

# Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division

## Background

As the operational division of OHCHR, the Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division (FOTCD) supports the work of human rights field presences and leads OHCHR's dialogue and activities undertaken at the national, regional and subregional levels on human rights issues. Together with the other parts of the Office and in close collaboration with UN partners, Government actors, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and civil society organizations (CSOs), the Division supports implementation efforts on the ground. The main goals of the Division include strengthening the national human rights protection system, enhancing the implementation of international human rights norms at country level and preventing and reducing human rights violations; all of which are pursued through its headquarters- and field-based activities.

Through OHCHR field presences, the Division specifically seeks to ensure that national authorities and civil society actors have the capacity to address human rights concerns and are well informed about international human rights standards and how to translate these into laws, regulations and policies, ensuring that rights-holders are better protected and empowered. As an example, the Division supports efforts to establish or strengthen justice and accountability mechanisms at the national level, including through enhanced monitoring and investigation and redress of violations of civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights in line with recommendations issued from the international human rights mechanisms.

Through the National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section (NIRMS), FOTCD assists in the establishment and/or strengthening of NHRIs in close cooperation with OHCHR's country and regional offices, human rights components of UN peace missions and human rights advisers (HRAs). NIRMS also leads efforts to strengthen cooperation and dialogue between international and regional human rights mechanisms, including: the African

Union (AU); the European Union (EU) and the Council of Europe (CoE); the Organization of American States (OAS); intergovernmental organizations such as the Organization of the Islamic Cooperation (OIC); the *Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie* (OIF); the League of Arab States (LAS); the Commonwealth of Nations (CW); the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE); as well as subregional organizations such as the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS); and the East African Community (EAC). NIRMS continues to act as the Secretariat of the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (ICC) and services the ICC Sub-Committee on Accreditation in the preparation and holding of its sessions.

The Division acts as the operational arm of OHCHR in its expanding field-level partnerships with development, humanitarian and peace and security actors focused on advancing the promotion and protection of human rights. With relation to the humanitarian arena, OHCHR field presences, with the support of FOTCD's Peace Mission Support and Rapid Response Section (PMSRRS), integrate human rights standards in the inter-agency humanitarian work in many countries, including by: participating in and providing human rights expertise to Humanitarian Country Teams; leading Protection Clusters in a number of operations (currently Haiti, Nepal, Occupied Palestinian Territory, the Pacific and Timor-Leste); and as members of the Protection Cluster response in many more countries. PMSRRS also provides technical advice for the development and implementation of policies and operational guidance for peacekeeping and special political missions led by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) or the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) to ensure the integration of human rights in their mandates and planning. Furthermore, PMSRRS supports and contributes to short-term missions and commissions of inquiry aimed at ensuring accountability in the aftermath of crises.



FOTCD provides senior United Nations officials from other entities with strategic advice regarding human rights matters when engaging with particular Member States and regional organizations.

## Results

### National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- ▶ During the mission of the High Commissioner to Mauritania in April 2011, several human rights issues were raised, including the elimination of slavery and the rights of women and children. Following this visit, several recommendations made by the High Commissioner were implemented, such as the decision to criminalize slavery and torture in the Constitution and the liberation of eight women victims of rape. FOTCD supported the visit.
- ▶ The Venezuelan draft law and policy on disarmament prepared by the National Commission on Disarmament took on board recommendations from OHCHR to make them compliant with the human rights-based approach to addressing the issue. Their adoption by Congress is pending.
- ▶ During the mission of the High Commissioner to Mexico, which included a visit to the state of Oaxaca, a collaboration agreement was signed between the Office and the state of Oaxaca to undertake a joint assessment of the human rights situation which began in 2011. Indigenous peoples participated in this assessment. FOTCD supported the High Commissioner's mission.
- ▶ Following a subregional meeting on a human rights-based approach to budgeting and policy processes, the representatives from the Government of the Central African Republic informed OHCHR that he was able to positively influence the Parliamentary adoption of the 2012 financial law. As a result, more money was allocated to human rights activities in key ministries. The meeting was organized by FOTCD in cooperation with the Regional Office for Central Africa.
- ▶ In May 2011, the High Commissioner strongly advocated for the review of Australia's asylum policies during her mission to the country, which was supported by FOTCD. Following a decision by the High Court, the Government made a decision in November to abandon its intention to pursue the implementation of an agreement with Malaysia regarding refugees and asylum-seekers and requested that more asylum-seekers be released from mandatory detention and placed in the community.
- ▶ Following the OHCHR assessment mission deployed to Yemen, which recommended in its report to the Human Rights Council the establishment of a NHRI in compliance with the Paris Principles, the Yemeni Government passed a framework for the implementation of OHCHR's recommendations, including for the establishment of a national institution. The Parliament is currently discussing adoption of this document.
- ▶ Burundi established a National Independent Human Rights Commission in May 2011, compliant with the Paris Principles, following technical advice provided by FOTCD in cooperation with the United Nations Office in Burundi (BNUB) and the Independent Expert on Burundi.
- ▶ FOTCD supported the Human Rights Section at the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan (UNMISS) to provide technical assistance to the South Sudan Human Rights Commission. Through the assistance of a consultant supported by OHCHR, the Commission developed its own complaints and investigation mechanism that has helped to strengthen its monitoring mandate. The Commission also successfully launched the South Sudan Human Rights Forum which now serves as a useful mechanism for the exchange of information and dialogue on human rights concerns between the Government, the UN and international partners.
- ▶ FOTCD continued to support the Ombudsman institution in Haiti by dispatching a consultant to



work directly with the Ombudsperson. In addition, the capacity of national institutions was strengthened through legal advice or training provided by FOTCD in 33 countries, including: Afghanistan; Chile; Croatia; Djibouti; Ecuador; Egypt; Ethiopia; Ghana; Ireland; Kenya; Liberia; Malawi; Mongolia; Namibia; Norway; Occupied Palestinian Territory; Oman; Peru; Puntland (Somalia); Qatar; Republic of Moldova; Rwanda; Serbia; Seychelles; Sierra Leone; Slovakia; South Africa; Tanzania; the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia; Tunisia; Uganda; Zambia; and Zimbabwe.

- ▶ A regional workshop was held in Trinidad and Tobago on the establishment of national human rights institutions in the English-speaking Caribbean region and resulted in the adoption of the Port of Spain Declaration. Through the Declaration, national institutions of the region committed to working towards building “A” status institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles. The seminar was organized by FOTCD and the Commonwealth Secretariat with the administrative support of the United Nations Country Team (UNCT) in Trinidad and Tobago.



People fleeing the violence in Libya.

## Ratification (EA 2)

- ▶ Based on advocacy undertaken by the Office, the Government of Bangladesh ratified the Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families. The Parliament of Mongolia decided to ratify the Second Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) on the abolition of the death penalty. OHCHR had advocated for its ratification for two years.

## Justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- ▶ During her visit to Uruguay, the Deputy High Commissioner raised the issue of impunity for past human rights violations and emphasized the need to ensure that there are no legislative obstacles to their investigation and sanction. A day after her visit, Congress passed a law removing the statute of limitations and other obstacles to the prosecution of human rights violations committed under the military dictatorship.
- ▶ A law creating a Truth Commission to investigate human rights abuses was approved by the Government of Brazil. OHCHR's advocacy efforts through editorials, press releases and discussions with senior Government officials, both from headquarters and the Regional Office for South America, contributed to the establishment of the Commission.
- ▶ FOTCD continued supporting the work of the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission established in Côte d'Ivoire. In this context, a technical mission deployed in August helped to assess the needs of the Commission and improve its compliance with international standards and good practices in dealing with human rights violations.
- ▶ In Guinea, the Government appointed a pool of judges to investigate crimes perpetrated on 28 September 2009 in Conakry and established a provisional Board to carry out preparatory work for the establishment of a national truth and reconciliation commission. During her visit to the country, the High Commissioner, inter alia, raised the issue of impunity, in particular for these crimes. FOTCD supported the visit.
- ▶ FOTCD contributed to the completion of the Secretary-General's Panel of Experts on Sri Lanka and the report by the Panel of Experts which called for an independent international investigation into the serious human rights violations that occurred during the war. The Secretary-General's Panel was established as a result of the High Commissioner's efforts to encourage the UN system to call upon the

Government to give the necessary attention to accountability issues.

#### **Access to justice and basic services (EA 4)**

- ▶ In July 2011, a regional workshop for women's commissions took place in Indonesia. The conference succeeded in opening a dialogue on discriminatory laws, practices and social restrictions justified in the name of religion and culture, as well as creating a network of experts and UN agencies available to liaise with national women's commissions on this issue. FOTCD supported the organization of the workshop.

#### **Participation (EA 5)**

- ▶ Following the unexpected and unprecedented natural and nuclear disaster in Japan, and with the support of FOTCD, OHCHR's Regional Representative to the Pacific undertook a mission to Japan to train local civil society actors on the Inter-Agency Standing Committee's (IASC) guidelines on human rights in disaster response. The guidelines were translated into Japanese so that national non-governmental organizations (NGOs) could use it while responding to the crisis. Approximately 100 NGOs participated in trainings which were conducted in Tokyo and the Iwate (tsunami-affected province). During the trainings, the Bar Council of Japan, one of the key actors in the field, indicated that it would use the guidelines in its policy proposals to the Government on how to respond to the tsunami/nuclear crisis in Japan.

#### **State engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 6)**

- ▶ OHCHR completed its programme on technical assistance to the Belarusian stakeholders in the preparation and follow-up to the country's review under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process. Over the course of three years, OHCHR conducted numerous series of trainings, information sessions and workshops for Government officials, experts and civil society partners on various aspects of UPR follow-up. The programme provided practical tools and guidance to enable Belarusian partners to efficiently follow up on the implementation of the country's UPR recommendations.
- ▶ In Kenya, thanks to the support provided by OHCHR, a road map for the implementation of the UPR recommendations was prepared by the Ministry of Justice, National Cohesion and Constitutional Affairs.
- ▶ The Government of Mongolia made an official request for the assistance of a human rights adviser to follow-up on the implementation of



A girl at a camp for persons displaced by the January 2010 earthquake in Port-au-Prince, Haiti.

the UPR recommendations. This followed a July training workshop organized by OHCHR on the UPR process for the Mongolian Government and other stakeholders.

#### **Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)**

- ▶ Written communications were submitted to treaty bodies and special procedures by indigenous peoples' organizations from Brazil, Palestinian NGOs and civil society organizations from Indonesia. FOTCD provided support to these NGOs, including through briefings and consultations.
- ▶ Human rights NGOs in Mongolia set up a network and succeeded in raising the profile of issues related to disabilities and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons during the UPR and the review of Mongolia's periodic report under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). OHCHR and the UNCT in Mongolia provided support by organizing two UPR forums.
- ▶ Regional and national human rights NGOs in north-east Asia organized a forum to follow up on the UPR recommendations. As an outcome, an NGO network was set up that has initiated discussions on recent developments related to the death penalty in Japan and Mongolia. OHCHR provided support and guidance to the NGO network.

#### **International and regional laws and institutions (EA 8)**

- ▶ FOTCD provided substantive support to the International Coordination Committee of National Human Rights Institutions and its Sub-Committee on Accreditation. FOTCD served as the Secretariat of the Sub-Committee, which held two sessions in May and October and reviewed 27 national institutions for accreditation or reaccreditation.
- ▶ The European Group of National Human Rights Institutions established its permanent Secretariat with the support of OHCHR.

- ▶ As required by Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/RES/14/5, a questionnaire was sent out to Member States, NHRIs and NGOs and a workshop was convened in Geneva on 20 May 2011 on the role of prevention in the promotion and protection of human rights. The workshop was organized by OHCHR and included two panels comprised of international human rights experts and representatives from Member States, NHRIs and civil society organizations. It also focused on the prevention of torture and other ill-treatment as well as trafficking, migration and discrimination. A report on the findings of the questionnaire and the recommendations of the workshop was submitted to the 18th session of the Council.

### **Coherence among human rights mechanisms (EA 9)**

- ▶ As a result of two coordination meetings organized by FOTCD and the Inter-American Commission between all universal and regional human rights mechanisms to prevent torture (UN Special Rapporteur on torture, Committee against Torture, Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and the Rapporteur on the Rights of Persons Deprived of Liberty of the Inter-American Commission), their cooperation and coordination has increased. A joint project to improve follow-up to the recommendations by all mechanisms on torture and ill-treatment has begun.
  - ▶ The African Union and other African human rights bodies adopted the African Strategy on Human Rights for more rationalization and coherence. The previous work undertaken by OHCHR to improve the coordination of UN human rights mechanisms served as a role model in the development of this strategy.
- and press briefings on the human rights situation in the Syrian Arab Republic were instrumental in the Human Rights Council's convening of three special sessions on the country. The first session resulted in the establishment of an OHCHR Fact-Finding Mission on Syria. On the basis of its findings that were presented during a second special session, the Human Rights Council established an independent International Commission of Inquiry on Syria with the mandate to investigate violations of human rights and ensure accountability for those violations. FOTCD also supported the deployment of assessment missions to Egypt, Tunisia and Yemen to evaluate the human rights situation in those countries.
- ▶ During 2011, the High Commissioner and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights provided eight briefings to the Security Council on the protection of civilians, the situations in Côte d'Ivoire, Libya, South Sudan (South Kordofan) and Syria. FOTCD contributed to these briefings and continued to engage with Member States to ensure that human rights violations in situations of armed conflict, violence and insecurity were on the agenda of relevant UN bodies, including the Human Rights Council, the Security Council and the General Assembly.
  - ▶ OHCHR continues to take steps to raise awareness of human protection gaps in protracted conflicts/contested territories in Europe which are controlled by de facto authorities. In her opening statement to the Human Rights Council in September 2011, the High Commissioner noted that more attention needs to be paid to the situation of human rights in contested territories. The High Commissioner also stressed OHCHR's need for access to these territories within the framework of the mandates of OHCHR and the Human Rights Council to ensure protection for human rights. During her mission to the Republic of Moldova in November 2011, the High Commissioner visited the Transnistrian region; representing the first visit by a High Commissioner to a protracted conflict territory.
  - ▶ The Security Council adopted a resolution on Western Sahara which, for the first time, included several references to human rights. FOTCD prepared human rights-related input for the Secretary-General's report on the situation concerning Western Sahara. This input, along with advocacy from OHCHR's New York Office, contributed to the wording of the resolution.

### **Responsiveness of the international community (EA 10)**

- ▶ FOTCD contributed to the establishment and operationalization of three commissions of inquiry/fact-finding missions and three human rights assessment missions. FOTCD contributed to the establishment and work of the International Commission of Inquiry established by the Human Rights Council to investigate the facts and circumstances surrounding the allegations of serious abuses and violations of human rights committed in Côte d'Ivoire following the presidential election of 28 November 2010. FOTCD also contributed to the establishment and supported the work of the International Commission of Inquiry on Libya. In addition, press releases, High Commissioner's statements





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A human rights officer interviewing people in Timor-Leste.

### Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- ▶ Jamaica's Common Country Assessment (CCA), Barbados' United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and the UN Regional Strategy Framework for the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) each integrate recommendations from human rights bodies and mechanisms in the strategies and programmes of the UN in those countries. OHCHR provided comments in these respective contexts to ensure integration of the recommendations.
- ▶ Building on the work of OHCHR-Nepal to eliminate caste-based discrimination, FOTCD organized a regional meeting for UNCTs on caste-based discrimination in Kathmandu. The goal of the consultation was to identify opportunities and constraints for UNCTs in terms of work on caste-based discrimination in the region, share good practices and consider follow-up action, including through UN guidance and tools for programming. In the course of the consultation, legal, policy and institutional frameworks that address or further exacerbate caste-based discrimination, as well as the way forward for the various UN actors, were discussed.
- ▶ The Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Principals endorsed an accountability framework within which the State has primary responsibility for people affected by emergencies. IASC agencies acknowledged that joint efforts on accountability for the international humanitarian system should not substitute national mechanisms of accountability. OHCHR's engagement with the multilateral humanitarian response system, and particularly in the process of implementing the transformative agenda of the IASC, contributed to the endorsement.
- ▶ Human rights are included in the IASC Early Warning - Early Action Report, one of the tools used to strengthen capacities for overall preparedness. OHCHR contributed to this through its active participation in the IASC Sub-Working Group on Preparedness.
- ▶ Human rights were integrated in the development of a number of important new policies and guidelines for peace missions. On 31 August 2011, the Under-Secretaries-General for Peacekeeping, Political Affairs and Field Support, together with the High Commissioner, signed a Joint OHCHR-DPA-DPKO-Department of Field Support (DFS) Policy on Human Rights in United Nations Peace Operations and Political Missions. This policy provides a more coherent approach to human rights across peace operations by: capturing current institutional arrangements and good practices on the integration of human rights in peace operations in a single binding document; providing operational guidance for its implementation and clarity on roles and responsibilities; spelling out the role and scope of activities of the Human Rights Component - including vis-à-vis important emerging issues such as the protection of civilians and sexual violence - and the need for coordination with other components. In another example, OHCHR commented on the DFS/DPKO Guidance Document and Framework for Drafting Comprehensive Protection of Civilians Strategies in UN Peacekeeping Operations. The Guidance Document incorporates human rights throughout the work of peace missions on the protection of civilians. Lastly, in July 2011, the Secretary-General adopted the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy. OHCHR and DPKO led its development. The Policy states that UN support cannot be provided to non-UN security forces

where there is a risk that recipient entities may commit grave violations. OHCHR is currently engaged with national-level actors to ensure that the Policy is implemented at the field level, notably in the context of conflict and post-conflict situations and that peace missions take the new policy into account in the implementation of their mandates. FOTCD participated in the conceptualization, negotiations with DPKO, DPA and DFS and the drafting of both policies in cooperation with OHCHR's Research and Right to Development Division.

- ▶ OHCHR continued to engage in UN efforts to protect women and children from sexual violence in conflict. OHCHR actively participated in the UN Action network for the development and adoption of the guidance note for the implementation of Security Council resolution 1960 and its monitoring analysis and reporting arrangements. OHCHR agreed to take the lead through its human rights components of peace missions in relation to the monitoring and analysis of conflict-related sexual violence and the identification of perpetrators as requested by the Security Council. Furthermore, OHCHR worked together with DPKO, DPA and the Office of the Special Representative on Sexual Violence in Conflict to draft the terms of reference of women protection advisers (WPAs), which were endorsed in 2011. In order to implement the Security Council mandate on sexual violence in conflict, OHCHR worked together with concerned partners to identify and recruit WPAs to work in peace missions.
- ▶ OHCHR continued to mainstream human rights into the policies and operational guidance notes developed by partner departments for peace missions. In particular, the Office provided input into the DPKO early peacebuilding strategy to ensure a human rights-based approach is successfully incorporated in the guidance provided.
- ▶ Human rights were operationally integrated in the establishment of two new peace missions in South Sudan (UNMISS) and Libya (UNSMIL). FOTCD supported the integrated planning processes for the missions and participated in the transition planning process for the United Nations mission in Burundi (BNUB). Through its participation in the UNMISS planning process, OHCHR's efforts resulted in the establishment of a sizeable human rights component in the peacekeeping operation with a strong and robust mandate for the promotion and protection of human rights.

## Global Management Outputs

### Sharing OHCHR's strategic direction (GMO 1)

- ▶ On 17 May 2011, in the context of humanitarian action, the High Commissioner endorsed an office-wide strategy and four-year action plan for OHCHR's engagement in humanitarian action. The overall goal of this strategy is to clarify the nature, scope and extent of OHCHR's engagement in humanitarian action, thereby strengthening its role in mainstreaming human rights in the work of humanitarian partners and enhancing predictability, reliability and effectiveness in the fulfilment of its protection mandate in humanitarian settings. PMSRRS is responsible for leading the implementation of the strategy. A Task Force on Humanitarian Action was established to support the overall goal of the strategy, the implementation of the four-year action plan and the Office's engagement in humanitarian action. It is chaired by PMSRRS and involves representatives from OHCHR's Divisions, Branches, Sections and field presences.
- ▶ An online portal and extranet site were established by OHCHR's Americas Section to strengthen the sharing of information and best practices between headquarters and OHCHR field presences in the region.
- ▶ At the field level, FOTCD encouraged the organization of subregional meetings of Heads of field presences to discuss the translation of OHCHR strategies at that level.

### Transparent and timely decision-making (GMO 2)

- ▶ FOTCD continued to implement the recommendations of the OIOS audit of the Division aimed at further promoting transparent and timely decision-making. In particular, FOTCD







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The Deputy Special Representative of the Secretary-General and the Head of the Joint Human Rights Office in the DRC meet with local counterparts in North Kivu, DRC.

has reviewed and revised internal processes to ensure that issues are raised in a timely manner and to enhance the clarity of decision-making authority and accountability.

### **Leading human rights mainstreaming (GMO 3)**

- ▶ Together with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and Interights, OHCHR co-sponsored a side event seminar on the rights of Afro-descendants for States and civil society at an Organization of American States (OAS) meeting held in Washington in March 2011 to raise awareness of the rights of Afro-descendants. A joint event on citizen security was also organized in June with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Human Rights Institute in El Salvador as a side event at the General Assembly of the OAS. The event discussed and disseminated good practices and raised awareness among OAS Member States on the human rights implications of measures to combat crime and insecurity. In collaboration with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, a mechanism was set up to coordinate activities of all UN human rights mechanisms relating to torture (Committee against Torture (CAT), the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT), the Special Rapporteur on torture) and the Inter-American Commission's Rapporteurship on the same issue. Two meetings were held, in March and November, and work has begun on a report on implementation of recommendations of all mechanisms since 2006. A database of recommendations has been designed.
- ▶ The Africa Branch supported the increased engagement of OHCHR in inter-agency meetings relevant to Africa, including in meetings of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. The Branch also participated in inter-agency assessment missions. In this context, the Chief of Branch

participated in an inter-agency mission to Côte d'Ivoire in May 2011 in order to make concrete proposals for UN national-level engagement following the post-electoral crisis.

- ▶ OHCHR continued to be an active member of the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) for Asia Pacific, represented by the Regional Office for South-East Asia, and made further progress in relation to human rights mainstreaming. As a result of the advice provided by the Office, a number of UNCTs in the region applied a human rights-based approach to their programming, including in Mongolia, Myanmar, Philippines and Thailand.

### **Servicing human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)**

- ▶ FOTCD continued to provide support to the Independent Expert on Haiti which allowed him to conduct country visits and issue reports on the human rights situation in Haiti. The Division held regular meetings with the Special Procedures Branch to discuss priorities and strategies and provided information and advice for action on individual cases. FOTCD also supported the mandates of the Independent Experts on Côte d'Ivoire, Somalia and Sudan by accompanying them during their respective country missions undertaken in 2011. In addition, a number of special rapporteurs with country mandates in the Asia region (including on Cambodia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Iran and Myanmar) received support from the Division in gathering information for the preparation of their reports to the Human Rights Council on the situation of human rights in their respective countries of focus which contributed to the issuance of urgent actions and allegation letters.
- ▶ FOTCD continued to coordinate and interact with treaty bodies on, inter alia, lists of issues, briefing notes and the drafting of concluding observations on countries considered by the different



committees. The Division also collaborated with the SPT by providing information for missions and, with regard to the Americas, establishing a coordination mechanism between regional and international human rights mechanisms dealing with torture and the human rights of persons deprived of their liberty. NIRMS regularly provided briefing notes on national institutions in countries under review by the treaty bodies or UPR and to special procedures mandate-holders for the preparation of their country visits.

### Supporting field operations (GMO 5)

- ▶ FOTCD has developed policies for its main types of field presences and has undertaken important steps to systematize its approach to technical cooperation and protection work in the field.
- ▶ With the support of FOTCD, the mandates of the field presences in Cambodia, Guatemala and Honduras were renewed. FOTCD also provided support to the Nepal Office in the management of its closure and deployed an assessment mission to Timor-Leste which recommended maintaining an OHCHR presence in the country.
- ▶ OHCHR has expanded its field presences in the Europe and Central Asia region by deploying a Human Rights Adviser to the UNCT in Ukraine in December 2011. The Adviser will work closely with UN agencies, the Government and national and international partners in promoting and protecting human rights. The Adviser will focus in particular on assisting Ukrainian stakeholders in the preparation for the second cycle of the UPR and providing capacity-building initiatives for the Ombudsman institution and civil society.
- ▶ FOTCD supported the successful transition from a presence within a Peace Mission in Chad (MINURCAT) to a presence built around a Human Rights Adviser with a small support team. It also supported the deployment of a Human Rights Adviser to the UNCT in Madagascar.

- ▶ FOTCD supported the implementation of activities undertaken by the 58 field presences through providing advice, assisting with the preparation of reports, elaborating budgets and project documents, fundraising and financial reporting and liaising/following up with administration on financial matters and the recruitment of international staff and consultants. An efficient work flow was maintained through the organization of regional meetings and frequent contact between the Section and the presences.
- ▶ In order to help systematize and streamline project management and reporting, the Americas Section organized a meeting held in Colombia for the administrative, programme and IT staff of the field presence, with the participation of headquarters staff. The meeting resulted in a proposal of an office-wide integrated financial management and reporting system that will be piloted in the Americas region. The proposal is being considered by the OHCHR Senior Management Team.
- ▶ FOTCD continued to work in partnership with DFS on the rostering and selection of candidates for human rights components of peace missions. In 2011, FOTCD coordinated the evaluation of over 330 applicants to the human rights roster for peace missions. In particular, FOTCD developed the tools to assess the human rights knowledge and competencies of the candidates, corrected written tests and participated in panel interviews. The exercise resulted in 94 applicants being recommended for human rights functions in peace missions.

### Skills and competencies (GMO 6)

- ▶ To support OHCHR's humanitarian work, a training course for OHCHR staff on human rights in humanitarian action was conceived and facilitated by the Research and Right to Development Division, with support from FOTCD, and will be held on an annual basis. The 2011 edition took place in October and involved the training of 25 staff members from headquarters and the field.

### Website (GMO 7)

- ▶ FOTCD continued to contribute to the regular updating of OHCHR's country-relevant websites.
- ▶ In 2011, the Chinese and Russian versions of the OHCHR website were officially launched to ensure a wider dissemination of information about the work of the Office and documents issued by OHCHR and international human rights bodies.



UN Peacekeepers on patrol in the Abyei Area in the border between Sudan and South Sudan.

## Resources (GMO 8)

- ▶ FOTCD supported a number of field presences, including by facilitating coordination with OHCHR's Donor and External Relations Section, in their fundraising efforts at the local level.

With the assistance of the Donor and External Relations Section, FOTCD also provided regular reports to donors on the progress of specific projects.

### Forum on citizen security and human rights



One of the main challenges in the Americas is the security of its inhabitants. Many countries in the region have some of the highest rates of violence and crime in the world. In this context, security is conceived of as a situation in which all persons can live free from the threats generated by violence and crime and where the State has the capacity to guarantee and protect human rights and respond effectively when these rights have been violated.

Citizen security, referring to the security of the entire population in a country, must thus be conceived of as a comprehensive public policy that is based on respect for human rights. A human rights perspective requires that the problems of insecurity, crime and violence are addressed from the point of view of the protection of every human person, instead of concentrating on post-facto reactions or measures which focus on control and sanctions as the only means of providing security. A holistic policy that is fundamentally recognized as a measure to protect the population, contributes to building trust between the population and the State, strengthening democratic institutions and the rule of law and, in turn, democratic governance.

On the eve of the 41st General Assembly of the Organization of American States (OAS), OHCHR, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR), the Inter-American Commission on Women and the Inter-American Human Rights Institute organized a forum on citizen security and human rights in the Americas. The objective of the forum was to promote this comprehensive approach, which took into account the diverse contexts and needs of different sectors of the population, particularly women, children and youth, within Member States of the OAS, and built on the foundation established by the Report on Citizen Security and Human Rights issued by the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, OHCHR and UNICEF.

Experts from States, civil society and international organizations based in the region concurred that citizen security is a human rights issue and public security policies must include a gender focus. The forum, opened by the Chief of the Security Cabinet and Secretary of Strategic Affairs of the Presidency of El Salvador, included a discussion on progress achieved and remaining challenges related to security policies and involved the participation of the Minister of Public Security and Justice of El Salvador,

the Advisor of Uruguay's Interior Minister and Guatemala's Commissioner for Police Reform. Experts from civil society and regional and international organizations discussed the particular situation of women, children and youth, and encouraged the adoption of various policies. Forum participants called for the implementation of public policies that do not focus on the security phenomenon as a criminal or police matter, but instead offer a comprehensive response that emphasizes the prevention of violence and crime and targets underlying causes for high rates of violence and criminal behaviour.

In the subsequent Declaration of San Salvador on Citizen Security and Human Rights adopted by the OAS General Assembly, Member States recognized that the concept of security in the hemisphere is multidimensional in scope, and based, inter alia, on democratic values, respect for and promotion and defence of human rights. The Declaration also reaffirmed the centrality of the human person in security policies and emphasized that security measures are necessary for safeguarding the integrity and safety of persons and protecting the enjoyment of all their rights. Member States committed themselves to developing and implementing public policies in the area of public security within the framework of a democratic order, the rule of law and observance of human rights. They further recognized the importance of strengthening their capacity to develop comprehensive, long-term public security policies that include a gender-based perspective and the promotion and protection of human rights, bearing in mind the needs of vulnerable groups and adapting, as necessary, the appropriate legal frameworks, structures, programmes, operating procedures and management mechanisms, with the full participation of the population.



### Rapid Deployment Roster

During 2011, FOTCD selected 130 staff members to be part of the 2011-2012 rapid deployment roster and trained new members on conducting human rights investigations and participating in humanitarian emergency deployments. In 2011, members of the roster participated in 10 missions, including the Human Rights Council-mandated commissions of inquiry on Côte d'Ivoire, Libya and Syria. The Rapid Deployment Roster was crucial in responding to urgent deployment requests in 2011. The Standard Operating Procedure on the use of the roster and the initiation of rapid response deployments, formalized in 2010, was widely used throughout the Office.

- PMSRRS supported field presences in Haiti and the Occupied Palestinian Territory in the preparation of project proposals for the 2012 Consolidated Appeals Process. Both field presences developed projects that aim to strengthen their capacity to lead and coordinate the local Protection Clusters.

### Challenges and lessons learned

The year 2011 gave rise to significant human rights challenges as well as major opportunities, underlining the indivisibility of human rights and the need for the international community to be decisive, coherent and cohesive in addressing human rights issues.

The human rights causes and consequences of the famine in the Horn of Africa, the developments in North Africa and the Middle East and the armed conflicts in Africa and the Middle East have revealed tremendous challenges. These events demonstrated the critical need for the international community to respond more promptly to ensure the effective protection of people and their rights on the ground and exercise more diligence in preventing situations where violence and human rights violations prevail. Early warning that can accurately forecast events that will have a significant impact on human rights remains a major challenge for OHCHR, particularly where the Office does not have a country-level presence. In such situations, the human rights analysis of reliable information can serve as an early warning tool for early action and, when used by the High Commissioner in her public advocacy efforts, may have a preventive impact. OHCHR has endeavoured to swiftly engage in the face of the crises that erupted in 2011. In particular, the Office responded to developments in North Africa and the Middle East with the full range of tools and

resources at its disposal, including through the establishment of new field presences, increased advocacy and dialogue with relevant national and regional counterparts, rapid response deployment and assessment missions and support to pertinent mandates of the Human Rights Council.

The unprecedented number of requests for the Office to organize and participate in commissions of inquiry, fact-finding and assessment missions has been met with limited financial and personnel resources. While welcoming the new demands on the Office as a sign of the international community's increased willingness to respond to human rights crises, the establishment of several commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions has put a considerable strain on the human and financial resources of the Division and the entire Office. Important lessons learned from the work of the past year include the importance of prioritizing the strengthened capacity of the Office to provide rapid response action, including through the deployment of human rights officers on the ground as they are needed.

Similarly, the numerous lessons learned by the Office in the context of humanitarian crises are being applied by the Division as it strengthens its work in this area. Following the earthquake in Haiti and the unrest in Kyrgyzstan during the last biennium, the Division played an important role in supporting OHCHR's work as a lead of the Protection Cluster and the human rights Sub-Cluster. In 2011, drawing on its experiences, OHCHR endorsed an office-wide strategy and accompanying four-year action plan for engagement in humanitarian action. The goal of the strategy is to strengthen the role of the Office in mainstreaming human rights into the work of humanitarian partners and enhancing its own protection role in humanitarian settings in a timely, reliable and effective manner. Implementing this strategy will be a priority and challenge for the Division and the Office in the coming biennium.

During 2011, the Office further strengthened its partnerships in both the development and peace and security areas. More specifically, the Office has been working on the implementation of the DPKO/DPA/DFS/OHCHR Policy on Human Rights in United Nations Peace Operations and Political Missions. In the development area, the launching of the United Nations Development Group Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism (UNDG-HRM), including its Multi-Donor Trust Fund, provided an important framework for the Office's future cooperation with development actors. Within this mechanism, the Office will be called upon to take

the lead in facilitating the deployment of Human Rights Advisers to UNCTs.

A further task ahead for the Division, in cooperation with other parts of the Office, will be providing continued support to the field in the context of implementing a set of policies and documents elaborated at the UN Secretariat level to

which the Office contributed its expertise. Among the most significant of these are the OHCHR/DPKO/DPA/DFS Joint Policy on Human Rights Integration in Peace Operations and Special Political Missions, the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy and the guidance note on the implementation of Security Council resolution 1960 on women, peace and security.

### Support to the UPR and country-level results

The UPR provides an opportunity to foster national and international dialogue and cooperation to develop and strengthen national systems to promote and protect human rights. In this spirit, FOTCD is contributing to the holistic approach to follow-up to the UPR by promoting and supporting the implementation of the recommendations of all UN human rights mechanisms. The Office has been integrating the recommendations of the UN human rights mechanisms to its programme of work at all levels, in line with its mandate, objectives and priorities.

In countries where it has a field presence, the Office is supporting the participation of State institutions, civil society, UN entities and other actors to UPR proceedings. It is also coordinating or providing support to the efforts by national authorities and institutions to implement the recommendations of UPR and other human rights bodies. In other countries, OHCHR has supported the efforts of Member States through the provision of technical cooperation, either directly or through other actors, including UNCTs. To encourage and support Member States and other stakeholders to engage with the UPR, the Office has organized or co-organized with other entities, including the Council of Europe, the Commonwealth Secretariat and UNDP, a series of international workshops to provide information, guidance, tools and comparative experience.

In 2011, the Office developed its role in providing support for the

UPR follow-up. In spite of the magnitude of the task (193 Member States, over 20,000 UPR recommendations, many of which will take years to implement, and the limited resources and operational capacity of the Office), OHCHR has supported more than 133 UPR-related activities at the country and regional level in 51 countries during the past biennium. Some examples of UPR follow-up activities supported by OHCHR at the country level include:

- In Myanmar, the Regional Office for South-East Asia conducted a second training (the first was held in 2010) on international human rights norms and mechanisms, including the UPR, for officials of the Government and the newly established National Human Rights Commission.
- In November 2011, the Office cooperated with UNDP to organize a regional UPR follow-up workshop in the Republic of Moldova for 15 States from the region (Albania, Armenia, Belarus, Croatia, Kazakhstan, Kosovo, Kyrgyzstan, Montenegro, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan), as well as civil society, national human rights institutions and UN agencies.
- OHCHR facilitated the sharing of practices by organizing regional meetings in Africa (two subregional meetings were jointly organized with the UNDP Regional Centres) and one regional meeting in Europe (with the involvement of the European Union).

- In Cameroon, with the support of the Regional Office for Central Africa, the Government developed and adopted a “Cameroon National Roadmap” to follow-up on human rights recommendations in nine thematic priority areas that had emanated from recommendations issued by UPR, human rights treaty bodies and special procedures.
- In the Pacific region, the Regional Office worked in close consultation with the Governments of Fiji, Tonga and Vanuatu to develop a programme designed to support efforts to implement UPR recommendations that focus on the prevention of violence against women, the prevention of torture and the establishment of national human rights institutions.
- As the second cycle of the UPR will commence in May 2012, 13 States have thus far voluntarily and officially submitted mid-term reports to the Human Rights Council describing the steps they have taken to implement UPR recommendations and other voluntary commitments. These States are: Argentina, Bahrain, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, France, Japan, Mauritius, Netherlands, Poland, Romania, Switzerland and Ukraine. Other States have publicly released their mid-term and other reports but have not yet officially submitted them to the Human Rights Council, or have reported orally to the Human Rights Council under agenda item 6 on UPR.