

# Human Rights Council Mechanisms Division

## Background

The Human Rights Council Mechanisms Division (HRCMD) is the Division of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights with a core mandate to support the Human Rights Council (HRC) and its subsidiary mechanisms, including the special procedures and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The work of the Division has most recently focused on supporting States in implementing the recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms in close partnership with the UN system organizations on the ground, in particular the resident coordinators and United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs). In this regard, outreach and strategic partnerships have been strengthened by engaging key external stakeholders to jointly develop tools to support States in their implementation of the recommendations emanating from the international human rights mechanisms, including those of the human rights treaty bodies, the UPR and the special procedures.

HRCMD also administers the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the work of the Human Rights Council; the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review and the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review. The Division consists of an Office of the Director, the Human Rights Council Branch (HRCB), the Special Procedures Branch (SPB) and the Universal Periodic Review Branch (UPRB).

The Human Rights Council is an intergovernmental body that is composed of 47 Member States, which are elected by the General Assembly for a three-year period. The HRC was established by and is a subsidiary body of the General Assembly that is responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe. In 2017, the Council discussed a wide range of thematic issues at its three



The Human Rights Council in session, March 2017. © UN Photo/Jean-Marc Ferré



The High Commissioner for Human Rights meets with women members of national human rights institutions during a special session of the Human Rights Council to mark International Women's Day, March 2017. © Jeff Vize for the UN Special Rapporteur Maina Kiai

regular sessions, including during the panel discussions on topics such as climate change; public health and access to medicine; unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents; racial profiling and incitement to hatred, including in the context of migration; the death penalty; the role of local governments; the effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights; unilateral coercive measures; and the impact of multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination and violence in the context of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance on the full enjoyment of all human rights by women and girls. The Council continued to respond to human rights emergencies and emerging or chronic issues and addressed urgent situations in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Myanmar, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Yemen. In 2017, the Council adopted a total of 114 resolutions, decisions and President's Statements.

By November 2016, all 193 Member States had been reviewed by the UPR mechanism for the second time. The third cycle, which began in May 2017, has provided OHCHR with an opportunity to strengthen its engagement with all States on the implementation and follow-up of the outcomes of the international human rights mechanisms, in particular those issued by the UPR, including through cooperative efforts and the sharing of good practices between States and other stakeholders. It also provided an important basis for States to achieve greater results in both the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and hu-

man rights protection at the country level by potentially drawing upon the efficiencies created through national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up and comprehensive national human rights action plans or implementation plans, as suggested in the Secretary-General's report A/72/351 and HRC resolution 36/29.

In 2017, OHCHR provided full secretariat support (legal, policy and technical) to the twenty-seventh and twenty-eighth sessions of the UPR Working Group (WG), during which 28 State reviews were conducted. The Office provided all of the background documentation for the reviews (summaries and compilations for each country, as well as the UPR WG reports, which include the summaries of the interactive dialogues, the recommendations and the report of the HRC Plenary (item 6)) to facilitate the adoption of the UPR WG reports. OHCHR was fully engaged in promoting the implementation and follow-up to the UPR recommendations by organizing briefings for various stakeholders, including States, UN human rights mechanisms, such as the human rights treaty bodies, special procedures, UN entities, NGOs, national human rights institutions, regional human rights mechanisms, academics and others. It also prepared background information and training materials to increase the visibility of the mechanisms and encourage the implementation of its outcomes.

The special procedures are mandates given to independent experts, through Human Rights Council resolutions, to address thematic human rights issues or human

rights situations in specific countries. Special procedures undertake thematic studies; conduct country visits; send communications to States and other actors regarding human rights cases and issues; contribute to the development of international human rights law; engage in awareness-raising activities; and provide advisory services. The special procedures system currently consists of 56 mandates (44 thematic and 12 country-specific). In 2017, a new mandate was established on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members. The Human Rights Council abolished two country mandates (of the Independent Experts on the situation of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire and in Haiti), which took effect in March 2017.

## Results

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

### Strengthening international human rights mechanisms

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

Member States continued to increase their engagement with the international human rights mechanisms. Through the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the work of the Human Rights Council, OHCHR provided support to enable 27 delegates from 26 LDCs and SIDS (13 from Africa, four from the Caribbean and Latin America and nine from Asia and the Pacific) to participate in sessions of the HRC. Member States also increased their engagement with the Working Group on Communications and the Working Group on Situations of the HRC's complaint procedure by sending substantive replies to questions posed by both working groups. The response rates to communications increased from 80 to 90 per cent during the year. Some States reported concrete measures to redress allegations of consistent patterns of gross and reliably-attested violations of human rights in 2017, including the release of political opponents, sentence reductions for detainees, compensation granted to victims of human rights violations and independent and impartial domestic investigations for human rights violations. In addition, concrete actions were undertaken to facilitate country visits by some special procedures mandate-holders.

Regular contacts and advocacy with States and stakeholders contributed to the 100 per cent participation rate in the second cycle of the UPR. From the outset of the third cycle of the UPR, in May 2017,

## Special procedures in figures in 2017

**87** country visits carried out by special procedures mandate-holders to **67** States and territories

**534** communications sent to **117** States and **1** non-State actor, of which **423** were jointly issued by two or more mandate-holders. The response rate of States to these communications increased significantly to **68** per cent

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

**1** new thematic mandate established and **2** country mandates abolished

**1** more Member State extended a standing invitation to the special procedures. A total of **118** Member States and **1** non-Member Observer State have now extended a standing invitation to special procedures mandates

there has been greater focus on the implementation and follow-up to the recommendations on the ground. After the review of each State, the High Commissioner sent letters to its respective Minister of Foreign Affairs, and indicated specific issues that the High Commissioner believed needed particular attention ahead of the next cycle of the UPR. The letters have received positive feedback both from the States and civil society. In 2017, fourteen such letters were sent to the States that had undergone the review at the 27th session of the UPR Working Group. The letters also provided the United Nations system at the national level with an opportunity to strengthen engagement with States in promoting



OHCHR workshop on national human rights mechanisms for reporting and follow-up in Cape Verde, February 2017.  
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and protecting human rights and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. OHCHR worked to improve its HRC webpage and the country pages of States undergoing their reviews. In 2017, it changed the format of its webpage, updated all of the information that is posted, added comprehensive background materials and made it more user-friendly. All pre-session documents, including the advance questions, working group reports and additional information submitted by the State were posted on the relevant country pages. Furthermore, the work of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms are made accessible to persons with disabilities. All reviews are webcasted. In May 2017, OHCHR started organizing briefings during the UPR Working Group sessions for members of delegations participating in the review of their countries. The briefings provided visiting delegations with an overview of follow-up processes and measures for the implementation of recommendations of human rights mechanisms, in particular the UPR, in light of existing good practices. In relation to the special procedures, a total of 118 Member States and one non-Member Observer State have extended a standing invitation. In 2017, 67 States and territories hosted 87 country visits of mandate-holders. With respect to communications, 534 were sent to 117 States and one non-State actor. A total of 423 communications were jointly issued by two or more mandate-holders, covering at least 1,843 individuals, including 655 women. The response rate of States to these communications increased significantly to 68 per cent, although the replies varied from acknowledgements of receipt to substantive replies.

In 2017, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances transmitted 990 new cases of enforced disappearance to States, 154 of which were being addressed under its urgent action procedure. The Working Group was able to clarify 111 cases, including the release of two individuals in Bangladesh and Libya following communications of the Working Group and other special procedures mandates. Moreover, in the period from January 2016 to July 2017, 30 individuals were released who had been the subjects of opinions issued by the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention.

States responded to a number of findings and recommendations issued by the special procedures. For example, during the country visit to Australia of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples, in March, she raised a concern regarding the lack of adequate legal aid and the Government's funding cuts to organizations providing indigenous peoples with legal aid. Due in part to the public concerns raised by the Special Rapporteur, the Government announced, in May, that it would reverse the budget cuts for indigenous legal aid organizations.

## Sixth Annual Forum on Business and Human Rights

OHCHR continued to assist the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises in its efforts to promote the implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. These efforts included consultations regarding national action plans on business and human rights that were organized in Santiago de Chile (January and December) and in Paris (June), in cooperation with the OECD.

In November, OHCHR organized the sixth Annual Forum on Business and Human Rights, which is guided and chaired by the Working Group. Once again, the Forum attracted a record number of participants, with an increase in the number of business representatives and government delegations from capitals. More than 2,500 participants from close to 130 countries took part in the three-day programme of more than 60 sessions, making it the largest global event on business and human rights ever held.

In October, the Special Rapporteur sent a joint communication with the OHCHR Regional Office for South America urging the Government of Chile to ensure that accused indigenous Mapuches in the country be provided with fair trial guarantees under the ordinary justice system and not be prosecuted under anti-terrorist legislation. Within a matter of days, the accused Mapuches in the high-profile case were acquitted due to the prosecution's reliance on a witness statement that had been obtained under torture as its key piece of evidence. In another case, the accused Mapuches who had spent nearly one and a half years in pretrial detention were released on bail. In December 2016, the Ministry of Interior in Ecuador sought to shut down an organization that advocates in favour of environmental causes and the rights of the indigenous Shuar peoples. The Special Rapporteur, together with other mandate-holders, sent a communication and issued a public press release, expressing concern over restrictions to freedom of expression and association. In January 2017, the Ecuadorian Environment Ministry announced that it had rejected the Interior Ministry's request to shut down the organization.

In July, a number of special procedures mandate-holders sent a communication to the Government of Turkey to raise their concerns about the arrests, incommunicado detention and investigations of 11 human rights defenders and experts based on their suspected membership in terrorist organizations. On 25 October, 10 of the 11 defenders were released. Although they are still facing terrorism charges, they

believe that the statement made by the special procedures had a tremendous impact on the decision of the authorities to release them.

Non-State actors also engaged with the special procedures. For example, the sixth Annual Forum on Business and Human Rights, held in November, attracted a record number of participants, with an increase in the number of business representatives and government delegations from capitals.

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

The number and diversity of NGO participants attending sessions of the HRC remained very high in 2017. Overall, with the assistance of OHCHR, there was an increase of 14 per cent in the number of oral statements delivered (2,361), 6 per cent in the submission of written statements (583) and 15 per cent in the number of side events that were organized by NGOs in parallel to sessions of the Council (502). The Office held regular briefings for representatives of civil society prior to each session of the Council. Moreover, in order to respond to allegations of threats and reported cases of reprisals against civil society representatives during UPR or HRC sessions, OHCHR continued to follow up on the allegations and bring them to the attention of the President of the Council. In the course of 2017, the President followed up on reported cases through bilateral meetings, formal correspondence or informal interactions during the sessions.

In 2017, OHCHR received almost 1,300 UPR submissions from different stakeholders, including 99 submissions from different UN entities. Approximately 50 NGOs based in Geneva and many more that are based in the field were regularly engaged during the UPR process. OHCHR cooperated with European regional organizations, such as the Council of

Europe, and enhanced its efforts aimed at developing partnerships with other regional mechanisms, such as the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission of the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation and the Arab Human Rights Committee, to encourage their input for the summary of stakeholder reports for the 28th, 29th and 30th sessions of the UPR Working Group. Furthermore, the engagement of all stakeholders was supported through a revamped UPR webpage that provides updated background information, including an infographic presentation of the timelines, on the UPR review process, roles of various stakeholders, modalities of the UPR process, relevant documentation, opportunities for implementation and follow-up and links to human rights indicators, SDGs and other developments. In the context of the third cycle of the UPR, new web-cast snapshots of the adoption of the UPR outcome reports are being produced and widely shared.

Rights-holders and other stakeholders continued to access special procedures through various channels. The number of submissions received by the special procedures in 2017 reached approximately 16,500, including by using an OHCHR online submission form.

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

OHCHR provided substantive support to the HRC Advisory Committee in the following areas: unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and human rights; elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members; negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin to the countries of origin on the enjoyment of human rights; regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights; national policies and human rights; negative effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights; activities of vulture funds and their impact on human rights; and local governments and human rights. In so doing, it facilitated the development of standards by the Committee in the aforementioned areas, thereby contributing to the progressive development of international human rights standards.

A number of mandate-holders contributed to the development of international human rights law and good practices. In 2017, the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination completed a four-year global study on national legislation in 60 countries across all regions. The study highlighted the need for stronger regulation of private military and security companies, both nationally and internationally, and significantly contributed to the discussions of the intergovernmental working group to consider



Workshop on the implementation of recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review in El Fasher, North Darfur.  
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an international regulatory framework to regulate these organizations. The Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons presented a report on the impact, potential and challenges of the use of assistive and robotics technology, artificial intelligence and automation on the human rights of older persons, including from the perspective of the existing international and regional human rights standards. The Special Rapporteur on the right to privacy continued his work on a draft legal instrument (i.e., a new international treaty) aimed at regulating surveillance in cyberspace at the global level. Finally, the Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children presented a thematic report to the HRC on the sale of children and illegal adoptions, contributing to the development of child rights and relevant protection standards. Also, the Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity finalized a draft declaration on the right to international solidarity and submitted it to the HRC.

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

The role of the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures has been further consolidated as the main interlocutor of the special procedures system, including through an increased recognition and participation of the Coordination Committee in the work of the Human Rights Council and the Third Committee of the General Assembly.

Mandate-holders also undertook several joint actions. For example, in October, the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children and the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography presented their joint thematic report (A/72/16) to the seventy-second session of the General Assembly. The report addresses the vulnerabilities of children to sale, trafficking and other forms of exploitation in situations of conflict and humanitarian crisis and provides recommendations aimed at reducing the vulnerabilities of those children and enhancing their protection.

Cooperation of the special procedures with the other human rights mechanisms continued to be strengthened. For instance, to raise the awareness of UN human rights experts on the rights of persons with disabilities, some treaty bodies consulted the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities in the drafting of general comments (i.e., the Human Rights Committee's General Comment on article 6 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights). The Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance enhanced his coordination with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, including by issuing a number of joint

press releases and providing inputs to a decision that was adopted by the Committee under its early warning and urgent action procedures.

There was also enhanced synergy with regional human rights mechanisms. For instance, in May, the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights issued a landmark judgement in favour of the Ogiek peoples in Kenya, making multiple references to the communications and country visit report of the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples. Partnership with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights was enhanced with dedicated joint activities.

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

The HRC addressed emerging or ongoing human rights crises in a number of situations. For example, the Council took action on and continued to monitor the human rights situation in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Myanmar, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen, among other countries. The Council established an independent international fact-finding mission on Myanmar, in March, held a special session, in December, on the situation of human rights of the minority Rohingya Muslim population and other minorities in Rakhine State of Myanmar and extended the mandates of the commissions of inquiry on Burundi and the Syrian Arab Republic. Furthermore, the Council requested that OHCHR dispatch a team of experts to engage with Burundian authorities to collect information, establish the truth and ensure that the perpetrators are held accountable by the national judicial authorities. A team of international experts was also sent to collect and preserve information concerning the events in the Kasai regions and was requested to forward their conclusions to the judicial authorities of the Democratic Republic of the Congo. The HRC further requested that the High Commissioner establish a group of eminent international and regional experts for Yemen.

In 2017, efforts have been made to enhance the early warning capacity of special procedures, including by participating in various reflections and meetings on the role of human rights and human rights bodies in the early warning and prevention role of the UN and by ensuring that this role is recognized in various key documents. In relation to specific cases, the special procedures took early action on the Central African Republic, Libya, Myanmar, the Philippines, Syria, Venezuela and Yemen, including through communications, reports to States, statements and press releases. The special procedures raised the alarm about worrying developments on thematic issues, such as climate change and migration, urging States and other stakeholders to take early action on these matters.

### Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

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

In 2017, the Task Force of the Human Rights Council on accessibility for persons with disabilities finalized and adopted the accessibility plan, under the overall coordination of OHCHR. The plan prioritizes four areas of work to increase accessibility in the work of the UN in Geneva. It will be implemented by OHCHR in coordination with the United Nations Office at Geneva. The Office focused on ensuring that the work of the Council is increasingly accessible to persons with disabilities by, inter alia, taking steps to make the Council's Internet and extranet webpages and their content accessible, including statements, draft resolutions and voting results. As a result of advocacy efforts with delegations sponsoring resolutions, four resolutions that were adopted in 2017 include specific language that will ensure that panels are made fully accessible to persons with disabilities. The Office further supported the Advisory Committee for the preparation of a report on the implementation of the principles and guidelines for the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members (A/HRC/35/38). The report contains practical suggestions for wider dissemination and more effective implementation of the principles and guidelines to eliminate discrimination and the stigma associated with leprosy. Welcoming the report, the HRC adopted resolution A/HRC/35/9, which called for the appointment of a Special Rapporteur on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members.

Special procedures engaged in advocacy and other actions aimed at ensuring that legislation, policies and practices increasingly comply with anti-discrimination and equality standards. For example, following his visit to Saudi Arabia, in January, the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights made recommendations to the Government of Saudi Arabia to lift restrictions that have a negative impact on women's abilities to work, travel and fully engage as productive members of society. His visit and recommendations have provided an impetus for gradual changes in the discriminatory measures against women. In April, King Salman issued an order to review and amend all existing regulations and procedures that require a male guardian's consent for women to access public services. In September 2017, the Government made an historic decision to lift the driving ban for women.

Throughout the year, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women put forward a number of legal and policy recommendations for eliminating violence against women, including through press statements and active participation in the elabora-

tion of CEDAW's General Recommendation No. 35 on violence against women. Additionally, the Special Rapporteur issued policy and legal recommendations on shelters and protection orders for women victims of violence in her report to the Human Rights Council, which was presented in June (report A/HRC/35/30). In its June report to the HRC (A/HRC/35/29), the Working Group on discrimination against women in law and in practice proposed an analysis on good practices for the elimination of discrimination against women in law and in practice and for women's empowerment with the objective of establishing a conceptual framework. In her October report to the General Assembly A/72/287, the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance made policy and legal recommendations on combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in the context of countering terrorism. Throughout the year, the Special Rapporteur also made various legal and policy recommendations, including through statements, country visit reports (Argentina, Australia and Fiji), and participation in events, such as a debate on racial profiling and incitement to hatred in the context of migration. The work undertaken by the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights has had a significant impact on understanding the human dimension of cultural heritage and the importance of recognizing the right to access and enjoy cultural heritage as a human right. The Special Rapporteur was requested to act as an expert for the International Criminal Court and provided a report on the impact of the intentional destruction of cultural heritage in Mali that was included in this landmark case. This is the first standalone case on the destruction of cultural heritage that has been prosecuted by an international body.

### Integrating human rights in development and the economic sphere

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

The Independent Expert on foreign debt and human rights began the process of developing Guiding Principles for assessing the impact on human rights of structural adjustment and austerity measures. A mapping of existing tools used by States and international financial institutions was undertaken to identify existing practices and gaps. In November, an expert meeting was held to propose a framework for the Guiding Principles. In 2016, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples presented a thematic report on bilateral and regional trade agreements to the HRC, which helped to increase public

## The Forum on Minority Issues

The tenth session of the Forum on Minority Issues was held from 30 November to 1 December 2017, and was dedicated to the topic, “Minority youth: Towards diverse and inclusive societies.” Many young women and men from minority communities participated for the first time in the Forum, while a number of young delegates represented their governments. A total of 12 young minority activists from different parts of the world presented the four main panel discussions on education, participation in public life, digital media and peace and stability.

During the first panel discussion, participants formulated recommendations with regard to access to education, accommodation of minority culture and language in education programmes and facilities and the role of informal education in increasing youth awareness about religious, cultural and linguistic diversity. During the second panel discussion, participants raised the issue of the political en-

gagement of minority youth, discussed the importance of the representation of minority youth in public institutions and reflected on how to increase the positive visibility of young minorities in society. During the panel discussion on digital media, participants called for greater efforts to ensure access to digital media for all, including marginalized minority communities, shared initiatives on responding to hate speech and bullying on the Internet and discussed the role of minority-led media initiatives to empower young minorities and change the mainstream narrative regarding possible biases or stereotypes affecting minorities. During the fourth panel discussion, participants considered the role of minority youth as agents of change for peace and stability and put forward recommendations regarding the need for greater consultation and participation of minority youth in conflict prevention and peacebuilding efforts.

awareness about how such agreements and the use of investor-State dispute settlements impact indigenous peoples. The 2017 thematic report focused on climate change and climate funds and their impact on indigenous peoples.

The special procedures also made several contributions to the issue of the SDGs. For example, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities advocated for the collection of data disaggregated by disability for the SDGs, resulting in an increasing number of States supporting this approach and collecting relevant data. The Special Rapporteur on the right to food provided advice on the incorporation of the human right to food in all relevant aspects of Goal 2 on Zero Hunger through her two reports on the right to food and pesticides and in high-level meetings of the Committee on World Food Security.

### Widening the democratic space

- ▶ *Effective protection mechanisms and measures for civil society actors, including at-risk human rights defenders and media actors established and strengthened (EA 3)*

The Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders cooperated closely with State actors and civil society representatives on the elaboration and implementation of national instruments and mechanisms for the protection of human rights defenders. In 2017, the Government of Côte d'Ivoire adopted a decree to implement the Law on the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights Defenders, the first of its kind on the African continent. Other countries on the continent are in various stages of

elaboration of similar draft legislation aimed at the recognition and protection of human rights defenders. The Special Rapporteur cooperated with the International Service for Human Rights during the elaboration of a model law on human rights defenders, which has served as a reference for the legislation being implemented in Côte d'Ivoire.

The timely intervention of the Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, via a public statement, provided environmental human rights defenders in Kenya with effective protection. For example, various environmental activists and their families were the victims of rapidly escalating threats and intimidation. After the Special Rapporteur's statement, which was reported in local newspapers and shared widely via social media, the human rights defenders were provided with increased protection from international organizations and the Government.

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

OHCHR devoted increased attention to the issue of protecting civil society actors against reprisals and ensured that cases of reprisals against human rights defenders, who have interacted with international human rights mechanisms, were appropriately raised and handled, in particular by the President of the Human Rights Council and the human rights treaty bodies. During the last four years, the President of the Human Rights Council and the High Commissioner have intervened in a number of cases of reprisals against civil society members who had engaged with the HRC or provided information to the UPR mechanism.

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

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

The year 2017 witnessed a dramatic deterioration of the situation in Myanmar affecting the Rohingya minority in the northern Rakhine region with an exponential increase in the number of refugees fleeing persecution to neighbouring countries. Through one of its communications, the Special Rapporteur on minority issues underlined the serious humanitarian crisis in the region while recalling the need for the Myanmar authorities to protect the existence and identity of minorities. Furthermore, the Forum on Minority Issues addressed critical issues ranging from violence against minorities to minorities in the criminal justice system. The Forum acted as a catalyst for effective communication among members of minority groups, Member States and other organizations.

### Global Management Outputs

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

- ▶ OHCHR organized meetings with the main sponsors of the HRC panel discussions in order to ensure a gender and geographical balance in their composition. In addition, gender-related statistics were prepared and shared with the President of the Council and members of the Consultative Group to sensitize them about the gender and geographic distribution of current mandate-holders during the selection and appointment process of new mandate-holders. In 2017, the Consultative Group was tasked with filling 20 vacancies, which provided them with an opportunity to improve the gender distribution of mandate-holders. As of the end of 2017, 44 per cent of mandate-holders are women, compared to 41 per cent in 2016.
- ▶ The number of women delegates participating in sessions of the Council, supported by the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the work of the Human Rights Council, increased from 13 in 2016 to 18 in 2017.
- ▶ Although the importance of providing gender-disaggregated data is always highlighted in the context of the UPR briefings facilitated by the Office, references to women's rights and gender in national reports remain uneven. This fact contributed to an increasing number of gender-related recommendations that were put forward during the Working Group's review and the interactive dialogue.



The Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples briefs journalists in New York on the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, January 2017. © UN Photo/Mark Garten

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

- ▶ In 2017, OHCHR assisted the Human Rights Council to hold three regular sessions and one special session. Following efforts to decrease the number of meetings, which consisted of reduced speaking times for interactive dialogues and general debates, a total of 140 fully serviced meetings were organized, prepared and followed-up on by OHCHR. Furthermore, OHCHR serviced 50 interactive dialogues, 19 panel discussions, two inter-sessional panels and one inter-sessional seminar on a wide array of topics.
- ▶ OHCHR made progress in enhancing the visibility of the Council through various online tools and information technologies. A total of 36,793 media articles focused on the Human Rights Council during 2017, with heightened activities being monitored during the regular and special sessions of the Council and its subsidiary bodies. The social media accounts of the Human Rights Council have yielded a considerable increase in followers, likes and engagements, which contributed to increased awareness and visibility. Moreover, a booklet on the HRC was produced in English, French and Spanish, which was met with considerable success on the Council's social media channels. Photographic and graphical design elements, including pictures from the field, contributed to a substantive increase in the visibility of the Council.
- ▶ With the financial support of the Voluntary Trust Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review, the participation of representatives from 15 States was facilitated in UPR Working Group sessions and HRC plenaries for the adoption of the respective UPR outcomes.
- ▶ All of the documentation prior to and following UPR sessions was provided in a timely manner, despite the increasing workload in the context of greater

engagement of States in the UPR process. OHCHR also provided substantive support to the UPR Working Group during the two 2-week sessions that were held in 2017.

- ▶ OHCHR issued a number of publications and materials to promote the work of the UPR mechanism, including a flyer on the UPR Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance and a presentation document distributed to all delegates who participated during the briefing session for States prior to the twenty-eighth session of the UPR.
- ▶ Efforts have been made to ensure that the special procedures mandate-holders were well aware of the importance of submitting reports on time, including by addressing this issue during the induction session and at the Annual Meeting of the Special Procedures.
- ▶ OHCHR supported the mandate-holders in issuing 387 public statements in order to raise awareness and express their concerns over a wide array of human rights issues related to their mandates.
- ▶ OHCHR convened the Coordination Committee of the Special Procedures in three annual meetings, including one in New York and two in Geneva. At the meetings, the Committee met with several UN entities, Member States and civil society organizations to find ways to improve cooperation.
- ▶ In 2017, OHCHR provided substantive and logistical support in relation to the 87 country visits that were undertaken by mandate-holders to 67 States and territories. The Office also assisted in the drafting and submission of 534 communications to States and 131 reports to the HRC and 39 reports to the General Assembly. Moreover, the Office organized

two major annual fora in 2017, namely, the tenth session of the Forum on Minority Issues and the sixth Forum on Business and Human Rights.

#### **Increased effectiveness in supporting field operations (GMO 5)**

- ▶ In 2017, the implementation of UPR recommendations was enhanced through the activities of the UPR Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance. The Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund provided strategic guidance and advice to OHCHR aimed at extending the Fund's reach and the impact of its support to State efforts for the implementation of the recommendations issued by the UPR and other human rights mechanisms. These discussions focused on strengthening the Fund's support to national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up; comprehensive national human rights action and implementation plans related to recommendations; the integration of UPR outcomes into UN planning documents at the national level; and key thematic human rights issues identified in recommendations.
- ▶ In 2017, a total of 87 country visits were undertaken by special procedures mandate-holders, many of which took place with the logistical and substantive support of OHCHR field presences.
- ▶ Recommendations from the special procedures, especially following country visits, were used by OHCHR field presences. OHCHR's planning week, in July, which included the presence of Heads of OHCHR field offices, included a dedicated discussion on this issue and explored ideas with field colleagues on how to further enhance this integration.

## Human Rights Council – Outcomes of sessions held in 2017

### 34th session (27 February to 24 March)

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

- ▶ The promotion of the enjoyment of the cultural rights of everyone and respect for cultural diversity; the mandate of the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights; the question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights; the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders; the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on minority issues; the right to privacy in the digital age; effects of terrorism on the enjoyment of all human rights; adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living and the right to non-discrimination in this context; the freedom of religion or belief; the negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin to the countries of origin on the enjoyment of human rights and the importance of improving international cooperation; the right to food; human rights and unilateral coercive measures; the right to work; birth registration and the right of everyone to recognition everywhere as a person before the law; rights of the child: protection of the rights of the child in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; regional arrangements for the promotion and protection of human rights; freedom of opinion and expression: mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression; torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment: mandate of the Special Rapporteur; human rights and the environment; the human rights of migrants: mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants; combating intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization of and discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons based on religion or belief; the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; and human rights, democracy and the rule of law.
- ▶ Promoting reconciliation, accountability and human rights in Sri Lanka; the situation of human rights in Haiti; technical assistance and capacity-building to improve human rights in Libya; technical assistance and capacity-building for Mali in the field of human rights; the situation of human rights in Myanmar; the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran; the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; the situation of human rights in South Sudan; the human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic; human rights in the occupied Syrian Golan; ensuring accountability and justice for all violations of international law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem; the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination; the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem; Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem and in the occupied Syrian Golan; and cooperation with Georgia.
- ▶ The elaboration of complementary standards to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; the establishment of a forum on people of African descent; the mandate of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action; and promoting the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the Work of the Human Rights Council.
- ▶ Outcomes of the Universal Periodic Review in relation to Haiti, Iceland, Lithuania, the Republic of Moldova, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Timor-Leste, Togo, Uganda, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe.

### 35th session (6 – 23 June)

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

- ▶ The right to education: follow-up to Human Rights Council resolution 8/4; human rights and international solidarity; promotion of the right to peace; the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children; the Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities; business and human rights: mandate of the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises; the enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights; the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by leprosy and their family members; accelerating efforts to eliminate violence against women: engaging men and boys in preventing and responding to violence against all women and girls; the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers; independence and impartiality of the judiciary, jurors and assessors and the independence of lawyers; protection of the family: role of the family in supporting the protection and promotion of human rights of older persons; youth and human rights; the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; child, early and forced marriage in humanitarian settings; protection of the human rights of migrants: the global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration; the elimination of discrimination against women and girls; extreme poverty and human rights; human rights and climate change; the contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights; realizing the equal enjoyment of the right to education by every girl; the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; human rights in cities and other human settlements; the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights; national policies and human rights; the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism; and consideration of the elaboration of a draft declaration on the promotion and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent. »

- ▶ The human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic; the situation of human rights in Belarus; cooperation with and assistance to Ukraine in the field of human rights; the situation of human rights in Eritrea; the situation of human rights in Côte d'Ivoire; and technical assistance to the Democratic Republic of the Congo and accountability concerning the events in the Kasai regions.
- ▶ The seventieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action; the Social Forum; the panel discussion on the human rights of internally displaced persons in commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement; and the contribution of parliaments to the work of the Human Rights Council and its Universal Periodic Review.

### 36th session (11 – 29 September)

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

- ▶ The use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination; the composition of staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; the mandate of the Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order; unaccompanied migrant children and adolescents and human rights; enforced or involuntary disappearances; the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence; the full enjoyment of human rights by all women and girls and the systematic mainstreaming of a gender perspective into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; the right to development; human rights and unilateral coercive measures; the World Programme for Human Rights Education; mental health and human rights; human rights and indigenous peoples; the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes; human rights in the administration of justice, including juvenile justice; the question of the death penalty; conscientious objection to military service; cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights; the promotion and protection of the human rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas; the mandate of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent; from rhetoric to reality: a global call for concrete action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance; enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights; and promoting international cooperation to support national human rights follow-up systems, processes and related mechanisms and their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
- ▶ Mission by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to improve the human rights situation and accountability in Burundi; the renewal of the mandate of the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi; the human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic; technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the Central African Republic; technical assistance and capacity-building to improve human rights in the Sudan; assistance to Somalia in the field of human rights; technical assistance and capacity-building in the field of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo; human rights, technical assistance and capacity-building in Yemen; advisory services and technical assistance for Cambodia; and the extension of the mandate of the independent international fact-finding mission on Myanmar.
- ▶ The mandate of the open-ended intergovernmental working group to elaborate the content of an international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies; and the reports of the Advisory Committee.
- ▶ Outcomes of the Universal Periodic Review in relation to Algeria, Bahrain, Brazil, Ecuador, Finland, India, Indonesia, Morocco, the Netherlands, the Philippines, Poland, South Africa, Tunisia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

### 27th special session (5 December)

- ▶ The Council adopted a resolution on the situation of human rights of Rohingya Muslims and other minorities in Myanmar.

## Special Procedures Mandate-Holders 2017

| Mandate   | Established            | Mandate-holder  |
|---|------------------------|---|
| <b>Country mandates</b>   |                        |   |
| Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in <b>Belarus</b>   | 2012                   | Mr. <b>Miklós Haraszti</b> (Hungary) since October 2012   |
| Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in <b>Cambodia</b>  | 1993                   | Ms. <b>Rhona Smith</b> (United Kingdom) since May 2015  |
| Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the <b>Central African Republic</b>                                  | 2013                   | Ms. <b>Marie-Therese Keita Bocoum</b> (Côte d'Ivoire) since January 2014  |
| Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the <b>Democratic People's Republic of Korea</b>                     | 2004                   | Mr. <b>Tomás Ojea Quintana</b> (Argentina) since August 2016  |
| Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in <b>Eritrea</b>   | 2012                   | Ms. <b>Sheila B. Keetharuth</b> (Mauritius) since October 2012  |
| Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the <b>Islamic Republic of Iran</b>                                  | 2011                   | Ms. <b>Asma Jahangir</b> (Pakistan) since October 2016<br>(Ms. Jahangir passed away on February 2018 and her replacement will be appointed during the 38th session of the HRC)  |
| Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in <b>Mali</b>  | 2013                   | Mr. <b>Suliman Baldo</b> (Sudan) since October 2013   |
| Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in <b>Myanmar</b>   | 1992                   | Ms. <b>Yanghee Lee</b> (Republic of Korea) since June 2014  |
| Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the <b>Palestinian territories occupied since 1967</b>               | 1993                   | Mr. <b>Michael Lynk</b> (Canada) since June 2016  |
| Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in <b>Somalia</b>   | 1993                   | Mr. <b>Bahame Tom Mukirya Nyanduga</b> (United Republic of Tanzania) since June 2014  |
| Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in <b>the Sudan</b>   | 2005 (SR)<br>2009 (IE) | Mr. <b>Aristide Nononsi</b> (Benin) since December 2014   |
| Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the <b>Syrian Arab Republic</b>                                      | 2012                   | Mr. <b>Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro</b> (Brazil) will start once the mandate of the commission of inquiry ends   |
| <b>Thematic mandates</b>  |                        |   |
| Working Group of experts on people of <b>African descent</b>  | 2002                   | Mr. <b>Ahmed Reid</b> (Jamaica) since November 2015<br>Mr. <b>Michał Balcerzak</b> (Poland) since December 2014<br>Mr. <b>Ricardo III Sunga</b> (the Philippines) since December 2014<br>Ms. <b>Marie-Evelyne Petrus</b> (France) since May 2017<br>Mr. <b>Sabelo Gumedze</b> (South Africa) since August 2014      |
| Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with <b>albinism</b>   | 2015                   | Ms. <b>Ikponwosa Ero</b> (Nigeria) since August 2015  |
| Working Group on <b>arbitrary detention</b>   | 1991                   | Mr. <b>Sètondji Roland Jean-Baptiste Adjovi</b> (Benin) since June 2014<br>Mr. <b>Seong-Phil Hong</b> (Republic of Korea) since August 2014<br>Ms. <b>Elina Steinerte</b> (Latvia) since December 2016<br>Ms. <b>Leigh Toomey</b> (Australia) since August 2015<br>Mr. <b>José Guevara</b> (Mexico) since June 2014 |
| Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other <b>business enterprises</b>             | 2011                   | Mr. <b>Surya Deva</b> (India) since April 2016<br>Mr. <b>Michael K. Addo</b> (Ghana) since November 2011<br>Mr. <b>Pavel Sulyandziga</b> (Russian Federation) since November 2011<br>Mr. <b>Dante Pesce</b> (Chile) since May 2015<br>Ms. <b>Anita Ramasastry</b> (USA) since November 2016                         |
| Special Rapporteur in the field of <b>cultural rights</b>   | 2009                   | Ms. <b>Karima Bennoune</b> (USA) since November 2015  |
| Special Rapporteur on the right to <b>development</b>   | 2016                   | Mr. <b>Saad Alfarargi</b> (Egypt) since March 2017  |
| Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with <b>disabilities</b>  | 2014                   | Ms. <b>Catalina Devandas Aguilar</b> (Costa Rica) since December 2014   |
| Special Rapporteur on the elimination of <b>discrimination against persons affected by leprosy</b> and their family members | 2017                   | Ms. <b>Alice Cruz</b> (Portugal) since November 2017  |

| <b>Mandate</b>  | <b>Established</b> | <b>Mandate-holder</b>  |
|---|--------------------|--|
| Working Group on the issue of <b>discrimination against women in law and in practice</b>  | 2010               | Ms. <b>Melissa Upreti</b> (Nepal) since November 2017<br>Ms. <b>Meskerem Techane</b> (Ethiopia) since November 2017<br>Ms. <b>Alda Facio</b> (Costa Rica) since June 2014<br>Ms. <b>Elizabeth Broderick</b> (Australia) since November 2017<br>Ms. <b>Ivana Radacic</b> (Croatia) since November 2017      |
| Working Group on <b>enforced or involuntary disappearances</b>  | 1980               | Mr. <b>Bernard Duhaime</b> (Canada) since December 2014<br>Ms. <b>Houria Es Slami</b> (Morocco) since June 2014<br>Mr. <b>Luciano Hazan</b> (Argentina) since May 2017<br>Mr. <b>Henrikas Mickevičius</b> (Lithuania) since November 2015<br>Mr. <b>Tae-Ung Baik</b> (Republic of Korea) since August 2015 |
| Special Rapporteur on the right to <b>education</b>   | 1998               | Ms. <b>Boly Barry Koumbou</b> (Burkina Faso) since August 2016   |
| Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable <b>environment</b>  | 2012               | Mr. <b>John Knox</b> (USA) since August 2012   |
| Special Rapporteur on <b>extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions</b>   | 1982               | Ms. <b>Agnes Callamard</b> (France) since August 2016  |
| Special Rapporteur on the right to <b>food</b>  | 2000               | Ms. <b>Hilal Elver</b> (Turkey) since June 2014  |
| Independent Expert on the effects of <b>foreign debt</b> and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights | 2000               | Mr. <b>Juan Bohoslavsky</b> (Argentina) since June 2014  |
| Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to <b>freedom of opinion and expression</b>   | 1993               | Mr. <b>David Kaye</b> (USA) since August 2014  |
| Special Rapporteur on the rights to <b>freedom of peaceful assembly and of association</b>  | 2010               | Mandate-holder to be appointed at HRC 37th session   |
| Special Rapporteur on <b>freedom of religion or belief</b>  | 1986               | Mr. <b>Ahmed Shaheed</b> (Maldives) since November 2016  |
| Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of <b>hazardous substances and wastes</b>  | 1995               | Mr. <b>Baskut Tuncak</b> (Turkey) since June 2014  |
| Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental <b>health</b>  | 2002               | Mr. <b>Dainius Pūras</b> (Lithuania) since August 2014   |
| Special Rapporteur on adequate <b>housing</b> as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context   | 2000               | Ms. <b>Leilani Farha</b> (Canada) since June 2014  |
| Special Rapporteur on the situation of <b>human rights defenders</b>  | 2000               | Mr. <b>Michel Forst</b> (France) since June 2014   |
| Special Rapporteur on the <b>independence of judges and lawyers</b>   | 1994               | Mr. <b>Diego García-Sayán</b> (Peru) since December 2016   |
| Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of <b>indigenous peoples</b>   | 2001               | Ms. <b>Victoria Lucia Tauli-Corpuz</b> (Philippines) since June 2014   |
| Special Rapporteur on the human rights of <b>internally displaced persons</b>   | 2004               | Ms. <b>Cecilia Jimenez-Damary</b> (Philippines) since November 2016  |
| Independent expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable <b>international order</b>  | 2011               | Mr. <b>Alfred de Zayas</b> (USA) since May 2012  |
| Independent Expert on human rights and <b>international solidarity</b>  | 2005               | Ms. <b>Obiora C. Okafor</b> (Nigeria) since August 2017  |
| Working Group on the use of <b>mercenaries</b> as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination   | 2005               | Mr. <b>Anton Farrel Katz</b> (South Africa) since August 2011<br>Mr. <b>Saeed Mokbil</b> (Yemen) since June 2014<br>Ms. <b>Patricia Arias</b> (Chile) since August 2011<br>Ms. <b>Elzbieta Karska</b> (Poland) since August 2011<br>Mr. <b>Gabor Rona</b> (USA/Hungary) since August 2011                  |

| <b>Mandate</b>  | <b>Established</b> | <b>Mandate-holder</b>  |
|---|--------------------|--|
| Special Rapporteur on the human rights of <b>migrants</b>   | 1999               | Mr. <b>Felipe González Morales</b> (Chile) since August 2017         |
| Special Rapporteur on <b>minority issues</b>  | 2005               | Mr. <b>Fernand De Varennes</b> (Canada) since August 2017            |
| Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by <b>older persons</b>   | 2013               | Ms. <b>Rosa Kornfeld-Matte</b> (Chile) since June 2014               |
| Special Rapporteur on extreme <b>poverty</b> and human rights   | 1998               | Mr. <b>Philip Alston</b> (Australia) since June 2014                 |
| Special Rapporteur on the right to <b>privacy</b>   | 2015               | Mr. <b>Joseph Cannataci</b> (Malta) since July 2015                  |
| Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of <b>racism</b> , racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance         | 1993               | Ms. <b>E. Tendayi Achiume</b> (Zambia) since November 2017           |
| Special Rapporteur on the <b>sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography</b>                                   | 1990               | Ms. <b>Maud De Boer-Buquicchio</b> (the Netherlands) since June 2014 |
| Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on <b>sexual orientation and gender identity</b>   | 2016               | Mr. <b>Victor Madrigal-Borloz</b> (Costa Rica) since January 2018    |
| Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of <b>slavery</b> , including its causes and consequences                            | 2007               | Ms. <b>Urmila Bhoola</b> (South Africa) since June 2014              |
| Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering <b>terrorism</b> | 2005               | Ms. <b>Fionnuala Ni Aoláin</b> (Ireland) since August 2017           |
| Special Rapporteur on <b>torture</b> and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment                            | 1985               | Mr. <b>Nils Melzer</b> (Switzerland) since November 2016             |
| Special Rapporteur on <b>trafficking in persons</b> , especially women and children   | 2004               | Ms. <b>Maria Grazia Giammarinaro</b> (Italy) since August 2014       |
| Special Rapporteur on the promotion of <b>truth, justice, reparation and guarantees on non-recurrence</b>                     | 2011               | Mr. <b>Pablo De Greiff</b> (Colombia) since May 2012                 |
| Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of the <b>unilateral coercive measures</b> on the enjoyment of human rights         | 2014               | Mr. <b>Idriss Jazairy</b> (Algeria) since May 2015                   |
| Special Rapporteur on <b>violence against women</b> , its causes and consequences   | 1994               | Ms. <b>Dubravka Šimonovic</b> (Croatia) since August 2015            |
| Special Rapporteur on the human right to safe drinking <b>water and sanitation</b>  | 2008               | Mr. <b>Léo Heller</b> (Brazil) since December 2014                   |