

Funds administered by UN Human Rights

Voluntary contributions to support the activities of UN Human Rights at headquarters and in the field are channelled and managed through nine trust funds. This chapter provides a short description of each of these funds and the voluntary contributions received in 2017 that sustained the funds. Additional financial information related to the funds can be found in the statement of extrabudgetary income and expenditures for 2017 (on page 92). This chapter also includes the description of three small funds managed by UN Human Rights that are not trust funds as defined by the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, namely, the Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Contingency Fund and the Special Fund for the Participation of Civil Society in the Social Forum, the Forum on Minority Issues and the Forum on Business and Human Rights. In addition, financial information is also provided on the Trust Fund established to support the activities of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic, established following General Assembly resolution 71/248 and to which UN Human Rights provides administrative support.

United Nations Trust Fund for the Support of the Activities of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

The United Nations Trust Fund for the Support of the Activities of the High Commissioner for Human Rights was established by the Secretary-General in 1993 to cover contributions intended to support the substantive work programme of the former Centre for Human Rights and to supplement existing regular budget resources. Since then, the Trust Fund has been used as a general funding pool to support a wide range of UN Human Rights activities. It is the largest fund administered by the Office, through which 82.1 per cent of all extrabudgetary funds, including unearmarked funds and 78.7 per cent of extrabudgetary expenditures, were managed in 2017.

Detailed information on the implemented activities and the voluntary contributions managed through the Trust Fund are described in the chapters presented in the annexed USB key.

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights

The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights (VFTC) was established by the Secretary-General, in 1987, in response to Commission on Human Rights resolution 1987/83. The VFTC is the second largest trust fund administered by UN Human Rights and provides resources to national efforts that are focused on building a strong human rights framework, including through legal frameworks, effective national human rights institutions, independent judiciaries and vibrant civil society organizations.

Since 1993, a Board of Trustees, appointed by the Secretary-General, has provided administrative and operational guidance. In recent years, its role has evolved to include the provision of advice on policy orientation, strategies on technical cooperation at a broader programme level and a global vision of the work of the Fund. In 2013, the Secretary-General entrusted the Board to serve as a Board of Trustees for the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

In 2017, the Board was composed of five experts, namely, Ms. Mariclaire Acosta Urquidi (Mexico); Mr. Morten Kjaerum (Denmark); Ms. Lin Lim (Malaysia); Ms. Esi Sutherland-Addy (Ghana); and Ms. Valeria Lutkovska (Ukraine). Mr. Kjaerum and Ms. Lutkovska were nominated by the Secretary-General to fill the seats vacated by Ms. Ilze Brands Kehris (Latvia) and Mr. Christopher Sidoti (Australia), respectively, in 2017. The Board elected Ms. Mariclaire Acosta as Chair from 30 June 2017 until 30 June 2018. The Board meets twice a year, which includes visits to the field, in order to: review the programmes it supports and discuss thematic issues, methodologies and procedures; examine financial, administrative and fundraising matters; and brief Member States on its activities.

The forty-fourth session of the VFTC was held, in Geneva, in March. Subsequently, the forty-fifth session was held in the UN Human Rights Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa, including a short visit to the Office in the occupied Palestinian territory by two Board members. Through these sessions, the Board Members observed the work of UN Human Rights field presences, evaluated their cooperation with partners on the ground and held discussions with staff members of UN Human Rights, in Geneva, on the status of implementation of technical cooperation programmes, funding trends, challenges and opportunities for the Fund.

In 2017, the total expenditure under the VFTC was US\$12,362,447. This was substantially less than in previous years owing to the closing of a number of presences in the field. By 31 December 2017, the Fund had received a total of US\$11,540,617, consisting of US\$2,811,966 that was specifically earmarked for the Voluntary Fund, US\$2,491,932 that was to be allocated to specific country projects on technical cooperation and US\$6,236,719 in unearmarked funds.

The Fund provided resources for technical cooperation programmes designed to build strong human rights frameworks at the national level in 28 regions, countries and territories through: 14 human rights advisers/human rights mainstreaming projects (in Chad, Kenya, Madagascar, Niger, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, the Philippines, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Serbia, South Caucasus (Georgia), Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste); 10 human rights components of peace missions (in Afghanistan, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti,

Kosovo⁵, Liberia, Libya, Somalia and Sudan (Darfur)); and four country/stand-alone offices (in Bolivia, Mauritania, Mexico and the State of Palestine⁶).

Through the Fund, UN Human Rights facilitates efforts at the country level to incorporate international human rights standards into national laws, policies and practices, including through follow-up to recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms and by supporting the establishment and strengthening of national structures, institutions and capacities to ensure adherence to these standards. Strengthening the administration of justice, including by supporting increased access to justice for individuals and groups facing discrimination and exclusion and increasing the capacities of beneficiaries to promote gender equality and women's rights, featured prominently in numerous programmes receiving support from the Fund. It also continued to support activities dedicated to widening civic space, enhancing human rights education programmes and establishing responsive national human rights institutions that are operating in compliance with the Paris Principles. Additionally, the human rights capacity of United Nations resident coordinators and United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) was strengthened through the deployment of human rights advisers and the delivery of specific projects supported by the Fund, including to advance the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

⁵ Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

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

UN Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation (VFTC) Voluntary contributions in 2017

Donor	US\$	Earmarking
Finland	910,125	VFTC
Germany	601,441	VFTC
India	100,000	VFTC
Liechtenstein	39,722	VFTC
South Africa	10,678	VFTC
United States of America	1,150,000	VFTC
(a) total contributions earmarked to VFTC	2,811,966	
Australia	166,415	Activities in the Asia-Pacific region (<i>allocated to Philippines</i>)
France	22,753	Chad
	45,506	Mauritania
Germany	204,777	Mexico (<i>empowering rights-holders and advocating for structural and legal reforms</i>)
	31,498	Sri Lanka (<i>access to archives as truth-seeking measures to combat impunity and support reconciliation processes</i>)
International Organization for Migration	52,800	Mauritania
MacArthur Foundation	150,000	Mexico (<i>promote a network of forensic science experts and facilitate Mexico's adoption of policies to improve the justice system's forensic sciences</i>)

Donor	US\$	Earmarking
Netherlands	115,120	Kenya (strengthening the UN response to shrinking democratic space and risks of increasing violations in the 2017 elections in Kenya)
Norway	63,321	Palestine (support to Palestine's implementation of human rights treaty obligations)
Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie	5,972	Madagascar (women empowerment and violence against women)
Russian Federation	400,000	Russian Federation (consolidation of the Human Rights Master Programme)
	115,000	Russian Federation (activities of Federal and Regional Ombudspersons for human rights in the Russian Federation)
Saudi Arabia	200,000	Palestine
	240,000	Technical assistance for the MENA Region (allocated to Mauritania)
Switzerland	405,370	Palestine (office in East Jerusalem - last instalment + extension)
UNDP	248,400	Kenya
United Kingdom	25,000	Georgia
(b) total contributions earmarked to specific projects	2,491,932	
Unearmarked funds allocated to VFTC	6,236,719	Unearmarked
(c) total unearmarked funds	6,236,719	
TOTAL (a) + (b) + (c)	11,540,617	

United Nations Trust Fund for a Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia

The United Nations Trust Fund for a Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia was established by the Secretary-General, in 1992. The Trust Fund was set up as a financial mechanism, financed through voluntary contributions and administered by UN Human Rights, to contribute to the development and implementation of a human rights education programme to promote the understanding of and respect for human rights in Cambodia. Since then, it has been used to implement all of the activities of the Office in Cambodia (detailed information on the activities carried out in Cambodia in 2017 can be found on page 251 of the annexed USB key). In 2017, the Trust Fund received US\$1,334,665 in voluntary contributions.

Trust Fund for a Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia Voluntary contributions in 2017

Donor	US\$
Australia ¹	75,643
Japan	39,325
Republic of Korea	30,000
Spain ²	111,982
Sweden	1,077,715
TOTAL	1,334,665

¹ Allocated from a contribution earmarked for activities in the Asia-Pacific Region.

² Allocated from a contribution earmarked for country offices.

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism

The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review mechanism was established by the Secretary-General, in 2008, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 6/17. The Fund, administered by UN Human Rights, was set up as a financial mechanism to provide: funding for the travel of official representatives of developing countries, in particular the Least Developed Countries (LDCs), to Geneva, in order to present their national reports, take part in the interactive dialogue and be involved in the adoption of the reports during the UPR Working Group sessions when their countries are being considered; funding for the travel of official representatives of developing countries that are members of the Human Rights Council but do not have a permanent mission in Geneva, in order to serve as a rapporteur (i.e., member of the 'troika'); and training for Member States in the preparation of national reports.

In 2017, the Fund received US\$58,441 in voluntary contributions. With the financial support of the Fund, the participation of government representatives from three States under review in the twenty-seventh UPR Working Group session, seven States under review during the twenty-eighth UPR Working Group session, and five States under review in the thirty-fourth plenary session of the Human Rights Council, was facilitated in 2017.

UN Voluntary Fund for Participation in the UPR Voluntary contributions in 2017

Donor	US\$
Belgium	28,441
Republic of Korea	25,000
Singapore	5,000
TOTAL	58,441

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review

The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review was established, in 2008, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 6/17. This financial mechanism was established to provide, in conjunction with multilateral funding mechanisms, a source of financial and technical assistance to help countries implement the recommendations emanating from the UPR, in consultation with and with the consent of the countries concerned. The Trust Fund has been primarily used to strengthen the national structures empowered to follow up on and coordinate the implementation of recommendations, such as supporting the creation or strengthening of standing interministerial structures for reporting and follow-up, as well as the development of enabling tools, such as national implementation plans and databases for tracking purposes. Technical cooperation for support in implementing thematic recommendations has also been extended within the context of the work of national structures for follow-up. Support was provided through United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs), which are a vital tool for enabling UNCTs to better mainstream the recommendations issued by international human rights mechanisms into their country programming.

In 2017, the Fund received US\$640,918 and a total of 15 projects were supported during the year. The emphasis on implementation of UPR recommendations was strengthened in 2017 and the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund provided strategic guidance and advice to UN Human Rights aimed at strengthening the Fund's reach and impact. The Board discussed strategic guidance at its seventh annual session, in Geneva, in March, and at its eighth field meeting, in Beirut, in October. These discussions focused on strengthening the

Fund's support to: national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up; comprehensive national human rights action plans and the implementation plans of recommendations (linked to the Universal Human Rights Index); the integration of UPR outcomes into UN planning documents at the national level (UNDAF and other country-level plans); and key thematic human rights issues identified in recommendations. In this regard, the Board encouraged UN Human Rights to develop simplified and streamlined internal guidelines on how to use the Fund, which can serve as a key tool for the Office's field presences to provide more effective follow-up support to States, along with other tools that have been developed or are currently under development.

In 2017, the Fund provided financial and technical assistance for activities in Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, Botswana, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Grenada, Iraq, Lesotho, Paraguay, Republic of Moldova, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago.

UN Voluntary Fund for Implementation of the UPR Voluntary contributions in 2017

Donor	US\$
France	22,753
Germany	111,982
Kazakhstan	10,000
Norway	237,192
Paraguay	3,000
Republic of Korea	25,000
Saudi Arabia	75,000
Spain	55,991
United Arab Emirates	100,000
TOTAL	640,918

Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the work of the Human Rights Council

The Voluntary 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 was established under Human Rights Council resolution 19/26, in 2012. The objective of the Trust Fund is to enhance their institutional and human rights capacities through targeted training courses and travel assistance for delegates attending Council sessions and fellowship programmes. In 2017, the Trust Fund received US\$774,581 in voluntary contributions.

Through the Fund, UN Human Rights provided support to 27 delegates, including five fellows, from 26 LDCs/SIDS (13 from Africa, four from the Caribbean and Latin America and nine from Asia and the Pacific). Among the 27 beneficiary delegates and fellows, 18 were women. Nine of the beneficiary delegates represented SIDS that do not have permanent representation in Geneva, namely: Belize, Dominica, Guinea-Bissau, Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of), Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Sao Tomé and Príncipe and Tonga.

Voluntary Fund for Participation of LDCs and SIDS in the work of the Human Rights Council Voluntary contributions in 2017

Donor	US\$
Australia	75,643
Belgium	28,441
Denmark	158,529
Germany	111,982
India	50,000
Ireland	53,706
Italy	30,000
Norway	59,298
Pakistan	15,000
Republic of Korea	50,000
Singapore	10,000
Spain	111,982
Switzerland	10,000
Turkey	10,000
TOTAL	774,581

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples

The Fund was established by General Assembly resolution 40/131, in 1985, as a way to ensure that the voices of indigenous peoples are heard within the UN system. Over the past 32 years, the Fund supported the participation of over 2,000 indigenous peoples' representatives in various UN processes, including the sessions of the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues and the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, as well as relevant meetings of the Human Rights Council and the human rights treaty bodies.

In 2017, the Fund allocated 74 travel grants to enable the participation of indigenous representatives in the sixteenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (23), the tenth session of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (20), the sessions of the Human Rights Council (3), the UPR Working Group (3), the Human Rights Committee (2), the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (6), the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (11), the Committee on the Rights of the Child (1), the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1), the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2) and the Committee against Torture (2). Additionally, seven indigenous representatives were supported by the Fund to attend a General Assembly session, in February 2017.

In 2017, the Fund received a total of US\$542,097 from nine Member States; representing an increase of contributions received the previous year. The Fund is administered by UN Human Rights and acts on the advice of a five-member Board of Trustees. In 2017, the five Board members appointed by the Secretary-General were: Mr. Legborsi Saro Pyagbara (Nigeria); Ms. Myrna Cunningham (Nicaragua); Ms. Anne Nuorgam (Finland); Mr. Binota Dhamai (Bangladesh); and Ms. Claire Charters (New Zealand).

UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples Voluntary contributions in 2017

Donor	US\$
Australia	113,464
Chile	7,500
Estonia	23,697
Finland	55,991
Germany	55,991
Norway	249,051
Peru	4,006
Spain	22,396
Turkey	10,000
TOTAL	542,097

Humanitarian Funds

UN Human Rights provides joint secretariat support to two grant-making funds, namely, the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and the Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery. Together, they are known as the UN Human Rights Humanitarian Funds. They were established by the General Assembly with the purpose of providing direct assistance and rehabilitation to individuals whose rights have been violated in the context of torture and contemporary forms of slav-

ery, respectively. This translates into yearly grants that are awarded to civil society organizations that provide humanitarian, medical, psychological, social and legal aid to victims. They are financed through voluntary contributions and are formally administered by the Secretary-General who acts on the advice of Boards of Trustees. The Boards distribute the grants in accordance with the Fund mandates. In 2017, 26 Member States and a handful of private donors made contributions to the two Funds for a total of almost US\$9 million. The contributions are not used to support the Office's wider work.

United Nations Voluntary Fund for the Victims of Torture

The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, established by General Assembly resolution 36/151 in 1981, aims to support projects around the world which offer remedies and reparations, including rehabilitation, to victims of torture and their families. The Fund is administered by UN Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General with the advice of a Board of Trustees that is composed of five persons. In 2017, the Board members were: Ms. Gaby Ore Aguilar (Peru); Mr. Mikolaj Pietrzak (Poland); Ms. Sara Hossein (Bangladesh); Ms. Vivienne Nathanson (United Kingdom); and Mr. Lawrence Mute (Kenya).

In 2017, the Fund supported 173 regular projects for direct assistance to over 45,000 victims of torture and their families in more than 80 countries for a total of US\$7,169,300. In addition, the Fund supported a number of emergency projects implemented in Argentina, France, Italy, the Russian Federation, Senegal and Tunisia/Libya. Victims assisted included human rights defenders, asylum-seekers, refugees and undocumented migrants, victims of sexual violence in armed conflict, victims of enforced disappearances, indigenous peoples, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons and individuals who have been tortured in detention. Practitioners sponsored by the Fund included medical doctors, psychiatrists and psychologists, human rights lawyers and social workers.

The Fund also invested resources in monitoring and evaluating project proposals, in particular through visits to applicants and grantees. In 2017, a total of 65 projects were visited by the Secretariat team, field presences and the Fund's Trustees. Recommendations were formulated and partnerships were subsequently renewed or terminated.

In 2017, the Voluntary Fund convened a specialized Expert Workshop on the theme of "torture in the context of

migration," with a particular focus on the early identification of torture victims. In anticipation of the Workshop, the Fund published a report, entitled Torture victims in the context of migration, and produced two related videos, which are available at www.ohchr.org/torturefund.

UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture Voluntary contributions in 2017

Donor	US\$
Austria	16,797
Canada	45,113
Chile	5,000
Czech Republic	9,029
Denmark	430,354
France	22,753
Germany	650,061
India	25,000
Ireland	91,300
Italy	43,865
Kuwait	10,000
Liechtenstein	24,826
Luxembourg	17,422
Norway	94,877
Peru	1,482
Saudi Arabia	75,000
South Africa	5,537
Sri Lanka	5,000
Switzerland	203,252
Turkey	10,000
United States of America	6,550,000
Individual donors	309
TOTAL	8,336,978

United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

The United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, established by General Assembly resolution 46/122, in 1991, provides financial support to non-governmental organizations that are assisting victims of contemporary forms of slavery to obtain assistance and redress. Modern forms of slavery are brought to light on a regular basis and include serfdom, forced labour, bonded labour, trafficking in persons and in human organs, sexual slavery, the worst forms of child labour, early and forced marriage, inherited widows, the sale of wives and other forms of slavery.

The Trust Fund is administered by UN Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General, acting on the advice of a five-member Board of Trustees. The Board meets annually to determine priorities and policies, review working methods and adopt recommendations on new grants. In 2017, the Board members were: Ms. Nevena

Vuckovic Sahovic (Serbia); Ms. Renu Rajbhandari (Nepal); Mr. Leonardo Sakamoto (Brazil); Ms. Georgina Vaz Cabral (France); and Mr. Danwood Chirwa (Malawi).

In 2017, the Fund supported 33 projects for direct assistance to victims of contemporary forms of slavery and their families in countries for a total of US\$553,000. Through the Fund's grants, over 30,000 victims were provided with redress and rehabilitation services, such as legal assistance, psychosocial support and food and medical care, after having been freed from slavery, including the worst forms of child labour, domestic servitude, forced and early marriage, bonded and forced labour, sexual exploitation and trafficking in persons for labour and sexual exploitation. The Secretariat and the Trustees of the Fund also invested in the thorough evaluation of project proposals, including three on-site project visits and close coordination with other funding organizations. Projects were selected by taking into account the geography and expertise of the applicants, as well as the comparative advantage of the victim-focused mandate of the Fund.

On 2 December 2017, to mark the International Day for the Abolition of Slavery, the Fund held an Expert Panel on the "Rehabilitation for Victims of Modern Slavery," which featured former victims of modern forms of slavery and experts in the field of rehabilitation of the victims.

Over the next two years, the Fund will continue to prioritize projects providing specialized direct assistance to victims, in particular women and children, in situations of conflict and humanitarian crises. By doing so, the Fund will contribute to meeting Sustainable Development Goal 8.7, which requires the undertaking of "immediate and effective measures to eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking."

UN Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery Voluntary contributions in 2017

Donor	US\$
Australia	151,286
Germany	229,888
Holy See	2,500
India	25,000
Ireland	5,308
Luxembourg	34,219
Qatar	9,946
Republic of Korea	25,000
Saudi Arabia	75,000
South Africa	6,328
Spain	39,194
Turkey	10,000
TOTAL	613,669

Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT) was adopted by the General Assembly on December 2002 and entered into force in June 2006. The OP-CAT created a two-pillar system, at the international and national levels, designed to prevent torture and other forms of ill-treatment in places where persons may be deprived of their liberty.

At the international level, it established the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT), which has been in operation since February 2007. SPT is mandated to visit all places of detention in States Parties and provide assistance and advice to both States Parties and National Preventive Mechanisms (NPMs). In addition, SPT cooperates with relevant UN organs and mechanisms and international, regional and national institutions or organizations to prevent torture.

The Special Fund was established by article 26 of OP-CAT to help finance the implementation of recommendations issued by SPT after a visit to a State Party, as well as education programmes for NPMs. The Fund is administered by UN Human Rights and, since its first call for applications for projects to be implemented in 2012, it has supported a variety of technical cooperation projects in 13 countries around the world.

These projects have resulted in legislative changes, such as aligning respective laws with international human rights standards on torture prevention, as well as laws seeking to establish NPMs; institutional changes, such as establishing or strengthening the effective functioning of NPMs and other relevant institutions, and the establishment of registers of detainees; operational changes due to enhanced knowledge and skills of the judiciary, law enforcement and medical personnel; and changes in the lives of individuals, including a reported decrease of violence against children in detention facilities. The projects have also contributed to an increased awareness of persons deprived of their liberty about their rights through the development and dissemination of manuals.

In 2017, the Special Fund consolidated its working methods, simplified its application and administration procedures and changed its strategic direction. It launched a new call for applications, the projects of which will be implemented in 2018. The Special Fund invested in fund-raising efforts and received US\$187,263 in voluntary contributions. During this period, a *Practical Guide on National Preventive Mechanisms* was developed, in collaboration with SPT members, to be published in the beginning 2018. This will be followed by a training package on torture prevention.

OP-CAT Special Fund Voluntary contributions in 2017	
Donor	US\$
Czech Republic	9,029
Germany	139,040
Spain	39,194
TOTAL	187,263

Contingency Fund

The Contingency Fund is a flexible funding mechanism that was established, in 2006, to carry out activities and implement the priorities and strategies of the High Commissioner, particularly in response to human rights emergencies, including through the rapid deployment of human rights personnel and the provision of necessary logistical support. The Fund, which is financed through voluntary contributions, aims to maintain approximately US\$1 million at all times. Cash advances are drawn from the Fund to enable the implementation of rapid response activities without administrative delays. When subsequent funding is received from other sources, the Fund is reimbursed. Since the inception of the Fund, the Office's capacity to provide conceptual and operational support to unforeseen mandates or situations requiring rapid response has significantly increased.

In 2017, UN Human Rights used its Contingency Fund to deploy staff to the following countries or regions in light of deteriorating or potentially deteriorating human rights situations: Angola to monitor the human rights violations committed in Kasai, Democratic Republic of the Congo; three missions to Bangladesh to monitor the human rights violations of the Rohingya population in Myanmar; one human rights monitoring mission to Yangon and the Rakhine state to support UN advocacy and protection response; Qatar to gather information on the impact of the Gulf crisis on the human rights situation; Guatemala to assist the country office with human rights monitoring related to the cri-

sis in the child welfare system; Honduras to assist the country office with human rights monitoring following the crisis that unfolded after the elections; Mauritania to strengthen human rights expertise in the humanitarian context; and the remote monitoring of the human rights situation in Venezuela.

In 2017, the Fund received US\$118,259 in voluntary contributions. As of the end of December, US\$420,104 had been disbursed or committed to the abovementioned activities and the balance stood at US\$853,886.

Contingency Fund Voluntary contributions in 2017	
Donor	US\$
France	68,259
Republic of Korea	50,000
TOTAL	118,259

Special Fund for the Participation of Civil Society in the Social Forum, the Forum on Minority Issues and the Forum on Business and Human Rights

The Special Fund for the Participation of Civil Society in the Social Forum, the Forum on Minority Issues and the Forum on Business and Human Rights was created by Human Rights Council decision 24/118 of 27 September 2013. The aim of the Fund is to facilitate the broadest possible participation of civil society representatives and other relevant stakeholders in the annual meetings of the three fora. In 2017, the Special Fund received US\$50,000 in new contributions.

In 2017, the Forum on Minority Issues, held on 30 November and 1 December 2017, in Geneva, brought together approximately 400 participants to engage in discussions focused on finding concrete measures and recommendations for minority youth in areas pertaining to inclusive education, participation in public life, representation in media in the digital age and their roles in sustainable peacebuilding and stability. The Special Fund was used to support the participation of five civil society activists from Cameroon, Colombia, Egypt, India and Tunisia.

The Forum on Business and Human Rights, the largest global event ever held on this topic, took place in Ge-

neva, in November, with the attendance of more than 2,500 participants, including many representatives from civil society and the business sector. Over three days, more than 60 substantive sessions explored a vast variety of subjects, such as how to protect human rights in global supply chains, the responsibilities of lawyers in advising companies on human rights, SDGs and business, how companies engaged in human rights abuse can be held to account and many other issues. The Special Fund was used to facilitate the attendance of six participants at the Forum.

The Social Forum, convened by the Human Rights Council, provides a unique space for open and interactive dialogue between civil society actors, representatives of Member States and intergovernmental organizations on a theme that is chosen by the Council each year. The theme of the 2017 session was the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of the HIV epidemic and other communicable diseases and epidemics. The Special Fund was used to promote the participation of four representatives from Bangladesh, Belarus, Morocco and the Republic of Moldova.

Special Fund for the Participation of Civil Society in the Social Forum, the Forum on Minority Issues and the Forum on Business and Human Rights Voluntary contributions in 2017

Donor	US\$
Russian Federation	50,000
TOTAL	50,000

Trust Fund to Support the Activities of the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Persons Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic

On 21 December 2016, the General Assembly adopted resolution 71/248 and decided to establish the International, Impartial and Independent Mechanism to Assist in the Investigation and Prosecution of Those

Responsible for the Most Serious Crimes under International Law Committed in the Syrian Arab Republic since March 2011 (IIIM on Syria). Through the same resolution, UN Human Rights was requested to provide support to enable the Mechanism's initial establishment. During 2017, the Office provided both resource mobilization and administrative support, including for the setting up of a Trust Fund specific for the Mechanism. While resource mobilization support is no longer provided to the IIIM on Syria since December 2017, when the Head of the Mechanism received delegation of authority to sign funding agreements, UN Human Rights still provides administrative support to allow for its proper functioning.

Trust Fund in support of the IIIM on Syria Voluntary contributions in 2017

Donor	US\$
Andorra	10,672
Australia	231,761
Austria	113,766
Belgium	265,111
Botswana	20,000
Canada	321,285
Czech Republic	40,462
Denmark	1,170,799
Estonia	25,000
Finland	1,176,471
France	266,809
Georgia	5,128
Germany	1,085,776
Hungary	53,706
Iceland	50,000
Ireland	108,578
Kuwait	100,000
Latvia	10,672
Liechtenstein	197,963
Lithuania	5,896
Luxembourg	212,089
Malta	11,377
Monaco	21,345
Netherlands	1,086,955
Norway	201,613
Qatar	1,000,000
Slovakia	10,604
Slovenia	10,604
Spain	107,411
Sweden	380,022
Switzerland	552,209
Thailand	10,000
Turkey	100,000
United Kingdom	257,732
TOTAL	9,221,816