

EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

INTRODUCTION

In the vast and diverse region of Europe and Central Asia, OHCHR maintains strong country engagements through Headquarters and field presences. They include the Regional Office for Europe in Brussels; the Regional Office for Central Asia in Bishkek; HRAs in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia and South Caucasus; Human Rights Officers/staff in the Russian Federation; the Human Rights Office in the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo*²; and the Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU).

OHCHR supports inter-governmental mandates, including drafting and presentation

to the Human Rights Council of the High Commissioner's annual reports on the "Question of human rights in Cyprus". OHCHR also supports the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus, who reports annually to the Human Rights Council in Geneva and the General Assembly in New York. OHCHR reports annually to the Human Rights Council on cooperation with Georgia, and participates in the Geneva International Discussions. Since deployment of the HRMMU in 2014, OHCHR monitors the human rights situation in Ukraine and releases public reports, complemented by thematic reporting, including on Crimea, in accordance with General Assembly resolutions.

CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS CONTEXT

- Discrimination and exclusion remain systemic in many countries of Europe and Central Asia, particularly with regard to economic and social rights. Their effects have been compounded in recent years by the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic and austerity measures in some countries. Vulnerable persons may include but are not limited to: women; youth; migrants; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual, queer and intersex persons (LGBTI); persons with HIV/AIDS; persons belonging to ethnic or religious minorities; persons with disabilities; and older persons (for whom the right to live independently and in the community, rather than in institutions, is especially relevant).
- Nationalist policies and exclusionary rhetoric, which used to be the monopoly of extremist groups, are entering the mainstream. Migrants and other groups, including religious minorities and Roma, have been targeted, and incidents of racism, hate speech and xenophobia are increasing in numerous countries across the region.
- The human rights of migrants in Europe have been increasingly restricted by border controls and by security and defence policies. Human rights concerns include the immigration detention of children, the rising incidence of returns, denial of entry to European ports, and restrictions of the activities of NGOs that provide assistance to migrants.
- The potential for conflict, and consequent challenges to respect for human rights and international humanitarian law, remain high. Examples include the renewal of hostilities in and around Nagorno-Karabakh (2020), the persistence of tensions in the Western Balkans, and challenges to security and stability in Central Asia.
- Challenges to democracy and the rule of law are a growing concern. The legacy of protracted conflicts affects the daily lives of many populations that live in their vicinity. In addition to the plight of internally displaced persons and refugees, a wide range of protection issues needs to be addressed to tackle human rights violations, restore the rights of affected people, and build public confidence.

* Hereinafter, all references to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

Europe and Central Asia and the United Nations human rights mechanisms

Ratification, reporting and standing invitation (baselines December 2021)


	CERD	CCPR	CESCR	CAT	OPCAT	CEDAW	CRC	CRC:OPSC	CRC: OPAC	CMW	CRPD	CPED	UPR	Standing invitations to Special Procedure mandate holders
Albania		X											May 2019	Yes (2009)
Andorra				X									Nov 2020	Yes(2010)
Armenia							X				X	X	Jan 2020	Yes(2006)
Austria	X		X										Jan 2021	Yes (2001)
Azerbaijan													May 2018	Yes (2013)
Belarus						X							Nov 2020	No
Belgium													May 2021	Yes (2001)
Bosnia & Herzegovina	X			X							X		Nov 2019	Yes (2010)
Bulgaria				X			X						Nov 2020	Yes (2001)
Croatia		X	X	X		X		X					Nov 2020	Yes (2003)
Cyprus			X					X			X		Jan 2019	Yes (2001)
Czech Republic						X					X		Nov 2017	Yes (2000)
Denmark													May 2021	Yes (2001)
Estonia				X		X							May 2021	Yes (2001)
Finland													May 2017	Yes (2001)
France							X						Jan 2018	Yes (2001)
Georgia			X	X									Jan 2021	Yes (2010)
Germany													May 2018	Yes (2001)
Greece						X							Nov 2021	Yes (2001)
Hungary			X	X									Nov 2021	Yes (2001)
Iceland													Jan 2022	Yes (2000)
Ireland				X		X	X						Nov 2021	Yes (2001)
Italy						X							Nov 2019	Yes (2001)
Kazakhstan							X						Nov 2019	Yes (2009)
Kyrgyzstan											X		Jan 2020	Yes (2020)
Latvia		X					X						May 2021	Yes (2001)
Liechtenstein	X												Jan 2018	Yes (2003)
Lithuania													Jan 2022	Yes (2001)
Luxembourg											X		Jan 2018	Yes (2001)

Europe and Central Asia and the United Nations human rights mechanisms

Ratification, reporting and standing invitation (baselines December 2021)

	CERD	CCPR	CESCR	CAT	OPCAT	CEDAW	CRC	CRC:OPSC	CRC: OPAC	CMW	CRPD	CPED	UPR	Standing invitations to Special Procedure mandate holders
Malta	X	X	X	X		X		X				X	Nov 2018	Yes (2001)
Rep. of Moldova				X		X							Jan 2022	Yes (2010)
Monaco			X			X	X	X					Nov 2018	Yes (2008)
Montenegro	X	X	X										Jan 2018	Yes (2005)
Netherlands						X	X						May 2017	Yes (2001)
North Macedonia	X		X										Jan 2019	Yes (2004)
Norway													May 2019	Yes (1999)
Poland						X							May 2017	Yes (2001)
Portugal											X		May 2019	Yes (2001)
Romania						X		X			X		Jan 2018	Yes (2001)
Russian Fed.													May 2018	No
San Marino	X		X	X		X	X	X	X		X		Nov 2019	Yes (2003)
Serbia							X						Jan 2018	Yes (2005)
Slovakia						X							Jan 2019	Yes (2001)
Slovenia			X			X							Nov 2019	Yes (2001)
Spain		X				X							Jan 2020	Yes (2001)
Sweden						X							Jan 2020	Yes (2001)
Switzerland													Nov 2017	Yes (2002)
Tajikistan													Nov 2021	No
Turkey	X		X										Jan 2020	Yes (2001)
Turkmenistan							X						May 2018	Yes (2018)
Ukraine	X												Nov 2017	Yes (2006)
United Kingdom	X		X				X						May 2017	Yes (2001)
Uzbekistan													May 2018	Yes (2018)

 Treaty ratified

 Overdue report as of December 2021

 Outstanding ratification

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE (BRUSSELS)

FIELD PRESENCE

The Regional Office for Europe is based in Brussels and was established in 2009.

COUNTRIES OF ENGAGEMENT

The Regional Office for Europe engages with regional organizations and institutions, such as the European Union, as well as the UN Brussels Team. Complementing the work of OHCHR Headquarters and field presences where relevant, it also engages with Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the Holy See, and Kosovo.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

The European Union and Member States of the European Union engage regularly and constructively with the international human rights mechanisms. All countries have ratified most of the core international human rights treaties. Ratification of the CPPED and, even more, the ICRMW is less broad. With the exception of Russia, all countries of engagement have issued a standing invitation to the special procedures mandate-holders. By the end of the first quarter of 2022, all countries will have participated in the third cycle of the UPR.

VISITS BY SPECIAL PROCEDURES IN THE LAST SIX YEARS

Albania: Working Group on disappearances (2016); Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion (2017).

Austria: Working Group on mercenaries (2018).

Belgium: Special Rapporteur on human rights and counter terrorism (2018); Working Group on people of African descent (2019).

Bulgaria: Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children (2019); Special Rapporteur on violence against women (2019).

Croatia: Special Rapporteur on the right to health (2016); Special Rapporteur on cultural rights (2016); Special Rapporteur on truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence (2021).

Denmark: Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion (2016); Special Rapporteur on toxics (2017).

Finland: Independent Expert on the rights of older persons (2021).

France: Special Rapporteur on disability (2017); Special Rapporteur on privacy (2017); Special Rapporteur on human rights and counter terrorism (2018); Special Rapporteur on the right to housing (2019).

Germany: Working Group on people of African descent (2017); Special Rapporteur on privacy (2018).

Greece: Special Rapporteur on the rights of migrants (2016); Working Group on discrimination against women and girls (2019); Working Group on arbitrary detention (2019).

Hungary: Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders (2016); Working Group on discrimination against women and girls (2016); Working Group on arbitrary detention (2018); Special Rapporteur on the rights of migrants (2019); Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression (2021).

Ireland: Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children (2018).

Italy: Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (2017); Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery (2018); Special Rapporteur on the right to food (2020); Working Group on business and human rights (2021); Special Rapporteur on toxics (2021).

Netherlands: Independent Expert on international solidarity (2018); Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion (2019); Special Rapporteur on racism (2019).

Norway: Independent Expert on international solidarity (2016); Special Rapporteur on the environment (2019); Special Rapporteur on disability (2019).

Poland: Special Rapporteur on independence of judges (2017); Special Rapporteur on cultural rights (2018); Working Group on discrimination against women and girls (2018).

Portugal: Special Rapporteur on the right to housing (2016); Special Rapporteur on water and sanitation (2016).

Romania: Working Group on discrimination against women and girls (2020).

Slovenia: Special Rapporteur on minority issues (2018).

Spain: Working Group on people of African descent (2018); Special Rapporteur on minority issues (2019); Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty (2020).

Sweden: Independent Expert on international solidarity (2018).

Switzerland: Independent Expert on foreign debt (2017); Working Group on mercenaries (2019); Special Rapporteur on development (2019).

Turkey: Working Group on disappearances (2016); Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression (2016); Special Rapporteur on torture (2016).

United Kingdom: Special Rapporteur on freedom of assembly (2016); Special Rapporteur on toxics (2017); Special Rapporteur on racism (2018); Special Rapporteur on privacy (2018); Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty (2018).

Kosovo: Special Rapporteur on cultural rights (2016); Special Rapporteur on torture (2017).

PILLAR	PILLAR RESULT	EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION THROUGH 2023
A Accountability	A2 Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights	EU Institutions and Member States respond more effectively to threats to democracy and the rule of law in the EU.
P Participation	P5 More systematic monitoring of the environment for civic space, including threats to it, takes place	National, regional and international actors act promptly and more effectively to protect civic space, especially in Hungary and Poland.
ND Non-discrimination	ND1 Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to “leave no one behind”, including by addressing the root causes of inequality	The EU amends and extends its policies on equality and discrimination to reflect international human rights law, especially with respect to Roma, persons with disabilities, older persons, LGBTI persons, and women.

ND Non-discrimination	ND1	<p>Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to “leave no one behind”, including by addressing the root causes of inequality</p>	<p>Both in EU Member States and candidate countries for EU enlargement, the content and implementation of policies on equality and discrimination comply with international human rights law and jurisprudence. Particular attention is given to the desegregation, de-institutionalization and inclusion of Roma and persons with disabilities, especially women and children.</p>
	ND3	<p>Legal and social frameworks increasingly promote women’s and girls’ autonomy and choice and protect them from violence, including in the digital space</p>	<p>EU legal and policy frameworks increasingly protect women and girls from violence in the digital space.</p>
	ND6	<p>The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected</p>	<p>The EU and its member States respect migrants’ right to information as well as procedural safeguards in migration processes, and have taken steps to end the detention of migrant children.</p>
	ND6	<p>The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected</p>	<p>The EU and member states (including Greece, the Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden and Italy) have adopted measures that safeguard migrants’ access to health services and justice.</p>
	ND7	<p>Public support for equal, inclusive and diverse societies, without discrimination, increases</p>	<p>Across the EU, there is an increase in public support for equality and non-discrimination measures; new strategic partnerships have been created to encourage this trend.</p>
D Development	D3	<p>State authorities adopt and implement laws, policies and strategies on land and housing that increasingly comply with human rights</p>	<p>EU policies affirm housing rights, in particular to address homelessness and forced eviction.</p>
	D7	<p>States integrate human rights, including the right to development and human rights mechanisms’ outcomes, as they implement the SDGs and other development and poverty eradication efforts; the UN supports them in these purposes, integrating human rights in its own development work</p>	<p>EU institutions further integrate human rights and a human rights-based approach in EU external development programming.</p>

<p>D Development</p>	<p>D7</p>	<p>States integrate human rights, including the right to development and human rights mechanisms' outcomes, as they implement the SDGs and other development and poverty eradication efforts; and the UN supports them in these purposes, integrating human rights in its own development work</p>	<p>The EU and UN Brussels team further integrate a human rights approach in their work on the Sustainable Development Agenda.</p>
<p>PS Peace and Security</p>	<p>PS3</p>	<p>Strategies to prevent and respond to conflict consistently integrate human rights protection</p>	<p>EU external action is increasingly underpinned by international human rights norms and standards.</p>
<p>M Mechanisms</p>	<p>M1</p>	<p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations</p>	<p>At least two more countries have set up a NMRF.</p>
	<p>M2</p>	<p>Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, 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</p>	<p>More rights holders and civil society organizations, national human rights organizations and equality bodies (particularly those that work with children and young people, women, migrants, Roma, persons with disabilities, LGBTI and older persons), engage with the international human rights mechanisms and apply their outcomes to address inequality.</p>

SHIFTS

Civic Space, Global Constituency, Inequalities, Prevention, Frontier Issues: People on the Move

SPOTLIGHT POPULATIONS

People of African Descent, Persons with Disabilities, Women, Young People

REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

FIELD PRESENCE

An HRA has been deployed to support the UNCT since 2007.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

The Republic of North Macedonia is a party to the ICCPR, ICESCR, CERD, CEDAW, CAT, CRC and CRPD and has accepted the individual complaints procedure under the ICCPR, CEDAW, CERD and CPRD. North Macedonia participated in the third cycle of the UPR in 2019. A national mechanism for reporting and follow up has been in place since 2012. North Macedonia has issued a standing invitation to special procedures since 2004.

VISITS BY SPECIAL PROCEDURES

None.

PILLAR	PILLAR RESULT	EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION THROUGH 2023
ND Non-discrimination	ND1 ▶ Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to “leave no one behind”, including by addressing the root causes of inequality	Anti-discrimination and gender equality laws comply with international human rights standards and ensure effective protection from all forms of discrimination.
	ND1 ▶ Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to “leave no one behind”, including by addressing the root causes of inequality	National mechanisms to implement the Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons (CRPD), and monitor its implementation, are effective, adequately resourced, and comply with international standards.
	ND3 ▶ Legal and social frameworks increasingly promote women’s and girls’ autonomy and choice and protect them from violence, including in the digital space	National laws on SGBV protect women from SGBV and comply with international human rights standards.
	ND4 ▶ Judicial institutions, media, and other sectors increasingly recognize and challenge harmful gender stereotypes and gender norms with a view to their eradication	There is growing public recognition that child marriage is a harmful practice that must end.
D Development	D4 ▶ Public health approaches, including sexual and reproductive health policies, comply with international human rights standards and provide non-discriminatory access, especially to children, adolescents, women and migrants	The national strategy on sexual and reproductive health ensures that services, including modern contraception and pregnancy termination, are provided without discrimination, especially to marginalized women and girls.

<p>D Development</p>	<p>D8</p>	<p>National institutions, assisted by communities, systematically collect, disaggregate and use data relevant for advancing human rights when they monitor and implement the SDGs</p>	<p>The State collects reliable data systematically and in a timely manner on the situation of women and groups at risk of discrimination.</p>
<p>M Mechanisms</p>	<p>M1</p>	<p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations</p>	<p>The NMRF regularly gathers and disseminates information for purposes of reporting and implementation, and uses information management tools effectively. Its procedures ensure that it consults meaningfully with stakeholders, including civil society and people who are ‘left behind’.</p>
	<p>M2</p>	<p>Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, 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</p>	<p>Civil society engages systematically with the international human rights mechanisms.</p>

SHIFTS

Civic Space, Global Constituency, Inequalities, Leveraging Data for Human Rights

SPOTLIGHT POPULATIONS

Persons with Disabilities, Women

RUSSIAN FEDERATION

FIELD PRESENCE

OHCHR has had a project office in Moscow since 2017.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

The Russian Federation is a party to the CAT, CEDAW, CERD, CRC, CRPD, ICCPR and ICESCR, as well as to the OP-ICCPR, OP-CEDAW, OP-CRC CAAC and the OP-CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. It has not yet acceded to the ICRMW or the CPPED, or to the OP-ICCPR concerning the death penalty, OP-ICESCR, OP-CAT, the OP-CRC on a communications procedure, and the OP-CRPD. The Government completed the third cycle of the UPR in 2018. It has not issued a standing invitation to special procedures.

VISITS BY SPECIAL PROCEDURES IN THE LAST SIX YEARS

Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures (2017).

PILLAR	PILLAR RESULT	EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION THROUGH 2023
P Participation	P6 The voice of people affected by decisions, particularly victims and those who face discrimination, is more clearly heard	Access to human rights education is expanded and institutionalized.
ND Non-discrimination	ND1 Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to “leave no one behind”, including by addressing the root causes of inequality	NHRI and civil society antidiscrimination efforts, in particular in relation to domestic violence, gender equality, persons with disabilities and indigenous groups is significantly improved.
M Mechanisms	M2 Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, 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	Government and NHRI representatives increase their awareness and knowledge of the human rights mechanisms.

SHIFTS

Global Constituency

SPOTLIGHT POPULATIONS

Young people

MOLDOVA

FIELD PRESENCE

From 2008 until 2015, an HRA was based in the RC’s Office. Between September 2015 and mid-2019, a national Human Rights Coordinator led a team of national staff and consultants. Since mid-2019, an HRA is based in the RC’s Office.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

Moldova has ratified the ICCPR, ICESCR, CERD, CEDAW, CAT, OP-CAT, CRC, and CRPD, and accepted the individual complaints procedure under the ICCPR, CERD, CEDAW, CAT and CRPD. Moldova’s third UPR will take place in 2022. Moldova issued a standing invitation to the special procedures in 2010.

VISITS BY SPECIAL PROCEDURES IN THE PAST SIX YEARS

Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders (2018).

PILLAR	PILLAR RESULT	EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION THROUGH 2023
A Accountability	A1 ▶ Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems	Law enforcement institutions have substantially improved systems and procedures that protect the human rights of women, persons with disabilities, victims of torture and ill-treatment, and Roma and other minorities.
	P4 ▶ Civil society assistance to victims of human rights violations is strengthened	Victims of human rights violations, notably women and youth with disabilities and women survivors of sexual violence, more frequently engage with national and international protection systems.
P Participation	P6 ▶ The voice of people affected by decisions, particularly victims and those who face discrimination, is more clearly heard	Vulnerable rights-holders, notably individuals with disabilities, participate more frequently and more fully in forming public policy and drafting laws, including by taking public office. A civil society monitoring mechanism is established to help implement UN human rights recommendations and the National Human Rights Action Plan. Several women, including women with disabilities, are elected to local councils.
	ND1 ▶ Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to “leave no one behind”, including by addressing the root causes of inequality	Laws, policies and practices more effectively prevent and prosecute discrimination against women, persons with disabilities, Roma and other minorities.
ND Non-discrimination	ND7 ▶ Public support for equal, inclusive and diverse societies, without discrimination, increases	Public discourse and media reports are more inclusive and non-discriminatory.

<p>D Development</p>	<p>D8</p>	<p>National institutions, assisted by communities, systematically collect, disaggregate and use data relevant for advancing human rights when they monitor and implement the SDGs</p>	<p>Data on education, employment and justice are more consistently available; they are disaggregated by disability status and type.</p>
<p>M Mechanisms</p>	<p>M1</p>	<p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations</p>	<p>A national mechanism implements and reports on outstanding international human rights commitments in an integrated and participatory manner.</p>
	<p>M2</p>	<p>Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, 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</p>	<p>The NHRI, civil society organizations and individuals make alternative submissions more frequently to the UN human rights mechanisms.</p>

SHIFTS

Civic Space, Inequalities, Leveraging Data for Human Rights, Prevention

SPOTLIGHT POPULATIONS

Persons with Disabilities, Young People

SERBIA

FIELD PRESENCE

A national Human Rights Programme Officer/Adviser heads the Human Rights Team of the RC’s Office.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

Serbia has ratified eight core international human rights treaties and their optional protocols and regularly reports to the treaty bodies. Serbia has signed but has not yet ratified the ICRMW. Serbia has been reviewed under the CAT, CEDAW, CERD, CCPR, CESC, CRC, CRPD and CPPED.

VISITS BY SPECIAL PROCEDURES IN THE PAST SIX YEARS

Special Rapporteur on the rights of internally displaced persons (follow-up visit) (2016); Special Rapporteur on cultural rights (2016); Special Rapporteur on torture (2017).

PILLAR	PILLAR RESULT	EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION THROUGH 2023
A Accountability	A1 Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems	The judiciary more often and more comprehensively references international human rights law in domestic decisions.
P Participation	P6 The voice of people affected by decisions, particularly victims and those who face discrimination, is more clearly heard	Organizations of persons with disabilities, organizations of national minorities, and other human rights civil society organizations are more visible, are included consistently in relevant policy and decision making, and engage more frequently with UN mechanisms and the implementation of SDGs.
ND Non-discrimination	ND1 Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to “leave no one behind”, including by addressing the root causes of inequality	The Government adopts or reforms five policies, laws or practices that prevent or sanction discrimination in a manner that ensures they comply with human rights standards; in doing so, it pays particular attention to the rights of women, persons with disabilities, LGBTI persons, Roma, and migrants and refugees.
M Mechanisms	M1 National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations	The NMRF verifies that recommendations made by human rights mechanisms are implemented; it uses human rights indicators.

SHIFTS

Civic Space, Inequalities, Prevention

SPOTLIGHT POPULATIONS

Women

UKRAINE

FIELD PRESENCE

At Ukraine's request, OHCHR sent a short-term human rights monitoring mission to Ukraine in March 2014 and subsequently deployed a human rights monitoring mission (HRMMU). HRMMU has offices in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Donetsk, Luhansk, Kramatorsk, Mariupol and Odessa.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

Ukraine is a party to all the core UN human rights treaties, except the ICRMW. Ukraine has been reviewed under the CAT, CESCR, CRPD, CERD, CEDAW, CCPR, and CRC, and by the Sub-Committee on Prevention of Torture.

VISITS BY SPECIAL PROCEDURES IN THE PAST SIX YEARS

Special Rapporteur on torture (2018); Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances (2018); Working Group on the use of mercenaries (2016); Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity (2019); Independent Expert on foreign debt (2018).

PILLAR	PILLAR RESULT	EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION THROUGH 2023
A Accountability	A1 → Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems	State institutions hold to account a higher proportion of those who are responsible for grave violations of human rights or humanitarian law.
PS Peace and Security	PS3 → Strategies to prevent and respond to conflict consistently integrate human rights protection measures	State authorities and non-state actors protect and promote the human rights of populations living in territories affected by conflict.
	PS3 → Strategies to prevent and respond to conflict consistently integrate human rights protection measures	State authorities adopt and implement laws and programmes to prevent sexual violence from occurring in the context of conflict, violence and insecurity; they investigate and prosecute allegations of sexual violence.
	PS3 → Strategies to prevent and respond to conflict consistently integrate human rights protection	The UN's early warning systems and strategies in Ukraine integrate and update human rights information and analysis.
M Mechanisms	M1 → National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations	The Government of Ukraine implements recommendations by the human rights mechanisms in line with international human rights principles, standards and best practice.

SHIFTS
Civic Space, Prevention
SPOTLIGHT POPULATIONS
Women

SOUTH CAUCASUS (TBILISI)

FIELD PRESENCE

An HRA for the South Caucasus is based in Tbilisi, supported by national staff based in the UNCTs in Azerbaijan and Georgia.

COUNTRIES OF ENGAGEMENT

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

All three countries have ratified the CRPD, CERD, ICCPR, OP-ICCPR, second OP-ICCPR, ICESCR, CAT, OP-CAT, CEDAW, OP-CEDAW, CRC, OP-CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict, and OP-CRC on the sale and exploitation of children. Azerbaijan and Georgia have also ratified OP-CRPD. Azerbaijan has ratified the ICRMW. All three countries have issued standing invitations to special procedures. Azerbaijan completed the third cycle of the UPR in 2018, Armenia in 2020, and Georgia in 2021.

VISITS BY SPECIAL PROCEDURES IN THE PAST SIX YEARS

Azerbaijan: Working group on arbitrary detention (2016); Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders (2016); Special Rapporteur on the right to food (2019),

Armenia: Special Rapporteur on the right to health (2017); Special Rapporteur on freedom of peaceful assembly and association (2018).

Georgia: Special Rapporteur on the rights of internally displaced persons (2016); Special Rapporteur on violence against women (2016); Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children (2016); Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity (2018); Independent Expert on the rights of older persons (2018).

PILLAR	PILLAR RESULT	EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION THROUGH 2023
A Accountability	A1 ▶ Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems	The National Human Rights Action Plan continues to comply with international human rights standards and is periodically updated to reflect recommendations of international and regional human rights mechanisms.
	A5 ▶ UN efforts for the rule of law, justice, counter-terrorism and accountability put human rights at the core	UN assistance to the justice sector promotes and respects international norms and standards; Governments of the region and UN bodies institutionalize processes for discussing justice sector reform.
P Participation	P4 ▶ Civil society assistance to victims of human rights violations is strengthened	In at least one country, persons with disabilities make increasing use of national protection systems.

<p>ND Non-discrimination</p>	<p>ND7</p>	<p>Public support for equal, inclusive and diverse societies, without discrimination, increases</p>	<p>Officials, journalists, lawyers, university and high school students increasingly advocate for, and work to create, inclusive and diverse societies.</p>
<p>M Mechanisms</p>	<p>M2</p>	<p>Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, 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</p>	<p>More civil society organizations submit alternative reports to the UPR and Treaty Bodies in two countries of the sub-region.</p>

SHIFTS

Civic Space, Inequalities, Prevention, Frontier Issues: Digital space

SPOTLIGHT POPULATIONS

Persons with Disabilities

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR CENTRAL ASIA (BISHKEK)

FIELD PRESENCE

The Regional Office for Central Asia (ROCA), based in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), has been in place since 2008. There are national presences in Astana (Kazakhstan), Dushanbe (Tajikistan), Tashkent (Uzbekistan) and Ashgabat (Turkmenistan). A human rights and political affairs officer is based at the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia, located in Ashgabat.

COUNTRIES OF ENGAGEMENT

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

All five countries have ratified most of the core human rights treaties. Kazakhstan has not yet ratified the ICRMW, OP-ICCPR on the death penalty, or OP-CRC on a communications procedure. Kyrgyzstan has not yet ratified the CPPED, OP-ICESCR, OP-CRC on a communications procedure, or OP-CRPD. Tajikistan has signed but not ratified the CRPD and has not yet ratified the CPPED, OP-ICCPR on the death penalty, OP-ICESCR, OP-CAT, OP-CRC on a communications procedure, or OP-CRPD. Turkmenistan has not ratified the ICRMW, CPPED or the OP-CESCR, OP-CAT or OP-CRC on a communications procedure. Uzbekistan has not ratified the ICRMW, CPPED, OP-ICESCR, OP-CEDAW, OP-CAT, OP-CRC on a communications procedure, or OP-CRPD. Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan have issued a standing invitation to special procedures. All countries participated in the third UPR cycle.

VISITS BY SPECIAL PROCEDURES IN THE PAST SIX YEARS

Kazakhstan: Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities (2017); Special Rapporteur on human rights and counter terrorism (2019).

Kyrgyzstan: Special Rapporteur on the right to health (2018); Working Group on disappearances (2019); Special Rapporteur on minority issues (2019).

Tajikistan: Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression (2016); Working Group on disappearances (2019); Special Rapporteur on trafficking (2021).

Turkmenistan: none.

Uzbekistan: Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion (2017); Special Rapporteur on independence of judges (2019); Special Rapporteur on human rights and counter terrorism (2021).

PILLAR	PILLAR RESULT	EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION THROUGH 2023
A Accountability	A1 ▶ Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems	Governments act to ensure that legislation, policies and State practices with respect to the criminal justice system comply with international human rights standards.
	A1 ▶ Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems	Institutions that train judges, law enforcement officials, the staff of security-related agencies, or lawyers, and other educational institutions, include human rights in their training as a matter of course.

<p>A Accountability</p>	<p>A2</p>	<p>Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights</p>	<p>NHRI are more effective, independent and interconnected in accordance with the Paris Principles; nationally and sub-regionally, they play a leading role in protecting and promoting human rights at national level and in the region.</p>
<p>P Participation</p>	<p>P1</p>	<p>Stronger laws, policies and practices protect the right to participate and civic space, including online, and the environment for civil society is increasingly safe and enabling</p>	<p>Civil society organizations, human rights defenders, and marginalized groups increasingly claim their rights and promote the rights of their constituencies, and can participate more freely in public life.</p>
<p>D Development</p>	<p>D7</p>	<p>States integrate human rights, including the right to development and human rights mechanisms' outcomes, as they implement the SDGs and other development and poverty eradication efforts; and the UN supports them in these purposes, integrating human rights in its own development work</p>	<p>When they implement the SDGs and other development plans, more Central Asian States and UNCTs adopt a human rights-based approach and the recommendations of human rights mechanisms.</p>
<p>M Mechanisms</p>	<p>M1</p>	<p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations</p>	<p>NMRFs successfully fulfil their mandates; they engage with international human rights mechanisms, and coordinate reporting and follow up, and to that end, consult relevant national actors and share information with them and with the public.</p>
	<p>M3</p>	<p>Policy-makers, legislators and courts make increased use of the outcomes of the international and regional human rights mechanisms</p>	<p>Policy-makers, legislators and judges more frequently reference and apply the recommendations of international human rights mechanisms.</p>

SHIFTS

Civic Space, Global Constituency, Inequalities, Prevention

SPOTLIGHT POPULATIONS

Persons with Disabilities, Women, Young People

BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

FIELD PRESENCE

In February 2021 an HRA was deployed to the RC’s Office.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

Bosnia and Herzegovina has ratified the core international human rights treaties and their optional protocols. The Government participated in the third cycle of the UPR in 2019. It has extended a standing invitation to special procedures.

VISITS BY SPECIAL PROCEDURES IN THE LAST SIX YEARS

Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants (2019); Special Rapporteur on truth, justice, reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence (2021).

PILLAR	PILLAR RESULT	EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION THROUGH 2023
<p>P Participation</p>	<p>P1 → Stronger laws, policies and practices protect the right to participate and civic space, including online, and the environment for civil society is increasingly safe and enabling</p>	<p>Enhanced promotion and protection of the rights to freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association, as well as the right to participate in public affairs.</p>
<p>D Development</p>	<p>D2 → Business actors implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights effectively</p>	<p>Increased implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.</p>
<p>M Mechanisms</p>	<p>M2 → Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, 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</p>	<p>More systematic and inclusive engagement with and follow up to and implementation of the recommendations of the human rights mechanisms.</p>

SHIFTS

Civic Space, Inequalities, Prevention

SPOTLIGHT POPULATIONS

Women

MONTENEGRO

FIELD PRESENCE

In September 2019, an HRA was deployed to the RC Office at the request of the Government.

ENGAGEMENT WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

Montenegro has ratified eight core international human rights treaties and their optional protocols. Montenegro has signed but not yet ratified the ICRMW. It participated in the third cycle of the UPR. It has extended a standing invitation to special procedures.

VISITS BY SPECIAL PROCEDURES IN THE LAST SIX YEARS

Independent Expert on the rights of older persons (2018); Special Rapporteur on trafficking (2019); Special Rapporteur on the sale and sexual exploitation of children (2021).

PILLAR	PILLAR RESULT	EXPECTED CONTRIBUTION THROUGH 2023
ND Non-discrimination	ND8 The UN System implements a coherent and human rights-based response to inequality and discrimination, including intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination	New SDCF (2023-2027), will fully integrate the human rights based approach, and furthers the leave no one behind commitment in the 2030 Agenda.
M Mechanisms	M1 National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations	The national recommendations tracking database has an increased level of data, and is substantially used in upcoming treaty reports and in planning processes that integrate recommendations. As such there will be better management and use of information by the government entities that engage with the mechanisms.
	M3 Policy-makers, legislators and courts make increased use of the outcomes of the international and regional human rights mechanisms	Policy makers and legislators make use of outcomes of international and regional human rights mechanisms (strategy on inclusion of persons with disabilities, media legislation).

SHIFTS

Civic Space, Global Constituency, Prevention

SPOTLIGHT POPULATIONS

Persons with Disabilities, Women