Executive Direction and Management

The High Commissioner for Human Rights has a unique role as the chief advocate for human rights in the United Nations system and a voice for victims around the world. This role is performed through maintaining continuous dialogue on the Office’s priorities and activities with Member States and numerous stakeholders. The visibility and impact of the High Commissioner’s lead role are ensured through public statements, speeches, opinion articles, country visits, high-level meetings and other key outreach activities. The High Commissioner and her Deputy are supported in their engagement with Member States, the media, civil society and partners in the United Nations system by nine organizational units within Executive Direction and Management (EDM): the Executive Office, the New York Office, the Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Service, the Programme Support and Management Services, the Donor and External Relations Section, the Communications Section, the Civil Society Section, the Safety and Security Section, and the Meetings and Documents Unit.

Executive Office

Background

The High Commissioner for Human Rights continued her global advocacy for the promotion and protection of all human rights by encouraging concrete partnerships among all stakeholders and building on the Office’s expertise, both at headquarters and in the field.

The Office’s work took place in the context of daunting crises, particularly in the Syrian Arab Republic, the State of Palestine, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali and the Sahel region. The global financial crisis continued and the resulting austerity programmes in affected regions have placed significant strains on economic, social, and cultural rights. The High Commissioner closely followed the monumental changes taking place in the North Africa and Middle East region, where the need for a human rights-based approach in transitional processes leading to genuine democracy and respect for the rule of law remains of key importance.

Throughout the year, the High Commissioner continued to advocate for mainstreaming human rights within the United Nations system. OHCHR chaired the UN Development Group’s Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism (UNDG-HRM). As well, OHCHR supported the implementation of the 2011 Human Rights Due Diligence Policy in peace missions and pilot countries while the Trust Fund of the UNDG-HRM became operational this year. In addition, a policy was adopted on Human Rights Screening of United Nations Personnel, which resulted from a process co-led by OHCHR. In June, the High Commissioner published her report *Strengthening of the treaty body system*, outlining a series of recommendations for improving the
efficiency of the treaty body system. The visibility of the High Commissioner’s lead role was also maintained through a consistent output of public statements, speeches and opinion articles, as well as field missions and other outreach activities.

Results

Responsiveness of the international community (EA 10)

- The High Commissioner engaged with Member States on an ongoing basis, including through bilateral meetings in Geneva and New York, while on mission to a number of countries and during sessions of the Human Rights Council. In 2012, the High Commissioner had some 180 meetings in Geneva with Heads of States or Governments, Ministers and Ambassadors from over 80 countries. In addition, the High Commissioner travelled to 10 countries, including Algeria, Barbados, Guatemala, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Netherlands, Pakistan, South Sudan and Zimbabwe. In the follow-up to several of her missions, concrete changes took place on the ground such as the strengthening of the Guatemalan Constitutional Court. The High Commissioner also briefed the Security Council on the situation in Libya, Sudan and South Sudan, State of Palestine and Syria. As a result of these interventions, the human rights aspects of these crises were given prominence in public debates of the highest international level.

- The High Commissioner continued to advocate globally, through a continuous output of public statements, speeches and opinion articles, for the need to investigate allegations, ensure the accountability of those who are responsible for human rights violations and provide reparations to victims.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

- Following targeted interventions by the High Commissioner and her staff, human rights considerations were incorporated into the agendas of both the Chief Executives Board and the High-Level Committee on Programmes and in the General Assembly resolution on the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR). The QCPR is the mechanism through which the General Assembly assesses the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, coherence and impact of United Nations operational activities for development and establishes system-wide policy orientations and country-level modalities for development cooperation.

- The High Commissioner actively supported accountability initiatives, including by cooperating with international tribunals, notably as the custodian of information compiled by commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions. For example, on several occasions in 2012, OHCHR provided information to the International Criminal Court in a manner consistent with the UN-International Criminal Court Relationship Agreement and OHCHR’s mandate.

Global Management Outputs

Sharing OHCHR’s strategic direction (GMO 1)

- The High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner continued to send all-staff messages on key issues and policies; held all-staff meetings; and chaired the meetings of the Senior Management Team on 33 occasions.

Integrating a gender perspective (GMO 3)

- Based on the OHCHR’s Gender Equality Strategic Plan (2012-2013), the Executive Office ensured that women’s rights and gender issues were adequately addressed in all areas of work, including in statements, speeches and media interactions of the High Commissioner.

Servicing human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- In June 2012, the High Commissioner issued a report on the strengthening of the human rights treaty bodies which contained proposals aimed at increasing effectiveness in supporting the treaty bodies.

- The High Commissioner addressed the Annual Meeting of Special Procedures and consulted with treaty body experts in the process of preparing her report on strengthening the treaty body system.
Improved awareness of and support to OHCHR (GMO 7)

The High Commissioner briefed Member States and NGOs approximately 15 times during 2012, both formally (through the Human Rights Council) and informally (during the launch of the OHCHR Report 2011 and the OHCHR Management Plan 2012-2013) on the human rights situation in the world, the work of the Office to address these challenges and the financial situation of OHCHR.

New York Office

Background

The OHCHR New York Office is headed by an Assistant Secretary-General and is comprised of three sections which are dedicated to geographic, thematic and intergovernmental issues, respectively. The Office’s principal function is to integrate a human rights perspective into discussions and decisions made at United Nations Headquarters by engaging with other UN agencies and departments as well as with Member States. The Office also provides direct support to the Secretary-General and his Office on human rights-related matters.

In recent years, a concerted effort has been made to increase OHCHR’s input into intergovernmental discussions in New York, including in the General Assembly and its various committees, and in the Security Council. Engagement with the Security Council in particular has increased substantially in the past two years which reflects the growing recognition that human rights challenges underlie many current peace and security-related crises and the interest of the Security Council to receive timely, relevant human rights-related information to inform their discussions. In 2012, the High Commissioner was invited to participate in debates, informal consultations and other meetings of the Security Council on five occasions. While the High Commissioner has regularly participated in thematic debates in the past on issues such as the protection of civilians, the majority of invitations in 2012 were requests to brief the Security Council on country situations in the Middle East, including Syria, South Sudan and Libya.

The New York Office also works closely with other UN departments and agencies to inform and assist the development of the UN Secretariat and system-wide policies. OHCHR’s increasing profile in New York, linked in part to its increased capacity, was reflected in a deepening of constructive working relations with interdepartmental counterparts on social development, peacekeeping, political, legal and humanitarian affairs. Without the constraints of distance, the consistent high-level engagement of the New York Office led to the increased integration of a human rights perspective in decisions relating to a wide range of both thematic issues and country-specific situations.

Finally, the New York Office organized and contributed to many events in 2012 that were intended to increase awareness among members of the New York-based diplomatic community as well as a wider public audience of specific human rights challenges. These included events on violence against women; human rights and counter-terrorism; the rights of older persons; the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender (LGBT) persons; the death penalty; and in relation to accountability, transitional justice and the rule of law. These and related developments are addressed in the relevant thematic chapters of the present report.

Results

Responsiveness of the international community (EA 10)

The Office closely followed discrimination-related discussions at the intergovernmental level in relation to General Assembly resolutions on the rights of the child, the rights of persons with disabilities, racial discrimination, older persons, indigenous peoples, migration and freedom of
In March, the Office worked closely with South Africa and Brazil and supported the first formal intergovernmental United Nations discussion on violence and discrimination against individuals based on their sexual orientation and gender identity. The event at the Human Rights Council featured presentations by the High Commissioner and a panel of experts, a video message from Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, and an open debate. Representatives of some 41 States and regional groups and a number of NGOs contributed to the debate through either oral or written statements. The event followed the adoption of Human Rights Council resolution 17/19 in June 2011, which expressed “grave concern” at violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity, and resulted in the publication of a report of the High Commissioner, the first of its kind, documenting related abuses in December 2011 (A/HRC/19/41).

Throughout the year, the Office undertook a range of other activities designed to raise awareness internationally of human rights violations against LGBT people. Short videos featuring the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General appealing for an end to anti-LGBT discrimination were viewed by almost 200,000 people online and widely played at civil society-organized events to mark the International Day against Homophobia in May.

In September, the Office published Born Free and Equal - a 60-page booklet outlining the source and scope of some of the core legal obligations of States to protect the human rights of LGBT people. The booklet was designed as a tool for States, to help them better understand the nature of their obligations and the steps required to meet them, and for civil society activists, human rights defenders and others seeking to hold governments accountable for breaches of international human rights law.

In December, at a special event at UN Headquarters, OHCHR tapped celebrity power to highlight the need for leadership in the fight against homophobia. The event, which the Office co-organized with a cross-regional coalition of States and NGOs, featured Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, activists and celebrity guests such as Ricky Martin and Yvonne Chaka Chaka. More than 700 people filled the UN conference hall to hear Ban Ki-moon’s appeal for action to tackle homophobic abuses, while tens of thousands of people watched the live webcast. The speech was subsequently adapted into an op-ed piece and published in more than 30 major newspapers around the world.

OHCHR organized a Global Panel event on the death penalty. The primary objectives of the event were to: build on and maintain the momentum of the General Assembly resolution on a moratorium on the use of the death penalty; share the positive experiences and initiatives of Member States in respect of the abolition of the death penalty; and examine the human rights dimensions of the application of the death penalty. The event resulted in greater awareness of the human rights deficits of implementing the death penalty and strategies for transitioning from capital punishment.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

To ensure the inclusion of human rights in peace- and security-related decisions, including resolutions and the development of new Security Council mandates, the Office worked closely with colleagues in the Department of Political Affairs over the year to provide input to the Security Council in relation to numerous reports on Syria. It participated in regular meetings of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Syria and its Core Group, including by seconding a Geneva-based staff member to New York for four weeks. The Office also participated in videoconference briefings twice a week during the months that United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS) was in operation.

Following the mission of the Assistant Secretary-General to Mali in October 2012, the Office contributed to the development of the UN’s policy on Mali by ensuring human rights concerns were clearly communicated and taken into account by the Security Council in its proposed action on Mali. Specifically, OHCHR worked closely with colleagues in DPA to make certain that the Secretary-General’s report on Mali included key human rights recommendations and with delegations in the Security Council to ensure that these recommendations were well understood and reflected in the resolution adopted at the end of the year. This culminated in the adoption of Security Council resolution 2085 of 19 December 2012 which, inter alia, mandates the Secretary-General to monitor and report to the Security Council on violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in the context of future military operations in the North of Mali, with a view to mitigating an adverse impact of the operations on the civilian population.
Following the mission of the Assistant Secretary-General to Haiti in September 2012, OHCHR disseminated the findings of the mission through various briefings and submissions to Security Council members, other Member States and UN departments. In addition to raising awareness about the situation, this also led to the incorporation of several human rights-friendly changes in the resolution mandating the renewal of MINUSTAH. These changes included stressing the need for all relevant political actors in Haiti to work cooperatively towards the installation of the new Permanent Electoral Council in order to pave the way for overdue elections; ensuring accountability and respect for human rights and the rule of law, the independence of the judicial institutions and underlining the importance of a robust vetting process for the Haitian National Police.

The Office continued to engage with an internal working group on Myanmar, which ensured that the reports and recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar were consistently taken into account in the wider UN engagement on Myanmar. Close cooperation with relevant New York-based departments and entities, including the Secretary-General and his Special Adviser on Myanmar, helped to build system-wide support for establishing an OHCHR field presence in the country.

The Office actively engaged in new mechanisms established to respond to developing situations, consistently promoted human rights concerns and provided technical information to assist other participants. Advocacy efforts which emphasized the need to address human rights as part of the UN’s integrated strategy on the Sahel resulted in the inclusion of human rights as one of the five pillars of the proposed strategy, alongside governance, humanitarian, development and security, as requested by the UN Security Council.

The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) Working Group organized two out of four regional expert workshops on ensuring the right to a fair trial and due process. The first was held in Istanbul with a focus on countering terrorism in the Middle East and North Africa region, and the second was held in Brussels, in relation to Europe. The outcomes of these symposia informed the report of the High Commissioner to the Human Rights Council (A/HCR/22/26) and will serve as the basis for a Basic Human Rights Reference Guide on the issue.

In December, the New York Office and the German Permanent Mission co-organized a side event in New York on Targeted sanctions, human rights and due process: The future of the 1267/1989 Al-Qaida sanctions regime, and included the participation of the Assistant Secretary-General, the Special Rapporteur on counter-terrorism and human rights and the Ombudsperson of the 1267/1989 sanctions regime. The side event contributed to the ongoing discussions in the Security Council on the renewal of the mandate of the 1267/1989 Al-Qaida Sanctions Committee, which was finalized through the adoption of Security Council resolution 2083 (2012). The resolution included the extension of the mandate of the Ombudsperson for a significantly longer period of time (thirty months) than was allocated in previous Security Council resolutions; the possibility of granting humanitarian exemptions to the travel ban for a de-listed petitioner to enable the petitioner to be interviewed by the Ombudsperson; and authorized the release of a statement on the case, excluding those elements identified as confidential by Member States.

As a member of the Inter-Agency Task Force on Security Sector Reform (SSR), OHCHR provided human rights content to new policy documents, including gender responsiveness in the context of SSR efforts, support to national security policy, democratic governance of the security sector, and peace processes. This contribution resulted in greater awareness of the centrality of human rights in the development or reform of the security sector, particularly in fragile States.

The New York Office played a central role in the development of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy, which has been operationalized in peacekeeping operations, and the Human Rights Screening Policy for all applicants to the UN to ensure that all recruited staff members, whether military personnel or civilians, have not committed serious human rights violations prior to being recruited.

OHCHR presented a paper at the annual regional meeting of the Inter-Agency Network on Women and Gender Equality (IANWGE) in Addis Ababa which contributed to raising awareness among IANWGE members and NGOs on a rights-based approach for women’s access to land. The outcome of the regional meeting fed into the panel discussion on promoting access to land for rural women at the Commission on the Status of Women. Furthermore, as a result of the meeting, the collaboration between OHCHR, UN Women and the Working Group on Discrimination against Women in Law and Practice was enhanced and a Handbook on Effective Strategies to Realize Women’s Rights to Land and Other Productive Resources was developed. OHCHR deployed staff to South Sudan to lead the recently established Women Protection Advisors (WPAs), which were
mandated by Security Council resolutions 1888 and 1960. The deployment of the staff ensured the central role of human rights in the work of UN policies, operations and programmes on conflict-related sexual violence. As a result, seven of the nine WPAs in UNMISS have been assigned to the Human Rights Division of the Mission to specifically roll out the Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements (MARA) on conflict-related sexual violence in South Sudan. This OHCHR-led process will be used as a model for other priority missions of UN Action.

In terms of the cooperation between UN Women and OHCHR, OHCHR ensured the inclusion of a human rights-based approach in the work of the Project Appraisal Committee of the UN Trust Fund to End Violence against Women through the systematic inclusion of recommendations of human rights mechanisms.

OHCHR continued its cooperation with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on sexual violence in conflict and the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law/Sexual violence in Conflict (TOE) established under Security Council resolution 1888. OHCHR, as a co-lead entity of the TOE, assigned a staff member to the Team to ensure that human rights are fully integrated in responses by States to conflict-related sexual violence. The OHCHR member of the TOE participated in missions to South Sudan, Guinea and Colombia, contributed to strengthening the capacity of national justice institutions and legal frameworks and ensured the inclusion of recommendations of human rights mechanisms in the outcome documents. In the case of Guinea, the TOE deployed a locally-based international expert who collaborates closely with OHCHR to assist the Panel of Judges in charge of investigations of the violations committed in 2009, particularly with regard to sexual violence.

Human rights were included among the guiding principles of the post-2015 development planning. OHCHR provided substantive inputs during multi-stakeholder discussions, expert and bilateral meetings, briefing sessions and through the dissemination of materials and position papers. It also facilitated civil society participation in the consultations. Due to these efforts, the added value of the human rights perspective has been acknowledged by various actors involved in the post-2015 development planning process.

The Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) has taken steps to integrate a human rights perspective in its work. The Office participated in high-level meetings to emphasize the importance of the human rights-based approach in economic and social policy-making. OHCHR’s engagement resulted in increased awareness among the ECOSOC constituencies (Member States, international trade and financial institutions, the private sector and civil society). The human rights perspective, including the right to development, was included in the outcome of the ministerial level deliberations and in the ECOSOC strengthening process.

The resolution adopted by the General Assembly related to the Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) of UN operational activities for development acknowledged the linkages between peace and security, development and human rights. OHCHR provided substantive inputs and technical advice during the drafting process through bilateral meetings, briefing sessions, side events and the dissemination of materials. As a result, the QCPR resolution includes stronger references to the human rights-based approach and the right to development.

OHCHR participated in the drafting of the Secretary-General’s System-wide Action Plan on Youth and assisted in integrating a human rights-based approach in the programming established in the different matrixes. The matrix on the protection of rights, civic engagement and political inclusion makes reference to identifying the existing gaps in human rights instruments.

Global Management Outputs

Servicing human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

The New York Office, together with OHCHR Geneva, supported one session of the Human Rights Committee and one session of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) held in New York. The Office also supported the treaty body strengthening consultation process held in New York and provided advice on budgetary matters in relation to requests from several treaty bodies for additional resources.

The Office organized elections for the Human Rights Committee (three elections), CEDAW, the Committee on the Rights of the Child and the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In order to reduce the administrative burden on OHCHR and Member States and to allow more time for newly elected members to prepare to assume their duties, the New York Office initiated a reform of the treaty body election processes. Starting in early 2013, all treaty body elections will be organized during a two-week period early in the year when the General Assembly is not in session. The Office also produced a booklet to answer frequently-asked questions concerning treaty body election procedures in New York. The publication
was distributed to the election officers of all delegations in January 2013.

**Supporting field operations (GMO 5)**

In February 2012, the Office organized a meeting in New York of the Heads of human rights components in peace missions with their counterparts in DPA, DPKO, DFS, OCHA, PBSO, UN Women and the EOSG. The meeting was also attended by the Secretary-General and various Under and Assistant Secretaries-General, as well as Member States and civil society. The four-day meeting addressed the challenges and opportunities for advancing human rights through peace missions and focused on issues such as the protection of civilians in peacekeeping operations, implementation of the Joint Policy on Human Rights in Peace Operations and Political Missions and implementation of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy. The meeting raised awareness of the importance of integrating human rights in peace missions and its relevance to peace and security, and strengthened partnerships between UN entities, Member States and civil society to better respond to human rights needs and challenges on the ground.

The New York Office ensured the participation of OHCHR in a number of technical assessment missions to peacekeeping and political missions, including to Côte d’Ivoire (February 2012) and Somalia (December 2012). OHCHR’s participation in these missions helped ensure that human rights issues were addressed including in the proposed reconfiguration of these missions or the renewal of their mandates.

**Improved awareness of and support to OHCHR (GMO 7)**

The New York Office held four meetings with civil society organizations to discuss human rights issues and developments and processes taking place in Geneva and New York. The briefings also focused on ways to enhance their participation in UN meetings and processes on human rights and related advocacy efforts with Member States.

OHCHR organized a two-day orientation programme for 31 delegates from 26 countries working on human rights issues in New York. The programme raised the awareness of the delegates in relation to human rights issues and mechanisms and also provided practical information on how to negotiate and draft inputs for relevant United Nations resolutions.


The event presented the results of the study *Influence on the Ground* (by Liam Mahoney and Roger Nash). It also highlighted OHCHR’s work in the field to stakeholders in New York. Over 60 participants from Permanent Missions, Parliaments, UN departments and agencies, NGOs and academia were present.

**Communications Section**

**Background**

The Communications Section produces public information materials, develops communications strategies and undertakes activities to support the achievement of the Office’s human rights objectives and thematic priorities. The Section mainly disseminates its communications outputs through three channels: the media, the web and social media. The Section also uses network relays (OHCHR field presences, the UN system, civil society, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), etc.) to extend its outreach to the international, regional, national and local levels and utilizes the outreach capacity of the UN Department of Public Information to further
disseminate information, in particular through UN information centres, the broadcast media, the UN website and its social media tools.

OHCHR’s unprecedented and sustained public engagement on issues and developments related to the Arab uprising materialized in 2012 in an extraordinary increase in media coverage and social media activity and was a crucial element of all communications activities. In the aftermath of this period and on the occasion of Human Rights Day, OHCHR launched the Arabic language version of its website to underline the importance of extending OHCHR’s voice to diverse audiences in different languages. The web will continue to play a vital role in awareness-raising among the 350 million Arabic-speaking people around the world and enable users to learn more about their rights and the obligations of States under international human rights law.

One of the outstanding features of 2012 continued to be the use of major social media platforms as integrated communications tools which enabled OHCHR to reach a significantly increased audience. The Office’s presence on social networks such as Google+, Facebook, Twitter and YouTube continued to play a crucial role in OHCHR’s efforts to mainstream human rights within the UN system and beyond.

Global Management Outputs

Servicing human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

The Communications Section provided communications support to human rights mechanisms by news releases, media advisories and press statements relating to the work of the special procedures and the treaty bodies. The Section also published feature stories on the OHCHR home page focused on human rights mechanisms and shared all meeting summaries and concluding observations of the treaty bodies on Twitter and Facebook. This ensured greater accessibility to the recommendations of the human rights mechanisms to a wide range of stakeholders.

Improved awareness of and support to OHCHR (GMO 7)

The Section produced numerous media and communications outputs throughout the year, making use of a variety of channels, such as print and online media, videos and social media. The results of these efforts were seen through the amount of references made to OHCHR in the media and on social networks, with interest and requests for interviews from a broad range of news corporations and increasing followers on OHCHR’s social media platforms. See the Facts and figures box for details.

A number of campaigns, events and publications were organized to highlight specific issues and draw attention to the work of the Office. Examples included the Human Rights Day 2012 campaign on inclusion and the right to participate in public life; the 20th anniversary of the UN Minority Rights Declaration; Human Rights Indicators; the Forum on Business and Human Rights; and the Universal Human Rights Index Database. Dedicated webpages were established for all of these and, for some, specific visual identities were also created.

Facts and figures

467 communications issued to the media, including 148 news releases, media advisories, media statements and press briefing notes relating to the work of the High Commissioner and her Office.

319 news releases, media advisories and press statements were issued relating to the work of the special procedures and the treaty bodies.

15,626 print and electronic articles relating to the High Commissioner or her Office were recorded by the FACTIVA search engine.

179 stories were published on the “How we make a difference” section of the OHCHR home page in 2012 on a wide range of human rights subjects as well as major OHCHR publications.

5.7 million unique visitors to the OHCHR website in 2012.

More than 43,000 followers on Facebook, an increase of 25,000 followers in 2012.

Over 40,000 followers on Twitter, an increase of 29,000 followers in 2012.

More than 13,000 followers on Google+ within a month of creating the Human Rights Day “Make Your Voice Count” social media campaign.

40 short video interviews and video feature stories were produced featuring senior staff from headquarters, the field as well as special procedures mandate-holders and treaty body experts.

334,410 views on OHCHR’s YouTube channel; an increase of more than 100,000 views in 2012.

81 briefings on a variety of human rights topics delivered to 2,583 people, including university students, diplomats, lawyers and journalists.
Human Rights Day 2012, featuring the slogan “My voice, my right: My voice counts,” focused on inclusion and the right to participate in public life. An event was organized in Geneva on 10 December to commemorate the day, bringing together a diverse group of participants who shared their experiences. Chaired by the High Commissioner, the panellists discussed how the fulfilment of the right to participate is fundamental to the functioning of a democracy.

Aung San Suu Kyi participated via satellite from Yangon, Myanmar, and former U.S. President Jimmy Carter sent a video statement. The President of the Human Rights Council and Permanent Representative of Uruguay to the United Nations Office at Geneva, H. E. Ms. Laura Dupuy Lasserre, delivered welcome remarks. This was followed by a panel discussion, moderated by BBC Geneva correspondent Imogen Foulkes. Other participants included the High Commissioner; Souhayr Belhassen (President of the International Federation for Human Rights (FIDH)); Francis Kariuki (administrative chief of the village of Lanet Umoja, Nakuru North District in Kenya who uses Twitter as a tool for community policing); Romel Joseph (a blind Haitian violinist who was severely injured during the 2010 earthquake in Haiti and created the Friends of Music Education for Haiti after the tragedy); and Valeriu Nicolae (founder of the Policy Center for Roma and Minorities; a think tank based in Romania that is involved in grassroots initiatives in the ghettos of Bucharest).

At the event, the High Commissioner and Souhayr Belhassen launched OHCHR’s Arabic language website. The event also included a musical performance, coordinated by Tido Dejan, with Romel Joseph, Victoria Joseph and Ioana Lupaşcu.

A promotional video was produced and screened at the event. The video included famous faces ranging from human rights activists, politicians, and athletes to ordinary people proclaiming their rights. Among these were former US President Jimmy Carter, Olympic Sprinter Usain Bolt, and South Africa’s Archbishop Desmond Tutu. The video was broadcast internationally by CNN and Al Jazeera and on the Geneva public transport system during the seven days leading up to Human Rights Day. To date, the video has been viewed more than 19,000 times on the UN Human Rights YouTube channel.

In New York, a commemorative event was held at the Ford Foundation. It focused on inclusion and the right to participate in public life of the marginalized and vulnerable in society, including minorities, indigenous peoples, people living with HIV/AIDS, the poor and lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender persons. The programme included a keynote speech by Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, welcome remarks by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and a panel discussion with four prominent young activists: Pauline Wanja (co-founder of Living In a Shanty Town, a movement that seeks to empower youths in the slums of Kenya); Jeremy Heimans (Australian co-founder of Avaaz.org, the world’s largest online political movement); Ahmed Maher (co-founder of the April 6 Youth Movement that fights for democracy in Egypt); and Chenet Torrilus (co-founder of the Haitian Association of Volunteers for Democracy which promotes youth participation in policy-making). A musical performance by Haitian group Carimi took place at the event. A High-level Panel on “Leadership in the Fight against Homophobia” also took place on 11 December at UN Headquarters and included a performance by South African singer Yvonne Chaka Chaka.

Many other events took place around the globe to celebrate Human Rights Day. For instance, in Athens, Greece, the Human Rights Day logo in Greek was displayed in the metro; a training session for journalists, organized by Tanzania’s Government Commission for Human Rights, One UN Tanzania and the UN Information Centre was held.
The strategic and effective use of social media has greatly increased the Office’s visibility and global outreach. Notably, in 2012, the Office established its voice on human rights issues on Google+ and held its first Google+ Hangout series as a key component of the ‘Make Your Voice Count’ social media campaign for Human Rights Day. To rally support for integrating human rights on the environmental agenda, it created a social media campaign for the Rio+20 Conference using the platform Storify with the slogan Speak Up for Human Rights in the Future We Want.

The increased access to and influence of the Office’s social media outlets means that individuals have a new channel for submitting their own information to OHCHR, including descriptions of human rights violations that may be accompanied by videos, messages and photos. This has created a powerful new dimension in the Office’s engagement with its stakeholders. Social media has also allowed OHCHR to reach previously untapped audiences. For instance, Cairo (Egypt), Kuala Lumpur (Malaysia), Tunis (Tunisia) and Rangoon (Myanmar) are among the top cities with the most followers to OHCHR’s Facebook profile and almost 65 per cent of followers are from the age group of 18 to 34 years of age.
Donor and External Relations Section

Background

The Donor and External Relations Section (DEXREL) works closely with the Senior Management of the Office to disseminate information and generate broad-based support for the human rights activities of OHCHR among Member States and the wider donor community. The Section is responsible for mobilizing extrabudgetary resources from Member States and other donors to enable the Office to implement its programme of work, which is only partly covered by the UN regular budget. The Section works to raise understanding of and support for OHCHR’s programme of work, objectives, priorities and implementation strategies presented in OHCHR’s Management Plan (OMP). In addition to appealing to existing and potential donors, negotiating and following up on contribution agreements, the Section serves as a focal point for Member States and others seeking information on OHCHR’s funding needs, activities and priorities. This work continued to be extremely challenging in 2012 as a result of the global economic crisis which has directly impacted on OHCHR’s funding situation. At the same time, new mandates and activities were consistently added throughout the year. In 2012, the Donor and External Relations Section focused on sustaining the level of income received in 2011, broadening the donor base and increasing the proportion of contributions provided free of earmarking.

Global Management Outputs

Supporting field operations (GMO 5)

- DEXREL continued to support OHCHR field presences in their efforts to advocate for renewed and additional resources to fund their activities on the ground. The Standard Operating Procedure (SOP) on local fundraising was revised to provide detailed guidance and instructions to OHCHR staff on their roles and responsibilities in donor relations, including fundraising, especially at the field level.

Improved awareness of and support to OHCHR (GMO 7)

- A total of US$ 111.1 million in extrabudgetary contributions were raised to support the work of OHCHR; approximately the same amount as in 2011. This can be considered a good result since the Office did not have a specific event for which to raise funds in 2012, unlike in 2011 when the Office launched a special appeal for North Africa which attracted significant donor attention and generated US$ 9.6 million in contributions for the activities of the Office.

- Contributions from Member States increased slightly to approximately US$100.6 million, compared to US$99 million in 2011. These contributions represented 90.5 per cent of the income received by the Office in 2012.

- Sixty-eight Member States provided contributions in 2012, compared with 72 in 2011. In total, 32 agreements were signed. Overall, 74 institutional donors were registered, compared with 78 in 2011.

- The proportion of unearmarked funding increased slightly to 53 per cent (compared to 51 per cent in 2011) of the total income received.

- OHCHR continued to participate in the Consolidated Appeals and Flash Appeals processes, coordinated by OCHA, yet the funding generated through these processes remains low (US$ 977,157 in 2012).

- Total funds received through the Multi Partner Trust Funds Office of UNDP amounted to US$ 2.4 million in 2012 compared to US$ 4 million in 2011.

- Efforts to obtain funding from the private sector were further developed in 2012. For instance, OHCHR engaged with US-based private foundations during a high-level meeting in New York in October that was chaired by the High Commissioner. Participants discussed synergies and possible areas of cooperation as well as how OHCHR’s field-based NGO partners could benefit from foundation support in light of OHCHR’s budget reductions. Concrete steps were also taken to establish an online donation function whereby private individuals can donate to the Office using their credit cards. This function is expected to become operational in 2013. OHCHR’s engagement with the business sector was further strengthened through a partnership with Microsoft, AbilityNet and Middlesex University to ensure the meetings of the UN Human Rights Mechanisms are more accessible to people with disabilities and to facilitate access to information produced by these bodies.

- Together with DEXREL, the senior management of the Office devoted time to regularly brief Member States on expected accomplishments, indicators of achievements and outputs, as well as budget and funding requirements. For instance, a technical briefing for Member States was held on 19 July 2012, with the presence of the High Commissioner, on the contents of the OHCHR Annual Report 2011.
Civil Society Section

Background

Civil society plays a fundamental role in developing and sustaining effective national systems for the promotion and protection of human rights. Human rights defenders, bloggers, representatives of minorities, trade unionists, non-governmental organizations, networks of persons with disabilities, child rights activists, academic institutions, as well as many other civil society actors and interest groups, can only fully discharge their role in the advancement of human rights if they are free to work independently and enjoy their rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, in line with international human rights standards. In some countries, their role as agents of change is undermined by laws which criminalize, control or curtail civil society activity. Civil society actors may be killed or subject to arbitrary arrest, unfair trials, threats, intimidation or smear campaigns in official or social media, which often target women human rights defenders.

OHCHR’s Civil Society Section produces guides and manuals to strengthen civil society’s engagement with the UN Human Rights Programme and develops policies and strategies to underpin OHCHR’s work with civil society. The Civil Society Section provides information and advice to civil society actors and supports their participation in national and international human rights processes. The Section works with all parts of OHCHR at headquarters and in the field to share good practices and monitor and address developments that restrict civil society activity.

Global Management Outputs

Integrating a gender perspective (GMO 3)

► A gender perspective was fully integrated into OHCHR’s policy on civil society protection, approved by the High Commissioner on 12 January 2012.

Servicing human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

► More than 40 civil society briefings were organized or facilitated to increase understanding of different mandates and mechanisms.

Supporting field operations (GMO 5)

► The Section produced two more issues in the series of Practical Guides for civil society, focusing on the Social Forum of the Human Rights Council and on Human Rights Funds, Grants and Fellowships, in all six official UN languages, primarily to support the work of field presences with civil society.

Improved awareness of and support to OHCHR (GMO 7)

► The Civil Society Section continued to encourage civil society actors worldwide to subscribe to its email broadcast system providing human rights news and updates, and by the end of the year, had disseminated 305 broadcasts to more than 3,400 subscribers in almost all Member States. The Section increased its number of subscribers in 2012 by 30 per cent.

► The Civil Society Section webpage was redesigned and updated in the six official UN languages.

► The three human rights animated cartoon videos produced in 2011 by the Civil Society Section (What is a Human Right?; What is the Human Rights Council?; What is a Treaty Body?) were nominated for the UN 21 Awards and were among the three finalists in the Communications category. By the end of 2012, the videos combined had approximately 32,600 views on YouTube.
Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Service

Background

The Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Service (PPMES) works to ensure that the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights is a fully results-based organization. It supports all parts of the Office and takes the lead in translating the High Commissioner’s strategic vision into concrete priorities and operational plans and procedures. Likewise, it ensures that implementation efforts and results are properly monitored and evaluated and that lessons learned are identified for integration into future planning processes. Through an on-going analysis of OHCHR’s organizational environment, PPMES helps to identify substantive or internal gaps in OHCHR’s policies, strategic planning and programming and proposes the development of new policy positions or revisions in planning and programming approaches.

Since the last biennium, the work of PPMES has significantly contributed to an improvement in the office-wide understanding and support for the application of results-based management (RBM) concepts to human rights work. A substantial investment in capacity-building and a strong commitment from senior management have been instrumental in achieving these advances.

Global Management Outputs

Sharing OHCHR’s strategic direction (GMO 1)

- PPMES has contributed to further defining, sharing and implementing OHCHR’s strategic direction by:
  - Preparing and launching the OHCHR Management Plan (OMP) for 2012-2013, which sets out OHCHR’s office-wide thematic priorities and expected results and describes the key planned interventions to achieve those results. The OMP provided the first global targets for each of the expected accomplishments and global management outputs (GMOs) for the biennium.
  - Organizing the 2012 Planning Event in October, which, in the context of preparing the 2013 annual workplans and costplans, allowed for an office-wide discussion around key thematic expected accomplishments and global management outputs of the OMP in order to assess achievements and discuss steps forward.

- The Human Rights Strategic Framework for 2014-2015, approved in December by the Third Committee of the General Assembly with strong support from Member States, preserves the gist of OHCHR’s mandate and programme. PPMES supported the New York Office throughout the negotiations by coordinating and providing relevant information.

- OHCHR’s Performance Monitoring System (PMS) is increasingly used by colleagues at both the field and headquarter levels. All programming documents (country and subregional notes) for the 2012-2013 biennium and the field annual work plans for 2012 and 2013 have been uploaded to the system which will allow for monitoring and reporting on outputs and expected accomplishments. The PMS also offers the following additional functions: financial monitoring; the uploading of headquarters’ annual work plans, including the master calendar for human rights mechanisms; and a module to allow all field presences to upload monthly reports as of January 2013. The use of the system has been assessed by colleagues in headquarters and the field to considerably reduce transaction costs and substantially contribute to increased effectiveness.

- With regard to monitoring and reporting, PPMES continued to support the preparation of OHCHR’s reports, providing feedback and relevant guidance to colleagues when formulating results. For the first time, the OHCHR Report 2011 included a table summarizing the achievement of targets of 17 field presences which are using the PMS.

- The mainstreaming of human rights into evaluation activities has continued to be a priority issue addressed in the context of the United Nations Evaluation Group, in particular its Human Rights and Gender Equality Task Force, of which OHCHR is co-chair. After the publication of a Handbook on Integrating Human Rights and Gender Equality into Evaluation, the Task Force has focused on the finalization of an elaborated Guidance Note on the issue that will be published in 2013.

Transparent and timely decision-making (GMO 2)

- As the secretariat for the Senior Management Team (SMT) and Programme Budget Review Board (PBRB), PPMES has the responsibility for monitoring the implementation of the Office’s programme, identifying challenges to its implementation that require decisions from senior management and ensuring that they are addressed on a priority basis.

- OHCHR’s SMT is the principal consultative and advisory body providing support, advice and recommendations to the High Commissioner for addressing office-wide issues. Due to
improvements achieved in forward planning, the SMT now meets on a weekly basis. In 2012, PPMES further fine-tuned the work of the SMT by introducing revised working methods. All background material and decisions of the SMT meetings are posted on the Office’s intranet and are easily accessible to staff. Throughout 2012, the SMT convened 35 times to discuss a wide range of topics, including management and financial issues, and made recommendations on 46 strategic issues.

The PBRB that advises the High Commissioner on office-wide planning guidelines and budgetary policies met in 21 sessions. The PBRB oversees planning, allocation and re-allocation of human and financial resources. It also considers requests for additional resources in response to new and emerging needs when necessary. In the course of 2012, the PBRB regularly monitored the financial and human resource situation of the Office, considered proposals relating to the establishment of new field presences; and provided support to special procedures, fund-raising initiatives and new contributions.

In the context of the global financial crisis and the consequential decrease of resources, the PBRB began developing initiatives to prioritize, make efficiency gains and increase funds to address funding shortfalls. The first level prioritization process was undertaken within the context of the 2012 Mid-Year Review (MYR). At the end of the exercise, the overall approved reduction for the Office amounted to US$9.3 million or 6.6 per cent of the 2012 extrabudgetary (XB) costplans (excluding the humanitarian trust funds). The overall XB costplan for 2012 was therefore reduced from US$151.5 million to US$142.2 million. The PBRB also recommended, later approved by the High Commissioner, that the total XB costplans for 2013 should not exceed US$135 million. Of this amount, US$130 million was set aside for on-going programmes and US$5 million was allocated to efforts designed to accommodate unexpected demands throughout the year and increase OHCHR resources in the future.

The PBRB held two retreats (28 August and 15 October) on the management of the financial crisis and agreed on a number of parameters to further reduce costs in 2013. In reviewing the 2013 annual workplans, the PBRB made every effort to limit the impact of the cuts on the Office’s capacity to deliver on the results to which it had committed to achieving in the OMP under the thematic priorities and ensure implementation of the agreed parameters. Reductions were therefore mainly undertaken in areas where efficiency gains could be made or which were not included in the priorities for the biennium. Despite these efforts, it was recognized that the exercise would inevitably affect some programmatic areas. Following the review, the PBRB made a recommendation to approve the overall XB costplan for 2013 in the amount of US$130.4 million, which was subsequently endorsed by the High Commissioner.

In supporting the PBRB, PPMES continued advising on the implementation of OHCHR’s programmatic commitments, including through ensuring that new initiatives brought to the PBRB were aligned with and contributed to the commitments spelled out in the OMP 2012-2013.

Integrating a gender perspective (GMO 3)

In all RBM training workshops, PPMES introduced the concepts of the GMOs with a special emphasis on GMO 3 (integrating a gender perspective) and how the GMOs, indicators and targets relate to the work of each unit in OHCHR.

PPMES ensured the integration of a gender perspective in the review process of the annual workplans and costplans for 2013, which supports the implementation of the Gender Equality Strategic Plan.

Supporting field operations (GMO 5)

Awareness and the capacity of colleagues from the field to implement RBM has increased. During a half-day session at their annual meeting, Heads of field presences exchanged practices and new developments with regard to increased effectiveness in the area of programme management. Colleagues from field presences responded positively to this exchange by requesting training on RBM and/or starting to use the PMS on their own.

Skills and competencies (GMO 6)

Staff increased their knowledge of and capacity to apply RBM principles to human rights work. During the year, PPMES conducted 12 trainings on RBM covering 16 field presences (regional and country offices and human rights advisers) with a total of 134 participants. The trainings introduced concepts of RBM and their application in the context of human rights work. At the end of the trainings, the field presences revised their country notes in line with RBM principles and started using the PMS for planning, monitoring and reporting on their work. In addition, three orientation sessions and two half-day workshops were facilitated at headquarters for geographic desk officers and the Human Rights Treaties Division.
OHCHR enhanced its in-house advisory and training capacity in RBM. PPMES conducted a week-long Results-Based Management Network Training for 17 participants (12 from headquarters and five from field presences). As a follow-up to the training, PPMES created and facilitated an OHCHR-RBM network to keep participants regularly abreast of new developments. This initiative allowed the expansion of the pool of OHCHR staff knowledgeable about RBM principles. PPMES also engaged five of the participants in the facilitation of the RBM trainings throughout the year.

Global Management Outputs

Sharing OHCHR’s strategic direction (GMO 1)

Based on inputs from colleagues in Geneva and the field, PSMS has continued to transform the OHCHR intranet into a more collaborative tool. Efforts to streamline information flows have resulted in additional sections on the site, such as a daily list of updated information. A prototype of a new intranet design, developed in 2012, will be rolled out in 2013 after further consultations with the intranet focal points.

Integrating a gender perspective (GMO 3)

PSMS has undertaken briefings, trainings and consultations, and accordingly gradually integrated a gender perspective into its respective areas of work, including budget, human resources, staff development, travel and procurement. For instance, the Staff Development Unit introduced a gender component into the orientation training for OHCHR staff members.

Servicing human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

The treaty bodies database tool, a single central repository for all treaty body related documents, facilitates the publishing of content on the intranet, extranet and public website, provides extensive statistics to better track and follow up on State Party reporting and generally helps streamline and assist in the work of the treaty body secretariats. The addition of Arabic language capacity to the Charter-based documents database enhances the outreach of the Human Rights Council and the UPR.

Conference rooms at Palais Wilson are now equipped to allow public sessions to be dialled into by anyone on the outside, in all six official United Nations languages. This improved accessibility and transparency further contributes to the effective functioning of the human rights mechanisms.

Supporting field operations (GMO 5)

PSMS facilitated the annual field administrative staff consultations (18 participants from 17 country and regional offices) with a focus on upcoming administrative changes, notably International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) and its implications for service delivery, UMOJA, as well as emerging issues in all other areas of administration - human resources, logistics, travel and information technology.

PSMS undertook a number of field visits (Bolivia, Burundi, Mauritania, Mexico, Nepal, Qatar and Tunisia) to assist with improving local networks and information technology infrastructure, including records management and the preservation of historical data records, or
practical arrangements such as lease agreements, procurement and property management. To ensure that the visits of the United Nations Board of Auditors went smoothly, PSMS provided support to the Togo and Mexico offices before and during the audits.

▶ To ensure the efficient progress of the Human Rights Council’s mandated commissions of inquiry to the Middle East region, PSMS provided all necessary logistical support, often in close collaboration with UNDP and the Department of Field Support.

**Skills and competencies (GMO 6)**

▶ In its efforts to encourage the development of a culture of learning and skills development with a focus on promoting efficiency in daily work, PSMS organized a wide range of tailored peer-learning activities for staff in Geneva and in the field, including: Official United Nations Formatting, Report Writing for Desk Officers, Records Management and Finance. PSMS also coordinated 10 Coffee Briefings on substantive human rights issues with 334 participants; organized a variety of learning sessions on Performance Management and Development which included briefings for staff and managers and one-day mandatory workshops for 93 participants; and three Orientation Programmes for 50 new staff members which were geared towards implementation of the OHCHR Learning Strategy. Overall, 41 training sessions were organized for 890 participants.

**Improved awareness of and support to OHCHR (GMO 7)**

▶ PSMS undertook various initiatives to improve the functionalities of its websites. In collaboration with the Communications Section, the public website was translated into Arabic and released on 10 December 2012 by the High Commissioner. All extranet sites were redesigned to use a common platform with visual consistency. This improvement was welcomed by OHCHR stakeholders, particularly during the voting process on the resolutions of the Human Rights Council. Seven more extranets were created in 2012 for a total of 50 supported by PSMS. Also in 2012, new sites were created for the commissions of inquiry that took place during the year and to assist the work of the Office in servicing the International Coordinating Committee for National Human Rights Institutions.

▶ OHCHR’s Registry dealt with 5,670 information desk calls and 175,000 information desk queries and mass petitions concerning human rights violations.

**Resources (GMO 8)**

▶ In the last quarter of 2012, IPSAS criteria were included in the upgraded OHCHR asset management system. In the ongoing preparation for IPSAS implementation, OHCHR senior management and concerned staff members attended mandatory briefings. PSMS also closely liaised with field offices to ensure that relevant information concerning Property, Plant and Equipment and Real Estate was provided to the IPSAS team in a timely manner.

▶ PSMS continued to provide monthly updates on the overall financial position of the Office to the OHCHR Programme and Budget Review Board and in 2012 provided specific updates to the Special Procedures Branch and the Research and Right to Development Division to address financial issues raised at the working level.

▶ The instruction on advanced ticket purchase, issued by the UN Under-Secretary-General for Management in April 2011, was incorporated into the revised e-travel system which was launched in 2012. Staff are now alerted and required to provide a justification when a travel request is submitted outside the requisite time frame. While 68 per cent of the total number of tickets purchased in 2010, before the instruction was introduced, was within 14 days of travel, this number was reduced to 55 per cent in 2011 and further to 35 per cent in 2012.

▶ In 2012, PSMS processed 4,096 travel requests, including over 700 travels of meeting participants who attended workshops organized by the Office, at least 1,000 travels by human rights treaty body members and special rapporteurs and the complicated travel arrangements for the Commission of Inquiry on Syria.

▶ With SOS International, PSMS succeeded in negotiating a medical evacuation scheme for independent experts travelling on field missions.
for OHCHR. This coverage will not only ensure that rapid medical assistance can be provided to these experts in emergency situations, but will also reduce the costs of such assistance when it may be required.

- In the middle of 2012, work began on the Geneva Compactus to appraise records deposited over the past ten years. Records of four human rights committees were appraised and approximately 280 linear metres of archival records were recovered and sent to the UNOG Archives. Close to 1,500 kilograms of records that were overdue for disposal were destroyed and provided much needed space for secure recordkeeping within the Compactus.

- The Business Classification scheme for OHCHR was drafted. This document is the framework for records management strategies to facilitate the organization of electronic and paper records, promote a standardized system of filing and reduce time spent retrieving records.

- Collaboration with the Registry, Records and Archives Unit at UNOG yielded money-saving benefits. The UNOG Unit supported OHCHR in the appraisal and transfer of the OHCHR Burundi archives and the recent digitization of and online access to 35 files containing several thousand pages of original and unique materials related to the drafting of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

- The Office began to implement its Emission Reduction Strategy, which was approved by the High Commissioner in December 2011. The cross-divisional implementation task force continues to advocate for emission reduction and climate awareness through a range of activities such as more effective travel, reduced energy use and increased staff awareness. Green awareness training was included for the first time in the orientation programme for new staff in 2012 and an introduction to greening was presented to field administrative staff.

- In an effort to improve the efficiency and reduce the carbon footprint of the Office it was decided to implement a number of travel-related measures to reduce travel, such as seeking to limit the number of staff participants at external events, organizing work group and committee meetings in Geneva, and reducing travel between Geneva and the New York Office.

- A 2012 OHCHR acquisition plan was created for Geneva headquarters to allow for procurement planning across the offices served by UNOG. OHCHR procurement guidelines were revised and distributed to all staff to promote advance planning of procurement requests and the timely and effective procurement of goods and services.

Safety and Security Section

Background

The OHCHR Safety and Security Section coordinates security of OHCHR operations, staff and assets worldwide in accordance with established security risk management practices and in close coordination with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security (DSS). The Section is also an integral part of the OHCHR support mechanism to activities of the Human Rights Council such as fact-finding missions and commissions of inquiry. The Section is responsible for coordinating UN security management system coverage to officials and experts, including human rights committees and working groups, special rapporteurs, commissioners and other senior United Nations officials travelling on behalf of OHCHR. It also participates in system-wide UN security policy-making forums to ensure that human rights are mainstreamed into staff security policies and procedures applicable to all UN Agencies, Funds and Programmes. At the operational level, the Section provides technical supervision and assistance on policies, procedures and minimum operating security standards for all staff, field presences and activities. The Senior Security Manager has a well-established and direct liaison arrangement with DSS Headquarters, the field and UN Agency Security Focal Points. OHCHR is a member of the Inter-Agency Security Management Network (IASMN) and its Steering Group which regularly meets under the chairmanship of the Under Secretary-General of the Department of Safety and Security to make recommendations on system-wide security policies. The main tasks of the Section include: conducting risk assessments and establishing, standardizing and implementing security policies, tactics, techniques and procedures; analysing security situations, both globally, and in proposed field locations; the recruitment of security personnel; and managing the global security clearance and travel advisory service.

Global Management Outputs

Servicing human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- Dedicated security support was provided to special rapporteurs and treaty bodies during their country missions, as well as to commissions of inquiry, fact-finding, assessment and mapping missions. This approach, based on the detailed security concepts of operations and security risk assessments, developed in accordance
with the UN security management system, has been effective in ensuring a safe working environment.

**Supporting field operations (GMO 5)**

- The Section combined a range of security information tools into one internal electronic platform to provide real-time security information and analytical tools, while also helping to ensure security and efficiency in field operations.
- In 2012, 61 elevated risk field missions were supported, in most cases by deploying security staff from OHCHR Security, the United Nations Office at Geneva and the DSS, to conduct security assessment and security coordination missions in connection with field operations and highly sensitive missions of special procedures mandate-holders and staff members. Security management activities associated with 34 security incidents that directly affected staff were also carried out during the year.
- In order to comply with safety procedures related to staff travelling to the field, the Security Information and Operations Centre of the Security Section processed 1,855 security clearance requests in 2012.

### Meetings and Documents Unit

**Background**

The Meetings and Documents Unit (MDU) (previously the Document Processing Unit) is part of the Executive Direction and Management Service. MDU is responsible for planning, coordinating and submitting all OHCHR documents for processing as mandated by the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council and the relevant human rights conventions and in accordance with established guidelines. It also manages the efforts of the Office to improve document submission compliance through various means, including the OHCHR Group of Document Focal Points (GDFF) and by coordinating with service providers in the United Nations Office at Geneva and in New York. Further, the Unit is responsible for coordinating and keeping track of the Office’s annual programme of meetings, including those of the Human Rights Council, its affiliated mechanisms and the human rights treaty bodies.

**Global Management Outputs**

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

- MDU facilitated the processing of 3,333 documents for consideration by the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Human Rights Council and its subsidiary entities, as well as the human rights treaty bodies.
- The aggregated timely submission rate for all OHCHR documents increased to 75 per cent in 2012 from 53 per cent in 2011. Measures have been taken to improve the timely submission rate of documents of the Human Rights Council and the human rights treaty bodies, including regularly updating and uploading document forecasts/status reports on the intranet; providing document format training for staff; and ensuring the issue of documentation is re-introduced into the orientation programme of the Office.
- A total of 96 human rights-related official sessions/meetings were held as scheduled accounting for a total of 639 meeting days. In addition, numerous informal sessions, consultations and other events took place.
Research and Right to Development Division

Background

OHCHR provides guidance, advice and applied research, develops learning packages and shares expertise on a wide range of human rights themes with Member States, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), civil society organizations (CSOs), United Nations partners and international human rights bodies and mechanisms.

The key roles of the Research and Right to Development Division are to:

► Develop policy positions and strategies on thematic human rights issues for the UN and OHCHR;

► Support the High Commissioner’s global leadership role in advocacy on thematic human rights issues;

► Advance the promotion and protection of all human rights and further integrate all human rights, including gender dimensions, into the UN system’s activities in relation to development, humanitarian efforts, economic and social affairs, peace and security and rule of law programmes;

► Integrate all human rights into all relevant areas of work of the United Nations system;

► Enhance technical cooperation through advisory support and capacity strengthening; and

► Increase knowledge and understanding of human rights issues through the codification of lessons learned into guidance tools for OHCHR and the translation of international human rights law into approaches, procedures and tools to be applied in the conduct of human rights work by OHCHR and other UN, international and national actors.

RRDD also provides support to a number of human rights mechanisms, including: the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and the Forum under the guidance of the Working Group; the Independent Expert on international solidarity; the Working Group on the right to development; the High-level Task Force on the implementation of the right to development; the

OHCHR training of Heads of field presences and gender focal points in the MENA region.
Social Forum; the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the follow-up mechanisms established by the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA); the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the DDPA; and the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent. Other intergovernmental working groups are also supported, such as the open-ended intergovernmental Working Group to consider the possibility of elaborating an international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies and the open-ended Working Group to draft a United Nations declaration on the rights of peasants.

The Division leads four of the six thematic strategies defined in the 2012-2013 OHCHR Management Plan: discrimination; impunity and rule of law; poverty and economic, social and cultural rights; and migration. RRDD also ensures the implementation of Global Management Output 3 which requires that a “gender perspective is effectively integrated in all OHCHR policies, programmes and processes.”

RRDD is headed by a Director who reports to the High Commissioner through the Deputy High Commissioner. The Division is organized into two branches. The Development and Economic and Social Issues Branch consists of the Human Rights and Economic and Social Issues Section; the Millennium Development Goals Section; the Right to Development Section; and the Methodology, Education and Training Section which review the Office as a whole. The Rule of Law, Equality and Non-discrimination Branch consists of the Rule of Law and Democracy Section; the Women’s Human Rights and Gender Section; the Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section; and the Anti-discrimination Section.

Results

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

Legislation and national action plans, in compliance with international standards, on gender equality, women, peace and security and violence against women, were adopted or implemented in a number of countries following technical advice and support provided by OHCHR. In Kosovo, a national action plan in relation to Security Council resolution 1325 was adopted. In Papua New Guinea, following sustained advocacy by OHCHR and its UN partners, the country’s Law Reform Commission proposed a repeal of the country’s sorcery act.

In Afghanistan, Timor-Leste, the Kurdistan region of Iraq and the Maldives, OHCHR supported the formulation and implementation of laws on violence against women in accordance with international standards. Since the enactment of the Law on the Elimination of Violence against Women in 2009 in Afghanistan, UNAMA and OHCHR human rights officers have closely monitored its implementation and found both positive advancement and continuing gaps that need to be addressed.

OHCHR continued to support Member States in developing national action plans (NAPs) to eradicate racism, discrimination and promote equality in Benin, Bolivia, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guinea, Mauritania, Nigeria and Uruguay. OHCHR-assisted processes have, for example, contributed to the draft NAP in Burkina Faso that is currently under finalization. In Mauritania, the Office commenced a project with the national authorities to draft a NAP to combat racial discrimination.

Following a series of regional consultations, OHCHR issued guidelines in May 2012 on indigenous peoples in voluntary isolation and initial contact in the Amazon Basin and El Chaco. These efforts are aimed at supporting the formulation of national policies that are rooted in non-discrimination and other rights of indigenous peoples. Further to several high-level launching events, a number of initiatives are now being implemented with OHCHR field presences and in cooperation with the authorities concerned to promote this new tool and its practical implementation.

OHCHR contributed to increased awareness regarding the importance of aligning national anti-discrimination legislation with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD). Headquarters and over 20 field presences provided assistance and support to States Parties.
in reviewing national legislation and policies in this regard. Following a seminar on CRPD implementation organized by the OHCHR Regional Office for Southern Africa in Lusaka, Zambia in October 2012, representatives of governments, CSOs and NHRRIs from 11 countries adopted the “Southern African Declaration of 2012 on the Implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.” The Declaration commits signatories to mainstream the rights of persons with disabilities in the political, legislative and development processes in their respective countries and recommends that governments review their domestic legislation in order to effectively implement the CRPD. Furthermore, OHCHR has reviewed its draft Legislation Handbook on the CRPD in light of comments received from the disability community and other reviewers. The Handbook will be made available in 2013 to guide stakeholders in aligning national legislation with the CRPD.

► OHCHR continued to assist States Parties in implementing their obligations under the CRPD. A new training package developed by the Office on the CRPD and its Optional Protocol was made available online in October 2012. It includes modules on the steps to be taken by States Parties to ensure effective national-level implementation and monitoring of the Convention and guarantee that civil society, in particular persons with disabilities and their representative organizations, are involved and participate fully in the monitoring process. In the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, a National Coordination Body for the Implementation of the CRPD was established in November 2012, with the support of the OHCHR human rights adviser.

► OHCHR finalized the publication Developing National Action Plans against Racial Discrimination: A Practical Guide, which provides Member States and other stakeholders with a tool to assist in the strengthening or establishment of national mechanisms for the promotion, protection and monitoring on issues relating to combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. The publication will be released in 2013.

► OHCHR developed guidance for NHRRIs on how to advance the principles of the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. A draft handbook on this topic was circulated to NHRRIs in all regions and “road-tested” in practice, including through training for NHRI officials in Namibia. Scheduled for release in 2013, the Guide will be widely disseminated amongst NHRRIs and OHCHR field presences and used for capacity-building activities targeting NHRRIs and indigenous peoples.

► The 11th International Conference of National Human Rights Institutions, held in November 2012 in Jordan, entitled The human rights of women and girls: Promoting gender equality – the role of national human rights institutions, adopted the Amman Declaration and Programme of Action, along with regional action plans with a firm commitment by NHRRIs to undertake increased work on women’s human rights. OHCHR provided substantive and logistical support to the Conference and the coordination of the Drafting Committee, as well as advice on relevant human rights standards pertaining to women’s rights.

► The production and dissemination of the documentary film A Path to Dignity: The Power of Human Rights Education, undertaken in partnership with two civil society organizations, significantly contributed to raising awareness about human rights education and training among States, civil society and the general public.

► OHCHR and UNESCO co-published a self-assessment guide for governments to help develop national capacities to integrate human rights education in primary and secondary schools. During 2011-2012, a pilot version of the Guide was used to support governments in these efforts. For example, in Paraguay, the Guide was used by an intra-ministerial group composed of various directorates of the Ministry of Education which prepared a situation analysis to serve as a baseline study for the subsequent national plan of action for human rights education. In Armenia, the Guide was used by UNDP to develop an assessment report with findings and recommendations which also served as a basis for the development of a human rights education action plan by the Ministry of Education.

► The OHCHR Human Rights Case Database (HRDB) was rolled out in three additional human rights field presences (Guinea-Bissau, Haiti and Tunisia) and 60 human rights officers were trained on its use. A new training course combining human rights monitoring skills and the use of the HRDB was designed and delivered and resulted in harmonized methods to document human rights violations. Additionally, a new complaint management module was launched and an entirely revised concept of the HRDB was designed, taking into account the needs and suggestions expressed by users during training sessions and an evaluation workshop.

► OHCHR continued to provide methodological advice to commissions of inquiry/fact-finding missions (CoIs/FFMs) which resulted in an increased coherence in approaches and methodologies. This included the provision of methodological support to the Syria Commission
of Inquiry and the Fact-finding Mission on Israeli Settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, in drafting an undertaking of confidentiality by staff and consultants that will help ensure security of information and protection of interviewees, in accordance with existing OHCHR guidance and methodology.

Following a lessons learned exercise and review, internal guidance notes related to the COIs/FFMs have been revised and a public version will be produced for future members of COIs/FFMs and others. This decision came about following a workshop of former Coordinators of Secretariats of COIs/FFMs (September) to share their experiences and identify challenges and a meeting of former members of COIs/FFMs (October). The latter, hosted by the High Commissioner, was the first meeting of this kind, aimed at reflecting on several strategic issues to improve the operation and impact of COIs/FFMs; share experiences that will assist in further shaping guidance, methodology and practice to enhance the effectiveness of COIs/FFMs as well as OHCHR support; identify challenges in the role of Members of COIs/FFMs and any additional support needed and define possible ways in which these challenges could be addressed. The proposals put forth in the revised guidance are already being implemented by the Syria CoI through seeking and recording consent from interviewees.

Awareness of due process and the right to a fair trial while countering terrorism was raised among Member States from North Africa, Middle East and Europe. As Chair of the CTITF Working Group on Protecting Human Rights While Countering Terrorism, OHCHR collaborated with the CTITF Office to co-organize two regional expert symposia for stakeholders (North Africa and the Middle East in February and Europe in July) in order to promote a series of recommendations on the protection of human rights while countering terrorism.

In Burundi, a national expert meeting on victim and witness protection was organized by OHCHR and resulted in various national entities reaching consensus on developing a national witness and victim programme that meets human rights standards. In Kosovo and Uganda, OHCHR’s technical support and advice resulted in the development of relevant legal frameworks on victim and witness protection that effectively address human rights concerns.

Government officials and human rights defenders in several countries, including Bolivia, Paraguay, the Philippines and Togo, have increased their knowledge and capacity in developing and using indicators for human rights implementation. This further contributes to the development of rights-based policy, supports the assessment of compliance with the international human rights treaties and bolsters cases argued by human rights advocates. OHCHR contributed to this through training and capacity-building activities and the publication (in English and Spanish) and wide dissemination of Human Rights Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation.

The Office organized the first Forum on Business and Human Rights in Geneva in December 2012, under the guidance of the Working Group on human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises and as mandated by the Human Rights Council (resolution 17/4). The 21 substantive sessions resulted in the largest global discussion to date on how governments and business are addressing the impacts of business activities on human rights. Around 1,000 participants registered for the Forum, far exceeding expectations. Participants came from over 80 different countries, representing all stakeholder groups, including business, governments, civil society and trade unions.

OHCHR engaged with relevant regional institutions such as the European Union, the
Organisation of Economic Cooperation and Development and the Council of Europe on implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and alignment of standards with the Guiding Principles. A Draft Feasibility Study on Corporate Social Responsibility in the Field of Human Rights (CDDH(2012)017) prepared by the Secretariat of the Council of Europe for consideration by the Council of Europe Steering Committee for Human Rights, referred to the engagement with OHCHR and stressed that any Council of Europe work in this field should be coherent with the Guiding Principles as the authoritative global standard.

Following OHCHR engagement with government officials, business representatives, civil society and members of the UN Country Team (UNCT) in Papua New Guinea on the application of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, a multi-stakeholder Human Rights Forum, chaired by the Department of Justice, established a technical working group on business and human rights with a view to implementing the Guiding Principles.

Awareness of the application of the Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights and Human Trafficking was raised in Central and West African countries following regional and subregional launches by OHCHR of the Commentary on the Recommended Principles and Guidelines. Evaluations completed by participants at a launch event in Yaoundé noted the usefulness of this tool for their daily work.

Experts from governments, international and regional organizations, civil society and academia, called on the Office to develop Principles and Guidelines on the issue of human rights at borders. This came about following an expert meeting organized by OHCHR in March and the Office will begin drawing up this guidance in 2013.

In February 2012, the European Court of Human Rights decided in the case of Hirsi Jamaa and others versus Italy, reaffirming the human rights of all migrants. OHCHR had submitted a legal brief before the Court as an intervening party.

Justice and accountability mechanisms (EA 3)

OHCHR released a comprehensive report in October which documented and analysed serious violations of international law that occurred during the 10-year conflict in Nepal (1996-2006), along with a database of approximately 30,000 documents to support Nepalese institutions and civil society in their truth-seeking, justice and reconciliation efforts. OHCHR also provided advice on reparations in Nepal and Timor-Leste.

Awareness about international principles and standards was raised among stakeholders engaged in transitional justice initiatives in several countries in the Middle East and North Africa region through a regional consultation on transitional justice co-organized by OHCHR, the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence and the UNDP Regional Centre in Cairo.

Access to justice and basic services (EA 4)

OHCHR strengthened its work on indicators and data collection methods to promote and monitor enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, by expanding the tools available for government officials, members of NHRRs, CSOs and UN agencies to this end. This included the OHCHR publication Human rights Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation which provides guidance and tools on using indicators to assist States, national and international human rights mechanisms in enhancing the realization of economic, social and cultural rights.

In September 2012, the High Commissioner launched the Technical Guidance on the Application of a Human Rights-Based Approach to Implementation of Policies and Programmes for the Reduction of Preventable Maternal Mortality and Morbidity which provides concrete advice on steps that States and other stakeholders should take to effectively meet their human rights obligations and responsibilities. UN agencies and other stakeholders are working together with OHCHR to implement the Technical Guidance in a variety of contexts in 2013 and 2014.

OHCHR released a publication on Women and the Right to Adequate Housing, which provides in-
depth analysis, conceptual and technical guidance with respect to the enjoyment of this right by women and the gender-specific dimensions of this right. Through the use of positive examples and by drawing on the extensive work of the human rights mechanisms, this publication provides an additional tool for human rights advocates, policy-makers and other stakeholders who are working to improve the enjoyment of this right by women.

**Participation (EA 5)**

Through its minority and indigenous fellowship programme, as well as the newly-established fellowship programme for Afro-descendants, OHCHR continued to strengthen the capacity of these groups to invoke human rights standards. A total of 23 indigenous representatives came from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Uganda, Indonesia, India, the Philippines, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Panama, Peru, Venezuela, Canada and the Russian Federation; nine minority rights defenders from Algeria, Colombia, India, Jordan, Kenya, Moldova, Syria and Yemen and; five Afro-descendants from Canada, Colombia, France, Italy and Panama participated in the programme and deepened their understanding of the UN human rights system, instruments and mechanisms. In their final evaluations, the indigenous fellows underlined the usefulness of interventions by OHCHR partners such as UNESCO, ILO, WIPO and UNICEF, as well as by Geneva-based human rights NGOs such as the Centre for Civil and Political Rights, IMADR, ISHR, UPR info, DoCip and Mandat International. Through this collaboration, fellows were encouraged to work with OHCHR, other UN agencies and relevant non-governmental organizations. Building on their training from OHCHR, several fellows pursued new initiatives at the national level aimed at enhancing participation in decision-making processes. For instance, a fellow from Egypt has been advocating for the inclusion of minority rights in the constitution-making processes while also highlighting concerns of minority groups in relation to participation. In Nigeria, a fellow has conducted a project on minority rights sensitization amongst Christian religious minorities in the northern part of the country. Fellows from Kyrgyzstan are actively engaged in legislative reform processes and monitoring public policies from the perspective of their compliance with human rights standards and minority rights standards in particular. A fellow from Costa Rica has been addressing in her work issues related to the effective participation of Afro-descendants in all spheres of life in Latin America and the Caribbean. In Australia, one of the fellows is currently working on social justice projects and has advised national governments and international organizations on youth policy, multiculturalism and human rights issues.

A fellow from the Mbororo Fulani tribe has been working in Cameroon to raise awareness about education and increase the literacy rate among indigenous girls (it is estimated that 98 per cent of Mbororo Fulani pastoralist women are illiterate). The knowledge she gained about international human rights instruments and mechanisms reinforced her leadership abilities. In 2012, she moderated a workshop dedicated to the preparation of a report on human rights violations to be presented during the examination of Cameroon by the Universal Periodic Review that will take place in 2013 and participated in a consultation workshop with different stakeholders in view of preparing a report to be submitted by Cameroon to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. Furthermore, one Senior Indigenous Fellow from Canada and one Senior Minority Fellow from Lebanon undertook on-the-job training with the Indigenous Peoples and Minorities Section at headquarters in Geneva. Two other indigenous fellows, who had already received training in Geneva, visited OHCHR field presences in the Russian Federation and Guatemala to further increase their knowledge.

**Gender equality policy**

OHCHR was one of the eight UN pilot agencies, which led the development of common standards on gender mainstreaming applicable to the whole UN system - the UN System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (SWAP). After the successful endorsement of the SWAP by the Chief Executive Board for Coordination in April 2012, OHCHR committed to assist other UN agencies in meeting the standards related to gender equality policy development and organizational culture change towards more equality. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) was the first technical agency to solicit OHCHR assistance. At their request, the Office conducted a series of consultations and two workshops on gender integration, which laid the foundation for the ITU gender equality policy to be adopted in 2013. Following the two workshops, OHCHR advisors on gender integration were invited by the ITU Secretary General to brief and advise on measures to be taken by ITU to meet the SWAP requirements by 2013.
Women human rights defenders gained increased awareness about the UN conceptual framework on the protection of human rights defenders, including through analysis of the gender specific dimensions that affect women human rights defenders differently. OHCHR gathered together women human rights defenders from six countries of the MENA region (Bahrain, Egypt, Libya, Tunisia, Syria and Yemen) and UN representatives to enhance their understanding of the role and functions of these different stakeholders, with the aim of ensuring full protection of women human rights defenders in their work.

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

- To ensure that human rights are reflected in UN inter-agency post-2015 discussions, OHCHR produced a Think Piece on Human Rights and Post-2015 entitled *Towards Freedom from Fear and Want*, which resulted in the recommendation of the Secretary-General's Task Team on the Post-2015 Development Agenda to include human rights as one of three fundamental principles for the post-2015 agenda (along with equality and sustainability) in its June 2012 report, *Realizing the Future We Want for All*. In addition, OHCHR provided extensive research on measurement and accountability mechanisms for a new development framework which has resulted in a flagship publication, *Who will be accountable? Human Rights and the Post-2015 Development Agenda*, that will be released in March 2013.

- The UNGD has been tasked with facilitating 11 global thematic consultations on key issues and up to 100 national consultations to ensure a broad debate on the post-2015 agenda. OHCHR and UNDP are co-leading the global thematic consultations on governance, which include a number of regional outreach activities. Following two such regional meetings held in Manila and Dhaka, declarations were adopted that reaffirmed human rights standards and principles and received support from participating Member States, civil society and other human rights actors at the regional and national levels.

- In the lead-up to the Rio+20 UN Conference on Sustainable Development, OHCHR launched a campaign and urged all UN Member States to support the full integration of human rights into the Rio process. OHCHR actively participated by developing a position paper of the UN System High-level Task Force on Global Food Security, which articulated the right to food as a key element for achieving sustainable food systems. This contributed to the broad inclusion of key human rights provisions in the outcome document, *The Future We Want*. The outcome document reflected a strong focus on reducing inequalities, fostering inclusion and achieving justice, based explicitly upon international human rights standards and also emphasized the need to respect, protect and promote all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without discrimination of any kind.

- In September 2012, the General Assembly adopted a resolution to expand the mandate of the UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations to provide support for indigenous peoples to participate in the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples, including in the preparatory process. Throughout the year, 52 travel grants were awarded by the Fund for representatives of indigenous communities and organizations to participate in the sessions of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the sessions of the Human Rights Council and its UPR process, as well as sessions of the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Committee Against Torture (see also separate text on Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations).

- The OHCHR annual report to the Human Rights Council on the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights was devoted to the economic, social and cultural rights of women. The report offers conceptual guidance on the mutual reinforcement of human rights instruments – particularly the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women – in order to understand the scope of State Party obligations to ensure the full enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights by women.

- OHCHR contributed to information-sharing and awareness-raising on resources available worldwide to fight against racism and racial discrimination through the creation of a database on practical means, including special measures to combat racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. OHCHR prepared a compilation of contributions received from Member States and other stakeholders on experiences and best practices for combating racism through sport which will be included in the database. To date, over 600 different documents (international and regional instruments, national legislation, case law and examples of existing practices to combat racism)
have been included in the database which will be launched in 2013.

- OHCHR’s report to the Human Rights Council (March 2012) on participation in political and public life of persons with disabilities was the first of its kind to be made available in an easy-to-read format to ensure greater accessibility to persons with learning or intellectual disabilities.

- The Human Rights Council Social Forum marked the international day for older persons by including presentations on the active participation of older persons in development and globalization. This came about following OHCHR’s promotion of the rights of older persons. The Office facilitated the event in collaboration with the NGO Committee on Ageing and the Geneva City Council.

- Following the first panel discussion to “give voice to people living with and affected by HIV,” which was held under the auspices of the Human Rights Council, delegations acknowledged that human rights were central to the global HIV response and highlighted in particular the importance of sustainable financing options to ensure access to affordable treatment. At the event, people living with HIV and marginalized populations brought to light the wide array of human rights violations committed against individuals and communities affected by HIV.

- The centrality of human rights in the response to HIV/AIDS was further emphasized in the High Commissioner’s report on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of HIV/AIDS (A/HRC/19/37) which was submitted to the 19th session of the Human Rights Council.

- During the 19th session of the HRC (March 2012), approximately 25 Member States made interventions on both good practices and challenges to the implementation of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities. This came about following extensive outreach activities undertaken by the Office on the 20th anniversary of the Declaration, as well as a Panel organized by OHCHR on the “Implementation of the Declaration: achievements, best practices and challenges” focused on exchanging experiences related to effectively using the Declaration as an advocacy tool.

- The profile of emerging human rights issues faced by minorities and indigenous peoples was raised within the international community through four regional substantive anniversary events organized by OHCHR in Austria, Kyrgyzstan, Qatar and Thailand.

- OHCHR prepared a comprehensive publication entitled Promoting and Protecting Minority Rights - A Guide for Minority Rights Advocates to build the capacity of various stakeholders working on minority issues. The Guide offers information related to norms and mechanisms developed to protect the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities and the procedures and forums in which minority issues may be raised within the UN and regional systems.

- A study on indigenous languages and cultures was submitted to the Human Rights Council in September 2012. OHCHR provided substantive and other support to the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, including by co-organizing an Expert Seminar on Indigenous Languages and Cultures with the Brunel Law School in March 2012, which contributed to the study. At its 5th session in July 2012, the Expert Mechanism also completed a report on Indigenous Peoples and the Right to Participate in Decision-Making, with a Focus on Extractive Industries and undertook a survey of implementation strategies to attain the goals of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples.

- The Declaration on the rule of law at national and international levels, adopted by the General Assembly on 24 September, included numerous reaffirmations by Member States of their commitments to human rights and various key components of the rule of law. OHCHR contributed to this result through advocacy work and assistance to UN preparatory work.

- Progress towards the universal abolition of the death penalty has continued, spurred by OHCHR’s advocacy work. General Assembly resolution A/67/44 calling for a global moratorium on the death penalty, adopted in December 2012, received greater support from Member States than previous resolutions on the subject. To this end, OHCHR organized a global panel entitled, Moving away from the death penalty: lessons from national experiences, during which both the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner welcomed progress towards abolition and encouraged those Member States who still practice or legally authorize the death penalty to follow suit.

- OHCHR produced over 20 maps illustrating the ratification of core international human rights treaties and accreditation of NHRIs. The maps are available on the OHCHR website and a wide range of human rights actors welcomed this initiative as a means to increase the integration of human rights in national and international
In May 2012, the Committee on World Food Security, the main international and intergovernmental platform for food security and nutrition, adopted the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security. The Guidelines provide the first international guidance on the governance of land tenure adopted through the intergovernmental negotiations, with participation of civil society and the private sector. The Guidelines systematically reflect key international human rights standards throughout their guidance. OHCHR provided technical support throughout the intergovernmental negotiations to ensure the Guidelines were consistent with existing international human rights law.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

In February 2012, a new Strategy for the Deployment of Human Rights Advisers (HRAs) was endorsed by the UNDG. OHCHR and UNDP jointly developed the strategy, drawing from comments and inputs from many Resident Coordinators and UN agencies. This system-wide strategy strengthens human rights policy coherence and system-wide ownership of human rights advisers deployed by OHCHR at the request of Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams (UNCTs). Among other things, the strategy includes provision for enhanced support to HRAs from the UNDG, key criteria for effective HRA deployments, and regional support options to complement in-country HRAs. A total of 27 UNCTs have requested HRAs to date, a strong indicator of country-level demand.

The General Assembly resolution on the UN Quadrennial Comprehensive Policy Review (QCPR) contains two new provisions which explicitly support the UN’s efforts to strengthen links between its normative (including human rights) and operational work. This was the result of a common vision and advocacy strategy put forward by the United Nations Development Group Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism (UNDG-HRM), supported by OHCHR.

OHCHR and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) continued to co-chair the Inter-agency Review Group on the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP). During a review in July, significant progress was acknowledged in relation to dissemination and implementation of the policy, however, it also underlined the need for more guidance and the importance of engaging with external actors on the policy.

Advocacy and promotion activities around the HRDDP resulted in placing the policy at the centre of planning and reflections on UN strategies regarding major military and peacekeeping operations around the world, such as in Somalia and Mali, including some activities that are led by regional organizations. UN entities have applied the policy in a number of specific situations, developed guidelines and operating procedures and increasingly requested advice and support from OHCHR on policy implementation. OHCHR has, for example, provided advice to various peacekeeping missions that have applied the new policy, such as ONUCI (Côte d’Ivoire), UNMISS (South Sudan) and MONUSCO (DRC).

In a landmark development, and as a result of an OHCHR-led process with other parts of the UN Secretariat, the Secretary-General issued a Policy on Human Rights Screening of UN Personnel on 11 December 2012. This landmark document outlines the principles and procedures that must be applied in all recruitment and deployment processes to ensure that the UN does not select or deploy any individual who has been involved in violations of international human rights or humanitarian law.
The policy applies to all UN personnel in the Secretariat, including staff and non-staff, uniformed and civilian, and those in peace operations. While information on human rights conduct will be taken into account for all staff appointments, proactive checks of candidates’ records will be focused on senior appointments during the initial pilot phase. Within 12 months, there will be a review of its implementation and consideration will be given to broadening this screening to other levels and categories of appointments, including to the UN system as a whole.

- In the area of training, OHCHR reviewed and provided contents to the pre-deployment training course for Military Staff Officers and made progress on updating the Training Package for Military Peacekeepers. It updated the human rights pre-deployment training modules used by DPKO trainers for inductions of newly deployed mission civilian personnel in Brindisi, Italy. OHCHR also coordinated and supported the delivery of human rights training in DPKO courses organized for current and potential UN Senior Mission Leaders. Training was further delivered on human rights operations to the 300 military observers deployed to Syria under the United Nations Supervision Mission in Syria (UNSMIS), whose mandate was largely focused on the protection of human rights (i.e., release of detainees, holding of peaceful demonstrations). This training followed OHCHR’s provision of advice in relation to the UNSMIS concept of operation and was a particularly positive initiative due to the close collaboration between human rights and DPKO military trainers in designing the course which ensured mutually reinforcing messaging and tailoring priorities and contents.

- With respect to the integration of human rights in humanitarian action, OHCHR support to policy and guidance development in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC), including through participation at IASC Principals and IASC Working Group meetings, resulted in a strengthened emphasis of human rights in protocols developed in the context of humanitarian reform (the ‘transformative agenda’) on leadership, resilience and preparedness. For example, the Resident Coordinator/High Commissioner Handbook on Emergency Preparedness and Response was revised to better reflect the roles and expertise of human rights field presences in providing human rights analysis and support for advocacy efforts.

- OHCHR contributed to finalizing and disseminating the first UN Integrated Technical Guidance Notes (ITGNs) on Security Sector Reform which was launched on 10 December 2012 in New York. OHCHR participated in the Inter-Agency Security Sector Reform Task Force (IASSRTF) and its input contributed to ensuring that the guidance notes were grounded in international law and that human rights issues, including the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy, continue to be mainstreamed.

- Human rights analysis and proposals were developed to strengthen the Operational Risk Management Framework of the Global Fund to fight AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria. OHCHR was part of consultations that provided clear recommendations on the implementation of the Global Fund’s human rights strategy which included: (i) the adoption of a human rights policy; (ii) adoption of human rights performance indicators for human rights programming; and (iii) increasing human rights knowledge and capacity within the secretariat and governance structures.

- A UN Network on racial discrimination and the protection of minorities was established following a decision by the Secretary-General and will be coordinated by OHCHR. The objective of the network is to enhance dialogue and cooperation between relevant UN Departments, Agencies, Programmes and Funds. Bringing together over 20 UN entities, the Network held its first meetings in April and November to develop guidance for the UN system on how to address racial discrimination and protection of minorities in line with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other key standards and to review the content of relevant UN training initiatives with a view to ensuring they adequately cover issues concerning racial discrimination and national or ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities. The Network has already heightened the profile of minority rights in the UN system, including in connection with the 20th anniversary of the Declaration on the Rights of Minorities. The new Guidance Note on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities was approved by the Secretary-General in March 2013.

- The Office, in cooperation with the UN Department of Public Information, issued and disseminated a publication (in the six official UN languages) which included the political declaration on the 10th anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action and the outcome document of the Durban Review Conference. The publication is intended to serve as a public information and reference tool for Member States, UN system partners, students, non-governmental organizations and human rights practitioners.

- Implementation of the UN Indigenous Peoples’ Partnership (UNIPP) in 2012 began with six UN joint programmes in Bolivia, Cameroon, Central
In South-East Asia, the Asia Regional Preparatory As a member of the Inter-Agency Coordination OHCHR contributed to the operationalization The capacity of human rights components of

The final stages of drafting, validating and

On 18 December 2012, the Secretary-General's As a result of OHCHR's advocacy, human rights

OHCHR was one of eight UN pilot agencies which led the development of common standards on UN system-wide gender mainstreaming entitled *The UN System-Wide Action Plan on Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women* (SWAP). After the successful endorsement of the SWAP by the Chief Executive Board for Coordination in April 2012, OHCHR committed to assisting other UN agencies in meeting the standards related to gender equality policy development and change of the organizational culture towards more equality. The International Telecommunication Union (ITU) was the first technical agency to solicit OHCHR assistance. At ITU's request, the Office conducted a series of consultations and two workshops on gender integration which laid the foundation for the ITU gender equality policy, to be adopted in 2013.

On 18 December 2012, the Secretary-General’s Policy Committee held a discussion on *International Migration* co-led by OHCHR and the Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA). Following this discussion, the Policy Committee endorsed a set of human rights-based key messages on migration and decided that OHCHR would lead the 2013 preparation (in consultation with the GMG and the UN system) of a concise analytical report on migration and human rights which would specifically consider how attention to the rights of migrants can be strengthened within the governance framework of migration at the international level.

As a member of the Inter-Agency Coordination Group against Trafficking in Persons (ICAT) and the United Nations Global Initiative to Fight Human Trafficking (UNGIFT), OHCHR was successful in mainstreaming a human rights-based approach into the joint policy papers developed by ICAT. The first paper on the intersection between international and national legal regimes to combat trafficking was produced and the rights based-approach was identified as an essential component of the legal framework to combat trafficking in persons.

The final stages of drafting, validating and publishing a trainers guide on migration and human rights was delayed due to the decrease in extrabudgetary funding in 2012. The work on the guide is nevertheless planned to continue in 2013 with smaller resource requirements.

The capacity of human rights components of peace missions and OHCHR field presences to investigate, document and address sexual
violence was strengthened. OHCHR developed a two-day specialized course on monitoring and investigating conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). The training is aimed at strengthening the capacity of human rights officers to monitor, investigate and report on conflict-related sexual violence and contextualizes it to the mandate of the UN Security Council on conflict-related sexual violence. A pilot edition of the course was delivered in November 2012 in Juba, South Sudan, for human rights officers of UNMISS and staff working on CRSV at UNMISS and the UNCT.

Application of the human rights-based approach to implementation of Security Council resolutions 1888 and 1960 on women peace and security was strengthened. Through the Multi-Partner Trust Fund of UN Action, OHCHR, in cooperation with DPKO, the Office of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual violence in conflict (SRSG SVC) and other partners, obtained support for the deployment of Women Protection Advisors (WPAs) to the human rights components of Côte d’Ivoire and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC). OHCHR also seconded one staff member to serve as the Senior WPA in UNMISS and help the mission to establish the Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangements (MARA). In Angola, a WPA was deployed to the Office of the Resident Coordinator to assist the UN system in promoting follow-up to the commitments made by the Government during the visit of the former SRSG SVC in relation to sexual violence.

In DRC, in follow-up to the recommendations of the High-level Panel on Remedies and Reparations for Victims of Sexual Violence, OHCHR implemented five pilot initiatives to provide support to over 1,000 survivors of sexual violence in the areas of Bukavu and Shabunda. The five pilot projects focus on providing access to health care, psychological support, training and support for income generating activities, as well as assistance to ensure the reintegration of girl survivors in school. While the final reports from the projects and their results will not be complete until 2013, it is already known that OHCHR will have supported approximately 80 girl survivors of sexual violence to be enrolled in school by July 2013 as a result of the pilot initiatives.

OHCHR’s guide on human rights indicators

In the foreword to Human Rights Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, Navi Pillay, wrote, “The human rights journey from standard-setting to effective implementation depends, in large measure, on the availability of appropriate tools for policy formulation and evaluation. Indicators, both quantitative and qualitative are one such essential tool.”

“In recent years, the critical need for such tools has become increasingly evident,” Pillay says, recalling that just prior to the Arab uprisings, there were reports of “remarkable economic and social progress and general improvements in governance and the rule of law” being achieved in some countries in the region. At the same time, UN human rights bodies and civil society were reporting widespread deprivation of a range of fundamental human rights, she says. The popular uprisings and demonstrations witnessed in all regions of the world “compel us to review existing analytical, methodological and legal frameworks,” Pillay says, “to ensure that they integrate real attention to freedom from fear and want, and to discrimination; assess the extent of public participation in development and in the fair distribution of its benefits; strengthen accountability and embrace methods of empowering people, especially the most vulnerable and the most marginalized.”

Development of an OHCHR framework of indicators was initiated with the guidance of the international committees which assess implementation of human rights at country level. This process built on a multidisciplinary approach and involved consultations with a wide range of international and national human rights actors, including government agencies, national human rights institutions, statistics offices and civil society organizations.

The Guide will be of interest to human rights advocates as well as policymakers, development practitioners, statisticians and others who are working to make human rights a reality. It sets out a conceptual and methodological framework for human rights indicators recommended by international and national human rights mechanisms and used by a growing number of governmental and non-governmental actors. It provides concrete examples of indicators identified for a number of human rights originating from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other practical tools and illustrations, to support the realization of human rights at all levels.
Global Management Outputs

Integrating a gender perspective (GMO 3)

- In August, the High Commissioner adopted a two-year implementation plan of the Gender Equality Policy entitled, the *Gender Equality Strategic Plan 2012-2013*. This came about after consultations at headquarters with field presences and the UN system as a whole. The Strategic Plan contains 13 expected results with indicators, targets and actions, covering both the institutional functioning of the Office and substantive work. RRDD, in consultation with regional gender advisers and gender facilitators, produced tools and undertook the following activities: developed tailored language to integrate gender responsibilities in the personal appraisal system of all four OHCHR divisions and a number of field presences; analysed work plans and cost plan for 2013 from a gender perspective; and aligned the Strategic Plan indicators with the UN System-Wide Action Plan for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women with a view to achieving at least three of the six SWAP requirements by 2013.

- Due to the budget reduction for 2013, the Office had to freeze the Gender Advisor post in Fiji and put on hold a number of activities, including the training of Heads of field presence gender focal points and peace mission staff on gender integration.

Servicing human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

- Support was provided to:
  - The Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises in the first year of its mandate. This included supporting the Working Group in its engagement with the UN system and reporting obligations to the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly; engagement with other intergovernmental organizations, States, business and civil society on the dissemination and implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights; establishing its strategy and methods of work; conducting its first country visit (Mongolia, October 2012); and guiding the annual Forum on Business and Human Rights (4-5 December 2012).
  - The Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development (May).
  - The High-level Task Force on the implementation of the right to development.
  - The 2012 Social Forum of the Human Rights Council (October).
  - The Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity, including through the organization of an expert workshop as per HRC resolution 18/5, the expert’s visit to Brazil (the first country mission since the inception of the mandate in 2005) and several public statements and messages on the importance of international solidarity.
  - The Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, ensuring geographical representation and gender balance in its panels and contributing with the organization of an expert group meeting and the submission of an analytical paper to enhance an informed discussion on human rights issues.
  - The members of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in their engagement with activities associated with their work throughout the year, including attendance at the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights; UNESCO’s consultation about engagement with indigenous peoples; the UN Forum on Minority Issues; the Forum on Business and Human Rights and preliminary meetings associated with the organization of the World Conference on Indigenous Peoples. Through such contributions, the Expert Mechanism helped to enhance visibility of indigenous peoples’ rights in these fora, in particular their right to participate in decision-making.
  - The follow-up mechanisms established by the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA), i.e., the Ad Hoc Committee on the elaboration of complementary standards; the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the DDPA; and the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent.
  - The open-ended intergovernmental Working Group to consider the possibility of elaborating an international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies.

Skills and competencies (GMO 6)

- The Division continued to improve its human rights training activities. Throughout the year, it developed and disseminated a vast number of human rights education, training and capacity strengthening materials and provided ongoing support and advice to staff in the field and at headquarters, including through:
  - Designing, managing and delivering human rights training;
  - Training evaluation;
  - Human rights in humanitarian action;
• Human rights monitoring for staff supporting special procedures;
• Human rights monitoring for staff of the rapid deployment roster;
• Human rights monitoring for human rights officers of the Joint Human Rights Office of MONUSCO, DRC;
• Pilot course on monitoring conflict-related sexual violence for human rights officers and other relevant staff of UNMISS in Juba, South Sudan;
• Regional training course on report writing skills organized for human rights officers from selected field presences in Africa, including Entebbe and Uganda;
• Monitoring economic, social and cultural rights;

An office-wide taskforce developed detailed guidance for all staff, in particular field presences, to clarify and enhance human rights engagement in the context of electoral processes. Further, OHCHR has developed a comprehensive guidance note which will guide staff at headquarters and in the field to direct and reinforce their engagement on advancing the Responsibility to Protect.

Increased awareness of and support to OHCHR (GMO 7)

Over 115,000 printed OHCHR publications were distributed globally during 2012, most notably Fact Sheets, Training and Education Materials, Rule-of-Law tools and the Handbook for Civil Society. While many of these copies benefited external target audiences, they also served as training tools, advocacy and information materials to support the work of the Office’s field presences, including those based in Beirut, Cameroon, Kinshasa, Santiago de Chile and Tunis.

Readership feedback was sought via an office-wide survey directed at users, readers and drafters of these materials, with external feedback forthcoming in 2013. The analysis and results of these qualitative and quantitative feedback mechanisms will serve to rationalize the OHCHR publications programme, the classification of substantive publications, distribution methods and other publishing-related issues.

The new thematic publications produced during 2012 included:
• World Programme for Human Rights Education, Second Phase: Plan of Action (published jointly with UNESCO);
• Human Rights Education in Primary and Secondary School Systems: A Self-assessment Guide for Governments (published jointly with UNESCO);
• Women and the Right to Adequate Housing;
• Human Rights Indicators: A Guide for Measurement and Implementation;
• Born Free and Equal: Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity in International Human Rights Law.

OHCHR maintained a strong online presence by making all substantive publications available in electronic format and at no charge on the Office’s website.

With the addition of 13 translations of the Universal Declaration for Human Rights, the collection of translations has grown to 402 languages. All translations are posted on the OHCHR website: http://www.ohchr.org/en/udhr/pages/introduction.aspx.
Human Rights Treaties Division

Background

Function and role of the Division

The human rights treaty bodies are independent committees that have been established under the international human rights treaties. They are composed of experts serving in their personal capacity that are elected by States Parties. Treaty bodies monitor the implementation of human rights treaties through a system that requires the periodic review of reports submitted by States Parties to each treaty. All international core human rights treaties are supplemented by optional protocols or contain optional provisions that enable the committees to accept and consider individual complaints. The treaty bodies also issue recommendations to States Parties, adopt general comments on thematic issues and conduct inquiries regarding allegations of violations. One Committee undertakes visits to States Parties aimed at preventing torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment.

The Human Rights Treaties Division (HRTD) is responsible for implementing Subprogramme 2 of the Secretary-General’s Strategic Framework entitled Supporting human rights treaty bodies, developed to enhance the work of the 10 treaty bodies that are mandated to monitor the national-level implementation of the international human rights treaties.

The 10 treaty bodies comprise:

- The Human Rights Committee (HR Committee)
- The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR)
- The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD)
- The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
- The Committee against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT)
- The Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture (SPT)
- The Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
- The Committee on Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (CMW)
- The Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
- The Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED)

The Office also advises States Parties and other stakeholders and conducts training on reporting and the implementation of recommendations. The recommendations of the treaty bodies are used in many other areas of the Office’s work, including as background documentation for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), reference material for thematic research undertaken by OHCHR and to support the work of the special procedures and activities of OHCHR field presences.

Members of the Human Rights Committee brief the media on the conclusions of the Committee’s 104th session, March 2012.
In addition to supporting the treaty bodies, HRTD is responsible for:

- Continuously updating the Universal Human Rights Index (UHRI) (www.uhri.ohchr.org);
- Administering the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, the Voluntary Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery and the Special Fund under the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT);
- Reflecting the outputs of the treaty bodies in the documentation for the UPR;
- Promoting the continued improvement and harmonization of the work of the treaty bodies through the annual meeting of treaty body chairpersons and consistent follow-up with the individual treaty bodies.

**Developments in 2012**

Since 2004, the human rights treaty body system has doubled in size with the creation of four new treaty bodies (CMW, CRPD, SPT and CED) and three new procedures for individual complaints (CRPD, ICESCR and CRC). Up until 2000, only three treaty bodies were competent to address individual complaints. After the entry into force of the Optional Protocol to the CRC, article 77 of the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families and the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (OP-ICESCR), all treaty bodies (except for the SPT) will be enabled to receive individual communications — representing a significant step forward in improving human rights protection.

The addition of new members to the CRC, CMW, CRPD and the SPT committees brought the total number of treaty body experts in 2012 to 172 (versus 97 in 2000 and 125 at the beginning of 2010). The allocated meeting time of the treaty bodies has also increased (51 weeks in 2000 versus 72 weeks in 2010 and 74 weeks in 2012), and there are a number of pending requests before the General Assembly for additional meeting time.

In June, the consultative process on treaty body strengthening was finalized with the publication of the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights entitled Strengthening the Human Rights Treaty Body System (A/66/860). The consultative process was launched by the HC in November 2009, based on the mandate given to her by General Assembly resolution 48/141, and included the active participation of a wide range of stakeholders, including Member States, treaty body members, civil society organizations, United Nations agencies and national human rights institutions (NHRIs). The report presents a vision for an efficient, effective and timely treaty body system, building on the strengths of the system while also addressing its challenges, in particular insufficient resourcing.

On 23 February 2012, the General Assembly adopted resolution 66/254 which requested the President of the General Assembly to launch an open-ended intergovernmental process to conduct open, transparent and inclusive negotiations on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system. Two co-facilitators were appointed to assist in this process. The resolution also noted that the open-ended intergovernmental process should take into consideration the relevant proposals on strengthening and enhancing the effective functioning of the human rights treaty body system, including those contained in the reports of the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner’s report.

In order to promote a multi-stakeholder approach to this process, a civil society forum was held on 4 September 2012 in New York and, through video conference, in Geneva and was moderated by the co-facilitators of the intergovernmental process.

**Results**

**Ratification (EA 2)**

- In 2012, a total of 70 new ratifications and accessions were deposited with the Secretary-General (as opposed to 54 in 2011). This number includes the ratification of treaties, optional protocols and acceptance of articles relating to individual communication procedures. OHCHR advocates for the ratification of human rights treaties and the withdrawal of reservations through public statements by the
High Commissioner, press articles and bilateral meetings with governments and by highlighting recommendations and encouragements issued during the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) and by human rights treaty bodies and special procedures. These efforts contributed to Bolivia’s ratification and Burkina Faso’s signature of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

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

- HRTD continued to support the work of the 10 human rights treaty bodies, which met for a combined total of 74 weeks. The treaty bodies with a State Party reporting procedure received a total of 107 State Party reports, including 17 common core documents.
- The treaty bodies adopted concluding observations on approximately 130 State Parties. In addition, the committees of CAT, CEDAW, CERD and the Human Rights Committee examined and adopted final decisions on 140 communications and issued close to 50 requests for interim measures of protection for alleged victims at risk of irreparable harm.
- Through capacity-building activities, HRTD contributed to increased reporting by States Parties under the international human rights treaties. Support from OHCHR included training sessions requested by States Parties on the common core document and treaty specific guidelines, reporting, individual communications and follow-up to recommendations and were carried out in: Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Chad, Ecuador, Georgia (regional workshop), Kyrgyzstan (regional workshop), Morocco (regional workshop), Seychelles, Swaziland, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Tunisia and Vietnam. Participants included government officials, representatives of National Human Rights Institutions and civil society organizations and colleagues of United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs).
- Following Swaziland’s request for technical assistance in discharging its reporting obligations and discussions in the context of Swaziland’s review by the UPR Working Group in October 2011, HRTD, in collaboration with the UNCT, held a three-day training workshop (31 January to 2 February 2012) on reporting under the ICCPR and ICESCR. At the end of the workshop, participants adopted a roadmap for reporting under a treaty, a copy of which was submitted to the Minister of Justice.
- The SPT carried out five country visits to Argentina, Honduras, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova and Senegal. OHCHR provides substantive and organizational secretariat support to the Subcommittee during country visits.

- OHCHR and Microsoft developed a Memorandum of Understanding to report on the potential for videoconferencing the sessions of the treaty bodies, primarily the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, with the aim of assessing the accessibility of committee meetings and improving accessibility processes and practices at Palais Wilson and Palais des Nations. The Accessibility team consists of representatives from Microsoft, OHCHR, UNOG, Middlesex University (professors qualified in research and development of accessibility practices) and AbilityNet (a UK based national charity helping disabled adults and children use computers and the internet by adapting and adjusting technology). It is anticipated that this analysis will contribute to increased awareness among units and departments in Geneva servicing CRPD meetings, and other meetings attended by persons with disabilities, regarding challenges and opportunities related to accessibility to physical premises, information, communication and technology.

**Civil Society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)**

- Engagement of civil society and other stakeholders with the treaty bodies is well established. The treaty bodies receive over
On 6 March, OHCHR officially launched the upgraded Universal Human Rights Index. The Index now allows for the retrieval of specific recommendations and full documents issued by the treaty bodies, the special procedures and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process. It therefore facilitates access to information and enables users to consider recommendations coming from the three pillars of the UN human rights system and cluster them by thematic issues and groups of persons affected. The UHRI database was first launched in 2006 and is now under the stewardship of OHCHR. This upgrade and redesign was undertaken in 2012 to promote the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to all recommendations issued by the UN human rights mechanisms. Accessibility to the database has been improved, including for persons with disabilities, and new functionalities have been developed.

International and regional laws and institutions (EA 8)

OHCHR supports the progressive development of international human rights law, notably through studies and consultations and by supporting human rights mechanisms in elaborating guiding principles and general comments. General comments adopted by treaty bodies are authoritative statements that provide States Parties with detailed and expert clarification of treaty provisions in order to enhance their understanding of treaty provisions and assist them in the implementation of their treaty obligations.

To elaborate the General Recommendation on women in conflict and post-conflict situations, the CEDAW Committee held four regional consultations with the support of OHCHR and UN Women. The purpose of the General Recommendation is to provide appropriate and authoritative guidance to States Parties to the Convention on the measures to be adopted to ensure full compliance with their obligations to respect, protect and fulfil women’s human rights during times of conflict and in all peace-building processes, including in the immediate aftermath of conflict and throughout long-term post-conflict reconstruction. The

consultations took place in Bangkok (27-28 March 2012), Addis Ababa (12-13 April 2012), Istanbul (11 May 2012), and Guatemala (29-30 May 2012). First-hand information was thus obtained from a variety of regional stakeholders from Africa, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, Latin America and South-East Asia and the Pacific to ensure that the General Recommendation accurately reflects women’s realities on the ground. The participants included regional experts, government authorities, academics, activists and representatives of national women’s machineries and national human rights institutions, as well as UN agencies.

The CERD Committee held a day of general discussion focusing on the theme of Racist Hate Speech on 28 August 2012. The discussion aimed at enhancing the understanding of the causes and consequences of racist hate speech and will assist the Committee on the possible preparation of a general recommendation.

The CRC Committee held a day of general discussion on the theme of The rights of all children in the context of international migration on 28 September 2012. Participants stressed that in the context of migration, all children, regardless of their immigration status, should be treated as children first and foremost, highlighted the numerous challenges faced by children in international migration situations and identified measures for protection and promotion of children’s rights.

The Human Rights Committee held a day of general discussion on 25 October 2012 in preparation for a new General Comment on article 9 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on the right to liberty and security of persons.

The CAT adopted its General Comment No. 3 on the implementation of article 14 by States Parties on 19 November 2012. It explains and clarifies the content and scope of State Party obligations with regard to providing redress for victims of torture.

The CMW drafted its General Comment No. 2 on the rights of migrant workers in an irregular situation and members of their families. The draft was posted on the CMW website to invite relevant stakeholders to submit their comments and observations by the end of January 2013.

During its 48th session, the CECR Committee endorsed the text of an Open Letter by the Chair addressed to all States Parties of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, in relation to the protection of the Covenant rights in the context of the economic and financial crisis. The letter stressed that, in accordance with their obligations under the Covenant, States Parties should at all times avoid...
taking decisions which might lead to the denial or infringement of economic, social and cultural rights. It highlighted that the Covenant provides important guideposts which can help States Parties adopt appropriate policies in the context of an economic downturn while also respecting economic, social and cultural rights.

Also during its 48th session, the CESCRI Committee adopted a statement on the 

Green Economy in the Context of Sustainable Development and Poverty Eradication

in anticipation of the Rio+20 Conference. In the statement, the Committee emphasized the need to integrate the green economy within the broader concept of sustainable development in light of its close linkages with economic, social and cultural rights.

The CEDAW Committee adopted a statement on 24 July 2012 during its 52nd meeting on the need for a gender perspective in the Arms Trade Treaty. The Committee recalled that the arms trade has specific gender dimensions and direct links to discrimination and gender-based violence against women with far-reaching implications for efforts to consolidate peace and to ensure security, gender equality and development.

The CEDAW Committee also adopted a statement on girls’ right to education, during its 53rd meeting, in October 2012, which indicated that illiteracy continues to be a feminized phenomenon. The Committee called on States Parties to take all necessary actions, including the dismantling of patriarchal barriers and entrenched gender stereotypes, to guarantee and ensure that girls are able to enjoy their basic human right to education in every region of the world.

On 30 November 2012, during its 49th session, the CESCRI Committee endorsed the text of an open letter by the Chair on behalf of the Committee to all States parties to the Covenant, in respect of the elaboration of the United Nations’ post-2015 development agenda. The letter underlined the importance of the link between the post-2015 development agenda and human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights. It considered that linking development with human rights will enhance equality and development-for-all, while reducing social and political tensions driven by deprivation, discrimination and inequality.

Participants at the final expert workshop on the prohibition of incitement to hatred, held in Rabat, Morocco, adopted the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence. The Plan of Action contains recommendations to better guide all stakeholders in implementing the international prohibition of incitement to national, racial or religious hatred. This event, organized by OHCHR with the support of the Kingdom of Morocco on 4-5 October 2012, was the culmination of a two-year initiative and series of expert workshops held in various regions of the world.

Coherence among human rights mechanisms (EA 9)

OHCHR organized a consultation on the treaty body strengthening process on 7-8 February 2012. This followed requests from a large number of States to provide more time for the discussions that were initiated during the previous consultation with States in Sion (Switzerland), in May 2011. A similar event was organized in New York on 2-3 April 2012.

In June 2012, the High Commissioner released her report on the treaty body strengthening process.

The consultations for States Parties on the strengthening of the human rights treaty bodies, held in New York from 16 to 18 July 2012, marked the beginning of the intergovernmental process established by General Assembly resolution 66/254.

The meeting was structured around four main themes: the master calendar; working methods (including the independence of treaty bodies); the reporting process and the capacity to implement. The financial aspect was a cross-cutting issue discussed in each of the four segments.

A civil society forum on treaty body strengthening was held at the United Nations in New York and, through video conference, in Geneva, on 4 September 2012. The meeting was moderated by the co-facilitators of the treaty body strengthening process and enjoyed the participation of 63 civil society organizations.
Overall, the treaty body strengthening process and the subsequent report issued by the High Commissioner significantly increased the awareness of Member States about the dire situation of the treaty body system which has doubled in size in less than a decade with no matching funding. In 2012, the committees of CESCR, CRC, CAT and CRPD requested the General Assembly to increase their support in order to address the overwhelming backlog of State Party reports and individual communications.

All treaty bodies welcomed the report of the High Commissioner and are considering its numerous proposals. At the annual Meeting of Chairpersons of the human rights treaty bodies held in Addis Ababa (25-29 June 2012), the Chairpersons endorsed the Addis Ababa guidelines on the independence and impartiality of members of treaty bodies. The committees of CRPD, CRC and the SPT have subsequently decided to incorporate the guidelines into their rules of procedures.

The first high-level meeting between judges of the European Court of Human Rights and members of the Human Rights Committee took place in Strasbourg on 29 June 2012 as part of an ongoing effort to strengthen cooperation between the treaty bodies and the European Court, and their respective secretariats. Participants discussed interim measures of protection, prohibition of discrimination as an independent right, disappearances, investigative obligations and recent case law on freedom of religion.

The annual Meeting of Chairpersons was organized outside of Geneva for a second time. Following the 22nd meeting, which was held in Brussels, Belgium in 2010, the 24th meeting was held in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia in June 2012. The annual meeting will now be organized every other year in a different region to strengthen synergies between international and regional human rights mechanisms and stakeholders and enhance accessibility and visibility of the treaty bodies, particularly through meetings with civil society. The 2012 meeting facilitated interaction between the Chairpersons and the African human rights mechanisms, namely the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, the Committee of Experts on the Rights and Welfare of the Child, the African Peer Review Mechanism, the African Court on Human and Peoples’ Rights, the East African Court of Justice, and the ECOWAS Court of Justice, as well as United Nations agencies, national human rights institutions and civil society organizations. The Chairpersons adopted joint recommendations that each treaty body strengthen cooperation with the African human rights mechanisms and stakeholders. The joint recommendations will be annexed to the Chairpersons’ report to the 67th session of the General Assembly.
Global Management Outputs

Integrating a gender perspective (GMO 3)
- HRTD ensures that all staff members are fully aware of the Gender Equality Policy, as approved by the High Commissioner in September 2011 through regular sensitization. The Division continued to review recommendations by consultants and the Division focal point on mainstreaming gender in treaty body work, assisted in office-wide elaboration of a gender strategy in relation to treaty bodies, implemented relevant parts of the strategy and trained staff on this implementation. Specifically in relation to the treaty bodies, the Division aimed to integrate a gender perspective in the secretariat inputs into the work of the treaty bodies to ensure that it is reflected in their outputs, such as lists of issues and concluding observations.
- HRTD supported the CEDAW Committee in its elaboration of a General Recommendation on women in conflict and post-conflict situations by holding four regional consultations. The General Recommendation will provide appropriate and authoritative guidance to States Parties to the Convention on the measures to be adopted to ensure full compliance with their obligations to respect, protect and fulfil women’s human rights during times of conflict and in all peace-building processes, including in the immediate aftermath of conflict and throughout long-term post-conflict reconstruction.

Servicing human rights mechanisms (GMO4)
- A questionnaire was sent to solicit feedback from treaty body members on the servicing and support it receives from OHCHR in relation to all treaty body activities. The results showed that 83.7 per cent of respondents rated the secretariat’s overall support as either satisfactory or very satisfactory (the target was 60 per cent). It also demonstrated unanimous satisfaction with the support of the Secretariat in terms of accessibility for persons with disabilities. At the same time, respondents sent a clear message (81.6 per cent of respondents) that the treaty body system is in urgent need of additional resources.
- HRTD continued to publish quarterly newsletters that were shared with all treaty body experts, special procedure mandate-holders, Member States, NHRRs, United Nations partners and civil society. HRTD also updated training materials and shared weekly updates with treaty body experts so that each committee is aware of the work of the other nine committees. Numerous stakeholders acknowledged the usefulness of these tools which are essential to ensuring the efficiency and coherence of the treaty body system.
- HRTD continued to improve its working methods to better support the work of the treaty bodies. Following the interdivisional retreat in September 2010, the Division undertook efforts to promote more effective joint planning and the increased visibility of the calendar of upcoming State Party reviews. HRTD continued to focus on increased

Expert workshop adopts Plan of Action on the prohibition of incitement to national, racial or religious hatred

In 2011, OHCHR held a series of regional expert workshops on the prohibition of incitement to national, racial or religious hatred which aimed at providing a better understanding of legislative patterns, judicial practices and policies in this area and illustrated human rights compatible responses to such important issues. On 4 and 5 October 2012, OHCHR organized a wrap-up expert meeting in Rabat, Morocco, which marked the culmination of this process. The Rabat event brought together the conclusions and recommendations from the earlier expert workshops and resulted in the adoption of a Plan of Action by the experts.

The Rabat Plan of Action is part of an effort to provide all stakeholders with practical recommendations and tools to effectively reflect the international prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence (as outlined in article 20 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights) while fully respecting the freedom of expression. It has the potential to facilitate intergovernmental discussions and initiatives in this regard and can also bolster the implementation of relevant international human rights law at the national level. Among the key factors identified in the Rabat Plan of Action are the collective responsibility of public officials, religious and community leaders, the media and individuals and the need to nurture social consciousness, tolerance, mutual respect and intercultural dialogue. The Plan of Action also contains a six-part threshold test for expressions which are criminally prohibited.
engagement with other divisions in support of the treaty bodies and systematically evaluated its cooperation with other divisions prior to, during and in the follow up to treaty body sessions. The Division also initiated the collection of statistics on its interactions with OHCHR field presences, geographic desk officers, and UNCTs. The collection of this information helped in evaluating the level of synergy between OHCHR Divisions and its impact on treaty body work. The pilot project, currently undertaken by four committees, will be extended to all in 2013. The Division drafted and shared a checklist with the geographic division in OHCHR to assist staff in enhancing their interaction with treaty bodies and HRTD.

Supporting field operations (GMO5)

- HRTD took advantage of the Office’s annual planning week held in October 2012 to interact with field presences and stimulate synergies between the work of field presences and the output of human rights mechanisms. The Division’s regional and thematic focal points regularly interacted with other parts of the Office to provide treaty body relevant expertise and ensure the integration of a treaty body perspective.

Increased awareness of and support to OHCHR (GMO 7)

- Increased awareness, understanding and visibility of the regular work of treaty bodies among Member States, UN partners, NHRIs and civil society organizations was ensured through the organization of 40 briefings on treaty bodies and reporting on the work of the Office. The briefings were targeted to a wide range of actors, such as State Party representatives, regional organizations and mechanisms, civil society organizations, lawyers, academics and students. The briefings included sessions on improved media training and coaching for treaty bodies and the use of Twitter and Facebook to share all meeting summaries and concluding observations of the treaty bodies to ensure greater accessibility of their recommendations and to contribute to their follow-up and implementation.


### Treaty bodies in figures

- 9 core international human rights treaties
- 10 treaty bodies
- 70 new ratifications and accessions in 2012
- 125 State Party reports considered annually
- 320 reports pending consideration at the end of 2012
- Around 15,000 pages of documentation processed annually (State Party reports, lists of issues, concluding observations, views and decisions)
- Approximately 7,000 recommendations adopted annually
- Adopted final decisions on nearly 140 communications
- 74 weeks in session
- 172 treaty body experts as of 2012, versus 162 at the end of 2010

### Anniversaries marked in 2012

- On 30 October 2012, the Committee on Enforced Disappearances marked the 20th anniversary of the Declaration on the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance by participating in an event organized by the Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances to explore best practices and challenges to protect women from enforced disappearances.

- The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, in partnership with the Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie, held a high-level panel discussion entitled *Promoting and protecting women’s rights in situations of conflict and post-conflict: the case of French-speaking Africa* to mark the 30th anniversary of the Committee, on 18 October 2012. Discussions focused on experiences in Francophone Africa, as well as future prospects for the promotion and protection of women’s rights to reinforce peace.

- CEDAW held a panel discussion on Women’s Political Participation and Leadership, to mark the 30th anniversary of its establishment, on 9 July 2012.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Treaty body</th>
<th>No. of States Parties</th>
<th>No. of weeks in session annually</th>
<th>Periodicity of obligation to report</th>
<th>Reviews, reports and issues recommendations to States Parties</th>
<th>Considers individual complaints</th>
<th>Conducts visits to countries</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>CESCR</td>
<td>160</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>Articles 16-17 Number of reports examined per year: 10 Number of reports pending examination: 49 (estimated backlog of nearly four years)</td>
<td>Optional Protocol (not yet entered into force)</td>
<td>Article 11 Optional Protocol Confidential inquiries on systematic violations (not yet entered into force)</td>
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<td>HR Committee</td>
<td>167</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>3, 4 or 5 years as per Committee’s decision</td>
<td>Article 40 Number of reports examined per year: 15 Number of reports pending examination: 32 (estimated backlog of nearly two years)</td>
<td>Optional Protocol Number of registered communications pending examination: 360 Average time between registration and final decision on merits: 3½ years</td>
<td>No</td>
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<tr>
<td>CERD</td>
<td>175</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>2 years</td>
<td>Article 9 Number of reports examined per year: 22 Number of reports pending examination: 22 (estimated backlog of less than one year)</td>
<td>Article 14 Number of registered communications pending examination: 6 Average time between registration and final decision on merits: 1½ years</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
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<td>187</td>
<td>14</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>Article 18 Number of reports examined per year: 20 Number of reports pending examination: 48 (estimated backlog of two years)</td>
<td>Optional Protocol Number of registered communications pending examination: 17 Average time between registration and final decision on merits: 2 years</td>
<td>Articles 8-10 Optional Protocol Confidential inquiries on systematic violations</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRC</td>
<td>193 OP-AC 150 OP-SC 162</td>
<td>12</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>Article 44 Number of reports examined per year: 30 (including OPAC and OPSC reports) Number of reports pending examination: 107 (including OPAC/OPSC reports) (estimated backlog of over three years)</td>
<td>Optional Protocol (not yet entered into force)</td>
<td>Articles 13-14 Optional Protocol Confidential inquiries on systematic violations (not yet entered into force)</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAT</td>
<td>153</td>
<td>8</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>Article 19 Number of reports examined per year: 17 Number of reports pending examination: 24 (estimated backlog of nearly two years)</td>
<td>Article 22 Number of registered communications pending examination: 100 Average time between registration and final decision on merits: 2½ years</td>
<td>Article 20 Confidential inquiries on systematic violations</td>
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<tr>
<td>SPT</td>
<td>65</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>N/A</td>
<td>Articles 11-16 Subcommittee visits places of deprivation of liberty and communicates its recommendations by confidential report</td>
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<tr>
<td>Treaty body</td>
<td>No. of States Parties</td>
<td>No. of weeks in session annually</td>
<td>Periodicity of obligation to report</td>
<td>Reviews, reports and issues recommendations to States Parties</td>
<td>Considers individual complaints</td>
<td>Conducts visits to countries</td>
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<tr>
<td>CMW</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>5 years</td>
<td>Articles 73-74 Number of reports examined per year: 4 Number of reports pending examination: 5 (estimated backlog of one year)</td>
<td>Article 77 (not yet entered into force)</td>
<td>No</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CRPD</td>
<td>126</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>4 years</td>
<td>Articles 35-36 Number of reports examined per year: 4 Number of reports pending examination: 32 (estimated backlog of 8 years)</td>
<td>Optional Protocol Number of registered communications pending examination: 7 Average time between registration and final decision: N/A (Committee has yet to adopt its first decision)</td>
<td>Article 6 Optional Protocol Confidential inquiries on systematic violations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CED</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>As per Committee’s decision</td>
<td>Article 29 Number of reports examined per year: 0 in 2012 Number of reports pending examination: 1</td>
<td>Article 31</td>
<td>Article 33 Visit on serious violations</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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.

Refugees at Yida refugee camp in South Sudan’s Unity State queue for hours for food.
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 international law committed during the conflict.

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**In the Europe and Central Asia (ECA) region,** representatives from various ministries, NHRI 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 NHRI participated in the treaty body review of their respective countries by submitting alternative reports, briefing treaty bodies and/ or attending the sessions. Nineteen NHRI (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 NHRI 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 NHRI 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 NHRI and the UPR, the treaty bodies and the special procedures, resulting in improved knowledge by NHRI 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 commited 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 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.
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.
Human Rights Council and Special Procedures Division

Background

The Human Rights Council (HRC) is an intergovernmental body comprising 47 Member States, elected by the General Assembly for a three-year period, that is responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe. It was established by and is a subsidiary body of the General Assembly. The Council meets in Geneva for three regular sessions a year and may hold special sessions as needed to address specific human rights issues or situations of concern. It takes action on human rights situations, develops international standards and discusses emerging trends.

Special procedures are mechanisms established by the HRC to address thematic human rights issues and the human rights situations in specific countries. Mandate-holders examine, advise and publicly report on human rights situations in specific countries or territories (country mandates) or major human rights issues (thematic mandates) through active engagement with States, individuals and civil society organizations. Special procedures conduct country visits, send communications to States about human rights issues and individual cases, undertake awareness-raising activities, contribute to the development of human rights standards, undertake thematic studies and provide advisory services and outreach to civil society. All special procedures mandate-holders report to the HRC on their findings and recommendations and, when mandated, to the General Assembly. During 2012, the Council established three new special procedures mandates: an Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations related to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment and two new country mandates, created to address the situation in Belarus and in Eritrea. By December...
2012, there were a total of 48 special procedures mandates (36 thematic mandates and 12 mandates relating to counties and territories). By the end of the year, 92 States had issued standing invitations for special procedures to undertake visits (increased from 90 at the end of 2011). By December 2012, special procedures conducted 80 country visits and issued a total of 603 communications (75 per cent of which were issued jointly by two or more mandate-holders) to 127 different countries and territories. The response rate by States to special procedures’ communications remains low at approximately 40 per cent.

The High Commissioner is mandated by the General Assembly to provide substantive support to the principal Charter-based organs in the field of human rights, namely the HRC and its special procedures and other subsidiary mechanisms; its expert advice body, the Advisory Committee; the UPR; the two Working Groups established under the Council’s Complaint Procedure (on Communications and on Situations) and the Consultative Group. The Human Rights Council and Special Procedures Division, which works directly with the Council, is composed of an Office of the Director, the Human Rights Council Branch (HRCB) and the Special Procedures Branch (SPB). HRCB provides substantive support and advice to the HRC and its subsidiary mechanisms as well as advice to other divisions of OHCHR. The SPB provides dedicated substantive and logistical support to the activities of the thematic mandates and the Forum on Minority Issues. The Branch also provides overall support to the system of special procedures, including to the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures.

Results

The following results were achieved following key interventions by the HRC and its mechanisms, with the support of OHCHR.

National laws, policies and institutions (EA 1)

- On 13 December 2012, a judgment issued by the Grand Chamber of the European Court of Human Rights on the case of El Masri v. the Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia (Application no. 39630/09, at para. 123) made reference to the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention’s Opinion 29/2006 (United States of America, UN Doc. A/HRC/4/40/Add.1 at para. 103) concerning Mr. Ibn al-Shaykh al-Libi and 25 other persons. Reference was made to the Working Group’s statement that “the detention of the persons concerned, held in facilities run by the United States secret services or transferred, often by secretly run flights, to detention centres in countries with which the United States authorities cooperated in their fight against international terrorism, fell outside all national and international legal regimes pertaining to the safeguards against arbitrary detention. In addition, it found that the secrecy surrounding the detention and inter-State transfer of suspected terrorists could expose the persons affected to torture, forced disappearance and extrajudicial killing.” With the support of OHCHR, the Working Group established a database in 2011 which contains over 600 Opinions it has adopted, making them available to stakeholders and the general public and contributing to the visibility of the mandate.

- The Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants has engaged closely with the European Union (EU) and undertook country visits to Greece, Italy, Tunisia and Turkey in relation to a study on the management of the external borders of the EU and its impact on the human rights of migrants. The Special Rapporteur will present a thematic report on this issue to the Human Rights Council’s 23rd session in 2013 and is hopeful that the report will raise awareness and assist both the EU institutions and the EU Member States in ensuring that their migration policies and practices take full account of the human rights of migrants.

- With regard to a number of cases of individuals, urgent appeals sent to governments by the Special Rapporteur on summary executions resulted in their lives being saved. Among these was an urgent appeal sent on 5 June 2012 to the Government of the United States of America regarding the case of Mr. Abdul Hamin Awkal, a Lebanese national alleged to be mentally ill, and reportedly scheduled for imminent execution on 6 June 2012, in the State of Ohio. Media reports indicate that Mr. Awkal was not executed on 6 June after the Governor of Ohio granted a last-minute reprieve on the evening of 5 June 2012. The reprieve was granted for two weeks to provide time to examine Mr. Awkal’s state of mental health. In the summer of 2012, the Governor of Ohio commuted the death sentence of Mr. Awkal. In Iran, Ms. Sakineh Mohammadi-Ashtiani, sentenced to death for alleged adultery and participation in the murder of her husband, was the subject of several Urgent Appeals in 2010. In July 2012, the Government of Iran informed the Special Rapporteur that, on orders from the Chief of the Judiciary, the execution of Ms. Ashtiani was halted.

- On 30 August 2012, the Working Group on Arbitrary Detention adopted Opinion No. 33/2012...
In January 2012, the Special Rapporteurs on the
Following the visit of the Special Rapporteur on
In May 2010, the Special Rapporteur on the
The Special Rapporteur on the human rights of
Following the visit of the Special Rapporteur
On 5 and 6 March 2012, the Special Rapporteur
On 20 October 2012, the Island of Jersey adopted
On 12 October 2012, the Special Rapporteurs on

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

- On 5 and 6 March 2012, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples met with indigenous representatives and representatives of the Congress of Peru on the principle of free, prior and informed consent in the context of extractive industries. His intervention helped to provide guidance on the principle of consultation and consent with indigenous peoples and addressed concerns regarding a draft regulation on consultation with indigenous peoples, which was subsequently adopted by the Government of Peru.

- Following the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography to Honduras from 30 August to 7 September 2012, the Government adopted a law in November 2012 to review all legislation relating to child protection in order to harmonize it with international standards and improve child protection.

- The Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons actively engaged with the Government of Kenya and other national stakeholders on the development of a national framework on internal displacement. The mandate contributed to the development of a national policy as well as a national bill on internally displaced persons, which was passed by Parliament and is awaiting presidential assent.

- On 12 October 2012, the Special Rapporteurs on the rights of indigenous peoples, on the situation of human rights defenders, on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, and on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, sent a letter to the Government of Guatemala and issued a press release urging it to clarify the violent events that occurred on 4 October 2012 in the Cumbre de Alaska, municipality of Santa Catarina Ixtahuacán, Sololá. During these events, six indigenous peoples were killed and 33 indigenous peoples and campaign launched by the UN Secretary-General to promote the universal ratification of the first two Optional Protocols to the Convention of the Rights of the Child by 2012, with the joint support of the Special Representatives on Violence against Children and for Children and Armed Conflict, and the Committee on the Rights of the Child, in cooperation with UNICEF and OHCHR. During the campaign, 24 States ratified the Optional Protocol on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, bringing the total number of States Parties to 162 by the end of 2012.

**Ratification (EA 2)**

- In May 2010, the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography contributed to a two-year global
13 members of the military were injured. In part as a result of this intervention, the Prosecutor’s Office is investigating the acts, resulting in the arrests of several members of the Guatemalan military.

On 22 August 2012, the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples issued a press release calling on the Government of the United States of America and authorities in the state of South Dakota to promote consultations with indigenous people regarding the pending sale of five tracts of land in the Black Hills area in South Dakota. The lands lie within a site that is sacred to the Lakota and Dakota people, known as Pe’Sla. Following the issue of the press release, the land sale was cancelled and a campaign was launched to raise funds that would enable the indigenous community to purchase these lands of cultural and religious significance to them. It is unclear why the auction was cancelled, however media reports suggest that it may have been the result of the massive public awareness campaign, including the Special Rapporteur’s press release. A version of the Special Rapporteur’s press release made public on twitter was re-tweeted over 1,000,000 times.

In a public statement on International Day of World’s Indigenous Peoples, the President of Colombia referred positively to the press release issued by the Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples regarding the situation in Cauca, agreed that the situation was serious, and supported the call for dialogue requested by the Special Rapporteur. The statement made by the Special Rapporteur on International Day of the World’s Indigenous Peoples was featured on the UN website, along with other stories about the day.

The Special Rapporteur on torture conducted a follow-up country visit to Kyrgyzstan in May 2012 to participate in a roundtable meeting on torture prevention in Kyrgyzstan. The meeting concerned the implementation of recommendations contained in his report on his mission to Kyrgyzstan and was attended by Government officials. Following the visit, an Action Plan on Prevention of Torture (based on the Rapporteur’s recommendations) was prepared by OHCHR at the request of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the General Prosecutor’s Office has indicated it will take the lead on implementing it once it has been adopted by the Office of the President.

Following the visit of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders to Tunisia (27 September- 5 October 2012), conducted jointly with the Special Rapporteur on human rights defenders of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights, the Government announced on 17 October 2012 its decision to implement Decree Laws 115 and 116 concerning, respectively, freedom of the press, printing and publishing, and freedom of broadcasting and the establishment of an independent broadcasting authority. The two Special Rapporteurs had recommended in their end-of-mission statement that the Government implement the two decree laws. The Interim President signed these decrees into law on 2 November 2011, shortly before the new Government took office, in order to strengthen freedom of expression and dialogue between the Government and journalists and media workers.

Members of both chambers in the California State Assembly and Senate repeatedly referred to the country mission report of the Special Rapporteur on the right to water and sanitation (who visited the United States of America in 2011) when debating the adoption of Bill 685 on 25 September 2012. The legislation was subsequently adopted and established the right of everyone in the State of California to safe, clean, affordable and accessible water, adequate for human needs.

The Special Rapporteurs on the right to adequate housing and on extreme poverty welcomed the decision of the Constitutional Court of Hungary to strike down new legislation that both experts had indicated in an urgent appeal and a subsequent public statement in February 2012 would “criminalize homelessness.”

The Special Rapporteurs on racism, freedom of peaceful assembly and association, health, human rights defenders, independence of judges and lawyers, and torture and the Working Group on arbitrary detention sent a joint urgent appeal on 8 June 2012 that resulted in the decision from
the Attorney General’s Prosecution Office in Sudan to release a human rights defender who was a member of an organization that provided humanitarian assistance to the ethnic group to which he belonged.

▶ In 2012, a significant legislative reform came into force on enforced disappearances in the State of Nuevo Leon, Mexico. The reforms to the Penal Code stipulated that disappearance was a specific offense and a continuous crime, in line with one of the recommendations of the Working Group on Enforced and Involuntary Disappearances following its official visit to Mexico in March 2011. Other important elements introduced by the reform related to the exclusion of the application of amnesty laws or similar provisions to enforced disappearances and the imprescriptibility of the crime.

▶ The first cycle of UPR was completed at the 19th session of the Human Rights Council held in March 2012, with 100 per cent participation and reporting by all 192 Member States. The second cycle of UPR began in 2012, and 28 Member States submitted information and participated in the sessions of the Working Group.

Civil society engagement with human rights mechanisms (EA 7)

▶ The Secretary-General’s report to the Human Rights Council on reprisals against persons who have cooperated with the UN and human rights mechanisms was submitted to the HRC at its 21st session. The report contained information on cases of reprisals which were documented and corroborated through multiple sources and assessed for reliability and consistency. The report was discussed at a panel of the HRC on the issue of intimidation or fear of reprisals. During the discussion, proposals were made for concrete measures to improve protection of persons who cooperate with the UN and related human rights mechanisms.

▶ A Practical Guide for Civil Society was made available on the website and during sessions of the UPR Working Group to clarify its processes and procedures. At the 21st session of the HRC, non-governmental organizations (NGOs) were able to intervene by video message during the adoption of UPR outcomes. This means of enhancing the participation of civil society actors was one of the recommendations of the report of the Task Force on secretariat services, accessibility for persons with disabilities and use of information technology which was adopted by a Decision of the Human Rights Council at its 19th session (A/HRC/DEC/19/119).

▶ NGOs increased their participation at the regular sessions of the Human Rights Council (an average 10 per cent increase in participation as compared with 2011) due to the additional support provided by OHCHR through the processing of written statements (almost 50 per cent increase), parallel events (around 10 per cent increase) and oral statements (up to 50 per cent increase).

International and regional laws and institutions (EA 8)

▶ The Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons has been actively engaged in the promotion and development of the African Union Convention for the Protection and Assistance of Internally Displaced Persons in Africa (Kampala Convention) since the process was initiated in 2004. Over the past year, the mandate engaged with regional bodies such as the African Union and the African Parliamentary Union, with parliamentarians from various AU Member States and corresponded with 20 States urging them to sign and deposit the instrument of ratification. His efforts helped lead to the adoption of this historic Convention, the first binding regional instrument on internal displacement, which came into force on
6 December 2012 and provides specific human rights protection to the more than 10 million internally displaced persons in Africa. The Kampala Convention contains human rights standards to address challenges related to current and future internal displacement caused by conflict, natural disasters and the effects of climate change, development and mega trends such as population growth and rapid urbanization. It also outlines the obligations of States Parties, the African Union, international organizations and members of armed groups to prevent displacement, protect and assist people once displacement has occurred and find effective and lasting solutions to address displacement.

► The Working Group on the use of mercenaries continued to inform discussions of the open-ended intergovernmental working group to consider the possibility of elaborating an international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies (OEIGWG). The Working Group presented a submission to the OEIGWG which identified gaps in international law in relation to private military and security companies and argued for a legally binding instrument to regulate their activities. In August 2012, the OEIGWG indicated the need to continue exploring issues related to this industry, including the option of elaborating a convention on private military and security companies, and recommended to the Human Rights Council that discussions continue for a further period of two years.

► Special procedures of the HRC continued to provide support for the progressive development of international human rights law, notably through studies, consultations and the elaboration of guidelines or guiding principles by special rapporteurs. For example, the Special Rapporteur on the right to food presented Guiding Principles on human rights impact assessments of trade and investment agreements to the Council in March 2012; the Independent Expert on foreign debt presented Guidelines on foreign debt and human rights to the Council in June 2012 (endorsed by resolution 20/10) and the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty presented draft Guiding Principles on extreme poverty and human rights to the Council in September 2012 (adopted by resolution 21/11).

► The Working Group on Enforced Disappearances adopted a General Comment on women affected by enforced disappearances and a General Comment on children and enforced disappearances during its 98th session in November 2012.

► A regional consultation was held on 17-18 January 2012, in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia between representatives of the special procedures mechanisms of the HRC and the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights. The objective of the consultation was to explore means to strengthen dialogue and cooperation between the two systems in the promotion and protection of human rights in Africa. It brought together mandate-holders from both mechanisms, as well as representatives of various agencies of the United Nations and African Union, civil society organizations and individual experts. At the end of the consultation, participants adopted a road map on means to strengthen future cooperation and agreed to establish a working group to this end.

► In his first thematic report presented to the Human Rights Council in June 2012, the Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association identified examples of good practices that promote and protect the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association and raise the level of protection afforded by international norms and standards.

► The Special Rapporteur on trafficking devoted her report to the 67th Session of the General Assembly to the issue of trafficking in global supply chains; a relatively new topic in the field of anti-trafficking work. In the report, the Special Rapporteur examined the different ways human trafficking is manifested in the global economy; highlighted the responses of global businesses; noted existing and emerging strategies to combat abuse; and recommended the immediate and long-term steps that must be taken by business
leaders to ensure effective and sustainable action. The report also outlines a series of clear and practical recommendations for businesses and States to eliminate trafficking in the supply chain. As a follow-up to this report, the Special Rapporteur convened a two-day Expert Group Meeting on Human Trafficking and Global Supply Chains, from 12 to 13 November 2012 in Ankara, Turkey. Participants included close to 20 specialists on human trafficking, business and human rights from international organizations, trade unions and NGOs as well as business representatives from leading international corporations from across regions. The expert consultations contributed to the elaboration of a draft set of benchmarks and indicators for businesses to complement existing voluntary initiatives and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Coherence among human rights mechanisms (EA 9)

In 2012, the second UPR cycle began with a focus on implementation of the recommendations of the first cycle and new developments. Also during 2012, the number of UPR recommendations relating to the work of special procedures continued to increase. Cooperation with special procedures, both in general, and with respect to specific thematic mandates, was reiterated in recommendations made to 18 of the countries reviewed. Recommendations concerning special procedures addressed a diverse number of topics, such as extending standing invitations to all mandate-holders and encouraging the implementation of recommendations of particular mandates following country visits. The UPR process allowed special procedures to enhance their roles in these countries, in particular through follow-up action on commitments made by Member States in the UPR through communication letters and during country visits.

- The Working Group on discrimination against women in law and practice maintained informal and formal contact with the CEDAW Committee in order to ensure complementarity of efforts. Several ideas for increasing cooperation between these two bodies were exchanged, including the Working Group’s use of CEDAW’s General Comments and follow-up to its Concluding Observations as a source of guidance in its work. The Working Group is also cooperating with other treaty bodies, such as the Human Rights Committee and the Committee on Enforced Disappearances.

- On Human Rights Day 2012, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Sexual Violence in Conflict issued the first joint press statement which highlighted the issues of accountability for perpetrators and the right to truth and justice for victims of war-time sexual violence.


Responsiveness of the international community (EA 10)

In October 2012, the Special Rapporteur on the right to food and the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty released a proposal for the establishment of a Global Fund for Social Protection that attracted considerable interest from a range of partners, including the ILO. Notably, the proposal was presented to the 39th session of the Committee on World Food Security held in Rome in October 2012. As a result, the Committee endorsed specific recommendations highlighting “the role of international cooperation in reinforcing national actions to implement sustainable social protection programmes and systems” and underlined that “social protection programmes for food security and nutrition should be guided by human rights norms and standards.”
The Special Rapporteur on the right to food, OHCHR and FAO co-organized a regional consultation in Nairobi on 4-5 April 2012 for countries in Eastern and Southern Africa to identify steps to strengthen laws, policies and strategies for the realization of the right to food. In addition to governmental and civil society experts, the consultation gathered together parliamentarians and experts from national human rights institutions and led to the establishment of a regional network of parliamentarians to follow up on right to food issues.

In addition to numerous urgent appeals sent to governments, several special rapporteurs issued joint press releases in relation to violence and insecurity, including a press release condemning violence in the run-up to Senegalese Presidential elections (24 February 2012).

In 2012, the Council held 17 panel discussions and debates (one more than in 2011), with technical support from OHCHR, on subjects including the rights of persons with disabilities; participation in political and public life; human rights, sexual orientation and gender identity; rights of minorities; rights of people living with, and affected by HIV/AIDS, including young people; the promotion and protection of human rights in a multicultural context, including through combatting xenophobia, discrimination and intolerance; and access to justice by indigenous peoples. These panel discussions provided an opportunity for the international community to focus on and discuss, with experts in the field, new and emerging thematic human rights issues, increase awareness of these issues and contribute to the development of international law and standards. In addition, the Human Rights Council held its annual full-day discussion on women’s human rights on the themes of women human rights defenders and remedies and reparations for women who have been subjected to violence.

In 2012, the Human Rights Council continued to demonstrate its ability to respond to human rights crises. During the year, the HRC twice extended the mandate of the Commission of Inquiry to investigate serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law in the Syrian Arab Republic. At its 19th Session, the Council decided to establish an international fact-finding mission to investigate the implications of Israeli settlements for the human rights of Palestinian people. In response to the situation in Mali, at its 20th Session, the Council invited the High Commissioner to monitor the human rights situation in the north of Mali and to report thereon to the Council. The Council also held its fourth consecutive special session in relation to the situation in the Syrian Arab Republic, adopting a resolution at its 19th Special Session on 1 June 2012 on The deteriorating situation of human rights in the Syrian Arab Republic, and the recent killings in El-Houleh.

Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations (EA 11)

The Special Rapporteur on racism succeeded in drawing international attention to the issue of racism in sport in the context of the 2012 UEFA Football championship, including through a thematic report submitted to the Human Rights Council. This led to enhanced cooperation between the mandate and entities such as the International Olympic Committee and the UN Office on Sport for Development and Peace.

The Addis Ababa Roadmap

The Special Procedures mechanisms of the United Nations and the African Commission on Human and People’s Rights (ACHPR) have allied through a framework of cooperation, the so-called Addis Ababa Roadmap, agreed upon at a consultation held on 17 and 18 January 2012.

The roadmap is aimed at strengthening cooperation by regular exchanges of information, greater coordination and options of joint actions such as joint public statements, joint events and joint visits to African countries. The Roadmap established a Joint Working Group to oversee and guide its implementation. Since January the implementation of the Roadmap has made gigantic steps. Information on past and future activities is systematically shared between the two systems; exchanges of views during important events held annually by each system have successfully taken place throughout the year; the number of joint press releases has increased; a joint visit took place and efforts to disseminate the Roadmap and consequently information on the special procedures mechanisms of both systems to civil society organizations and national human rights institutions have been made. Noteworthy is that, as a result of enhanced cooperation between the two special procedures systems, the mandate of the African Commission’s Working Group on the death penalty has been expanded to include extrajudicial, summary and arbitrary killings. This renders the two special procedures mandates aligned and opens up possibilities for further cooperation between them.
The Independent Expert on minority issues continued her collaboration with UNDP and provided inputs to the newly established UN Network on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities which includes members from relevant UN bodies and specialized agencies.

The contribution of the special procedures mandate-holders, led by the Special Rapporteur on the right to food and the Special Rapporteur on the right to water and sanitation, to the negotiations concerning the outcome of the Rio+20 conference, helped to ensure adequate integration of human rights issues in the outcome document.

The Special Rapporteur on the right to water and sanitation conducted extensive work with the UNICEF/WHO Joint Monitoring Programme (JMP) to integrate human rights perspectives in the redesigned statistical indicators that will be used to monitor the achievement of targets set for the water, sanitation and hygiene sectors in the post-2015 development agenda. Other UN and bilateral development actors welcomed the work in this area and endorsed the proposals emanating from the three task forces established by the JMP in 2012.

Global Management Outputs

Integrating a gender perspective (GMO 3)

In order to enhance the equal participation of women in the Human Rights Council, OHCHR prepared a statistical report which indicated the number and percentage of women delegates (disaggregated by category; i.e.: governments, IGOs, NGOs and others) who attended the Council sessions, the number and percentage of women delegates who took the floor at sessions of the Council and the percentage of women and men participating as experts on panels.

Servicing human rights mechanisms (GMO 4)

The Office supported special procedures mandate-holders by arranging their annual meeting in June 2012 which enabled them to engage with key stakeholders, including Member States and civil society actors. Human rights mainstreaming within the United Nations system was one of the focus themes during the 2012 annual meeting and interactive sessions were held with various United Nations agencies and entities. The annual meeting provides an important occasion to discuss working methods among mandate-holders, exchange experiences and identify best practices.

Throughout the year, OHCHR continued to support the Coordination Committee of special procedures mandate-holders in order to strengthen the overall coherence of the system.

The Office conducted an induction programme in May 2012 for 10 special procedures mandate-holders recently appointed by the Council. The programme focused on working methods of the special procedures and addressed relations with Member States of the Council and other stakeholders.

OHCHR enhanced the visibility of the special procedures system through the production of materials such as the Directory of Special Procedures Mandate-Holders and the preparation of information tools, such as the weekly briefing notes and the Annual Facts and Figures. It furthermore supported the preparation of numerous press releases and web stories throughout the year, relating to country visits, thematic issues, country situations and individual cases of human rights violations.

The Office updated the office-wide planning calendar, created in 2011, covering activities of all human rights mechanisms (special procedures, treaty bodies and UPR). The calendar was used to discuss and plan collaboration for the coming year during the
annual OHCHR planning event with field colleagues.

In 2012, OHCHR launched an updated website for the Human Rights Council, with easier navigation and access to information, including an ‘upcoming meetings’ section. Both the Council and UPR pages provide links to the webcast page where viewers can watch live broadcasts of the Council proceedings or at a later stage through accessing webcast archives. The extranet continues to enable users to locate practical information about past, current and future sessions of the HRC and access documents, statements and correspondence on a host of issues related to the Council’s work. The Human Rights Council’s social media presence continues to grow, with more than 4,400 ‘likes’ on Facebook and more than 6,000 followers on Twitter. To facilitate contact with the Secretariat, OHCHR produced a visual directory of members of the Secretariat and their functions for each session of the Council.

Special procedures in Figures

80 country visits carried out by special procedures mandate-holders.

603 communications sent to 127 different countries and territories. 75 per cent of these were issued jointly by two or more mandate-holders. At the end of 2012, the response rate by States to special procedures’ communications remained low at approximately 40 per cent.

129 reports submitted by mandate-holders to the HRC and 32 to the General Assembly.

92 standing invitations issued by Member States, compared to 90 at the end of 2011. In 2012, two countries issued such invitations: Chad and Seychelles.
Human Rights Council - Outcome of Sessions held in 2012

19th Session (27 February - 23 March 2012)

The Council adopted resolutions, decisions and President’s Statements on:

- Human rights and the environment;
- Forum on Minority Issues;
- The Social Forum;
- Economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to food, adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living in the context of disaster settings and the question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights;
- Human rights in a number of thematic areas, including the right to development, rights of the child, birth registration and the right of everyone to recognition everywhere as a person before the law, participation in political and public life by persons with disabilities, protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests, the role of good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights, human rights and unilateral coercive measures, human rights, democracy and the rule of law, freedom of religion or belief, combating intolerance, negative stereotyping and stigmatization of, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against, persons based on religion or belief, and integrity of the judicial system;
- Enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights;
- Voluntary Trust Fund for Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States;
- The negative impact of the non-repatriation of funds of illicit origin to the countries of origin on the enjoyment of human rights;
- Mandate of the Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights;
- Composition of staff of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights;
- Task Force on secretariat services, accessibility for persons with disabilities and use of information technology;
- The human rights situation in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Myanmar, the Syrian Arab Republic, the occupied Syrian Golan, and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem;
- Right of the Palestinian people to self-determination;
- Israeli settlements in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in the occupied Syrian Golan;
- Follow-up to the report of the United Nations Independent International Fact-Finding Mission on the Gaza Conflict;
- Promoting reconciliation and accountability in Sri Lanka;
- The escalating grave human rights violations and the deteriorating humanitarian situation in the Syrian Arab Republic;
- Assistance to Haiti, Libya, Somalia and Yemen in the field of human rights;
- Strengthening of technical cooperation and consultative services in Guinea;
- Outcomes of the UPR of Antigua and Barbuda, Haiti, Iceland, Ireland, Libya, Lithuania, Republic of Moldova, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe.

20th Session (18 June - 6 July 2012)

The Council adopted resolutions, decisions and President’s Statements on:

- United Nations Declaration on the right to peace;
- National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights;
- Economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to education and promotion of the enjoyment of the cultural rights of everyone and respect for cultural diversity;
- Human rights in a number of thematic areas, including migrants, internally displaced persons, trafficking in persons, the right to a nationality, human rights and arbitrary deprivation of nationality, the promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the internet, conscientious objection to military service, arbitrary detention, elimination of discrimination against women and accelerating efforts to eliminate all forms of violence against women: remedies for women who have been subjected to violence;
- Nelson Mandela International Day Panel;
- The effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights;
- The situation of human rights in Belarus, Eritrea, Mali and the Syrian Arab Republic;
- Assistance to Côte d’Ivoire and Somalia in the field of human rights;
- Reports of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review.
### 21st Session (10 - 28 September, 5 November 2012)

The Council adopted resolutions, decisions and President’s Statements on:

- World Programme for Human Rights Education;
- Economic, social and cultural rights, including the human right to safe drinking water and sanitation, guiding principles on extreme poverty and human rights;
- Human rights in a number of thematic areas, including the right to development, enforced or involuntary disappearances, right to the truth, preventable maternal mortality and morbidity and human rights, safety of journalists, promotion of the human rights of peasants and other people working in rural areas, human rights of older persons, human rights and indigenous peoples, the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association and human rights and issues related to terrorist hostage-taking;
- Mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes;
- Open-ended intergovernmental Working Group to consider the possibility of elaborating an international regulatory framework on the regulation, monitoring and oversight of the activities of private military and security companies;
- Contribution of the United Nations system as a whole to the advancement of the business and human rights agenda and the dissemination and implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights;
- The use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination;
- Promotion and protection of a democratic and equitable international order;
- Human rights and international solidarity;
- Human rights and transitional justice;
- Promoting human rights and fundamental freedoms through a better understanding of traditional values of humankind: best practices;
- From rhetoric to reality: a global call for concrete action against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance;
- Elaboration of complementary standards to the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination;
- High-level Panel to commemorate the twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action;
- Panel on the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights;
- Enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights;
- The situation of human rights in Eritrea, Mali and the Syrian Arab Republic;
- Assistance to Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Yemen in the field of human rights;
- Outcomes of the UPR of Algeria, Bahrain, Brazil, Ecuador, Finland, India, Indonesia, Morocco, Netherlands, Philippines, Poland, South Africa, Tunisia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

### 19th Special Session (1 June 2012)

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<tr>
<td>Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus</td>
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<td>Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Côte d’Ivoire</td>
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<td>Working Group of experts on people of African descent</td>
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<td>Independent expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order</td>
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<td>Independent Expert on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment</td>
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<td>Working Group on enforced or involuntary disappearances</td>
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