

Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division

Background

The Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division (FOTCD) is responsible for conceptualizing, overseeing and supporting the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights at the country and regional levels, including through advisory services, technical assistance to governments and other counterparts. FOTCD also provides substantive, programmatic and administrative support to the OHCHR field presences. Moreover, FOTCD supports the special procedures of the Human Rights Council (13 until March 2017 and 11 after the termination of the mandates on Côte d'Ivoire and Haiti), as well as commissions of inquiry and other investigative entities mandated by the Human Rights Council.

FOTCD, in cooperation with other parts of OHCHR, contributes to strengthening the understanding of national authorities and civil society actors about international human rights standards and their capacities to translate them into legislation, regulations and policies. The ultimate objective of this work is to ensure that duty-bearers are better equipped to address chronic and emerging human rights issues and that rights-holders are better protected and empowered. FOTCD fulfils its role in consultation and cooperation with national, regional and international partners, including government actors, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), civil society, regional organizations and the United Nations system.

FOTCD is composed of three geographic branches (Africa; Asia-Pacific and Middle East and North Africa; Americas and Europe and Central Asia), which are each divided into two sections; and three specialized sections (the National Institutions, Regional Mechanisms and Civil Society Section; the Emergency Response Section; and the Peace Missions Support Section). The geographic branches and sections are responsible for the day-to-day work of OHCHR, which entails following human rights developments at the country and regional levels; country engagement, including interactions with governments, NHRIs, civil society actors and the United Nations system; advising the OHCHR leadership; supporting field presences; and engaging with the United Nations human rights mechanisms.



A young boy at the Zaatari Refugee Camp in Jordan.
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The Emergency Response Section coordinates OHCHR's engagement in and effective responses to ongoing or emerging crises or, in a preventive mode, potential emergency situations. This includes the deployment of human rights teams in the context of complex emergencies or natural disasters or for the purpose of preventive advocacy and action, including participation in multidisciplinary United Nations teams under the Secretary-General's Human Rights up Front (HRUF) Action Plan. The Section is also responsible for the operationalization of activities mandated by United Nations intergovernmental bodies (mainly the Human Rights Council), such as the establishment of and support to commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions. Moreover, the Section leads the provision of early warning information and analyses to various United Nations processes, including the United Nations Operations and Crisis Centre and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Early Warning/Early Action process.

The Peace Mission Support Section, located in OHCHR's New York Office, ensures that the United Nations peace and security agenda integrates human rights at the political, strategic and operational levels. The Section provides support and guidance to the human rights components of United Nations peace missions by gathering and sharing good practices and

information, including through its resource centre on the integration of human rights into peace missions.

The National Institutions, Regional Mechanisms and Civil Society Section provides advice and support for the establishment and strengthening of NHRIs that are compliant with the Paris Principles and serves as the Secretariat for the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). The Section is fully engaged in strengthening cooperation between the United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms and contributes to enhancing the critical partnerships between OHCHR and civil society organizations. It also supports their engagement with the United Nations human rights mechanisms.

Results

Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

In the Middle East and North Africa region, the Office continued to support engagement between Member States and civil society with the international human rights mechanisms. For instance, it organized three study tours on the international human rights mechanisms, in March, June and September. Over 57 participants attended from Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, the State of Palestine, Tunisia and Yemen. These study tours provided an opportunity for participants to share their experiences and the challenges they face in implementing the recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms to increase their understanding of the work and relevance of the mechanisms. It also ena-

bled them to engage with various parts of OHCHR. In March, FOTCD provided training, in Geneva, to 22 diplomats from Kuwait's Ministry of Foreign Affairs on establishing a National Plan of Action for the Implementation of Recommendations stemming from International Mechanisms for Human Rights.

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

FOTCD participated in several regular sessions of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, including for the purpose of exchanging information on thematic issues and country situations in the Americas. In October, OHCHR and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights launched a Joint Action Mechanism to Contribute to the Protection of Human Rights Defenders in the Americas that would enable the two organizations to closely collaborate on emblematic cases and situations concerning human rights defenders. A programme of joint studies, monitoring and protection, advocacy, promotion and technical cooperation activities is foreseen for the coming years.

- *Enhanced systematic engagement by United Nations Country Teams with international human rights mechanisms (EA 11)*

FOTCD provided technical assistance, advice and capacity-building to United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) to support their follow-up to the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. For instance, the technical support that was offered to the UNCT in the Maldives in the context of a political crisis ensured that the recommendations issued by international human rights mechanisms were integrated into United Nations interventions; in Bangladesh, OHCHR provided advisory support for the UNCT to prepare its submissions to the Committee on the Elimination of Dis-

Accountability and justice in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 31/35 on "Ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem," OHCHR undertook a comprehensive review detailing the status of the implementation of recommendations that had been addressed to all parties since 2009 by relevant Human Rights Council mechanisms. The resulting report (A/HRC/35/19) and addendum were presented under agenda item 7 of the Human Rights Council on 19 June 2017. The final analysis was based on 63 reports that were issued between 2009 and 2016 and a total of 929 recommendations issued by the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and Human Rights Council mecha-

nisms and included recommendations addressed to the Government of Israel, the Government of the State of Palestine and other Palestinian duty-bearers, the United Nations and the international community, other Member States, businesses and civil society. As requested by resolution 31/35, the report identified patterns of non-compliance, non-implementation and non-cooperation and documented failures by all the parties to fully implement the vast majority of recommendations addressed to them. The report concluded that compliance with international law is the condition sine qua non for peace and that the political will and commitment of all parties is essential to advancing the two-State solution.

crimination against Women and the Human Rights Committee, as well as its first input to the United Nations stakeholders' report in anticipation of the country's third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR); and OHCHR's support to the UNCT in Iran facilitated United Nations programming to follow up on recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies.

Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

During 2017, enhancing equality and countering discrimination was a priority focus area for OHCHR. Engagement with UNCTs in Bangladesh and Nepal ensured that country assessments included an analysis of discriminatory social and legal norms and resulted in programming that seeks to address structural inequalities and the needs of vulnerable groups.

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

During the year, unprecedented levels of large-scale displacements of women, men and children across the globe continued, contributing to large numbers of refugees and migrants. OHCHR worked closely with international and regional partners to highlight and address concerns about the human rights of migrants and refugees. In the Asia Pacific region, significant attention was given to the human rights situation of the Rohingya crossing borders to escape persecution in the Rakhine State and the impact on them of the migration policies of receiving countries.

Helping ethnic minority youth to find employment in State structures

Since 2015, UN Human Rights has been working to help ethnic minority youth in Kyrgyzstan to gain better employment opportunities within the country's State authorities. One of the avenues that had a significant impact was the creation of internships in State institutions for motivated youth from ethnic minorities. In 2017, UN Human Rights, together with the Osh State University, selected 30 interns on a competitive basis, 15 of which have a minority background. The Office also reached an agreement with the State Personnel Agency to provide selected interns with opportunities in different State bodies ranging from mayor's offices, regional government institutions and law enforcement agencies. The ultimate goal of the programme was to encourage minorities to join the civil service by actively engaging them in public service and preparing them to pass entrance exams.



The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights meets with members of the G5 Sahel Joint Force in Mali. © UN Photo/Sahem Rababah

In relation to the ongoing high levels of migration to the European Union through North Africa, OHCHR headquarters ensured sustained coordination with its field presences in Africa and Europe and close engagement with the European Union. The OHCHR report, *Detained and Dehumanized: Report on human rights abuses against migrants in Libya*, released in December 2016, was widely used as a reference to engage European Union and Libyan officials about the dire conditions in detention centres holding migrants in Libya and their treatment in subsequent migration processes. In addition, OHCHR conducted missions to countries in Europe and the Americas and reported on human rights concerns and protection gaps in the context of migration. The High Commissioner issued several press statements to express concerns about the situation of migrants in various countries and frequently reflected such concerns in statements to the Human Rights Council and other fora. The Office consistently engaged with the special procedures of the Human Rights Council to strengthen advocacy on such issues. These efforts have led to a significant increase in awareness about the situation of migrants throughout the world and facilitated the introduction of some measures to improve their protection. Further work is required to address protection gaps.

- *Implementation of the Guidance Note of the Secretary-General on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities and the UN Indigenous Peoples' Partnership Initiative (EA 11)*

In 2017, OHCHR and the Resident Coordinator's Office in Nepal jointly organized a regional launch of the Guidance Tool on Descent-Based Discrimination: Key Challenges and Strategic Approaches to Combat Caste-Based and Analogous Forms of Discrimination. The launch brought together participants from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan, Sri Lanka and Thailand, in order to build the capacity

of UNCTs, NHRIs and civil society organizations to combat caste-based discrimination through good practices; promote changes in laws, policies and practices; and ensure the participation of affected descent-based communities.

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)*

In 2017, OHCHR continued to advocate for the abolition of the death penalty worldwide and raise human rights issues relating to the use of the death penalty. Several letters were sent by the High Commissioner to governments currently applying the death penalty, which requested stays of execution or commutations of death sentences, particularly for minors and persons with mental disabilities and in cases of serious breaches in due process.

In Barbados, a two-day discussion was organized with scholars, judges, lawyers and other experts on public opinion around the death penalty as part of ongoing advocacy towards its abolition. Advocacy with the authorities in the Maldives focused on sustaining the Government's moratorium on the death penalty after the President announced that executions would resume. Interventions by the High Commissioner and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Iran resulted in sparing the life of at least

one juvenile at risk of imminent execution. Moreover, OHCHR's advocacy with Iran contributed to an intensified debate among judicial officials regarding the efficacy of the death penalty as a deterrent to crime. This led to the adoption of amendments, in November, reducing the scope of the application of the death penalty for some drug-related offences.

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 worked with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung to create awareness of the human rights impact of the Continental Free Trade Area Agreement (CFTA) through a joint report that was launched in July 2017. The report analyses the impact on agricultural livelihoods, agro-manufacturing and informal cross-border trade, with a particular emphasis on women and vulnerable groups, such as smallholder farmers. The findings of the report were discussed at a dedicated panel at the World Trade Organization Public Forum, on 27 September. The panelists agreed that a human rights-based approach to trade issues was welcome in the context of the global backlash against trade and regional integration. It was emphasized that a human rights-based approach should be used to address the potential negative distributional aspects of trade liberalization. It was also recommended that the partnering organizations invest in efforts to ensure the effective uptake of the report's recommendations; inform the design of a human rights-friendly monitoring and evaluation mechanism under CFTA; and carry out an ex-post assessment of CFTA to identify the corrective measures that are needed to ensure inclusive gains.

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

Within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, OHCHR headquarters and field presences prioritized the increased capacity of UNCTs to apply a human rights-based approach to their United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs). As a result, UNDAFs in many countries significantly integrate human rights, including in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Belarus, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, the Gambia, Georgia, Ghana, India, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kosovo¹⁷,

Justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights in Uganda

In January 2017, a landmark judgment handed down by a judge of the High Court in Uganda established jurisprudence on the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights in Uganda, in particular on the right to health. Prior to this, because Uganda's Constitution did not protect all of the rights enshrined in the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), many rights were not raised before the courts. Civil society organizations filed cases, but judges declined to address those related to economic, social and cultural rights. To help overcome this situation, UN Human Rights developed a strategy to work with the Judicial Training Institute to build the capacity of the courts with regard to economic, social and cultural rights and developed a training curriculum that was incorporated into the training syllabus for judicial officers. The Office also provided technical assistance to judicial officers on the justiciability of these rights and advocated for the domestication of the ICESCR into national laws.

¹⁷ Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Nepal, Pakistan, Republic of Moldova, Rwanda, Senegal, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Ukraine and Uzbekistan.

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 NHRIs in 70 countries by working with relevant stakeholders to have an institution that is compliant with the Paris Principles and outlining their roles and responsibilities in promoting and protecting human rights. As the Secretariat of GANHRI, FOTCD organized annual conferences for the Global Alliance and its regional networks, including the biennial general meeting of the African Network of National Human Rights Institutions and the annual meeting of the Arab Network of NHRIs. FOTCD provided secretariat support to the process of NHRI accreditation and participated in the review process of 26 NHRIs by the GANHRI Sub-Committee on Accreditation. In 2017, the accreditation committee downgraded the status of several NHRIs from 'A' to 'B' status because it assessed that they no longer met the Paris Principles standards. As of December 2017, 121 NHRIs (compared to 105 in 2014) were accredited, including 78 with 'A' status.

FOTCD supported the engagement of NHRIs with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms and facilitated the circulation of 17 written NHRI submissions as official United Nations documents, 13 pre-recorded video statements and 45 oral statements that were presented by NHRIs, GANHRI and its regional networks. FOTCD also submitted 210 briefing notes to the human rights treaty bodies in relation

Human rights defender released after an unfair conviction

After four years of arbitrary detention, Jorge Montes was released from jail on 5 October 2017. Throughout his life, Jorge had worked to defend the rights of the farming community in the Montes de María region, Colombia, which had been severely affected by an internal armed conflict. Before his detention, Jorge and other grassroots leaders had led a massive but peaceful march to demand better living conditions for farmers in more than 50 rural districts. After the march, an agreement was reached with the President of Colombia. Five months later, in September 2013, the Attorney General's Office ordered the arrest of Jorge and charged him with rebellion and the murder of three people who had been killed by members of the FARC-EP. Despite the weak evidence against him and the contradictory statements given by local authorities and several farmers, he was sentenced to 39 years in prison, in March 2017.

UN Human Rights monitored this case from the beginning, contacted relevant authorities, provided advice to civil society organizations that were supporting Jorge, visited him in jail, monitored the judicial process and published an op-ed on his unfair conviction. All of these advocacy efforts, along with the actions of the farming communities and some civil society organizations, contributed to his release in October 2017.

to NHRIs in States under review. With regard to the engagement of NHRIs with New York-based human rights mechanisms, FOTCD facilitated the participation of eight 'A' status NHRIs, GANHRI and its regional networks in the eighth session of the Open-Ended Working Group on Ageing.

The network of focal points of Regional Human Rights Mechanisms, supported by OHCHR, was strengthened during the reporting period. Memoranda of understanding were concluded between OHCHR and the European Union and between OHCHR and the Inter-American Commission and Court of Human Rights. A human rights strategy was agreed upon between OHCHR and the African Union's human rights mechanisms. Continued implementation of the Addis Ababa Road Map, which guides cooperation between the special rapporteurs of the African System and the United Nations Human Rights Council, was another positive development that was manifested in joint visits, statements and other activities. FOTCD further facilitated the participation of representatives from regional human rights mechanisms in key United Nations human rights meetings, including the Conference of States Parties to the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Commis-



Panel on election related and political violence during the Annual Conference of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, March 2017. © Jeff Vize for the UN Special Rapporteur Maina Kiai

sion on the Status of Women and the annual meeting of special procedures mandate-holders.

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

OHCHR continued to undertake efforts to promote and protect space for civil society actors in international human rights fora, including by facilitating their engagement with the United Nations human rights mechanisms and building their capacity and knowledge in relation to human rights issues. FOTCD developed practical guides and publications, as well as weekly newsletters, which were disseminated to over 9,000 civil society actors. It disseminated over 27,000 copies of the Civic Space Guide (in 29 languages) and the How to Follow-up Guide (in 16 languages). The OHCHR online Toolkit for Civil Society was expanded to include a publication entitled Realizing Human Rights through Government Budgets that was introduced in regional trainings. The Office organized three regional capacity-building workshops on civil society space and United Nations human rights recommendations. The workshops were held in Africa and in Asia and the Pacific and included the participation of 100 civil society actors from 43 countries. The Asian workshop, held jointly with the Diplomacy Training Programme of the University of New South Wales (Sydney, Australia), invited indigenous civil society actors from Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines and Timor-Leste to discuss human rights, indigenous peoples, the private sector and development. The African workshop gathered 25 civil society participants from Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, the Gambia, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Sierra Leone, South Africa, Togo and Uganda to discuss strategic engagement with international and regional human rights mechanisms. The Pacific workshop was organized in partnership with the Pacific International Association of NGOs and included 28 civil society participants from the Cook Islands, Fiji, Guam, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, New Caledonia, Niue, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and West Papua.

- *Increased interventions of the international community to promote and protect civil society actors, including against reprisals (EA 10)*

Following the Secretary-General's 2016 request that the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights lead United Nations system-wide efforts to address reprisals against those cooperating with United Nations human rights mechanisms, FOTCD ensured the collection of information on cases and trends of

Increased human rights awareness in the Middle East and North Africa

With OHCHR technical and financial support, 11 NGOs are implementing human rights projects in five countries of the Middle East and North Africa region (Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco, the State of Palestine and Yemen). The impact of the projects were manifest in communities in Erbil and Mosul, Iraq, generating increased awareness about human rights and the rights of women and providing training for judicial investigators. In the State of Palestine, NGOs strengthened their capacity to conduct human rights advocacy while university students were made aware of the human rights of women and violence against women. In Yemen, in Sana'a, Abyan and Aden, the launch of the media campaign "Here I Am" led to greater awareness about the human rights of persons with disabilities. It also encouraged the engagement of political and community leaders and youth in peacebuilding dialogues at the community level to combat extremism and terrorism. In Lebanon, the capacity to undertake human rights monitoring of human rights violations has been strengthened and an advocacy campaign to improve access to justice for migrant domestic workers continued. In Morocco, more young people are participating in political processes to increase awareness of human rights and civil and political rights.

reprisals, as well as the development of strategies to address them.

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)*

Under the mandate of the United Nations Special Coordinator to Improve the United Nations Response to Sexual Exploitation and Abuse in peace operations, OHCHR has been fully involved in the work streams launched by her Office. This has included undertaking a gap analysis and mapping of roles and responsibilities, developing a uniform protocol on victims' assistance and a protocol on handling allegations, creating a glossary of terms, preparing a comprehensive manual on prevention and response, initiating an online survey to establish a baseline on the conduct, behaviour and perceptions of personnel related to sexual exploitation and abuse, information sharing on the protection of victims and preparing a newsletter for public dissemination.

- *Legal frameworks, public policies, State institutions, as well as non-State actors, increasingly comply*

with international standards in the area of prevention and response to human rights violations in situations of conflict, violence and insecurity (EA 1)

In 2017, FOTCD cooperated with the Qatari National Human Rights Committee to organize a regional conference, in Doha, Qatar, on the application of a human rights-based approach to address conflict situations in the Arab regions. This event enabled the Office to reach out to a wide range of stakeholders, including State officials and civil society actors from across the region, who exchanged information and recommendations about the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of conflicts.

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

With regard to implementing Security Council resolution 2320 (2016), OHCHR collaborated with the African Union Peace and Security Department to conduct joint activities aimed at developing the human rights, conduct and disciplinary framework of African Union peace operations. OHCHR strengthened the human rights capacity of the African Union by placing two staff members in the African Union Department of Political Affairs, in 2017, to facilitate dialogue on human rights within the organization and support the development and implementation of the African Union Ten-Year Action and Implementation Plan on the Promotion and Protection of Human and Peoples' Rights in Africa. Within this framework, between 2014 and 2017, OHCHR supported the development of various initiatives, including a human rights strategy for Africa, a policy framework on transitional justice, guidelines on business and human rights and the Ten-Year Action and Implementation Plan. The Plan is intended to serve as a continent-wide blueprint for the African Union to advance the human rights agenda and it is anticipated that it will be adopted in 2018.

- *Increased responsiveness and integration of human rights concerns into the international community's response to potential, emerging or existing situations of conflict, violence and insecurity (EA 10)*
- FOTCD coordinated the establishment of six investigative bodies. One of these is mandated by the General Assembly (International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism on Syria) and five are mandated by the Human Rights Council (two commissions of inquiry (Burundi II and South Sudan II); one fact-finding mission in relation to Myanmar; and two human rights investigation missions dispatched by the High Commissioner (Yemen and Kasai, DRC)). In addition, FOTCD organized 12 human rights monitoring missions, including two remote monitoring exercises (Turkey and Venezuela) and 11 field deployments, including one to Angola to monitor the human rights violations committed in the Kasai region of the DRC;

three missions to Bangladesh to monitor the human rights violations of the Rohingya population in Myanmar; two missions to Kenya to monitor the human rights situation in the context of elections; one to Qatar to gather information on the impact of the Gulf crisis on the human rights situation; one to Guatemala to assist the Office with human rights monitoring related to the crisis in the child welfare system; one to Haiti to assist with the establishment the human rights section of the UN Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH); one to Honduras to assist the Office with human rights monitoring following the crisis that unfolded after the elections; and one to Togo to monitor the human rights situation.

Furthermore, in 2017, OHCHR established the first Emergency Response teams for its regional offices in Southern Africa (Pretoria) and South-East Asia (Bangkok). These teams will increase the output of human rights analyses and early warning information at the regional level to facilitate targeted preventive action and swift responses to potential, emerging or actual crises.

During 2017, OHCHR raised the awareness of national authorities and key stakeholders on the need to increase human rights protection in the context of conflict and prevent or minimize civilian casualties. In Yemen, the High Commissioner issued regular press releases to highlight the violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law that were allegedly perpetrated by both sides to the conflict. In this context, the Office advocated for the establishment of an independent, investigative mechanism on Yemen. These efforts contributed to the adoption by the Human Rights Council, in September 2017, of a consensus resolution establishing a group of eminent international and regional experts. In December, the High Commissioner appointed the experts.



Staff members from OHCHR and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights undertake a joint monitoring mission to Petén, Guatemala. © OHCHR/Guatemala

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

Over the past four years, OHCHR sustained strong engagement in humanitarian action at the country, regional and global levels, to ensure that the protection of human rights contributes to shaping humanitarian decision-making. OHCHR ensured that human rights principles were part of relevant policies, strategies and operational fora, including the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) at the level of the Principals, Working Group and Emergency Directors Group, and through several IASC subsidiary bodies (i.e., the Task Teams on the Humanitarian Development Nexus and on the Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities in Humanitarian Action).

OHCHR deployments in the context of humanitarian actions included missions to Bangladesh (in relation to Myanmar) and the Caribbean. The Office further maintained three human rights officers to advise the humanitarian leadership working on the Syria crisis (based in Jordan, Lebanon and Turkey), and deployed six human rights monitors to north-east Nigeria to support the UN humanitarian response. The Office also maintained its leadership of the Protection Cluster in the State of Palestine and led or co-led Protection Working Groups/Sectors in Haiti, Mauritania, Papua New Guinea and Timor-Leste. Moreover, OHCHR ensured that members of the Security Council were regularly informed of the human rights situation in relevant countries through informal updates, situational awareness sessions, white notes and infographic tools. OHCHR's engagement with the Security Council led to the inclusion of strong human rights mandates and language in some resolutions.

- *Increased integration of human rights standards and principles, including the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on UN support to non-UN security forces, into the UN's security policies and programmes (EA 11)*

OHCHR's work during 2017 ensured that standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the application of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) were adopted in almost all peace missions and some political missions and that HRDDP task forces were established to oversee the implementation of the HRDDP in each concerned mission. The Office's work also led to a unified SOP for the implementation of the HRDDP in the Central African Republic, the DRC and South Sudan, with the aim of creating a homogenous application of the HRDDP by UNCTs and peace missions. A number of Security Council resolutions continued to reinforce the message that strict compliance with the Policy, particularly in relation to UN support to non-UN security forces, is an essential element of the implementation of mission mandates.



OHCHR staff members interviewing a woman residing in the Luhansk region, Ukraine. © OHCHR/Ukraine

Global Management Outputs

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

- Gender considerations were integrated into the work of FOTCD 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 mainstreamed into the Office's interventions in the context of technical cooperation programmes, the development of UN-DAFs, support for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, human rights work in the context of elections, security sector reform, human rights monitoring and the implementation of the Human Rights up Front Action Plan. FOTCD worked with the Department of Field Support to ensure that the planning, design and deployments of peace operations integrate a gender perspective. During 2017, FOTCD worked towards the operationalization of women protection advisers in United Nations peace operations to ensure that a critical gender focus is brought to conflict-related human rights work.
- Information gathered by FOTCD in a humanitarian crisis and situations of conflict, violence or insecurity contained a tailored gender perspective and included detailed information on the impact on women's rights. Additionally, in collaboration with UN Women, eight gender advisers were seconded to commissions of inquiry and other investigative bodies that were established by OHCHR in accordance with Human Rights Council mandates.

Increased effectiveness in supporting human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- ▶ FOTCD implemented resolutions of the Human Rights Council by providing continued support for 13 special procedure country mandates until March 2017 and 11 mandates thereafter (the mandates of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire and in Haiti ended in March 2017). FOTCD also coordinated the establishment of six investigative bodies, including one mandated by the General Assembly (International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism on Syria) and five mandated by the Human Rights Council (two commissions of inquiry (Burundi II and South Sudan II); one fact-finding mission in relation to Myanmar; and two human rights investigation missions to Yemen and Kasai, DRC).

Increased effectiveness in supporting field operations (GMO 5)

- ▶ Supported by 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 UPR Implementation and Technical Assistance, analysed successes and challenges in technical cooperation work that has been undertaken by OHCHR in the field. The Board of Trustees visited OHCHR field presences in Beirut, Lebanon and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and engaged with all local partners, resulting in a series of recommendations to guide and strengthen OHCHR's technical cooperation work.
- ▶ FOTCD continued to ensure the timely recruitment and deployment of human rights advisers, in accordance with the United Nations Development Group's (UNDG) Strategy for the Deployment of Human Rights Advisers. In 2017, 24 human rights advisers were based across a number of regions. At the beginning of 2017, this programme faced numerous challenges in terms of financial sustainability, which resulted in the termination of several positions. Towards the end of 2017, however, in response to the requests of resident coordinators and UNCTs, OHCHR closely cooperated with the UN Development Coordination Office and the UNDG and secured funding from Member States to ensure the continuity of existing deployments in 2018.

- ▶ FOTCD improved its collaboration with the Department of Field Support, which led to the development of tools and modalities for human rights start-up teams in field presences and for staffing the human rights components in peace missions. OHCHR participated in the Civilian Staffing Reviews of the peace missions in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Kosovo*, Mali and Sudan (Darfur) and provided its expertise about target human rights staffing levels to the analysis of overall mission staffing needs. This has been increasingly important in a climate of shrinking mission budgets.
- ▶ In 2017, as part of OHCHR's four-year cycle planning process, regional planning workshops were held for the regions of Africa, the Middle East, Asia and the Pacific and the Americas. The workshops brought together OHCHR Heads of field presences with government, civil society and international stakeholders to identify the key challenges, opportunities and areas requiring intervention over the next four years. Subsequently, OHCHR Heads of field presences were brought to Geneva to formulate the vision, priorities and strategies for OHCHR for the period from 2018 to 2021.

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

- ▶ FOTCD regularly interacted with Member States, donors, representatives of NHRIs, civil society organizations and other United Nations entities to raise awareness about human rights developments of concern and to update them on OHCHR's work at headquarters and in the field.
- ▶ In 2017, OHCHR issued over 150 press statements, press briefings, media statements and media advisories on country situations with the input and advice of FOTCD and OHCHR's field presences. In addition, FOTCD reviewed approximately 30 reports that have been published by OHCHR on country situations, including 14 reports that were jointly released with United Nations peace missions. FOTCD also reviewed over 30 reports to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly. The reports primarily focused on thematic matters and country situations and the activities of some of its field presences, including the provision of technical cooperation.