develop a strategy on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse, which was released in March. OHCHR provided significant assistance during its development through its membership on the Task Force that drafted the strategy. OHCHR subsequently contributed to the implementation of the strategy’s four priority areas, namely, putting the rights and dignity of victims first, ending impunity, engaging with civil society and external partners and improving strategic communications for education and transparency. The Office contributed to various other policies on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse and provided input to the Secretary-General’s Voluntary Compact on preventing and addressing sexual exploitation and abuse in Member States. In accordance with its mandate to monitor, investigate and report on allegations of human rights violations, including allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse involving non-UN international forces operating under a Security Council mandate, OHCHR included data on such allegations, for the first time, in the February 2017 report of the Secretary-General



OHCHR staff member training UN military force in Entebbe on human rights integration in military operations. © OHCHR

on special measures for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse. In the report, OHCHR reported on 20 allegations against non-UN forces, involving 20 victims. During 2017, OHCHR followed up on the allegations with the respective Member States in order to promote accountability.

## Global Management Outputs

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

- ▶ In 2017, special emphasis was placed on strengthening the capacity of OHCHR regional offices to implement and support activities promoting women’s rights and gender equality. An independent evaluation of OHCHR’s regional gender advisers structure found that it was a highly effective mechanism for achieving regional-level results. It also provided recommendations to strengthen and improve the efficiency and sustainability of the structure.
- ▶ Three female OHCHR staff members benefited from the new joint UN programme for Emerging Women Leaders in Geneva, while four female staff members participated in the Leadership, Women and the UN Training course in Nairobi.
- ▶ At the UN system-wide level, OHCHR actively participated in the International Geneva Gender Champions initiative and at the annual UN System-wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-SWAP) Workshop that took place in Geneva, strongly contributing to shaping UN frameworks on gender integration, in particular the new UN-SWAP 2.0.
- ▶ Special emphasis was placed on ensuring that gender was integrated into the OHCHR planning process for 2018-2021, leading to the formulation of the four new gender-related thematic results for

the Office, as well as an Organizational Effectiveness Goal on Gender and Diversity.

- ▶ Efforts continued to support field presences, commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions to document and analyse cases of sexual and gender-based violence. Regular support provided to field presences in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Somalia led to their strengthened capacity to integrate a gender analysis into their reports, including with disaggregated data on incidents and violations and attention to the specific impact of violations on women and men.

#### **Increased effectiveness in supporting human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)**

- ▶ RRDD provided substantive, secretariat and logistical support to a number of human rights mechanisms, including the 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. The Division also assisted open-ended intergovernmental working groups, such as the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Working Group to elaborate the content of an international framework on 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.

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

- ▶ In 2017, 153 staff (84 men, 69 women), primarily based in OHCHR field presences, improved their

human rights monitoring skills through nine training courses. In addition, briefing sessions on peace-keeping issues were delivered to more than 70 participants, including senior mission leaders, military and police personnel, OHCHR and DPKO staff.

- ▶ Staff ability in using the Human Rights Case Database improved through 13 remote briefings attended by 64 participants (32 women) by November 2017. In addition, an online course on the use of the Database, launched in 2016, improved knowledge of how to use the tool and is accessible to all OHCHR staff everywhere at all times. Some 100 staff from 17 field presences completed the online course, which has enabled the effective sharing of key messages on the importance of thorough, systematic and accurate documentation in monitoring work.
- ▶ With a view to strengthening OHCHR's capacity to better engage in humanitarian emergencies, RRDD delivered the annual five-day OHCHR training course on human rights in humanitarian action, in Geneva, for 26 staff members from field presences and headquarters.
- ▶ In addition, support was provided to field presences in terms of responses to humanitarian crises (i.e., Mexico after the earthquakes), before rapid deployments (i.e., team deployed to Bangladesh) and capacity-building activities (i.e., to the Regional Office for Southern Africa in designing a training for the UNCT in Angola).
- ▶ The OHCHR Library's online catalogue registered more than one million visits, an increase of 19 per cent compared to 2016. In addition, the Library maintains the Human Rights and Education and Training (HRET) database, which now contains information on 1,219 institutions and 356 active human rights training programmes. These training programmes are part of global efforts to increase knowledge of human rights. The Library's HRET collection was increased by 116 items, which were either purchased or donated. In 2017, the Library started a project to digitize the HRET public domain publications so as to provide wider access to these resources.