Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division

Background

The Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division (FOTCD) supports the work of human rights field presences in detecting human rights challenges and opportunities in given country contexts, prioritizing key needs and gaps and identifying areas for engagement and strategies to address those needs and gaps in close cooperation with national, regional and international partners. The Division leads OHCHR's dialogue and activities at the national, regional and subregional levels.

In close collaboration with UN partners, government actors, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and civil society organizations (CSOs), and with the support of other parts of the Office, the Division supports implementation efforts on the ground. Priority is placed on efforts to strengthen the national human rights protection system, enhance and implement international human rights norms at country level and prevent and reduce human rights violations. In addition, the Office supports national-level follow-up action to recommendations issued from the international human rights system, including the treaty bodies, special procedures and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). Specifically, FOTCD, in cooperation with other parts of the Office, 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. The aim is to ensure that rights-holders are better protected and empowered.

The Division is organized into geographic branches with three additional sections: the National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section (NIRMS), the newly established Universal Periodic Review Section and the Peace Missions Support and Rapid Response Section (PMSRRS).

NIRMS 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). This is carried out through the provision of legal and operational advice aimed at enhancing the independence and efficiency of NHRIs based on the Paris Principles. Furthermore, the Section fosters the exchange of good practices and lessons learned through national, regional and global conferences and workshops, as well as through direct support to the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (ICC). In 2012, focal points were established in a number of Regional Human Rights Mechanisms (RHRM) and the UN Secretariat to promote the exchange of information on ongoing activities, joint actions and the follow up to recommendations emanating from the UN and regional human rights systems. In this context, a second international workshop on cooperation between the UN and RHRM was held by the Division in Geneva in December 2012, as requested by the Human Rights Council (HRC).

With the completion of the first cycle of the UPR process in 2012, and to reflect the increased emphasis on follow-up to its recommendations, the High Commissioner established a new section within FOTCD for this purpose. The UPR Section now leads the preparation of UPR documentation and
is responsible for servicing the UPR proceedings at the Council and providing support to Member States in implementing their UPR and other human rights obligations and commitments. The Section works with all OHCHR Units to support the UPR processes, both at the Human Rights Council and at regional and country levels, to ensure a comprehensive, coherent and timely response based on the Office’s holistic policy to support the implementation of recommendations of all United Nations human rights mechanisms. The Office pursued its efforts to produce timely and quality UPR documentation producing 168 reports relating to the review of 42 countries (42 UN compilations; 42 stakeholder summaries; 42 working group reports; and 42 outcome adoption reports). It also strengthened its capacity to provide better support to working group sessions through the temporary recruitment of Précis Writers and continued to review its working methods on an ongoing basis to improve the quality of its support to the process. Centralization of the three mentioned functions contributed to streamlining the work of the Office in this regard and improved coordination for more coherent and effective action, while at the same time optimizing the use of existing resources. In addition, it endeavoured to raise awareness of the UPR mechanism within and outside the Office and the United Nations system, including among Member States and all other actors participating in the process. It aimed to provide support to strengthen the compliance of States with their human rights obligations and commitments, including capacity development, as needed, and to exchange experiences and disseminate good UPR practices. The Section is responsible for managing the UPR Trust Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance.

PMSRRS continued to consolidate progress made in the field of humanitarian action, peace mission support, mission planning and start up, as well as early warning and information management. In this regard, efforts continued to implement the Office’s strategy on human rights in humanitarian action. This included contributing to various capacity-building efforts and securing and facilitating participation of relevant OHCHR staff in humanitarian trainings organized by its partners. PMSRRS also maintained and provided support to overall Office engagement in strategic humanitarian mechanisms and processes, particularly under the auspices of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) and as a member of the global Protection Cluster Working Group’s Steering Committee. IASC’s recent endorsement of the High Commissioner’s suggestion to include a discussion on the protection of human rights in the IASC’s forward agenda for 2013 and 2015 will provide a key entry point to further advocate for the integration of human rights protection in humanitarian efforts. In cooperation with the Research and Right to Development Division and the New York Office, FOTCD succeeded in the strengthening of OHCHR’s senior-level representation and strategic engagement in UN decision-making processes, planning and operational support related to peacekeeping missions. In addition, OHCHR designed human rights training for over 100,000 peacekeeping personnel to be carried out during the next years. PMSRRS provided 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) and the Department of Political Affairs (DPA) to ensure the integration of human rights in their mandates and planning.
FOTCD continued to provide senior United Nations officials from the Secretariat and 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)

- Laws related to the establishment of NHRIs or the strengthening of NHRIs were adopted in 32 countries with the support of OHCHR (see details below). As of the end of 2012, there were a total of 104 accredited NHRIs, 69 of which had been accredited with “A” status.
- FOTCD provided support to different missions of the High Commissioner, Deputy High Commissioner and Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights which, in some instances, resulted in increasing the compliance of Member States with their human rights obligations, including, for example:
  - The Zimbabwe Human Rights Commission Act came into force in November and rendered the NHRI operational. This followed a visit by the High Commissioner to the country in May during which she called for the implementation of necessary measures to operationalize the Commission.
  - The Deputy High Commissioner’s mission to Malawi in June resulted in OHCHR’s decision to establish a HRA presence to support the Government’s compliance with international standards during the transition period.
  - The Public Prosecutor in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) initiated investigations into allegations of human rights violations which occurred during the November 2011 elections. This came about following a visit to the country by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and his advocacy with the national authorities to initiate such investigations. This work is being supported by the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office (UNJHRO) in DRC and is advancing the fight against impunity in the country.
  - A visit by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights to Côte d’Ivoire served to secure free and unlimited access to national detention centres of the Human Rights Department of the United Nations Operation in Côte d’Ivoire (UNOCI).
  - Pakistan adopted long-awaited legislation establishing a National Human Rights Commission on which OHCHR had previously provided technical input. The Law was signed by the President on the eve of the High Commissioner’s visit in June.
- FOTCD’s analysis and advice were integrated in draft legislation by several countries in Latin America. In Honduras, a law on the penitentiary
system was adopted in May and is pending promulgation by the President. In the Dominican Republic, human rights aspects were partially incorporated into the draft police reform law which is currently before Congress. And in Haiti, the organic law for the NHRI was adopted and included several of OHCHR’s recommendations.

- Following advocacy undertaken by OHCHR and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights situation in Myanmar, the Government announced in November the establishment of a special mechanism to review outstanding cases of political prisoners and recommend their release. OHCHR was substantively engaged in making technical comments and revisions to a law establishing the Myanmar Human Rights Commission and a new law on prisons in Myanmar. Both laws were pending adoption at year’s end.

- A law amending the NHRI status in conformity with the Paris Principles is being considered by Parliament in Algeria to which OHCHR provided relevant advice. Algeria also indicated its openness to amending the new law on freedom of association.

- Two new applicants for accreditation to the ICC received “A” status (Burundi and Chile) and four new applicants received “B” status (Kazakhstan, Kyrgyz Republic, Mali and Tajikistan). Eleven NHRI’s were reaccredited with “A” status (Bolivia, Colombia, Denmark, Indonesia, Panama, Peru, the Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Spain and South Africa) and two were reaccredited with “B” status (Norway and Senegal).

- Legislation establishing a NHRI was enacted in Côte d’Ivoire in December. In collaboration with the UNOCI, FOTCD provided advice on its drafting. Also in December, the Parliament of DRC adopted a national organic law establishing a NHRI. The adoption of the Law is the result of years of advocacy efforts and technical assistance provided by FOTCD and the UNJHRO in DRC.

- With the assistance of FOTCD and the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan, the South Sudan Human Rights Commission elaborated a three-year strategic plan and a workplan for 2012.

- In Sierra Leone, a Monitoring and Research Unit was created in the Human Rights Commission of Sierra Leone (HRCSL) with the support of the UN mission’s human rights component by seconding one staff member for six months to assist in the development of the Unit’s guidelines, procedures, reporting templates and plans. As a result, the HRCSL undertook a number of critical activities, including two public hearings into human rights violations by the military. The Government accepted and implemented the Commission’s recommendations.

- FOTCD provided advice to the governments and institutions in Chad, Lithuania and Slovakia on the compliance of their NHRI draft legislation with the Paris Principles. The recommendations were reflected in revised drafts which are in the process of adoption.

- A joint plan of activities was adopted by the Federal and subnational Ombudsmen in the Russian Federation to promote follow-up to recommendations issued by the special procedures, UPR and the human rights treaty bodies. FOTCD actively participated in the workshop which led to the adoption of the plan.

Ratification (EA 2)

- Following advocacy efforts undertaken by the Office, Côte d’Ivoire ratified the Rome Statute in November and South Sudan ratified the Geneva Conventions in July.

- Advocacy was also carried out by the High Commissioner and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights which paved the way for ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (OP-ICESCR) by Bolivia, ICESCR by Haiti and Rome Statute by Guatemala.

Justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

- The Office continued to support the Dialogue, Truth and Reconciliation Commission (DTRC) in Cote d’Ivoire. A technical mission travelled to Abidjan in April 2012 to assist the Commission in elaborating a Plan of Action for the organization of the National Consultations and a sensitization campaign. National Consultations began on 15 December and will continue until March 2013.

The Special Rapporteur for Myanmar talks with Aung San Suu Kyi during a press conference in Yangon, Myanmar, February 2012.
On 8 October 2012, OHCHR released the *Nepal Conflict Report* which documents and analyses serious violations of international law that occurred during the 10-year (1996-2006) conflict in Nepal. A database of approximately 30,000 documents was made public and designed to provide a tool for Nepalese institutions and civil society to continue the process of seeking truth and justice for the crimes committed. The report consolidates and analyses information on conflict violations gathered by OHCHR in Nepal, the Nepal National Human Rights Commission and several civil society organizations. The release of the report helped to reignite debates and discussions on transitional justice issues at a time when political leaders are proposing amnesties for gross violations of international law committed during the conflict.

The Human Rights Council passed a resolution in March 2012 requesting OHCHR to provide technical assistance to the Government of Sri Lanka in follow-up to the *Lessons Learned and Reconciliation Report* (LLRC) and in relation to accountability for alleged serious human rights violations. An OHCHR technical mission visited Sri Lanka in September 2012 to assess developments and will submit a report to the March 2013 session of the Human Rights Council. As a result of this advocacy, the Government developed a national plan of action for implementing some LLRC recommendations, released a significant number of security detainees and returned the majority of internally displaced persons. Many areas of concern, however, remain.

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

In South Asia and various international fora, OHCHR disseminated lessons learned and good practices related to its work in Nepal on caste discrimination, including through advocacy and technical assistance in the promulgation and effective implementation of national legislation criminalizing caste discrimination and untouchability. In follow-up to a regional consultation in Kathmandu in December 2011, and by bringing together representatives of United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs) from Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka, the Office circulated notes on good practices in relation to programmes addressing access to justice for Dalits.

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

Following advocacy efforts undertaken by the Deputy High Commissioner during her visit to Chad in April 2012, the Government issued a standing invitation to special procedures mandate-holders.

National authorities and civil society organizations have increased their awareness about the importance of treaty body reporting and enhanced their knowledge of the reporting process in Chad and Swaziland. This came about following topical seminars organized by the Office.

Following advocacy undertaken by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights during his visit to Haiti, the Government made a commitment at the General Assembly to ratify instruments and include human rights courses at the national Policy academy.

Following OHCHR advocacy, Pakistan received the first visits of special procedures mandate-holders in more than 10 years, including the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers in May and the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances in September.

In the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region, representatives from various ministries, NHRIIs and CSOs increased their awareness of how to implement recommendations of the human rights mechanisms at workshops organized by OHCHR in Tbilisi (24-26 January) and Bishkek (27-29 March). The workshops focused on introducing tools to facilitate a coherent and coordinated approach for Member States to effectively and holistically implement such recommendations. Participants identified the steps that must be taken to coordinate follow-up and link technical cooperation needs.

A total of 49 NHRIIs participated in the treaty body review of their respective countries by submitting alternative reports, briefing treaty bodies and/or attending the sessions. Nineteen NHRIIs (17 of which were accredited with “A” status and two of which were accredited with “B” status) submitted written contributions for the UPR stakeholders’ report prepared by OHCHR, an increase of 40 per cent over the first UPR cycle. In addition, eight NHRIIs with “A” status made statements during the plenary session of the Human Rights Council when their respective country was under review. OHCHR contributed to this result through awareness-raising and capacity-building activities with NHRIIs at the country level and by providing support to NHRI networks at the regional and global levels. At the most recent ICC annual general meeting, OHCHR led several panels on the collaboration of NHRIIs and the UPR, the treaty bodies and the special procedures, resulting in improved knowledge by NHRIIs of the added value of their participation in the human rights system.
Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)

► Civil society organizations from Swaziland and Zimbabwe increased their level of interaction with the special procedures through regular briefings with OHCHR staff. Following efforts undertaken by OHCHR, a coalition of NGOs held a series of regional and national consultations in India on UPR follow-up, bringing together hundreds of NGOs, national institutions and government representatives. OHCHR also worked with the UNCT Pakistan to support a similar consultation process organized by the Minister of Human Rights.

International and regional laws and institutions (EA 8)

► In November, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) adopted an ASEAN Human Rights Declaration following several interventions made by the High Commissioner, meetings held with ASEAN human rights mechanisms and technical comments provided by OHCHR. The Declaration contains important human rights commitments yet also a number of caveats that fall short of international human rights standards.

► A framework of cooperation between OHCHR and the League of Arab States (LAS), aimed at the reform of the Arab system to bring it in conformity with international standards, was implemented in early 2013.

► As requested by the HRC in resolution 18/14, OHCHR held an international workshop in Geneva, in December, on cooperation between UN and regional human rights mechanisms. The workshop focused on three main areas of cooperation: information sharing, joint activities and follow-up to recommendations regarding the prevention of torture, women’s rights and the rights of the child. A report on the outcome of the workshop will be presented to the 23rd session of the Human Rights Council in 2013.

Responsiveness of the international community (EA 10)

► During the year, OHCHR gathered information from a wide range of sources regarding international human rights and humanitarian law violations in Syria, including through interviews with victims, witnesses and perpetrators residing in neighbouring countries. The information gathered provided the basis for the High Commissioner’s public statements on Syria, including briefings to the Security Council and the General Assembly. It also led OHCHR to engage experts in statistical analysis to produce a rigorous examination of conflict-related casualties. The report on these casualties garnered significant attention in international media and fora and has become a main point of reference for the Security Council, the Secretary-General’s Special Envoy on Syria and the international media when the issue of conflict-related casualties is discussed.

► OHCHR engaged expert statisticians to carry out a quantitative and qualitative analysis of casualty figures in Syria in order to assess and ensure the reliability of such information. This information strengthened the High Commissioner’s call to the international community to take effective action to respond to human rights protection concerns in the country. On numerous occasions, the High Commissioner briefed the Security Council, addressed the General Assembly and reported to the Human Rights Council on the situation in Syria. On behalf of the Secretary-General, OHCHR prepared two substantive reports pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution S-18/1 on the situation of human rights, which were submitted at the Council’s 20th and 21st sessions. During the operation of the United Nations Supervision Mission in the Syrian Arab Republic (UNSMIS), which was in place between May and August 2012, OHCHR helped to deploy six officers to monitor the human rights situation. The team provided credible fact-finding analysis and reporting and engaged in advocacy and dialogue with the Government, anti-Government armed groups, minority groups and other relevant actors on human rights violations.

► The human rights component of UNSMIS provided credible fact-finding analysis and reporting and engaged in advocacy and dialogue with the Government, anti-Government armed groups, minority groups and other relevant actors on human rights violations. OHCHR provided initial human rights training to UNSMIS military observers in Damascus prior to their deployment.

► OHCHR officials provided briefings on various situations in Africa. For instance, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights briefed the Security Council on the human rights aspect of the crisis in Mali and the High Commissioner briefed the Human Rights Council in June 2012 on the human rights situation in Eritrea. Input was also provided to a number of public reports, including the Secretary-General’s report to the Human Rights Council on UN support to end human rights abuses and combat impunity in Somalia; the report on Technical Cooperation needs of South Sudan requested by the Council; the report on inter-communal violence in Jonglei, South Sudan and two reports on DRC, including one related to serious human rights violations committed between 26 November and
25 December 2011 by members of the Congolese defence and security forces in Kinshasa.

In resolution 20/53, the Security Council stressed the need for a comprehensive approach to Security Sector Reform in the DRC. This is due in part to OHCHR's advocacy efforts which included briefings to the Security Council by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights.

The Central American Integration System (SICA) Summit Action Plan included a request for OHCHR to provide human rights expertise to ensure the inclusion of a human rights-based approach (HRBA) in SICA's security strategy. This came about following the organization by OHCHR of a panel on institution building during SICA's General Assembly on security.

Following the mission undertaken by the High Commissioner to the Republic of Moldova in November 2011, OHCHR supported the engagement of a UN senior human rights expert in the Transnistrian region. Through direct engagement with relevant duty-bearers, rights-holders and civil society representatives during his three missions to the area, the expert identified human rights protection gaps and made some preliminary recommendations based on his findings.

The High Commissioner was requested to brief the Security Council and addressed the Human Rights Council on the human rights situation in the State of Palestine. In accordance with mandates established by the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, OHCHR prepared reports on behalf of the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner on issues, including the overall human rights situation, in the State of Palestine, Israeli settlements, the status of implementation of the recommendations of the fact-finding mission on the 2008-2009 Gaza Conflict and the status of implementation of the conclusions of the fact-finding mission on the Israeli attack on the humanitarian flotilla to Gaza. These briefings and reports ensured that critical human rights protection concerns remained high on the agenda in the context of intergovernmental efforts to resolve the Israel-Palestine conflict.

In response to the political crisis and to promote dialogue and reconciliation in the Maldives, OHCHR fielded a rapid response deployment in the midst of escalating violence and tensions in March/April 2012 and redeployed a long-term HRA in November 2012.

The Secretary-General’s Internal Review Board on UN Action in Sri Lanka resulted in the publication of the Petrie Report in November 2012. The review of UN actions during the 2008-2009 Sri Lanka crisis was an outcome of the Secretary-General’s Panel of Experts and previous OHCHR documentation exercises and was substantively supported by OHCHR.

FOTCD contributed to the establishment and operationalization of four commissions of inquiry (COI) and one fact-finding mission (FFM) mandated by the Human Rights Council, namely the second COI on Libya, the second and third COIs on Syria and the Fact-Finding Mission to investigate the effects of the Israeli settlement activities on the rights of Palestinian people. The Libya COI presented its report to the HRC in March, the COI on Syria presented two reports to the HRC in June and September, to the Security Council and released regular updates. Six human rights officers from FOTCD took part in the COI and FFM. A customized version of the OHCHR Human Rights Case Database played a pivotal role in supporting the investigations conducted by the COI on Syria and Libya, providing both Commissions with a tool to safely record, store and analyze the sensitive information gathered in the field.

Contingency funding was allocated and staff members were deployed to various countries or regions with deteriorating human rights situations, including for example:

- At the request of UNMISS, two OHCHR staff were deployed for two weeks to South Sudan
to carry out investigations into alleged human rights abuses committed in the course of the inter-communal violence in August and December 2011 in Jonglei State and assess the human rights situation on the ground. The report informed UNMISS’s protection of civilians strategy and contributed to the human rights report prepared by UNMISS and OHCHR.

- Two human rights officers were deployed for one month to Lebanon and Jordan to interview Syrian refugees on human rights violations committed in Syria in order to prepare the High Commissioner’s report to the Human Rights Council.
- In August, one human rights officer was deployed to Mali for two months to report on the human rights situation, assist the UNCT and strengthen civil society actors, primarily in monitoring and fact-finding activities. The presence of the human rights officer was extended until the end of January 2013 at the request of the Resident Coordinator. Assistance and one staff member were also provided to the team of human rights officers deployed to Mali and bordering countries to gather information on the human rights situation in the northern part of the country and in areas under Government control. The information will serve as the basis for a report on the situation of human rights in Mali that the High Commissioner was requested to submit to the Human Rights Council at its 22nd session in March 2013.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- OHCHR dispatched a human rights officer to the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)/African Union (AU)/UN military planning mission in Bamako, Mali from 30 October to 4 November 2012. As a result, a reference to the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) was integrated in the final version of the Concept of Operations for the deployment of the African-led International Support Mission to Mali (AFISMA). The Concept of Operations was adopted on 11 November 2012 by the Heads of States and Government of ECOWAS and endorsed on 13 November 2012 by the Peace and Security Council of the AU. In addition, the Office took part in the elaboration of the UN Common Approach for Residence Building in the Sahel and significantly contributed to the inclusion of a HRBA in the UN Integrated strategy for the Sahel Region.
- OHCHR engaged with the UN Operations and Crisis Centre (UNOCC), established in late 2012. The UNOCC is an initiative of the Secretary-General to establish a single UN crisis management and response venue with the capacity to systematically collect, analyse and disseminate information to foster an improved understanding and anticipation of crises by senior UN leaders, and engages the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the Department of Political Affairs (DPA), the Department of Safety and Security (DSS), the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA) and UNDP, as well as other UN departments and agencies. The Centre will include a 24/7 Watch Room and produce daily reports, crisis reports, flash alerts and analytical assessment papers, including to promote UN system-wide early warning of potential crisis situations.
- In February 2012, a meeting was held between Heads of human rights components of Peace Missions and attended by the Secretary-General and relevant Under Secretary-Generals. The meeting provided an opportunity for strategic discussions on the integration and contribution of human rights in peace missions and its addition to the peace and security agenda. The meeting strengthened the commitment of key departments, particularly DPKO, DPA and the Department for Field Support (DFS), in the implementation of recently adopted policies on human rights, such as the human rights due diligence on UN support to non-UN security forces and the joint DPKO/DPA/DFS/OHCHR policy on the integration of human rights in peace missions. By the end of 2012, a number of concrete results from the meeting had been implemented, including: strengthened interaction within the various components of the missions and senior management; the increased application of the HRDDP in UN predominant missions.
of the human rights due diligence policy in UN interaction with security actors; and the taking into account of human rights for the planning of new missions in Mali and Syria.

The Secretary-General delivered strong human rights messages and raised cases of concern, both publicly and in private meetings, during his visit to Iran for the Non-Aligned Movement summit. OHCHR participated in the mission and provided substantive inputs.

The Office strengthened efforts to secure the integration of relevant human rights standards and approaches in humanitarian policy and decision-making, particularly under the auspices of the IASC. As a result of OHCHR’s suggestion during the December meeting of the IASC Principals, the upcoming meeting of the Principals in May 2013 will focus on the implications of the findings and conclusions of the Report of the Secretary-General’s Internal Review Panel on UN Action in Sri Lanka on the protection of human rights. OHCHR also maintained engagement in the IASC’s Transformative Agenda, including through its commitment to provide human rights experts to the Inter-Agency Rapid Response mechanisms when required.

In addition, the Office continued to actively engage in the IASC Sub-Working Group (SWG) on Preparedness, participating in the review and reform of the process and methodology of producing the bi-annual IASC Early Warning – Early Action reports, as well as mainstreaming human rights in the early warning analysis and preparedness activities recommended in these reports.

OHCHR ensured that human rights considerations, standards and approaches were integrated into the work of the Global Protection Cluster Working Group (GPCWG), particularly as a core member of its Steering Committee, through contributions to the GPCWG Strategic Framework 2012-2014 and the development of various tools and guidance for field Protection Clusters.

OHCHR-led discussions within the UNCT in Kyrgyzstan on the preparation and drafting of the country’s United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) 2012-2016 resulted in the agreement that the first pillar under UNDAF would focus on governance, peacebuilding and human rights and the Government’s strengthened engagement with and implementation of recommendations from the human rights mechanisms. A compendium and matrix of priorities, activities, indicators and timeframes were developed by OHCHR, the Government and local partners. Both the compendium and the matrix have become key reference documents for all relevant stakeholders and constitute

Guatemalan indigenous authorities gathered at Totonicapán, during the High Commissioner’s official visit in 2012.
the framework under which the UNCT works in close cooperation with the Government-led Working Group for the implementation of recommendations issued by human rights mechanisms.

Global Management Outputs

Sharing OHCHR’s strategic direction (GMO 1)

Several regional and subregional meetings of Heads of Field Presences were held to discuss and translate OHCHR’s strategic visions into action on the ground. In preparation for the 2013 planning exercise, regional meetings were organized in Geneva with the Heads of Field Presences to analyse the implications of the financial situation on the implementation of programmes on the ground, streamline actions and find possible solutions.

At headquarters, several retreats were held to communicate strategic Office decisions, assess the adoption of those decisions and exchange views on their implementation.

Transparent and timely decision-making (GMO 2)

In coordination with other parts of the Office, the FOTCD revised and finalized two main Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) in 2012. The SOP on the functions of the geographic desk officers clarified Desk functions with regard to the division of responsibilities within FOTCD, as well as in relation to other Divisions. The SOP on monthly reports from all field presences aligned the internal reporting requirements with the existing results-based management and provided updates on existing procedures, ensuring the use of the Performance Monitoring System.

Integrating a gender perspective (GMO 3)

FOTCD strengthened mechanisms to advance implementation of the Gender Equality Policy at headquarters and in the field. A newly established recruitment team within the Division supported the integration of gender perspectives in recruitment processes, including through the revision of draft vacancies, the formulation of gender-related questions in interviews, and its inclusion in its checklist. Furthermore, FOTCD, in cooperation with other parts of the Office, notably RRDD and PPMES, prepared a draft module in the Interim Technical Cooperation Manual on gender budgeting and technical cooperation.

Servicing human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

In 2012, the Human Rights Council established two new country mandates on the situation of human rights in Belarus and in Eritrea and extended six existing country mandates. FOTCD strengthened its capacity to adequately service these mandates. The Division held regular coordination meetings with the Special Procedures Branch to share information and discuss priorities and strategies.

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 and supported his participation in relevant consultations in New York and Geneva.

FOTCD also supported the mandates of the Independent Experts on Côte d’Ivoire, Somalia and Sudan by accompanying them during their respective country missions. 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.

Coordination and interaction with the treaty bodies continued on, inter alia, lists of issues, briefing notes and the drafting of concluding observations on countries considered by the different committees.

Briefing notes were regularly provided 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.

OHCHR developed methodologies and tools to ensure the timely preparation and submission of reports for the UPR sessions and provided assistance to the Troikas for the drafting of the UPR Working Group reports.

Training for prison officials conducted by OHCHR in Abiemnom County, South Sudan.
Supporting field operations (GMO 5)

The Division, in close cooperation with RRDD, provided relevant input for the implementation and operationalization of the United Nations Development Group Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism (UNDG-HRM) Strategy for the deployment of human rights advisers to UNCTs. FOTCD revised the HRA job description, in accordance with the new UNDG terms of reference, in addition to administrative procedures to ensure rapid deployment in 2013. In this context, FOTCD prepared a strategy for the deployment of a HRA to Maldives, Mali and Timor-Leste, all under the new UNDG Strategy. OHCHR also expanded its support in Africa by supporting the establishment of a HRA in Malawi. FOTCD further facilitated rapid response deployments of human rights officers to the UNCT in Mali and to support UNMISS in South Sudan with their human rights investigations.

FOTCD continued to work in partnership with DFS on the rostering and selection of candidates for human rights components of peace missions. In 2012, FOTCD coordinated the evaluation of over 1,000 applicants to the human rights roster for peace missions, 164 of which were for United Nations Volunteer positions.

The Division supported the 59 field presences by providing advice, assisting with the preparation of reports, elaborating programmatic documents, budgets and project proposals, fundraising and financial reporting and following up with administration on financial matters and the recruitment of international staff and consultants.

Skills and competencies (GMO 6)

OHCHR designed a course on report writing for Desk Officers, which is tailor-made for FOTCD staff and will be held annually. The course took place in March 2012. FOTCD also organized a regional training course on reporting for 12 participants from different Africa field presences which took place in Uganda in November 2012.

FOTCD facilitated the participation and enrolment in mandatory and non-mandatory trainings for Heads of Field Presences. Mandatory training included the Management Development Programme and Performance Management courses. Non-mandatory training included the IASC-sponsored Emergency Team Leadership Programme.

Increased awareness of and support to OHCHR (GMO 7)

The Division supported two visits of the High Commissioner to Brussels, during which she participated in key events organized by the European Union, including on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons (LGBT) and development policy of the European Union (EU); at the EU-NGO Human Rights Forum, the key EU event on human rights external policy; and at the Fundamental Rights Conference, the key EU event on internal human rights policy. The participation of the High Commissioner at these events was a unique opportunity to improve awareness, understanding of and support to OHCHR’s mission by the EU and its member states.

FOTCD supported the Donor and External Relations Section (DEXREL) in its fundraising efforts at the local level and by providing regular reports to donors on the progress of specific projects. The Division also engaged with all field presences in the finalization of a SOP on donor relations and local fundraising.