

Mechanisms (M)

Increasing implementation of the outcomes of the international human rights mechanisms



TREATY BODIES



Experts

172 treaty bodies experts serving on the **10** treaty monitoring bodies



Recommendations

Adoption of **133** sets of concluding observations



Jurisprudence

Adoption of **294** views on individual complaints



General comments

3 new comments adopted (CESCR on land and economic, social and cultural rights; CEDAW on the rights of Indigenous women and girls; and CRPD on the rights of persons with disabilities to work and employment)



Capacity-building

134 capacity-building activities (95 held online, attended by more than 9,300 participants, including 3,500 women, to support engagement with the human rights treaty bodies, efforts towards ratification of treaties, implementation of recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms, establishment/strengthening of National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up)

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL (HRC) AND UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)



UPR mid-term reports

16 documents submitted (on the implementation of recommendations issued during the second and third UPR cycles)

REPORTING AND FOLLOWING UP ON RECOMMENDATIONS



National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up

55 established and/or strengthened

SPECIAL PROCEDURES



Special procedures mandates

45 thematic and **14** country-specific



Standing invitations

Extended by **128** States and **1** non-member Observer State



Reports

135 presented to the General Assembly/HRC (25 on country visits)



Communications

654 communications sent (to 138 States and 101 non-State actors)
282 replies received

Following a moratorium on FGM in Liberia, victims are still seeking justice

“I was so happy to get my daughter back,” Deborah Parker said.

On 28 September 2021, Parker’s 15-year-old daughter was abducted by traditional leaders in Liberia, known as the zoes, and taken from Mount Barclay to the Sande Bush. There, she was forcibly initiated into the zoes’ secret society through female genital mutilation (FGM).

From the moment her daughter was abducted, Parker sought help from the police, knocked on the doors of government offices and contacted several NGOs, international organizations and UN presences in Liberia, including UN Human Rights.

By 10 November, Parker had grown tired of waiting. With the assistance of a local NGO, she went to a known location where her daughter and 42 other girls were being held and paid for her daughter’s release.

Since then, Parker has continued to speak out about the girls’ ordeals. She also went to the National Council of Chiefs and Elders of Liberia to demand an end to this practice.

On 10 February, several special procedures mandate holders issued a joint communication to the Government. They expressed their concern over violations of her daughter’s rights, including to life, physical integrity and liberty and not to be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment.

Despite a 2018 executive order to ban FGM for girls and a one-year ban imposed by traditional leaders in 2019, legal protections against FGM were no longer

being enforced when Parker’s daughter was abducted.

On 21 February 2022, the Government and the National Council of Chiefs and Elders announced a three-year moratorium on FGM.

Uchenna Emelonye, Country Representative for UN Human Rights in Liberia, welcomed the development and pointed out that Parker had become a strong voice against FGM. She was herself initiated into the Sande Bush secret society. Resisting societal pressure to keep quiet, she is one of the few Liberian women who speaks up on the issue.

“The desired end result would be the promulgation of a law that penalizes and abolishes [FGM] in Liberia,” he said.

Comfort Lamptey, UN Women’s Country Representative to Liberia, foresees an end to FGM in Liberia. “It will take time to

ensure that there are alternative livelihoods for women who engage in FGM, that communities learn about its harmful effects and that those who defy future legislation are prosecuted, but the foundations are being laid,” she added.

VICTIMS STILL SEEKING REDRESS

Parker has not received any compensation for the wrongs done to her daughter. As a result, she can no longer afford to pay her daughter’s school fees.

A three-year moratorium on FGM is not enough for Parker. She is calling on the Government to ensure that girls can go to school without fear of being kidnapped.

“The advice I can give to parents who are going through the same ordeal is to continue the fight. No one should give up until changes come.”



Deborah Parker. © OHCHR

Highlights of pillar results

Mechanisms (M)

The international human rights mechanisms – composed of the Human Rights Council (HRC), with its special procedures and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), and the human rights treaty bodies – are the backbone of UN Human Rights’ work. Their analyses, monitoring and interactions with States and stakeholders

help to identify strengths, weaknesses, gaps and opportunities in relation to all rights. Through their actions and recommendations, they provide the basis for engagement with States and other actors and support duty bearers to comply with their obligations and rights holders to claim their rights. UN Human Rights

provides secretariat support to these mechanisms and supports States in honouring their obligations. Through their procedures and country visits, the international human rights mechanisms give a voice to vulnerable persons and groups at the national level.

PILLAR RESULTS / SHIFTS / SDGs

RESULTS / SPOTLIGHTS **Spotlights:** Disabilities Women Youth People of African descent

M1 – NATIONAL MECHANISMS for REPORTING and FOLLOW-UP

National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the international human rights mechanisms and the implementation of their recommendations.




OHCHR undertook a **compilation of State practices on the establishment and functioning of National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRFs)**, which was featured in a report of the High Commissioner that was presented to the Human Rights Council in June. This led to some States sponsoring a resolution that mandates the Office to move to a more perennial repository of practices through a digital knowledge hub for NMRFs, which will enable scaling up OHCHR’s and peer-to-peer support to NMRFs. With technical support from OHCHR, NMRFs have been established or strengthened in a number of countries. For instance, in **Guyana**, the Government established an NMRF in June. In addition, in **Ecuador**, the Office provided technical assistance to the Government to draft an Executive Decree that established the primary features and functions of the NMRF. The Executive Decree is expected to be approved in 2023. In **Mozambique**, following years of strong advocacy by OHCHR, an Interministerial Commission on Human Rights and International Humanitarian Law was established by a Presidential Decree in April. The Commission is mandated to serve as a coordination body for the preparation of reports and other communications to the regional and international human rights mechanisms and to follow up on and support the implementation of their recommendations. Also, with support from the Office, the NMRF of **Serbia** developed a monitoring plan to follow up on the implementation of recommendations from the international human rights mechanisms, which was approved and accepted by the Government.

UN Human Rights launched a redesigned version of the **National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD)**, raising considerable interest from Member States. In July, the Office conducted a two-day workshop in **Malaysia**, attended by over 60 representatives from 19 State institutions, to launch the NRTD as part of an ongoing training programme aimed at strengthening Malaysia’s NMRF.

M2 – ENGAGEMENT with human rights MECHANISMS

Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues (frontier issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.



 In **Benin**, OHCHR supported a process initiated by the NHRI to **collect the views of youth in the context of the fourth UPR cycle**, held in January 2023. The NHRI undertook consultations with a coalition of Beninese youth representatives from all provinces of the country to solicit their views on the implementation of the recommendations emanating from the third UPR cycle. This information fed into the alternative report that was prepared and submitted by the NHRI in anticipation of Benin's fourth UPR cycle.

The UPR of **Zimbabwe** took place on 26 January and, prior to the review, the Office provided technical support to the Government to draft its **National Report** and to the Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission and CSOs to make relevant submissions. As a result, CSOs made a total of 23 joint submissions, compared to eight in the last cycle, and 16 individual submissions, compared to eight in the last cycle. The UN Country Team (UNCT) also made a joint submission.

UN Human Rights published the second edition of the **#Faith4Rights** toolkit and organized two expert workshops, in October, on the implementation of the Rabat Plan of Action and the "Faith for Rights" framework. Furthermore, the Forum on Minority Issues, at its fourteenth session, encouraged States, international and regional organizations and civil society to work closely in supporting the positive contributions of faith-based actors, including through the promotion of the Beirut Declaration and the #Faith4Rights toolkit. In March, the Human Rights Council included a related recommendation in its resolution on the prevention of genocide ([A/HRC/RES/49/9](#)). At the regional level, a recommendation on combating hate speech ([CM/Rec\(2022\)16](#)) of the Council of Europe's Committee of Ministers builds on the threshold test of the Rabat Plan of Action and the Council of Europe's explanatory memorandum refers to the peer-to-peer learning methodology of the UN "Faith for Rights" framework and toolkit as a useful tool.


M3 – USE of MECHANISMS' RECOMMENDATIONS

Policymakers, legislators and courts make increased use of the outcomes of the international and regional human rights mechanisms.



Since the visit of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences to **Mauritania**, in May, the Government has established two bodies to oversee the implementation of recommendations and monitor the Government's action against trafficking in persons. **A dedicated fund for the victims of contemporary forms of slavery was also established**, in line with the Special Rapporteur's recommendations.

In **Uzbekistan**, following repeated recommendations of the Committee against Torture and the Human Rights Committee to ensure that victims of torture obtain redress and have an enforceable right to fair and adequate compensation, Uzbekistan amended its Civil Code to implement the recommendation regarding **adequate compensation for victims of torture**. The payments will take the form of compensation for damages, including physical and mental harm, material damage or loss of profits, moral damage, as well as the costs of legal assistance, medication and medical services, psychological and social services. A View of the Human Rights Committee, ***Kungurov v. Uzbekistan***, regarding the denial of registration of a human rights association by the State Party's authorities, was implemented and the applicant NGO was registered on 22 September.

 In July, the Government of **Montenegro** adopted the new strategy for the **protection of persons with disabilities from discrimination and the promotion of equality 2022-2027**. It was developed with the technical support of OHCHR, UNICEF and UNDP and integrates recommendations issued by the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) and the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The strategy aims to address violence against women and girls with disabilities, facilitate the deinstitutionalization of children and prioritize the increase of community-based services.

M4 – DEVELOPMENT of INTERNATIONAL LAW

International human rights mechanisms contribute to the elaboration of international law and jurisprudence, in particular in the context of emerging human rights concerns (frontier issues).



OHCHR took steps to close the human rights protection gap of older persons. OHCHR and DESA serve as the co-Secretariat of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, established by the General Assembly to elaborate international standards on the human rights of older persons and to support the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons. Key deliverables include the High Commissioner’s report on **Normative standards and obligations under international law in relation to the promotion and protection of the human rights of older persons** (A/HRC/49/70); the convening of the first multi-stakeholder meeting to discuss the findings of the High Commissioner’s report (A/HRC/RES/48/3); and the development of methodology to integrate the concerns of older persons into OHCHR’s monitoring work in the field. OHCHR will continue its advocacy on issues such as ageism and age discrimination, including in the context of the United Nations Decade on Healthy Ageing, and foster its partnerships with UN focal points on ageing, NHRIs and civil society.

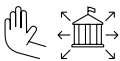
The Special Rapporteur on **adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living**, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context called on Member States to recognize severe, systematic or widespread housing rights violations, such as attacking and bombing civilian housing with explosive weapons, arbitrary housing demolitions and forced evictions as domicile, an international crime of its own standing (A/77/19Q). He urged States to end impunity for egregious violations of economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs) and enable national and international tribunals to investigate and prosecute these crimes with the same commitment required to address other severe human rights violations. This is the first time that a UN human rights mechanism has called for the **recognition of domicile as a crime** under international law.

The **Permanent Forum on People of African Descent held its first session** in Geneva, from 5 to 8 December. More than 700 participants from States, civil society and UN agencies attended the session and 40 side events, demonstrating the heightened interest of stakeholders on the issue of promoting and protecting the human rights of people of African descent.

UN Human Rights continued to provide support to the Chair-Rapporteur of the intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development in the elaboration of a **draft convention on the right to development**. The second revised text of the draft convention (A/HRC/WG.2/24/2) contextualized the submissions received from States and other stakeholders in light of international law and its jurisprudence. These deliberations are reflected in a 168-page legal commentary (A/HRC/WG.2/24/2/Add.1).

M5 – EFFECTIVENESS of international human rights MECHANISMS

International human rights mechanisms are increasingly effective in promoting and protecting human rights.



The Human Rights Committee reviewed the third periodic report of the **Hong Kong Special Administrative Region**, in July. In recent years, OHCHR has advocated for a safe space for civil society engagement through coordination, protection and risk mitigation as the risks of reprisal have been higher for members of Hong Kong civil society since the National Security Law was enacted in July 2020. In November 2022, the Human Rights Committee issued **strong concluding observations, including a call to repeal the National Security Law**.

The **Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT)**, established under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT), carried out eight missions and visited 44 prisons, including facilities for women, 47 police stations, 11 detention centres for children, five psychiatric and health care institutions, 13 closed centres for undocumented migrants and three other places of deprivation of liberty. It conducted 730 individual or collective interviews with more than 2,300 persons, most of whom were detainees, in addition to officials, law enforcement personnel and medical staff. Notably, in **Brazil**, the Supreme Federal Court invalidated a presidential decree, adopted in 2019, that would have dismantled the National Preventive Mechanism (NPM), following the visit by a delegation of SPT. In May, the Supreme Federal Court unanimously ruled that the presidential decree was unconstitutional, thereby enabling the NPM to continue its work (CAT/OP/8).

Progress was made in **integrating human rights information**, such as information generated by the international human rights mechanisms, **into the UN's Regional Monthly Review (RMR) process**. This was accomplished through the inclusion of prevention assessments undertaken by the human rights treaty bodies and a standard human rights slide in the RMR briefing tools, which is now an integral part of the RMR process. This increased awareness about the role international human rights mechanisms can play in engaging with national authorities on key risk areas that were identified in RMRs as having limited entry points for the UN system. For instance, the RMRs on Brazil and Tunisia identified the reviews of the human rights treaty bodies and the UPR as opportunities to enhance UN-wide engagement on human rights. The RMRs on Eswatini and Suriname identified specific entry points for UN engagement based on recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.



Workshop on the international human rights mechanisms, human rights and transitional justice, and the rights of Indigenous Peoples, organized by OHCHR for officers of the newly established Bangsamoro Human Rights Commission, in August, in Bangsamoro Autonomous Region, Mindanao, Philippines. © OHCHR