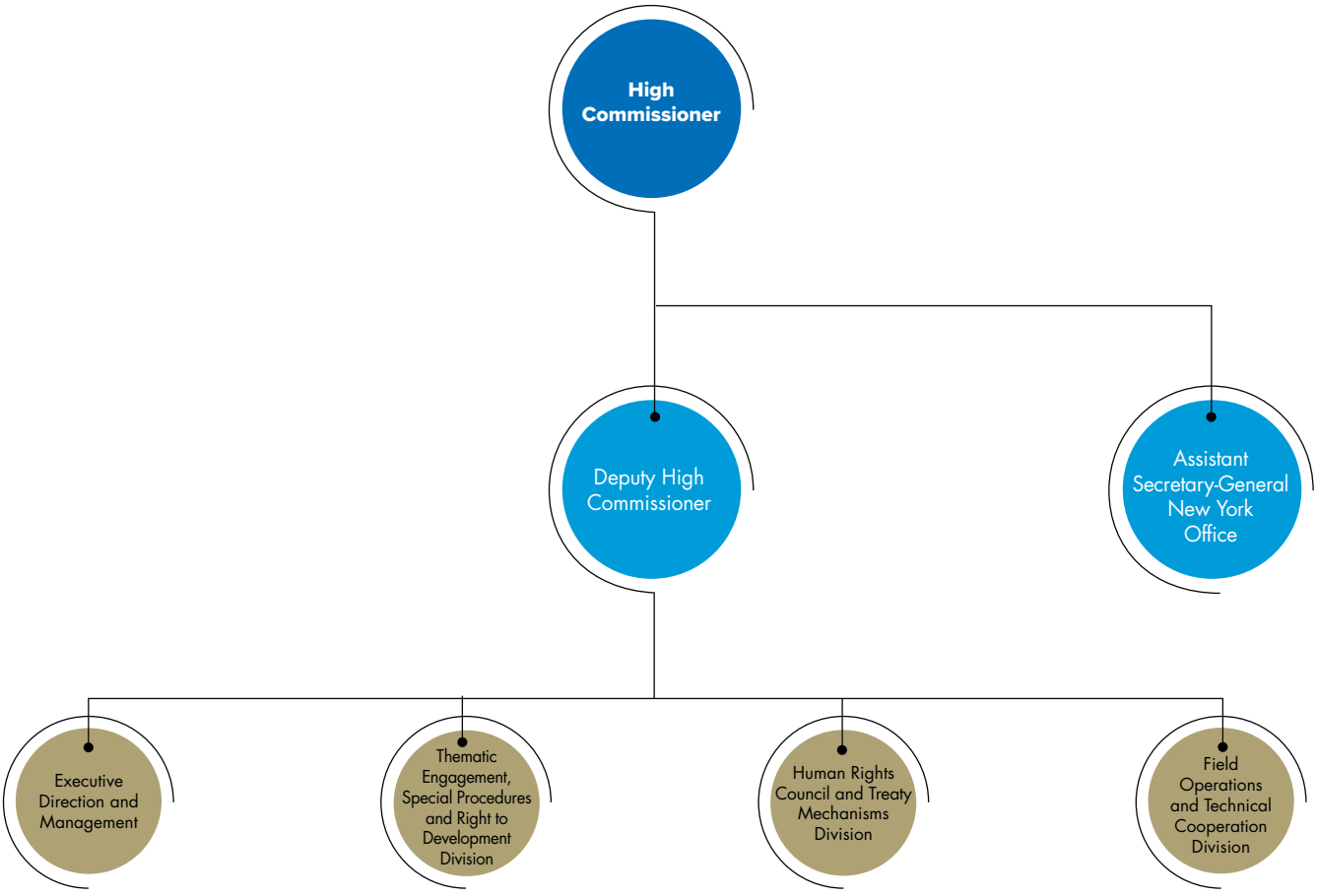
UN Human Rights at headquarters

Palais Wilson, OHCHR Geneva headquarters. © OHCHR

Introduction

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) headquarters is located in Geneva and an office is maintained in New York. The Geneva-based headquarters consists of three substantive divisions and the Executive Direction and Management, which handles management, planning, coordination and outreach functions. This chapter outlines their structure, functions and key achievements in 2021.



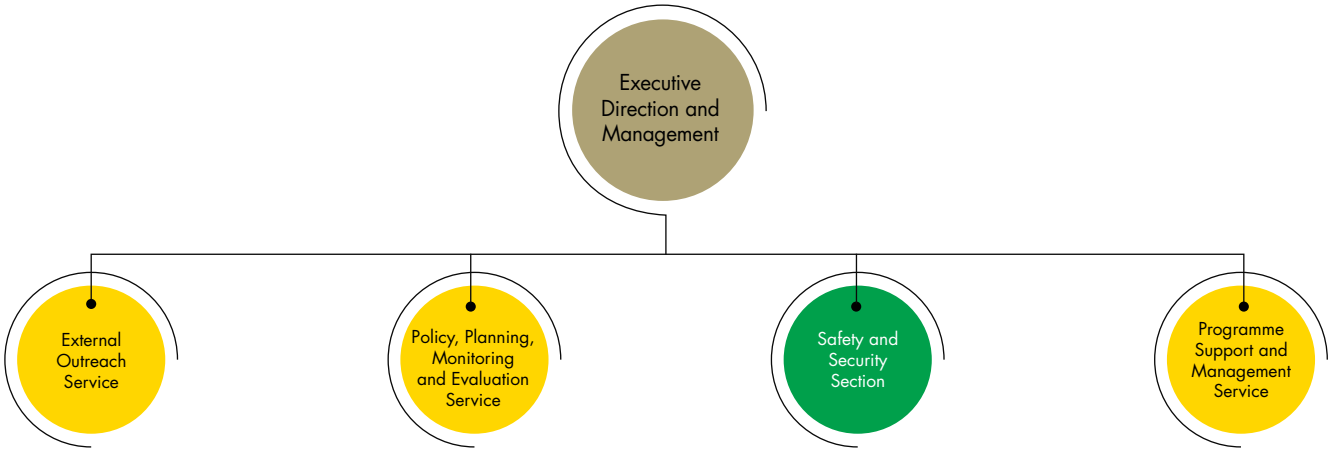
EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT

The Executive Direction and Management (EDM) directly supports the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Deputy High Commissioner and the Assistant Secretary-General (ASG) for Human Rights in their work and indirectly, the entire Office. It is composed of the Executive Office, the New York Office, the External Outreach Service, the Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Service, the Programme Support and Management Services and the Safety and Security Section.

In 2021, the High Commissioner continued her advocacy work on building a robust response to the human rights challenges created or exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, with a focus on addressing inequalities. In addition, the High Commissioner continued to work towards strengthening the role of Member States as duty-bearers by proposing assistance that would enable States to build effective national human rights protection systems, including legal frameworks, institutions and practices, and promote respect for and enjoyment of human rights for all, without discrimination.

The High Commissioner, the Deputy High Commissioner and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights engaged in dialogue with Members States, the Human Rights Council (HRC), the General Assembly and numerous other stakeholders, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic. These efforts were guided by the OHCHR Management Plan (OMP), which was extended until 2023 to consolidate results and recalibrate OHCHR's focus in response to the human rights impacts of COVID-19 and to include recent developments.

Member States, civil society, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), regional organizations and many other partners benefited from the High Commissioner's leadership and advocacy role in addressing issues of mutual interest and concern. These same actors contributed to the High Commissioner's analysis of activities that can bring about positive change.



Executive Office

The Executive Office (EO) supports the High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner in their daily work, including by assisting with their strategic leadership and management activities and interactions with partners. It also ensures coordination between divisions of the Office and the integration of the Office's priorities, including a gender perspective, into submitted inputs.

The Executive Office is the principal focal point for overall coordination with the UN system and the Executive Office of the Secretary-General (EOSG), in close collaboration with the New York Office. It also facilitates the processing of internal and external communications and correspondence.

The EO provides guidance to all parts of OHCHR headquarters and field operations on key legal issues, in preparation for meetings with partners and in relation to the speeches and reports of the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner to the UN's intergovernmental bodies.

In 2021, the EO continued to support the High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner in their roles as coordinators of OHCHR's response to COVID-19, helping them to develop, lead and implement an office-wide coherent strategy that responded to the human rights challenges that were created or exacerbated by the pandemic, with a focus on inequalities. The EO conducted similar work in supporting the emphasis on economic, social and cultural rights (ESCRs) in the context of recovering better. These additional functions included ensuring OHCHR's participation in frequent senior-level COVID-19 inter-agency meetings in the humanitarian, development and peace and security fields.

Beyond COVID-19-related work, the EO continued to serve as the Office's focal point for the implementation of the UN Human Rights Screening Policy, leading to a substantial increase in its workload during the reporting period. The legal policy team in the EO provided advice to the High Commissioner on existing and emerging issues and identified areas where the High Commissioner's legal advocacy could have an impact. In 2021, the submission of formal amicus curiae briefs by the High Commissioner to the European Court of Human Rights on climate change issues, as well as to a senior national court on appropriate victims' participation in judicial proceedings, were key achievements.

Under the leadership of the High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner, the Executive Office supported efforts to strengthen the Office's response to discrimination and inequality issues, both internally and externally.

New York Office

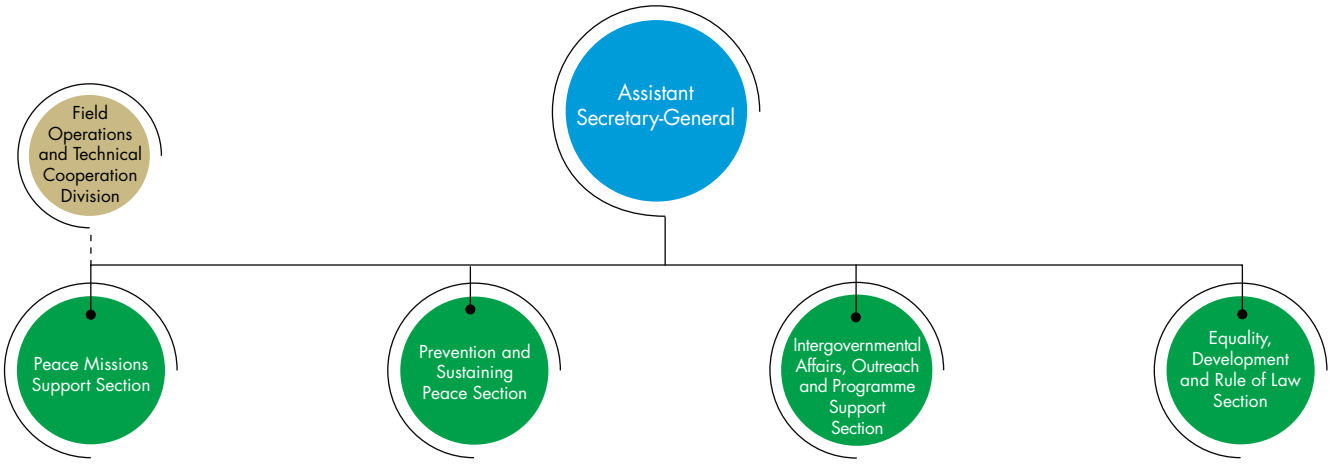
OHCHR's New York Office (NYO) is headed by the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights. The principal objective of the NYO is to integrate human rights norms and standards into policies, discussions and decisions made in intergovernmental, inter-departmental and inter-agency bodies at UN Headquarters in New York, including by engaging with Member States, intergovernmental bodies, UN system entities, civil society organizations, academic institutions and the media. Under the leadership of the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, the NYO is responsible for the reprisals mandate, which seeks to strengthen the UN's response to intimidation and reprisals against those cooperating with the UN on human rights matters. The NYO is composed of the following four substantive sections:

The **Intergovernmental Affairs, Outreach and Programme Support Section** leads engagement with the General Assembly and other intergovernmental bodies, media correspondents, CSOs and academic institutions in New York.

The **Equality, Development and Rule of Law Section** covers all special groups and issues relating to equality and non-discrimination, the rule of law, counter-terrorism, justice, reprisals and human rights and development issues.

The **Prevention and Sustaining Peace Section** works to mainstream human rights into wider UN efforts to prevent conflict and crisis and promote sustainable peace.

The **Peace Missions Support Section** works to support the integration of human rights into UN peace operations through support for planning and the operations of human rights components of peace missions. It has a dual reporting line to the Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division at headquarters.



External Outreach Service

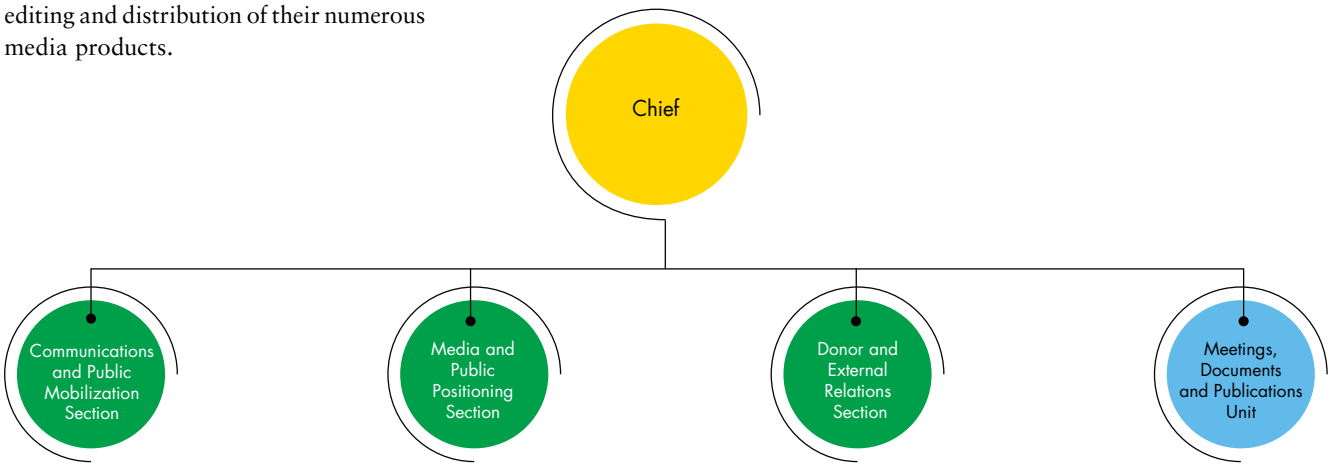
The External Outreach Service (EOS) leads OHCHR's external relations efforts. It consists of four sections, which work in synergy to maximize its impact:

The **Communications and Public Mobilization Section** develops strategies for public information outreach to a broad constituency about OHCHR, human rights and the work of the UN human rights programme. It mobilizes a variety of audiences through engagement and partnerships. The Section develops communication campaigns and produces branded print, audiovisual and online materials. It engages with the public through social media and with UN partners to mainstream human rights into outreach efforts.

The **Media and Public Positioning Section** engages with the media and promotes the messaging of the High Commissioner and the Office through news releases, press briefings, interviews and other media products and activities, as well as speeches and video statements. It provides advice to the special procedures and the human rights treaty bodies and assists with the editing and distribution of their numerous media products.

The Donor and External Relations Section is responsible for mobilizing financial resources to enable OHCHR to implement its programme of work, as outlined in the OMP 2018-2021, which was extended to 2023.[17] It does this by building robust relationships with existing partners and exploring funding opportunities with potential partners. The Section mobilizes funds, negotiates and manages a large number of contribution agreements and organizes meetings, briefings and consultations with partners. It serves as an entry point for Member States and others seeking information on OHCHR's work, priorities and funding needs.

The **Meetings, Documents and Publications Unit** coordinates OHCHR's annual programme of meetings and plans, verifies and submits all OHCHR official documents for processing. The Unit manages the OHCHR publications programme and develops policies for the planning, quality assurance, distribution and impact assessment of publications. It provides policy advice and operational support to the Office's publications oversight body, the Publications Committee. It also oversees the production of printed and electronic publications in all official UN languages and disseminates print materials to diverse target audiences around the world.



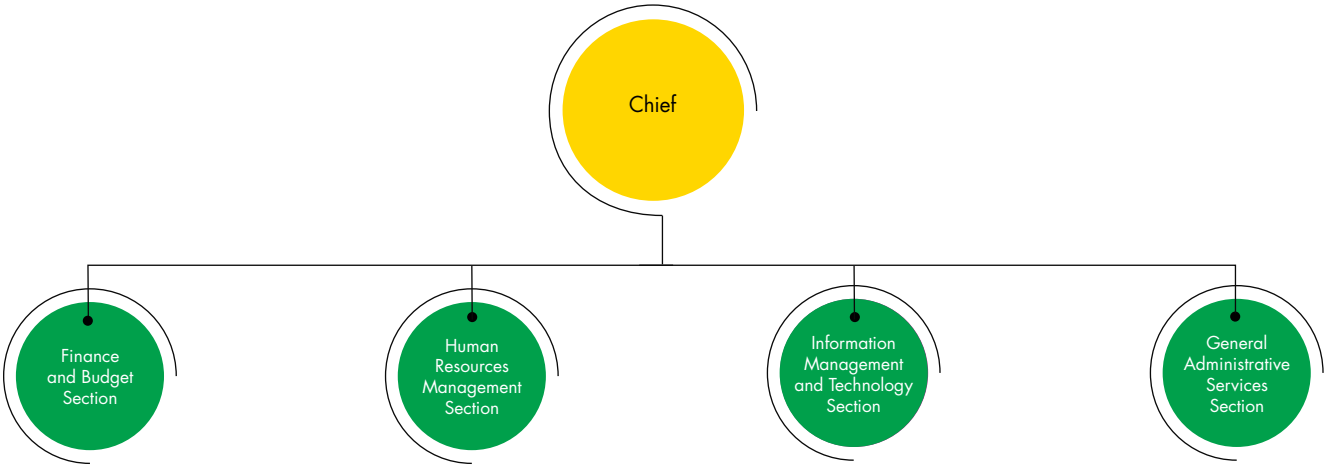
[17] In 2021, OHCHR's Senior Management Team decided to extend the OMP 2018-2021 for two years, until 2023.

Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Service

The Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Service (PPMES) takes the lead in translating the High Commissioner's strategic vision into concrete priorities and operational programmes that focus on the achievement of results. The Service works to instil a culture of results-based planning, programming and budgeting across OHCHR. It ensures that programme implementation and results are effectively monitored and evaluated, including programme risks, and that good practices and lessons learned are incorporated into policy development, programme design and implementation. Through an ongoing analysis of OHCHR's organizational environment, PPMES helps to identify substantive or managerial gaps in OHCHR's policies, results-based programming, organizational effectiveness and change management and internal communications. It then proposes actions to address those gaps.

Programme Support and Management Services

The Programme Support and Management Services (PSMS) provides administrative support within the Office, including budgetary and financial management, recruitment and human resources management, procurement, asset management and general logistical support, travel services, information technology and staff development support. PSMS consists of the Finance and Budget Section, the General Administrative Services Section, the Human Resources Management Section and the Information Management and Technology Section. PSMS delivered on its mandate and supported divisions and field offices, in spite of the COVID-19 pandemic. Travel has not yet returned to pre-pandemic volumes, but it began to pick up at the end of 2021 due to a mix of remote as well as physical presence meetings during the year. PSMS ensured that all financial transactions and adequate logistical and human resources support were made available to field presences and headquarters divisions to guarantee the continuity of OHCHR operations. In addition, a chartered psychologist was hired to support the psychological needs of staff as the COVID-19 pandemic continued. Other deliverables included webinars on stress management, trauma, secondary trauma prevention, practical interventions for managers and the availability of one-on-one sessions for all staff. These services were provided alongside multilingual psychological support, in conjunction with staff counsellors and regional contacts.



Safety and Security Section

The Safety and Security Section coordinates the security of OHCHR operations worldwide, in accordance with UN security risk management policies and in coordination with host governments and the UN Department of Safety and Security. It supports the international human rights mechanisms, including those mandated by the Human Rights Council. It participates in UN security policymaking forums to ensure that human rights are mainstreamed into staff security policies and the procedures of UN entities. At the operational level, the Section conducts security risk assessments and provides technical supervision and guidance on security management and security clearance. It also provides travel advisories to field presences.

FIELD OPERATIONS AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION DIVISION

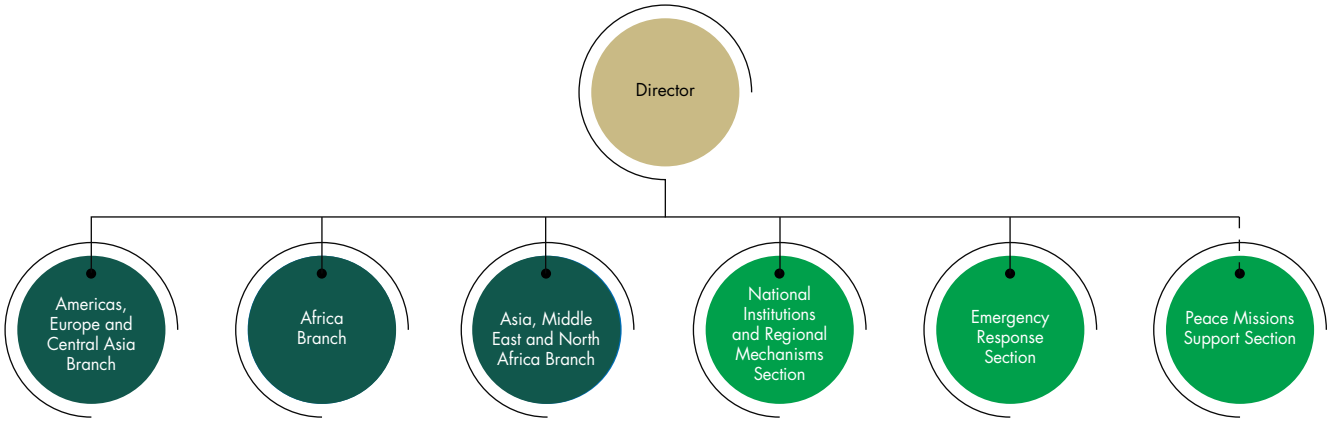
The Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division (FOTCD) is responsible for overseeing and supporting OHCHR's work at country and regional levels, including through advisory services and technical cooperation.

FOTCD is composed of the Office of the Director and three geographic branches, as well as three specialized sections. The geographic branches are divided into six sections, namely, Africa I (East and Southern Africa), Africa II (West and Central Africa), Asia-Pacific, the Middle East and North Africa, the Americas and Europe and Central Asia. Together, they are responsible for the day-to-day work of OHCHR in the field, including by following human rights developments at the national and regional levels, engaging with governments, regional mechanisms, NHRIs, civil society and the UN system, and interfacing with the international human rights mechanisms.

The three specialized sections are the National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section, the Emergency Response Section and the Peace Missions Support Section, which is located in the New York Office.

FOTCD is responsible for the implementation of the High Commissioner's mandate at the field level. This is achieved through 103 human rights presences in the field that undertake monitoring, analysis and reporting on human rights developments, early warning and prevention activities, provide advisory services and technical cooperation, deploy human rights capacity to the Resident Coordinators (RCs) and the UN Country Teams (UNCTs) under the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) Framework and manage the deployment of monitoring, fact-finding and emergency response missions.

FOTCD provides analysis and advice on human rights situations, including situations of risk and emerging crises, to OHCHR's leadership and the United Nations system, and develops and strengthens strategies for OHCHR's engagement on the ground. FOTCD further contributes to the three United Nations pillars through broader UN efforts on human rights, peace and security and development, including through the integration of human rights into



all pillars and the mainstreaming of human rights-based peacebuilding, in conjunction with human rights-based programming for sustainable development.

FOTCD supports the implementation of specific OHCHR mandates of the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly in relation to public reporting on human rights issues in countries and disputed territories and provides technical assistance and technical cooperation. This includes support for 13 special procedures country mandates of the HRC and the establishment of and assistance for international commissions of inquiry, fact-finding missions and investigations mandated by the Council. The Division also administers the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights and acts as the Secretariat of its Board of Trustees.

In 2021, the COVID-19 pandemic posed challenges to the implementation of technical cooperation activities. Nonetheless, FOTCD continued to adjust its methods of work and prioritized efforts aimed at the promotion of the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights, post-COVID-19 recovery and resilience and sustained work on ESCRs in support of all stakeholders, with a particular focus on vulnerable populations, including Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) through capacity-building and awareness-raising activities.

The **Emergency Response Section** coordinates OHCHR's engagement in and effective response to ongoing or emerging crises and it ensures, from a prevention perspective, that potential emergency situations are addressed through the deployment of fact-finding, monitoring or emergency response missions, the provision of early warning and information management and the integration of human rights into humanitarian action. The Section leads the provision of early warning information management and analyses to various UN processes, including the UNOCC and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) on Early Warning, Early Action and Readiness. Moreover, the Section is responsible for the establishment of Emergency Response Teams (ERTs) in OHCHR regional offices to which it provides substantive and programmatic support. Through its Investigation Support Unit, the Section is responsible for the operationalization of activities mandated by UN intergovernmental bodies (primarily the HRC), such as the establishment of and support to commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions. The Unit coordinates the deployment of human rights teams in the context of complex emergencies or natural disasters or for the purpose of preventive advocacy and action.

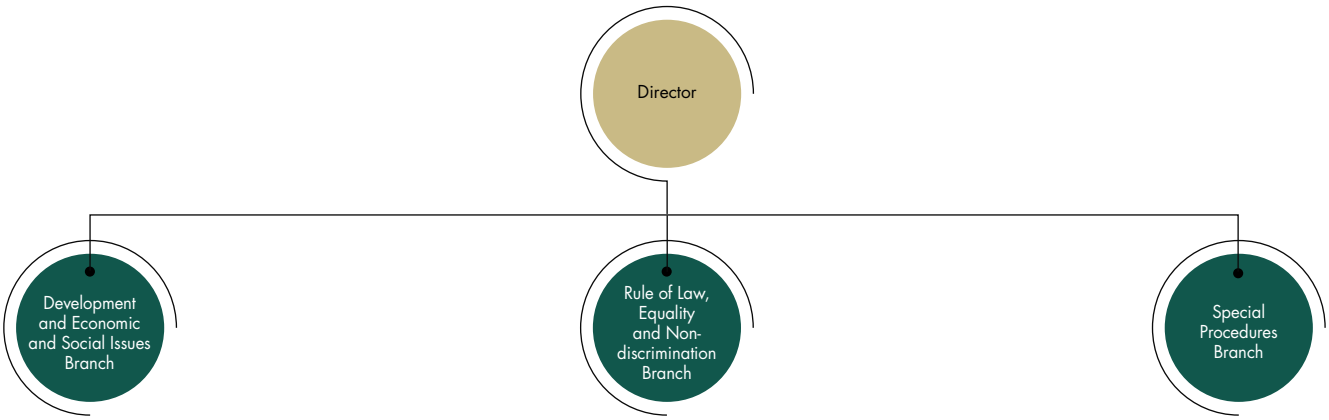
The **Peace Missions Support Section** (PMSS), located in the New York Office, provides strategic and operational support and guidance to the human rights components of UN peacekeeping and special political missions. It supports the implementation of Security Council mandates for UN peace operations on human rights, in close coordination with FOTCD geographic branches, ensuring that the UN peace and security agenda integrates human rights into activities undertaken at the political, strategic and operational levels. PMSS carries out strategic planning for the integration of human rights into police and military planning to deliver on human rights protection and to ensure compliance with international human rights norms and standards. This includes supporting the African Union's regional and subregional operations, such as the G5 Sahel Joint Force, supporting the United Nations Office to the African Union (UNOAU) and working with the European Union (EU) on the integration of human rights into its engagement with conflict and crisis management, including through the development of human rights risk management and due diligence policies. PMSS also facilitates the operationalization of the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces, especially in the context of UN support packages.

The **National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section** provides advice and assistance to the establishment and strengthening of NHRIs, in line with the Paris Principles and in coordination with FOTCD geographic desk officers and field presences, other UN agencies, funds and programmes and regional networks of NHRIs. The Section serves as the Secretariat for the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) and its Sub-Committee on Accreditation. It supports the interaction of NHRIs with the international human rights system, including the human rights treaty bodies, the special procedures, the HRC and Universal Periodic Review (UPR).

THEMATIC ENGAGEMENT, SPECIAL PROCEDURES AND RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT DIVISION

The Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division (TESPRDD) is composed of the Office of the Director, the Development and Economic and Social Issues Branch, the Rule of Law, Equality and Non-Discrimination Branch, the Special Procedures Branch and the Methodology, Education and Training Section. The Division's main functions include:

- Supporting the High Commissioner's global leadership role in advocacy on thematic human rights issues in terms of research, advice, advocacy and capacity-development;
- Providing substantive support to countries on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and thematic support to Member States and UNCTs, including through the Surge Initiative;
- Promoting a rights-based recovery from COVID-19, including through the implementation of the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights and Our Common Agenda;
- Developing methodologies and guidance relating to human rights work, namely, translating international human rights law and principles into practical methods, approaches, standards, procedures and tools for the human rights work that is carried out by OHCHR and other UN, international and national actors;
- Promoting the integration of human rights into the policy, management and operational work of the UN to strengthen its normative and operational linkages. In the area of development, this is primarily undertaken through OHCHR's participation in inter-agency groups, during meetings and through bilateral cooperation with UN agencies, programmes and the UNCTs;
- Contributing to increased knowledge and an enhanced understanding of human rights through education and training, the development of materials, policy guidance, methodologies and programmes and the provision of training, advice and coordination under the Plan of Action for the Fourth Phase (2020-2024) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education;
- Strengthening knowledge management, connecting and leveraging expertise, collective practice and evidence-based knowledge for human rights results;
- Supporting the international human rights mechanisms, in particular the special procedures and providing substantive support to investigative bodies mandated by the Council;
- Taking the lead with respect to ensuring that a human rights-based approach (HRBA) and a gender perspective are effectively integrated into all OHCHR policies, programmes and processes and contributing to enhanced staff skills in this regard;
- Taking a leading role in supporting OHCHR's digital transformation to strengthen its capacity to deliver on its mandates and using the potential of the digital platform to advance human rights, reinforce data-driven human rights advocacy and make OHCHR's information and processes more accessible to users, while establishing rights-based standards in managing and using data.



The work of the **Development and Economic and Social Issues Branch** and of the **Rule of Law, Equality and Non-Discrimination Branch** includes: conducting thematic research and contributing to policy development and the mainstreaming of human rights across the work of the UN; producing tools and learning packages and providing expertise on human rights themes to many stakeholders, as mandated by the HRC, the General Assembly and ECOSOC; and leading efforts to advance the right to development, in accordance with the High Commissioner's mandate to promote and protect the realization of the right to development, and enhance support from relevant UN bodies for this purpose. The two branches also undertake human rights research and advocacy work and contribute to national-level implementation, including through advisory services, legal and policy reviews and capacity-development, which is often undertaken by OHCHR field presences.

The **Special Procedures Branch** supports the special procedures system and its thematic mandates. The special procedures system is comprised of 58 mandates (45 thematic and 13 country mandates) with 80 mandate holders, 14 of whom were appointed in 2021. The special procedures contribute to the development of international human rights law; undertake thematic studies; conduct country visits; send communications to States and other actors regarding human rights cases and issues; provide advisory services; and engage in awareness-raising activities. The Branch supports these mandates in the abovementioned functional areas, on policy issues and by adopting efficiency measures that streamline work processes and strengthen the special procedures system. This is primarily achieved through cooperation between human rights systems at the international, regional and national levels and other stakeholders. The Special Procedures Branch assists the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures and supports the engagement of special procedures with regional mechanisms, such as the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR).

Special procedures mandate holders (as of 31 December 2021)

MANDATE	ESTABLISHED	MANDATE HOLDER(S)
Country mandates		
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in **Afghanistan**	2021	Mr. **Richard Bennett** (New Zealand) since April 2022*
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in **Belarus**	2012	Ms. **Anaïs Marin** (France) since November 2018
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in **Burundi**	2021	Mr. **Fortuné Gaetan Zongo** (Burkina Faso) since April 2022*
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in **Cambodia**	1993	Mr. **Vitit Muntarbhorn** (Thailand) since May 2021
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the **Central African Republic**	2013	Mr. **Yao Agbetse** (Togo) since November 2019
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the **Democratic People's Republic of Korea**	2004	Mr. **Tomás Ojea Quintana** (Argentina) since August 2016
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in **Eritrea**	2012	Mr. **Mohamed Abdelsalam Babiker** (Sudan) since November 2020
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the **Islamic Republic of Iran**	2011	Mr. **Javaid Rehman** (Pakistan) since August 2018
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in **Mali**	2013	Mr. **Alioune Tine** (Senegal) since May 2018
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in **Myanmar**	1992	Mr. **Thomas H. Andrews** (United States of America) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the **Palestinian territory** occupied since 1967	1993	Mr. **Michael Lynk** (Canada) since May 2016
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in **Somalia**	1993	Ms. **Isha Dyfan** (Sierra Leone) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the **Syrian Arab Republic**	2011	Mr. **Paulo Sérgio Pinheiro** (Brazil) will start once the mandate of the Commission of Inquiry ends

* Appointed at the forty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council.

Thematic mandates		
Working Group of Experts on People of **African Descent**	2002	Ms. **Dominique Day** (United States of America) since November 2018 Ms. **Barbara G. Reynolds** (Guyana) since November 2021 Mr. **Sushil Raj** (India) since August 2021 Ms. **Miriam Ekiudoko** (Hungary) since August 2021 Ms. **Catherine S. Namakula** (Uganda) since May 2021
Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with **albinism**	2015	Ms. **Muluka-Anne Miti-Drummond** (Zambia) since August 2021
Working Group on **Arbitrary Detention**	1991	Ms. **Priya Gopalan** (Malaysia) since May 2021 Mr. **Mumba Malila** (Zambia) since November 2020 Ms. **Leigh Toomey** (Australia) since August 2015 Ms. **Miriam Estrada-Castillo** (Ecuador) since November 2020 Ms. **Elina Steinerte** (Latvia) since November 2016
Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other **business** enterprises	2011	Mr. **Githu Muigai** (Kenya) since August 2018 Mr. **Surya Deva** (India) since May 2016 Ms. **Anita Ramasastry** (United States of America) since August 2016 Ms. **Elzbieta Karska** (Poland) since August 2018 Ms. **Fernanda Hopenhaym** (Mexico) since November 2021
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of **climate change**	2021	Mr. **Ian Fry** (Tuvalu) since April 2022*
Special Rapporteur in the field of **cultural rights**	2009	Ms. **Alexandra Xanthaki** (Greece) since November 2021
Special Rapporteur on the right to **development**	2016	Mr. **Saad Alfarargi** (Egypt) since April 2017
Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with **disabilities**	2014	Mr. **Gerard Quinn** (Ireland) since November 2020
Special Rapporteur on the right to **education**	1998	Ms. **Koumbou Boly Barry** (Burkina Faso) since August 2016
Working Group on **Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances**	1980	Mr. **Henrikas Mickevicius** (Lithuania) since September 2015 Ms. **Gabriella Citroni** (Italy) since August 2021 Mr. **Luciano Hazán** (Argentina) since May 2017 Mr. **Tae-Ung Baik** (Republic of Korea) since August 2015 Ms. **Aua Baldé** (Guinea-Bissau) since November 2020
Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable **environment**	2012	Mr. **David R. Boyd** (Canada) since August 2018

* Appointed at the forty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council.

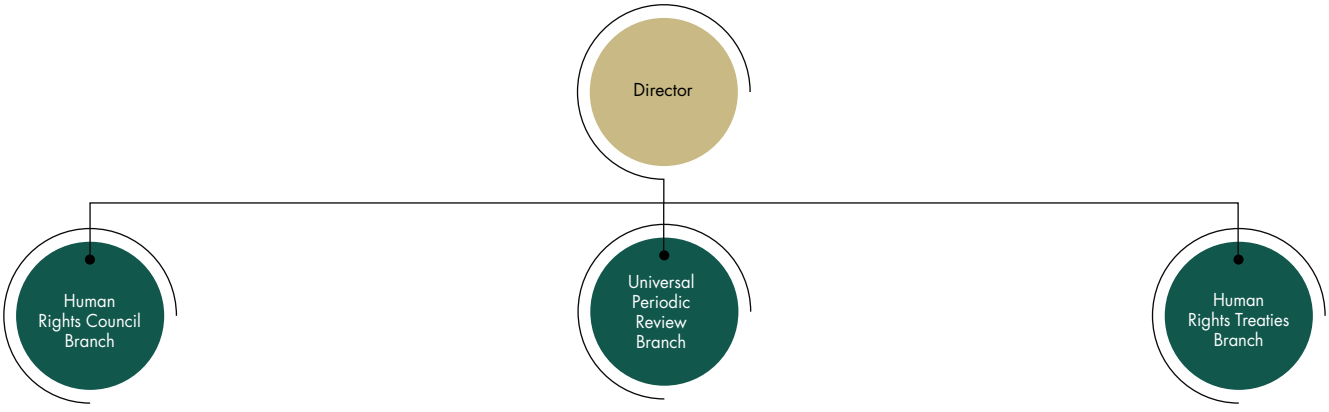
Special Rapporteur on **extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions**	1982	Mr. **Morris Tidball-Binz** (Chile) since May 2021
Special Rapporteur on the right to **food**	2000	Mr. **Michael Fakhri** (Lebanon) since May 2020
Independent Expert on the effects of **foreign debt** and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights	2000	Ms. **Attiya Waris** (Kenya) since August 2021
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to **freedom of opinion and expression**	1993	Ms. **Irene Khan** (Bangladesh) since August 2020
Special Rapporteur on the rights to **freedom of peaceful assembly and of association**	2010	Mr. **Nyaletsossi Clément Voule** (Togo) since May 2018
Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of **hazardous substances and wastes**	1995	Mr. **Marcos A. Orellana** (Chile) since August 2020
Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental **health**	2002	Ms. **Tlaleng Mofokeng** (South Africa) since August 2020
Special Rapporteur on adequate **housing** as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context	2000	Mr. **Balakrishnan Rajagopal** (United States of America) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on the situation of **human rights defenders**	2000	Ms. **Mary Lawlor** (Ireland) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on the **independence of judges and lawyers**	1994	Mr. **Diego García-Sayán** (Peru) since December 2016
Special Rapporteur on the rights of **indigenous peoples**	2001	Mr. **José Francisco Calí Tzay** (Guatemala) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of **internally displaced persons**	2004	Ms. **Cecilia Jiménez-Damary** (Philippines) since November 2016
Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable **international order**	2011	Mr. **Livingstone Sewanyana** (Uganda) since May 2018
Independent Expert on human rights and **international solidarity**	2005	Mr. **Obiora C. Okafor** (Nigeria) since August 2017
Special Rapporteur on the elimination of discrimination against persons affected by **leprosy** and their family members	2017	Ms. **Alice Cruz** (Portugal) since November 2017
Working Group on the use of **mercenaries** as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination	2005	Ms. **Jelena Aparac** (Croatia) since May 2018 Mr. **Ravindran Daniel** (India) since November 2020 Ms. **Lilian Bobea** (Dominican Republic) since May 2018 Mr. **Chris Kwaja** (Nigeria) since May 2018 Ms. **Sorcha Macleod** (United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland) since August 2018

Special Rapporteur on the human rights of **migrants**	1999	Mr. **Felipe González Morales** (Chile) since August 2017
Special Rapporteur on **minority issues**	2005	Mr. **Fernand de Varennes** (Canada) since August 2017
Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by **older persons**	2013	Ms. **Claudia Mahler** (Austria) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on extreme **poverty** and human rights	1998	Mr. **Olivier de Schutter** (Belgium) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on the right to **privacy**	2015	Ms. **Ana Brian Nougrères** (Uruguay) since August 2021
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of **racism**, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance	1993	Ms. **E. Tendayi Achiume** (Zambia) since November 2017
Special Rapporteur on freedom of **religion** or belief	1986	Mr. **Ahmed Shaheed** (Maldives) since November 2016
Special Rapporteur on the **sale and sexual exploitation of children**, including child prostitution, child pornography and other child sexual abuse material	1990	Ms. **Mama Fatima Singhateh** (Gambia) since May 2020
Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on **sexual orientation and gender identity**	2016	Mr. **Víctor Madrigal-Borloz** (Costa Rica) since January 2018
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of **slavery**, including its causes and consequences	2007	Mr. **Tomoya Obokata** (Japan) since May 2020
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering **terrorism**	2005	Ms. **Fionnuala Ni Aoláin** (Ireland) since August 2017
Special Rapporteur on **torture** and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	1985	Mr. **Nils Melzer** (Switzerland) since November 2016
Special Rapporteur on **trafficking** in persons, especially women and children	2004	Ms. **Siobhán Mullally** (Ireland) since August 2020
Special Rapporteur on the promotion of **truth**, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence	2011	Mr. **Fabián Salvioli** (Argentina) since May 2018
Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of **unilateral coercive measures** on the enjoyment of human rights	2014	Ms. **Alena Douhan** (Belarus) since March 2020
Special Rapporteur on **violence against women**, its causes and consequences	1994	Ms. **Reem Alsalem** (Jordan) since August 2021
Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking **water and sanitation**	2008	Mr. **Pedro Arrojo-Agudo** (Spain) since November 2020
Working Group on discrimination against **women and girls**	2010	Ms. **Elizabeth Broderick** (Australia) since November 2017 Ms. **Melissa Upreti** (Nepal) since November 2017 Ms. **Meskerem Techane** (Ethiopia) since November 2017 Ms. **Ivana Radacic** (Croatia) since November 2017 Ms. **Dorothy Estrada-Tanck** (Mexico) since November 2020

HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL AND TREATY MECHANISMS DIVISION

The Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division (CTMD) consists of the Office of the Director, the Human Rights Council Branch, the Human Rights Treaties Branch and the Universal Periodic Review Branch. The Division has a core mandate to support the HRC and its subsidiary mechanisms, the UPR and the human rights treaty bodies. It is therefore well placed within OHCHR to ensure that the significant normative value of the international human rights mechanisms is matched by committed follow-up to the implementation of their recommendations.

The Human Rights Council Branch (HRCB) supports the Human Rights Council, an intergovernmental body composed of 47 Member States that are elected by the General Assembly for a three-year period. Established by the General Assembly, the body is responsible for strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights around the globe. In 2021, the Branch assisted the HRC to fully implement its programme of work, including five special sessions on the human rights implications of the crisis in Myanmar; the grave human rights situation in the occupied Palestinian territories, including East Jerusalem; the serious human rights concerns and situation in Afghanistan; the human rights implications of the ongoing situation in the Sudan; and the grave human rights situation in Ethiopia.



Highlights of the Human Rights Council in 2021

Despite the many obstacles posed by COVID-19, the Human Rights Council managed to hold its three scheduled regular sessions and five special sessions, a new record for the Council, enabling it to address a long list of topics that required its attention in 2021, resulting in 16 new initiatives (resolutions, decisions and presidential statements). The Council's essential role in addressing urgent human rights situations this year, combined with the communication and outreach efforts of the HRC media team, led to an increase in the number of its Twitter account followers of nearly 500,000. The HRC account is now in the middle of the top 50 international organizations, ranked by followers.

In terms of technical innovation, the Council enhanced its modalities for remote participation to enable live and webcast services, in the six UN languages, for all regular and special sessions and for the sessions and meetings of the Council's subsidiary bodies, organizational meetings and intersessional activities.

Virtual participation yielded a higher number of participants in the Council's activities, including a record number of 123 speakers during the high-level segment of the Council's session, in March. In addition, for the first time in the UN's history, voting was conducted using an e-voting system that was developed in cooperation with the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management in New York. This allowed the Council to overcome COVID-19-related restrictions and take action on more than 40 initiatives.

This year, the Council continued to promote gender equality through a focal point, who was appointed by the HRC President. The Consultative Group of the Council surpassed gender parity among its special procedures mandate holders for the first time and since 1 November, 51 per cent of the mandate holders are women.

The **Universal Periodic Review Branch** (UPRB) provides full secretariat support to the UPR mechanism of the Human Rights Council, including the preparation of the background documentation, assisting the Troikas during the UPR's Working Group (WG) sessions and supporting the adoption of the outcome reports in the HRC plenary. The UPRB also ensures prompt responses to requests for assistance by Member States in connection with the preparation of UPR national reports, their participation in the UPR WG and HRC plenaries, and the implementation of UPR recommendations.

Due to the pandemic, UPR WG sessions continued to be held as hybrid modalities during the year, combining virtual participation through the delivery of pre-recorded and live video statements, with limited in-person participation. In 2021, three UPR WG sessions were held (thirty-seventh, thirty-eighth and thirty-ninth), during which a total of 41 countries were reviewed. Their outcomes were adopted by the HRC at the forty-sixth, forty-seventh and forty-eighth sessions. During the UPR WG sessions, OHCHR held briefings for members of delegations participating in the review of their countries and provided them with information on follow-up processes and measures for the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms. OHCHR also produced tools to facilitate the follow-up to UPR recommendations by Member States, as well as their integration in UN country programming processes.

Despite the pandemic, the accessibility of and participation in the UPR review process was enhanced during 2021. Support provided by the Voluntary Fund for participation in the UPR enabled representatives of Member States, particularly Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) that would have been ineligible for travel assistance due to travel restrictions, to participate virtually in their reviews. By the thirty-ninth session, in November, COVID-19-related restrictions had eased and, in parallel with assistance for virtual participation, OHCHR was able to provide travel assistance to delegates from some eligible States for their in-person participation in their reviews, in Geneva. As a result, the UPR continued to see a 100 per cent participation rate by States under review.

The Human Rights Treaties Branch (HRTB) supports the 10 human rights treaty bodies, which are independent committees that were established under the nine international human rights treaties and their optional protocols. The treaty bodies monitor the implementation of the international human rights treaties through the examination of reports that are periodically submitted by States Parties to them or through in situ visits. The treaty bodies collaborate with a wide range of stakeholders, including Member States, CSOs and NHRIs. They also issue recommendations to States Parties, encourage priority follow-up on certain matters and adopt general comments/recommendations on thematic or procedural issues.

In 2021, OHCHR supported 71 weeks of online, in-person and/or hybrid sessions, starting in September. The Office supported the human rights treaty bodies to adopt 314 views or decisions related to individual communications and undertake a total of 61 State Party reviews. The treaty bodies adopted 59 concluding observations and 132 list of issues and list of issues prior to reporting. It further supported the registration of 368 new individual communications and 452 new urgent actions for CED, the review of 23 situations and the preparation of 19 letters under CERD's early warning and urgent action procedure. The committee secretariats continued to provide support to the committee focal points on reprisals and responded to seven allegations of reprisals.

In 2021, the Treaty Body Capacity-Building Programme, established by General Assembly resolution 68/268 to support States Parties in building their capacity to implement their treaty obligations, organized 83 capacity-building activities worldwide for more than 2,300 participants (995 women, 1,396 men). Due to COVID-19 restrictions, 63 of these activities were carried out remotely, 13 in a hybrid format and seven in-person. In addition, the Programme convened five online regional consultations on National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRFs), as mandated by HRC resolution 42/30, which gathered together over 700 participants.

The Division administers the following six Trust Funds:

- the Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the work of the Human Rights Council;
- the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review;
- the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review;
- the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture;
- the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery; and
- the Special Fund of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Detailed information on the Trust Funds is presented in the chapter on Funds Administered by UN Human Rights on pp.124-142.

Pillar results

Mechanisms (M)

Shifts: Prevention, Global constituency, Civic space, Climate change, Corruption, Inequalities, New technologies, People on the move

Spotlights: Disabilities, Women, Youth

COVID-19 response and recovery

In response to the deepening effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, the **space for civil society engagement with the international human rights mechanisms was kept open** through a number of initiatives, including the creation of an online platform and simplified guidelines for the submission of written statements by NGOs. A list of virtual events for NGOs was regularly updated on the OHCHR web page in an effort to make these events more visible.

The Human Rights Council (HRC) adopted two resolutions related to COVID-19. Resolution A/HRC/RES/46/14 on "Ensuring equitable, affordable, timely and universal access for all countries to vaccines in response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic," emphasizes the importance of international cooperation and the central role of the State in adopting a gender-responsive and multi-sectoral approach to ensure the accessibility to and affordability of vaccines for developing countries. It mandates the High Commissioner to provide a report and an oral update and to hold a panel discussion on the issue in 2022. Resolution A/HRC/RES/48/12 on "Human rights implications of the COVID-19 pandemic on young people" recognizes that the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures to combat its spread have exacerbated existing challenges faced by young people, in particular young women and girls, in exercising their human rights. It also requests that the High Commissioner conduct a detailed study on ways to mitigate this impact.

In its contribution to the third volume of the report, *How COVID-19 is changing the world: A statistical perspective*, which was jointly compiled by 36 international organizations under the aegis of the UN Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities, OHCHR highlighted the ways in which the **recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms** were helping States to focus on discrimination and other human rights violations in their pandemic responses.

In the context of the Responsible Business Conduct in Latin America and the Caribbean project, three national public policies in the region incorporated **human rights-based actions into COVID-19 response and recovery plans**. These are the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights, adopted in Peru, in June, the National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights of Colombia, adopted in December 2020 and the Plan on Social Responsibility and Human Rights of Panama, updated in 2021.

M1 – NATIONAL MECHANISMS for REPORTING and FOLLOW-UP – National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the international human rights mechanisms and implementing their recommendations.

Shifts / SDGs

Results

Technical assistance provided through the Treaty Body Capacity-Building Programme contributed to the establishment or strengthening of National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRFs) in Benin, Bhutan, Botswana, Egypt, Eswatini, Haiti, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Malaysia, Namibia, the Philippines, the Republic of Moldova, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Turkmenistan, Uruguay and Uzbekistan. In particular, as a result of capacity-building support that has been extended since 2016, the newly established NMRF in Eswatini submitted long overdue reports in 2021. In Lesotho, the Government approved the establishment of an interministerial committee, in August, that will serve as an NMRF. In Egypt, OHCHR developed the capacity of the Standing Supreme Committee for Human Rights, including through consultations on preparing an action plan for the implementation of recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms and the use of the National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD).

In 2021, a comprehensive redesign of the NRTD was initiated. First launched in 2019, the NRTD is a digital application that is made available to States to support their management relating to human rights treaty obligations and engagement with the international human rights mechanisms. The recommendations from the human rights mechanisms are imported from the Universal Human Rights Index (UHRI) into the NRTD. The redesigned version of the NRTD will be launched in 2022.

M2 – ENGAGEMENT with human rights MECHANISMS – Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues (frontier issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.

Shifts / SDGs

Results

During the reporting period, OHCHR continued to support the **engagement of NHRIs with the HRC and its mechanisms.** It facilitated the circulation of 27 NHRI submissions as official UN documents, as well as 68 video statements that were pre-recorded by NHRIs, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) and its regional networks.

Despite the difficulties posed by COVID-19, including a significant decrease in the number of delegations of **civil society organizations, NHRIs and other actors** visiting Geneva, OHCHR maintained a high level of engagement, especially through virtual contacts, to support their **interactions with the international human rights mechanisms**. Engagement around HRC mandates increased in relation to specific countries, such as the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK), Myanmar, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. Regarding the **Philippines**, CSOs were actively involved in the design and implementation of the new UN Joint Programme, a pillar which focuses on increasing the capacities of CSOs for engagement with the international human rights mechanisms. The Office provided advice to CSOs in **Egypt** on presenting submissions to the special procedures and the human rights treaty bodies, resulting in a submission to CEDAW in anticipation of its November review of Egypt's State Party report.

Enhanced **communication with and accessibility to the international human rights mechanisms by civil society actors** was facilitated through the systematization of the NGO video and written statement process, improvement of the online submission platform and the dissemination of timely and targeted information to NGOs through informal exchanges, electronic broadcasts and online platforms. As a result, the mechanisms became more accessible to NGO representatives from the field that would have not been able to travel to Geneva to deliver in-person statements, including prior to the pandemic.

OHCHR and the European Commission held **peer-to-peer learning events on the use of the #Faith4Rights toolkit** in the context of the European Union (EU) Gender Action Plan III, which explicitly calls upon the EU to support the mobilization of religious actors for gender equality, in line with the "Faith for Rights" framework.

The Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent undertook a fact-finding visit to Portugal (29 November – 6 December) and completed the preparation of a fact-finding visit to Switzerland (17 – 26 January 2022), with the objective of gathering information on all forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance in order to assess the overall human rights situation of people of African descent. During these country visits, former Fellows from the OHCHR Fellowship Programme for People of African Descent coordinated the engagement of the Working Group with civil society activists, thus contributing, together with the Working Group, to building a network of civil society and a global constituency of human rights activists working towards advancing the human rights of people of African descent around the world.

M3 – USE of MECHANISMS' RECOMMENDATIONS – Policymakers, legislators and courts make increased use of the outcomes of the international and regional human rights mechanisms.

Shifts / SDGs

Results

Technical assistance was provided to further strengthen national capacities for the implementation of Universal Periodic Review (UPR) recommendations. Through the Voluntary Fund for UPR implementation, OHCHR provided support to several countries, including Belize, Bhutan, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Grenada, Guyana, the Republic of Moldova, Saint Kitts and Uruguay. Activities focused on creating synergies between the implementation of key UPR recommendations, strengthening the institutional capacity of governments to ensure comprehensive follow-up and reporting on progress achieved and strengthening the capacities of UN Country Teams (UNCTs) to support national efforts to implement recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms.

OHCHR cooperated with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the Organisation internationale de la Francophonie (OIF) to facilitate a workshop, in October, aimed at **strengthening the capacity of parliamentarians** from OIF member states in the UPR process. The in-person event took place in Geneva and included the participation of 18 Members of Parliament from Armenia, Cameroon, Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, France, Guinea-Bissau, Madagascar, the Republic of North Macedonia and Senegal. Four parliamentarians from Viet Nam remotely participated in the meeting. Participants shared information on the engagement of their countries with the UPR process, as well as the level of involvement of their respective parliaments before, during and after their reviews. They also discussed cooperation with NHRIs and CSOs in the implementation of the recommendations issued by the UPR.

In an effort to leverage the **implementation of UPR recommendations in humanitarian operations**, a module on the international human rights mechanisms, including the UPR, was developed and incorporated into the human rights engagement training for Protection Clusters in the field.

The launch of the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights, in February 2020, and the issuance of the Common Agenda in 2021, provided an important impetus for the integration of human rights into all UN action. The Call to Action focuses on the role of the international human rights mechanisms and the Common Agenda encourages the full use of the special procedures to respond to social, economic and political emergencies. OHCHR contributed to the Call to Action **to ensure the integration of the work of the international human rights mechanisms throughout the UN**. As a result of this work, the Inter-Agency Working Group responsible for the implementation of the Call to Action decided to create a dedicated platform on engagement with the international human rights mechanisms. This decision will be implemented in 2022.

OHCHR promoted the use of the recommendations issued by the mechanisms, including through **human rights indicators and data**, in Common Country Analyses (CCAs) and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs). OHCHR and UNDP initiated a project to stimulate the local production of disaggregated indicators and data on marginalized and vulnerable groups through a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the NHRI, the National Statistical Office and other stakeholders. Consequently, the UN, States and CSOs can use the indicators to track the results of their CCA/UNSDCF and in relation to implementation, reporting and follow-up on recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

M4 – DEVELOPMENT of INTERNATIONAL LAW – International human rights mechanisms contribute to the elaboration of international law and jurisprudence, in particular in the context of emerging human rights concerns ("frontier" issues).

Shifts / SDGs

Results

OHCHR supported the **Committee on Migrant Workers on the development and launch of its General Comment No. 5** on migrants' rights to liberty and freedom from arbitrary detention (CMW/C/SR.470). The General Comment is intended to provide guidance to States regarding the rights of all migrant workers and members of their families against arbitrary detention. The Office also supported the development of a General Comment on land and economic, social and cultural rights (CESCR), a General Comment on sustainable development and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), a General Recommendation on the rights of indigenous women and girls (CEDAW) and a General Comment on the rights of persons with disabilities to work and employment (CRPD).

During the year, OHCHR received 2,867 new **communications** that were subject to prima facie admissibility analyses. Of these, 399 new cases were registered, as they appeared to fulfil prima facie admissibility requirements. OHCHR is currently managing 3,158 registered cases. A total of 1,763 cases are pending examination by the human rights treaty bodies and 1,395 cases are now being reviewed under the follow-up procedure after decisions were adopted on findings of violations of the international human rights treaties. Over the year, 317 draft views were prepared for adoption and 314 decisions/views were adopted.

OHCHR supported the adoption of **decisions by the human rights treaty bodies that developed human rights standards in the area of climate change** and environmental harm. These included five decisions by the Committee on the Rights of the Child, in cases filed by 16 child activists, which noted that the failure of a State to reduce carbon emissions may result in violations of the rights of the child for those who are located outside its territory, if the State has effective control over the sources of emissions that caused the foreseeable harm to the children. The Human Rights Committee found that the State's failure to prevent and control the environmental harm caused to an indigenous community due to the intensive use of pesticides by nearby commercial farms violated the community's rights and sense of "home."

OHCHR maintained regular exchanges with the European and Inter-American human rights systems to ensure that individual communications registered with the human rights treaty bodies are not pending consideration by the regional systems.

M5 – EFFECTIVENESS of human rights MECHANISMS – International human rights mechanisms are increasingly effective in promoting and protecting human rights.

Shifts / SDGs

Results

OHCHR contributed to the effectiveness of the international human rights mechanisms by providing reliable information and reports based on its monitoring, as well as other forms of assistance. In particular, the Office successfully supported the **establishment of new investigative bodies that were mandated by the HRC.** Start-up teams were created to assist the new mandates on Belarus and on the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt)/Israel. As a result, the work of the mandates commenced immediately and the experts received support as soon as they were appointed.

OHCHR increased its capacities to provide common services support to the various investigative mandates, particularly with regard to **information management** systems, with the phased roll-out of the new relativity software.

Significant progress was made in **integrating human rights information**, including information generated by the international human rights mechanisms, **into the UN's Regional Monthly Review** (RMR) process, notably through the treaty body prevention assessments and the inclusion of a standard human rights slide in the RMR briefing decks. This resulted in an increased awareness about the role of the international human rights mechanisms in opening up a space to engage with national authorities on key risk areas identified in the RMR that have limited entry points for the UN system. For instance, RMRs on Djibouti and Eritrea identified specific entry points for UN engagement based on UPR recommendations that were accepted by the respective governments.

At the end of 2020, the Office conducted a thorough assessment of its digital technology needs in order to lay the foundation for a **sustained digital transformation**. The assessment mapped digital gaps and needs, as well as tools that are in use, in particular with regard to the international human rights mechanisms. In 2021, OHCHR embarked on a two-year project to develop and deploy fit-for-purpose digital tools, which will make these mechanisms more accessible to stakeholders and enhance their efficiency in everyday operations. While the new tools are under development, improvements are being made to the existing tools. For example, the retrieval of information functionality of the treaty bodies database was streamlined, including in relation to the follow-up procedures and general comments, resulting in the increased visibility of the human rights treaty bodies. The Petitions database was upgraded with the introduction of new functionalities to streamline workflows and allow for a more efficient handling of individual communications. In addition, a new digital case management and portal function was introduced.

In the context of preparing for virtual dialogues, the human rights treaty bodies compared methodologies, with a view to **sharing experiences and harmonizing procedures**. For example, CAT adopted measures to encourage the coordination of lists of issues and concluding observations between the treaty bodies, building on similar processes adopted by the Human Rights Committee and CESCR in 2020. CERD adopted new guidelines on cooperation with NGOs and NHRIs and the elaboration of general recommendations. The first two were inspired by guidelines previously adopted by other committees and sought to harmonize CERD's procedures with those of the other treaty bodies.

The **treaty ratification** dashboard, released in 2013, continued to be regularly updated and used by various stakeholders, including States, researchers and other UN agencies. Following numerous requests from users, the ratification data related to the 18 human rights treaties and their optional protocols was uploaded to the dashboard. Due to this increased accessibility, treaty ratification data is now included in measurement frameworks, such as the Human Rights and Gender Database created by the Statistics Development Division of the Pacific Community and the Migrants' Rights Dashboard created by IOM.

Development (D)

Shifts: Prevention, Global constituency, Civic space, Climate change, Corruption, Inequalities, New technologies, People on the move

Spotlights: Disabilities, Women, Youth

COVID-19 response and recovery

Through the **Surge Initiative**, OHCHR implemented eight projects in the field aimed at **building back better from the COVID-19 pandemic**, including by undertaking more focused analysis on groups left behind, building disaggregated datasets and evidence to advise States, UNCTs, CSOs and other national partners and stakeholders on human rights-based socio-economic responses. For example, in Ukraine, OHCHR carried out human rights analyses of 10 municipal budgets in relation to social protection, including by considering whether such budgetary processes and related structures enable the effective participation of affected rights-holders, particularly the most marginalized. In Nepal, the Office identified the minimum essential health care interventions, with an emphasis on sexual and reproductive health, for four marginalized communities of women working in the informal sector. It further analysed budgets and trends in government allocations for sexual and reproductive health care services at the national and federal levels, which will serve as a basis for recommendations on appropriate budgetary provisions. In September, a High Commissioner's report on the work of the Surge Initiative was submitted to ECOSOC, highlighting efforts undertaken in the context of COVID-19 response and recovery in 24 countries.

OHCHR strengthened advocacy to **promote the human rights of older persons in the COVID-19 response**. With WHO and other UN partners, OHCHR is co-leading inter-agency efforts to support the implementation of the new UN Decade of Healthy Ageing 2021-2030. OHCHR also co-launched the latest *Global report on ageism*, in March, as well as a regional initiative to uphold the rights and dignity of older persons in connection with the COVID-19 response in Eastern Europe and Central Asia.

D1 – BUSINESS and human rights – Judicial and non-judicial mechanisms hold business and other economic actors to account for rights abuses and provide remedies to victims.

Shifts / SDGs

Results

OHCHR actively contributed to **policy processes aimed at introducing mandatory human rights due diligence regulations,** including by publishing a paper with the non-profit organization, Shift, on how such regulations can be enforced through administrative supervision. Further, OHCHR made a submission to the open-ended intergovernmental working group mandated to draft a legally binding instrument on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights (IGWG).

Building on the report of the UN Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises regarding the *Role of national human rights institutions in facilitating access to remedy for business-related human rights abuses*, and in the context of the Responsible Business Conduct in Latin America and the Caribbean project, OHCHR enhanced the capacity of 23 local and provincial human rights institutions of **Argentina** through a series of workshops organized between May and June, in coordination with the NHRI. As a result, a protocol of actions to deal with business-related human rights abuses, including facilitating access to remedy, was developed and agreed upon by the 23 local and provincial human rights institutions of Argentina.

The tenth **Annual Forum on Business and Human Rights** was held from 29 November to 1 December under the theme "The next decade of business and human rights: Increasing the pace and scale of action to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights." Over 3,000 participants registered to participate in the Forum, which was, once again, held virtually. Over 180 panellists, including representatives from States, businesses and business associations, civil society, NHRIs, unions, indigenous peoples, human rights defenders (HRDs) and academics, shared their experiences and perspectives, with a particular focus on how to improve implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) in the next decade and beyond.

With the support of OHCHR, ILO and OECD, the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises convened the sixth **Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights in Latin America and the Caribbean**, from 4 to 6 October. The event gathered together 3,000 participants from business, civil society, unions, academics and States. A road test version of the regional road map for the next 10 years of the UNGPs was subsequently developed. Implementation will begin in 2022.

D2 – GUIDING PRINCIPLES on Business and Human Rights – Business actors effectively implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

Shifts / SDGs

Results

Interpretive **guidance was issued on the application of the UNGPs** for the financial sector and on the requirement for tech companies to conduct human rights due diligence on the end use of their products, thereby advancing a normative understanding of the implications of the UNGPs. OHCHR produced additional guidance materials, including a "Trailhead" learning tool on the UNGPs, that was developed with the company, Salesforce; a guidance note on the effectiveness criteria for non-State-based grievance mechanisms; and six background papers related to implementation of the UNGPs in the tech sector.

The Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children, developed guidance for multi-stakeholder initiatives to address **trafficking in supply chains**. The guidance, which is divided into three chapters, includes one that is dedicated to the establishment of grievance mechanisms and was founded on the work and recommendations emanating from the OHCHR-led Accountability and Remedy Project.

Within the framework of the collaboration with the World Economic Forum Partnership for Global LGBTI Equality (PGLE), OHCHR disseminated the ***Standards of conduct for business: Tackling discrimination against LGBTI people*** and co-developed a self-assessment tool with PGLE and the UN Global Compact, which was launched in September, to enable companies to analyse their performance in the implementation of the Standards of Conduct.

OHCHR collaborated with the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises to facilitate the establishment of and **provide technical support to nine national hubs in Latin America** in order to strengthen their business capacities and peer learning. For example, in Brazil, OHCHR supported business to carry out human rights due diligence and assessed emerging practices in that field. In Argentina, OHCHR supported the creation of an alliance of six chambers of commerce that are leading on responsible business conduct.

D3 – LAND and HOUSING laws/policies – State authorities adopt and implement laws, policies and strategies on land and housing that increasingly comply with human rights.

Shifts / SDGs

Results

The Office supported the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, and on the right to non-discrimination in this context, in seeking worldwide **accountability for violations of the right to housing** through a communications tool. In 2021, the mandate sent out 109 communications, representing an unprecedented increase in the number of communications, compared to previous years. Many of the communications focused on the impacts of forced evictions and other housing rights violations that occurred in the context of COVID-19, reinforcing the Special Rapporteur's call for a global moratorium on evictions during the pandemic. As an example, after an urgent appeal was sent by the Special Rapporteur to the Bahamas and the issuance of an injunction by the Supreme Court, the planned forced eviction of 2,000 persons of Haitian origin was halted.

The Special Rapporteur on adequate housing prepared a report entitled ***Twenty years of promoting and protecting the right to adequate housing: Taking stock and moving forward*** (A/HRC/47/43). The report provides an assessment of the mandate's achievements and contributions at local, national and international levels since its establishment and highlights the development of important guidelines on forced evictions, security of tenure and the implementation of the right to adequate housing. It also outlines recommendations to enhance its working methods and identifies seven priorities for its future.

OHCHR led inter-agency efforts under the UN-Water framework to develop a **UN-Water road map to strengthen the integration of the human rights to water and sanitation**, which opens up more opportunities for joint advocacy and country engagement on this issue in 2022.

D4 – HEALTH POLICIES and human rights – Public health approaches, including sexual and reproductive health policies, comply with international human rights standards and provide non-discriminatory access, especially to children, adolescents, women and migrants.

Shifts / SDGs

Results

OHCHR continued to expand the global constituency for **sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)**, by engaging with health workers on their fundamental role in the realization of human rights. For example, in **Uganda**, OHCHR partnered with the Ministry of Health and UNAIDS to design and deliver a pilot training to 20 health workers to build their awareness and capacities to apply a human rights-based approach (HRBA) to the provision of sexual and reproductive health and HIV-related services, while also identifying and eliminating stigma and discrimination affecting women living with HIV.

In November, OHCHR organized an intersessional consultation on mental health and human rights, as mandated by Human Rights Council resolution A/HRC/43/13. Under its Framework of Cooperation with WHO, the Office continued to develop joint guidance on the drafting of mental health laws that are in compliance with international human rights standards, particularly CRPD, and initiated work on developing guidance on the application of an HRBA to universal health coverage.

OHCHR facilitated the **integration of human rights norms and principles into the work of the Committee for World Food Security**, including its Voluntary Guidelines on Food Systems and Nutrition. OHCHR actively engaged in the Food System Summit, bringing human rights concerns to the forefront of discussions around sustainable food systems and healthy diets. In collaboration with WHO, the Office also stressed the potential role of the private sector in encouraging the public to make the shift towards sustainable and healthy diets, thereby contributing to the enjoyment of the right to food and the right to health. Finally, in Jordan, OHCHR and the UNCT launched a policy brief with concrete recommendations on promoting healthy diets in the national context.

D5 – ENVIRONMENT and CLIMATE policies – Environmental and climate policies and plans increasingly respect, protect and fulfil human rights, guaranteeing those affected access to information, decision-making, public participation and remedies.

Shifts / SDGs

Results

OHCHR continued to work closely with the Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment, UNEP and other UN partners, as well as States, CSOs, indigenous peoples and other relevant stakeholders, to advocate for the global recognition and **advancement of the human right to a healthy environment**. This contributed to the adoption of HRC resolution 48/13, which recognizes that a clean, healthy and sustainable environment is a human right.

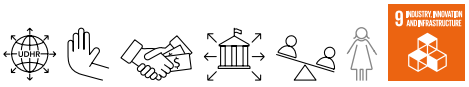
OHCHR continued to raise awareness on the **linkages between human rights and the environment** and built capacity to address them. More specifically, the Office launched its first publication on climate change, *Frequently asked questions on human rights and climate change*, and worked with the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) and the Paris Committee on Capacity-building (PCCB) to develop and launch an e-learning course on human rights and climate change.* It also issued new advocacy materials, which were jointly developed with UNEP and other partners, on *Human rights and biodiversity, human rights and hazardous substances, as well as human rights, the environment and gender equality.*

OHCHR launched a number of new **partnerships and communications efforts related to the right to a healthy environment**, including the Right Here, Right Now Global Climate Alliance, a monthly newsletter on the Environment and Climate Change and a WikiforHumanRights campaign on the right to a healthy environment. The campaign was co-organized with the Wikimedia Foundation and UNEP and produced more than 27 community events and 2,000 articles in more than 30 languages.

The Office supported the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the implications for human rights of the environmentally sound management and disposal of hazardous substances and wastes to produce a report for the Human Rights Council on the right to science (A/HRC/48/61). The report argues that the right to science implies that truthful scientific information is available and accessible and that **information on hazardous substances** should not be kept away from the public domain. It also calls for policymaking and legislation to be based on scientific evidence.

D6 – HUMAN RIGHTS IMPACT assessment – Human rights assessments and impact analyses mitigate, prevent or redress the negative effects of economic, trade and development policies and projects.

Shifts / SDGs



Results

In collaboration with the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Geneva Office and the UN Economic Commission for Africa, OHCHR promoted the use of **human rights impacts assessments in trade agreements**. The Office also disseminated the recommendations of an ex-ante impact assessment of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) and updated its policy messages to consider the implementation of the AfCFTA in the context of socio-economic recovery from COVID-19.

OHCHR undertook advocacy with the Asian Development Bank, the Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank (AIIB) and the European Investment Bank with regard to their **safeguard policies** and issued recommendations to improve gender integration and a commitment to address gender-based violence, including through the establishment and implementation of a self-standing gender equality standard. In 2021, the AIIB's Environment and Social Framework made increased references to consideration for gender equality.

* UN CC: Learn, An introduction to climate change and human rights, Accessed 29 April 2022, https://www.uncclearn.org/courses/an-introduction-to-climate-change-and-human-rights/

D7 – HUMAN RIGHTS INTEGRATION in implementing the SDGs – States integrate human rights, including the right to development and the outcomes of the international human rights mechanisms, as they implement the Sustainable Development Goals and other development and poverty eradication efforts. The UN supports them in these purposes and integrates human rights into its own development work.

Shifts / SDGs

Results

OHCHR continued to lead the inter-agency team revising the draft ***United Nations Sustainable Development Goals operational guide on Leaving No One Behind.*** The Guide has been approved by the Executive Office of the Secretary-General and the United Nations Sustainable Development Group (UNSDG) Core Group and will be finalized soon. It will be a key reference tool for UNCTs in relation to the implementation of the new CCAs and UNSDCFs and therefore crucial to ensuring a focus on inequalities and the application of the human rights-based approach.

OHCHR substantially contributed to the UN support to States in the **implementation of the SDGs and other development efforts**, including through the integration of human rights into the UN's development work and by placing human rights at the centre of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and COVID-19 response and recovery plans. In particular, the Office provided analytical contents and operational advice for CCA and UNSDCF documents and processes, including in relation to Albania, Chad, Guinea-Bissau, Lao People's Democratic Republic, the Maldives and Zimbabwe. OHCHR also provided support to Voluntary National Review (VNR) processes in a number of countries, including Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Eswatini, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Jamaica, Jordan, Lao PDR, Saudi Arabia and Zimbabwe. In addition, OHCHR supported UNCTs and Resident Coordinator's Offices (RCOs) in applying an HRBA and a Leaving No One Behind (LNOB) approach and using recommendations issued by the international human rights mechanisms for their programming. This was achieved through targeted capacity-building activities and participation in and support to UN regional and cross-regional platforms that are dedicated to development operations. In the case of Egypt, OHCHR provided support to the UNCT on the integration of human rights into the CCA and the draft UNSDCF (2023-2027), which led to the CCA's reference to vulnerable groups in Egypt.

OHCHR helped several UNCTs to integrate **COVID-19 human rights indicators** into CCAs and the results frameworks of UNSDCFs. To ensure that the best quality data and statistics are available to support decision-making during and after the pandemic, OHCHR worked with UNICEF and UN Women to conduct COVID-19 rapid gender assessments on the impacts of COVID-19 on violence, discrimination, inequality and injustice in Central and Western Africa.

OHCHR continued to systematically develop **matrixes linking UPR recommendations with the SDGs** for all countries reviewed, making it easier for Member States and UNCTs to integrate recommendations into planning and implementation at the country level.

The ongoing OHCHR-UNDP project on "Enhanced Resident Coordinator and UNCT strategic engagement with the UPR and other human rights mechanisms and with NMRFs and NHRIs to achieve the SDGs" provided tailored support for six selected proposals (from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Pakistan, Sierra Leone, Tunisia and Uruguay) and led to the creation of a **repository of good practices on the use of the UPR by the UN system**. The repository revealed the increasing integration of UPR recommendations into CCAs/UNDSCFs and the planning and programming of UN entities, in line with their mandates.

The Office supported the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights in continuing to advocate for **the right to social protection** and the establishment of a Global Fund for Social Protection as a means to realize this right (SDG 1.3). The Special Rapporteur presented his thematic report on the establishment of this new mechanism (A/HRC/47/36) to the forty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council, in June. He also launched a global survey on non-take-up of social protection, analysing the gap between legal and effective coverage of social protection. The report and results of the survey will feed into a report that will assess the status of the implementation of the right to social protection and propose ways forward in its universal implementation. It will be submitted to the fiftieth session of the Human Rights Council in 2022.

The Office supported the mandate of the **Special Rapporteur on the right to development** in continuing to advocate for the integration of the right to development in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 14) and the Paris Agreement. The Special Rapporteur presented a report to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/48/56) and to the General Assembly (A/76/154), examining the relationship between the right to development and climate action at national and international levels. In October, the Special Rapporteur also issued a policy brief entitled *Climate action and the right to development: A participatory approach,* encouraging all countries participating in the UN Climate Change Conference 2021 to integrate the recommendations, included in the brief, in their decision-making.

Through the Surge Initiative, OHCHR delivered HRBA trainings to 15 UNCTs and 27 human rights capacity-strengthening activities. For example, in September, the surge team delivered training to government officials in Sudan on **the role of public budgets in realizing economic, social and cultural rights** and advancing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The objective of the training was to familiarize officials with an HRBA to public budgeting and encourage collaboration between OHCHR, the Ministry of Social Development and other government line ministries and departments on the application of an HRBA to planning and programming. Similar initiatives were undertaken in Haiti, Niger, the State of Palestine* and Zambia.

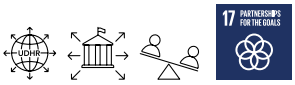
OHCHR continued to strategically engage with a wide range of UN actors to ensure **meaningful contributions to key UN development policies and guidance**. For example, OHCHR contributed to the revised *Management and accountability framework of the UN Development and Resident Coordinator System,* ensuring a clear framework for management and accountability within UNCTs, including on performance and mutual accountabilities for human rights, in line with the RC's job description and the objective of the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights.

OHCHR increased its advocacy on the **right to development**, including through the production of public materials, such as reports on the right to development and on international cooperation, training resources, and engagement in policy discussions, notably on COVID-19 responses, international solidarity, cooperation and partnerships to ensure that no person, group, community or country is left behind. The Office also supported the engagement and advocacy by the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development with NHRIs and civil society regarding the integration of human rights into SDG implementation, including through an online dialogue between the Expert Mechanism, CSOs and social movements.

OHCHR worked with UNESCO and a group of NHRIs that was coordinated by the Danish Institute of Human Rights to develop a framework to help States **track progress in implementing human rights education** under the World Programme for Human Rights Education and the 2030 Agenda. The assessment was endorsed by the UNESCO-led Technical Cooperation Group that oversees the monitoring of SDG 4.

D8 – DISAGGREGATED human rights DATA – National institutions, assisted by communities, systematically collect, disaggregate and use data that are relevant for advancing human rights when they monitor and implement the SDGs.

Shifts / SDGs



Results

With the support of OHCHR, NHRIs and National Statistical Offices in Albania, Jordan, Mongolia, the Philippines and the Republic of Moldova signed MoUs in 2021 to establish formal agreements to **disaggregate data and integrate human rights into official development statistics.**

The *Sustainable Development Goals report 2021* **and other reports**, such as the Secretary-General's report on *Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals* and its statistical annex, include the latest disaggregated data on the four **SDG indicators under OHCHR's custodianship**, namely, SDG 16.1.2 on conflict deaths; SDG 16.10.1 on killings and attacks against human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists; SDG 16.a.1 on NHRIs; and SDG 10.3.1/16.b.1 on the experience of discrimination and harassment.

The EU-supported project on human rights indicators was completed in November. The project contributed to strengthening **OHCHR's capacity in using data and statistical methods to support and measure the implementation of human rights** norms and obligations and assess human rights and related risk factors. It expanded the compilation of human rights indicators and their incorporation into relevant reports, particularly regarding the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. More than half of the global SDG indicators are recognized as being directly relevant to measuring human rights and include indicators based on OHCHR's methodology.

* All references to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with General Assembly resolution 67/19.

Peace and Security (PS)

Shifts: Prevention, Global constituency, Civic space, Climate change, Corruption, Inequalities, New technologies, People on the move

Spotlights: Disabilities, Women, Youth

PS1 – PROTECTION of CIVILIANS, CONFLICT and PEACE – Parties to conflict and actors involved in peace operations increasingly comply with international human rights law and international humanitarian law and provide greater protection to civilians.

Shifts / SDGs

Results

OHCHR made good progress in advancing the **compliance with international human rights law and international humanitarian law by armed forces** in regional organizations and ad hoc coalitions, for example, by contributing to the development of UN guidance regarding the establishment of criteria that is applicable to Troop Contributing Countries (TCCs) where there are grounds to believe that their armed and security forces have been involved in grave human rights violations.

The Internal Security Forces project in Chad, Mauritania and Niger continued to deliver capacity-building assistance that is instrumental to ensuring **human rights compliance by Internal Security Forces**. To this end, OHCHR developed substantive guidance and training materials.

PS2 – Counter-TERRORISM and preventing VIOLENT EXTREMISM – Efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism comply with international law.

Shifts / SDGs

Results

OHCHR's engagement and normative leadership role in relation to **counter-terrorism and human rights** among Member States and within the UN counter-terrorism system significantly increased, largely due to its strategic engagement during the seventh review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. This resulted in the inclusion of strengthened language on civic space, the rights of the child, women's rights and gender equality. OHCHR also informed the development of various thematic initiatives launched by UN entities, including strategies for prosecution, rehabilitation and reintegration for terrorist suspects; model legal provisions on victims of terrorism; and the global framework for repatriation of third country nationals held in Iraq and in the Syrian Arab Republic. OHCHR was the lead author of the Secretary-General's report on terrorism and human rights, which provides Member States with authoritative guidance on an HRBA to counter-terrorism. The Office also reviewed a **substantial number of counter-terrorism laws, policies and UN programmes**, including Egypt's national human rights strategy and counter-terrorism legislation, Switzerland's counter-terrorism legislation and the UN Joint Programme for the Philippines.

PS3 – HUMAN RIGHTS protection in PREVENTION/RESPONSE – Strategies to prevent and respond to conflict consistently integrate human rights protection.

Shifts / SDGs

Results

In collaboration with the African Union (AU) and the World Bank, OHCHR contributed to further **integrating human rights into early warning systems in the AU** and in Regional Economic Communities (RECs). In 2021, a study on good practices in relation to early warning and conflict prevention systems was undertaken to provide recommendations for improving collaboration of NHRIs, the AU and RECs in this area.

OHCHR engaged in the **mandate renewal of 11 peace operations** in order to strengthen and preserve human rights language in relevant resolutions and increase human rights impact across mission contexts, including by coordinating with human rights components and responsible departments and heightening engagement with Security Council members and penholders. For instance, strong human rights language on the implementation of transitional justice mechanisms was incorporated into Security Council resolution 2621 on MONUSCO's mandate, which was adopted on 20 December. OHCHR further reviewed and provided inputs to 26 guidance documents for UN peace missions, for instance, *Conducting peacekeeping training needs assessments,* and represented OHCHR in consultations on guidance development.

OHCHR participated in the **Recovery and Peacebuilding Assessment that was jointly conducted in Mozambique** by UN agencies, the EU and the World Bank. This provided a concrete opportunity to ensure that human rights were incorporated into the Assessment and helped to shape the strategies for prevention and recovery of other partners. In addition, OHCHR's increased engagement with the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) in New York, through an OHCHR staff member who was embedded in the PBSO, resulted in the integration of human rights considerations into its support for the UN's peacebuilding efforts on the ground. For example, the Gender and Youth Promotion Initiative prioritized human rights-related themes in 2020 and 2021.

In **Libya**, technical support extended to the United Nations Support Mission in Libya's (UNSMIL) human rights component led to the establishment of the Monitoring, Analysis and Reporting Arrangement. This structure was set up by the Security Council through resolution 1960 (2010) to ensure the timely **documentation of conflict-related sexual violence** (CRSV), improve the coordination of UN responses and inform the actions of the Security Council.

OHCHR coordinated with other UN members of the Sexual Exploitation and Abuse (SEA) Working Group to develop policies and tools to support a victim-centred, human-rights-based approach to the **UN's efforts to prevent and respond to SEA**. OHCHR led the development and finalization of the *United Nations policy on integrating a human rights-based approach to UN efforts to prevent and respond to sexual exploitation and abuse* and contributed to the development of complementary tools, such as the Victims' Rights Statement.

A 2020 methodology on the **use of human rights treaty body observations and recommendations** to highlight the potential risk of conflicts or crises was systematically applied in 2021 in the preparation for Regional Monthly Reviews. The methodology is also being used to undertake conflict prevention assessments of all countries that will have their State Party reports reviewed by the Human Rights Committee and CESCR.

OHCHR continued to support **CERD's Early Warning and Urgent Action Procedure** and 23 situations were brought to the attention of the Early Warning and Urgent Action Working Group. In response, a total of 19 letters were sent and one statement was adopted. Regarding the CED's Urgent Action Procedure, 453 new urgent actions were registered in 2021, bringing the total number of registered actions to 1,454. To date, the mechanism has contributed to the location of 424 persons.

OHCHR supported the adoption by CEDAW of a decision on a case concerning **the arbitrary detention and torture of a human rights defender** by a militia group allegedly affiliated with the Libyan Government. The Committee concluded that Libya violated the human rights of the HRD by failing to investigate and prosecute her unlawful detention and torture.

PS4 – TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE and ACCOUNTABILITY – Justice mechanisms, including for transitional justice, provide increased accountability for conflict-related violations.

Shifts / SDGs

Results

OHCHR provided support to **transitional justice processes and accountability mechanisms** across the globe, including in relation to Algeria, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Gambia, Lesotho, Libya, the Maldives, Myanmar, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, the Western Balkans and Yemen. In **Tunisia**, for example, OHCHR delivered capacity-building training to the judiciary of the Specialized Criminal Chambers and supported CSOs in their monitoring of transitional justice-related trials.

PS5 – INFORMATION and EARLY WARNING – Human rights information and analyses are integrated into early warning and analysis systems and influence international and national policymaking, strategies and operations to prevent, mitigate or respond to emerging crises, including humanitarian crises and conflict.

Shifts / SDGs

Results

In 2021, OHCHR doubled the number of **Emergency Response Teams** (from three to six) and therefore strengthened the capacity of some of its regional offices (in Bangkok, Dakar, Panama City, Pretoria, Santiago de Chile and Yaoundé) to undertake early warning and analysis and to incorporate a stronger prevention component into their support on SDG implementation and LNOB. In 2022, OHCHR aims to establish additional Teams in Addis Ababa, Bishkek and Suva.

OHCHR formalized a sustainable agreement with UNOSAT for the **use of satellite images for human rights monitoring and analysis**. In 2021, over 1,000 inputs were provided by OHCHR to UNOCC and over 200 inputs were delivered to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) Early Warning, Early Action and Readiness Analyst Group. The Office and Information Management and Data Analytics (IMDA) co-developed a tool that structures information and data related to the IASC Early Warning and Early Action process to facilitate analysis. In addition, the tool creates an automation component to feed that information into the OHCHR early warning system.

Within the framework of the Global Health Cluster, the Crisis Management Team and the COVAX Humanitarian Buffer, OHCHR supported UNICEF and WHO in **monitoring** and providing advice on national vaccination plans, including by providing information on the human rights dimensions of the COVID-19 **vaccine roll-out in relation to vulnerable groups**. To this end, the Office established a media monitoring system to prepare a weekly global newsletter on information related to access to vaccines of vulnerable groups.

A statistical analysis of the **number of conflict-related deaths in the last 10 years in Syria**, founded on Syrian civil society's and OHCHR's data that was compiled under SDG Indicator 16.1.2, helped bring the country situation back into the headlines through informed media coverage, both internationally and regionally. The data on casualty recording that was gathered by OHCHR supported the High Commissioner's call for accountability. She delivered an oral update to the HRC, in September, and emphasized the importance of using established statistical techniques to provide a more complete picture of the scale of the conflict and its impact on Syrians.

OHCHR facilitated the flow of **information and analysis from human rights components** in peace operations to the early warning structures at UN Headquarters in New York to enable effective action and decision-making. In 2021, OHCHR contributed to 35 Security Council consultations and 43 Secretary-General reports on progress achieved in the implementation of the mandates of peace operations.

Following selected reviews of State Parties, OHCHR prepared **human rights treaty body Prevention Assessment Outcome Documents** (PAODs). In accordance with an agreed methodology, PAODs use conclusions and recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies to identify risk factors that could lead to conflicts or crises. They also highlight recommendations that the UN could pursue with a State Party in question to help prevent the emergence or deterioration of a conflict or crisis.

PS6 – HUMAN RIGHTS DUE DILIGENCE POLICY – The support of the United Nations to national and regional security forces, law enforcement agencies and non-State actors integrates human rights and complies with the HRDDP.

Shifts / SDGs

Results

OHCHR continued to raise awareness about and strengthen the **implementation of the HRDDP** in countries and regions where UN support to non-UN security forces significantly contributes to advancing the peace and security agenda. In 2021, OHCHR's technical cooperation resulted in the gradual establishment of "light" HRDDP mechanisms in missions without such mechanisms, including the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI), and the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK). The Office also participated in DPO-led assessments of the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali's (MINUSMA) support to the G5 Sahel Joint Force and the UN's support options to the Joint Force, thereby ensuring a thorough review of the application of the HRDDP, in close coordination with DPPA-DPO and DOS.

The Office continued to provide support and guidance for the **implementation of the HRRDP to the UNCTs**, particularly in relation to the development of standard operating procedures (SOPs), risk assessments and mitigation measures. Such support was provided to UNCTs in 32 countries, including Myanmar, Nigeria, Peru and Uzbekistan.

Non-discrimination (ND)

Shifts: Prevention, Global constituency, Civic space, Climate change, Corruption, Inequalities, New technologies, People on the move

Spotlights: Disabilities, Women, Youth

COVID-19 response and recovery

A number of OHCHR field presences actively undertook **measures to prevent and respond to the impacts of COVID-19 on gender-based violence** (GBV). For example, some field presences designed innovative ways to collect data on human rights and gender equality issues. This included an unprecedented crowdsourcing project that collected data to improve services and programmes related to GBV, while also ensuring a survivor-centred approach, in India and 23 other countries in Asia. In addition, OHCHR field presences in Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Niger, Senegal and Tunisia developed quantitative surveys on the impacts of COVID-19 on women, which enabled the collection of disaggregated data on the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19, with a particular focus on women.

ND1 – NORMATIVE FRAMEWORKS to combat DISCRIMINATION – Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms and responsible authorities actively work to Leave No One Behind, including by addressing the root causes of inequality.

Shifts / SDGs

Results

The HRC Complaint Procedure contributed to the **promotion and protection of human rights, including by addressing inequality and discriminatory laws**. In this context, concrete measures were undertaken at the national level to prevent discrimination, such as the prohibition of the deprivation of nationality to avoid statelessness and the reintegration into employment of workers who were victims of unlawful dismissal.

OHCHR provided guidance to States and other stakeholders on **preventing and addressing racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance**. Advisory services were provided on indicators related to ethnic origin to the Government of Peru for the data collection on people of African descent, in the context of the implementation of the National Policy of people of African descent. OHCHR also played an active role in the drafting process of the EU draft guiding principles for national action plans against racism, by providing advice on principles, objectives and content of a comprehensive strategy to fight racial discrimination. Once approved, these guiding principles will assist EU member states in the development of their respective national action plans.

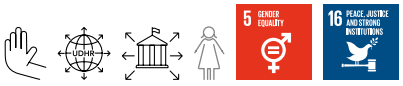
In 2021, OHCHR empowered activists of African descent to promote and protect the human rights of their communities through its **Fellowship Programme for People of African Descent**. A total of 18 participants (12 women, six men) from 12 countries attended the three-week human rights training, which, for the first time, was held in two languages, English and Spanish.

During the year, the **Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights** organized several participatory dialogues on discrimination against people living in poverty. He heard directly from participants about their experiences living in poverty and discussed measures that could be adopted to break this cycle and improve social mobility, with a particular emphasis on the role of social welfare services and the conditions under which investments in early childhood can make a difference. The dialogues fed into a thematic report on the intergenerational perpetuation of poverty (A/76/177) that was presented at the seventy-fifth session of the General Assembly, in October.

OHCHR provided substantive support to a high-level meeting at the General Assembly to commemorate the **twentieth anniversary of the adoption of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action** under the theme "Reparations, racial justice and equality for people of African descent." During the meeting, Member States adopted a political declaration, affirming their commitment to mobilizing political will and accelerating the momentum to prioritize the fight against racism and the protection of its victims. The Office issued a booklet entitled *Fighting racism and discrimination: The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action at 20,* produced an animated video depicting the importance of the Durban Declaration and created a dedicated web page on OHCHR's website.

ND2 – JUSTICE SYSTEMS investigate DISCRIMINATION – Justice systems and related institutions increasingly monitor and investigate discrimination and provide redress to victims.

Shifts / SDGs



Results

In July, the High Commissioner presented her report to the Human Rights Council in which she laid out ***an Agenda towards transformative change for racial justice and equality***. The report outlines a four-point agenda and builds on decades of work by international and other human rights mechanisms, as well as a wide consultation process that focused on the experiences of people of African descent. Throughout the process, OHCHR contributed to strengthening advocacy to: address systemic racism and ensure accountability of law enforcement officials for human rights violations against Africans and people of African descent; take further action to ensure that the voices of people of African descent are heard; and confront past legacies and deliver reparatory justice. The report launch was accompanied by a series of media and communications products to enhance the visibility of its findings. Subsequently, the Council **established an international independent expert mechanism to advance racial justice and equality in law enforcement** and requested OHCHR to enhance and broaden its monitoring in order to continue to report on these issues and promote global action to bring about transformative change for racial justice and equality.

Following two years of collaboration and the organization of a number of consultations, OHCHR and the Equal Rights Trust prepared a publication entitled *Protecting minority rights: A practical guide to developing comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation*. After its publication in 2022, the Guide will serve as the leading **guidance anti-discrimination legislation and the right to equality**.

ND3 – WOMEN PARTICIPATION and PROTECTION – Legal and social frameworks increasingly promote the autonomy and choices of women and girls and protect them from violence, including in the digital space.

Shifts / SDGs

Results

At its eighty-sixth session, on 2 March, CRC adopted **General Comment No. 25 on children's rights in relation to the digital environment** (CRC/C/GC/25). Through this General Comment, the Committee explains how States Parties should implement CRC in relation to the digital environment and provides guidance on relevant legislative, policy and other measures to ensure full compliance with their obligations under the Convention to promote, respect, protect and fulfil the rights of the child. In 2020, the Committee invited all interested parties to comment on the draft and received 142 submissions from States, regional organizations, UN agencies, NHRIs, children's and adolescent groups, CSOs, academics, the private sector, other entities and individuals.

CEDAW adopted its first decision on the issue of **so-called honour-based crimes**. The case concerned a woman who was a victim of gender-based violence. Her husband's relatives accused her of having an extramarital affair and she was beaten by those relatives, in front of her children, until she lost consciousness. She was later found dead. CEDAW condemned Georgia for failing to protect the victim against so-called honour-based violence and for failing to investigate and prosecute those responsible.

OHCHR organized a two-day virtual roundtable event, in March, to mark International Women's Day and to **recognize women human rights defenders (WHRDs) in the Arab region**. A total of 40 participants (34 women, six men) attended the event, including WHRDs from Algeria, Bahrain, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, the State of Palestine, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia and Yemen. The event provided a platform to discuss women's leadership and the challenges faced by WHRDs during the pandemic. It also identified opportunities for strategic engagement and partnerships in combating sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and for the provision of additional UN support to the work of WHRDs in the MENA region. Participants recommended the organization of an annual meeting of WHRDs from the region.

OHCHR advocated for the application of a **human rights-based approach to the use of criminal law from a gender equality and women's rights perspective**, including through an op-ed published in Central America on the discriminatory use of criminal law and a study of the situation of women in detention in West Africa.

ND4 – ERADICATING HARMFUL NORMS – Judicial institutions, media and other sectors increasingly recognize and challenge harmful gender stereotypes and gender norms with a view to their eradication.

Shifts / SDGs

Results

OHCHR furthered the debate on ways to **promote and protect the rights of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations** through the presentation of a report to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/48/32), mandated by resolution A/HRC/RES/45/28, and an interactive dialogue between the High Commissioner and the Human Rights Council.

ND5 – DIGITAL SPACE – Principles and practices effectively counter discrimination and hate speech in the digital space.

Shifts / SDGs

Results

The Office continued to innovate its methodology and implement technology tools for **monitoring incitement and hate speech**, including in relation to online attacks against HRDs. Through the application of network, account and content analyses, the Office was better situated to analyse online incidents and trends and apply the Rabat Plan of Action threshold test. This strengthened its evidence base and informed work on protection cases and engagement with social media platforms and other stakeholders on freedom of expression and content moderation.

OHCHR undertook advocacy with different **social media platforms** to encourage them to increase their efforts to meet their human rights responsibilities under the UNGPs and to employ the Rabat Plan of Action threshold test. In 2021, OHCHR collaborated with Facebook, Google, YouTube and Twitter, with a view to better **protecting minorities and human rights defenders** and responding to content that could constitute incitement to hostility, discrimination or violence. The Facebook Oversight Board applied the Rabat Plan of Action threshold test in several decisions during the year.

ND6 – MIGRATION – The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected.

Shifts / SDGs

Results

In December, OHCHR deployed a **rapid assessment mission to Belarus and Poland** to assess protection gaps at the border and provide stakeholders with recommendations on how to protect and respect the human rights of migrants.

OHCHR continued to support **advocacy on the rights of migrants through regional mechanisms**, including participation in the regional Issue-Based Coalition for Large Movements of People, Displacement and Resilience and collaboration with the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights and Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Migration and Refugees. It also interacted with EU mechanisms related to migration, including the Frontex Consultative Forum on Fundamental Rights and the proposed EU's New Pact on Asylum and Migration. In particular, OHCHR contributed to expert discussions and advocacy regarding the establishment of national independent mechanisms to monitor human rights at EU borders, including through guidance issued to the Greek authorities, together with UNHCR and the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions.

In order to assist States and frontline border officials to adopt a **human rights-based and gender-responsive approach to border governance**, OHCHR finalized, launched and ensured the translation of OHCHR's *Human rights at international borders: A trainer's guide* and related visual materials. The Trainer's Guide was rolled out through the organization of high-level meetings and training courses for border officials and other relevant stakeholders, including in Central Asia (with participants from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan), Mauritania, Morocco and Thailand.

In relation to the **#StandUp4Migrants campaign,*** the Office developed numerous tools, including a podcast series on hopeful migration narratives, a series of comic stories on migration and climate change, a story-telling photo essay in partnership with Reuters, in addition to numerous stories, quote cards, key messages and visual assets.

* UN Human Rights, #StandUp4Migrants, Accessed 29 April 2022, https://www.standup4humanrights.org/migration/en/index.html

ND7 – PUBLIC MOBILIZATION for INCLUSION – Public support increases for equal, inclusive and diverse societies, without discrimination.

Shifts / SDGs

Results

Through the **UN Free & Equal campaign**, OHCHR raised awareness of and advocated for the human rights of LGBTI persons in Albania, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Mongolia, Panama, Peru, Serbia, Timor-Leste, Ukraine and Viet Nam, in partnership with UNCTs and national stakeholders. OHCHR also launched a global campaign on the human rights of LGBTI migrants, in partnership with IOM, which received close to 11 million video views, and a video campaign on the human rights of LGBTI youth, in partnership with the Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth, which received more than 13 million views. Furthermore, as part of the campaign, OHCHR developed social media toolkits on the human rights of transgender persons and LGBTI persons with disabilities, as well as dozens of other social media assets with human rights messaging.

On 31 August, OHCHR, UNFPA and the Government of Costa Rica marked **the first International Day for People of African Descent** through the production of a pre-recorded cultural event, which provided an opportunity to learn about diverse cultures through film, dance, music and artwork. During this observance, OHCHR promoted the extraordinary contributions of the African diaspora around the world, with a view to contributing to the elimination of all forms of discrimination against people of African descent.

ND8 – UN response to INEQUALITY and DISCRIMINATION – The UN system implements a coherent and human rights-based response to inequality and discrimination, including intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination.

Shifts / SDGs

Results

OHCHR actively supported the co-facilitators of the consultation process on the operationalization of the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent, namely Chad and Costa Rica, in facilitating a series of intergovernmental discussions and engagement with civil society constituencies. This consultation led to the General Assembly's adoption of resolution 75/314, in August, which formally **operationalizes the Permanent Forum for People of African Descent**. The Permanent Forum will serve as a consultative mechanism for people of African descent and other relevant stakeholders, as well as an advisory body to the Human Rights Council, in line with the programme of activities for the implementation of the International Decade for People of African Descent. In December, five of the 10 members of the mechanism were elected by the General Assembly and the remaining five will be appointed by the President of the HRC in 2022. The Office has been working towards the creation of a Permanent Forum since 2014, when it was mandated to do so by General Assembly resolution A/RES/69/16.

OHCHR provided UN development partners with inputs to design **recovery strategies and longer-term sustainable development plans**, including to combat inequalities, discrimination and operationalize the LNOB pledge. To this end, OHCHR contributed research and analysis to 61 CCAs and UNSDCFs and 21 Regional Monthly Reviews.

As part of the UN Network on Racial Discrimination and Protection of Minorities, OHCHR supported the development of the *UN Checklist to strengthen UN work at country level to combat racial discrimination and advance minority rights*, which was launched in March. It also contributed to the development and delivery of the first online training on addressing racial discrimination and strengthening the protection of minorities in UN programming processes, which was attended by 41 staff members from 13 UNCTs over a four-week period.

Within the context of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues, the Office followed-up on the **policy statement on indigenous peoples**, which was endorsed by the UN System Chief Executives Board for Coordination (CEB) in 2020. In its submission to the CEB, OHCHR highlighted serious data gaps in assessing progress made in achieving the 2030 Agenda in relation to indigenous peoples. Based on the latest global data under SDG Indicator 10.3.1/16.b.1, data on the prevalence of discrimination that is disaggregated by indigenous status was only available for six countries, namely, Bolivia, Canada, Mexico, New Zealand, Peru and Suriname.

Accountability (A)

Shifts: Prevention, Global constituency, Civic space, Climate change, Corruption, Inequalities, New technologies, People on the move

Spotlights: Disabilities, Women, Youth

A1 – ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE and LAW ENFORCEMENT – Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.

Shifts / SDGs

Results

OHCHR continued to contribute to advocacy efforts and the maintenance of dialogue with governments in relation to specific death penalty cases and imminent executions, paying special attention to persons younger than 18 years of age at the time of the alleged offence, pregnant women and persons with psychological or intellectual disabilities. These actions, combined with interventions by the High Commissioner and other high-level UN officials, led to the **suspension/postponement of various executions**, the abolition of the death penalty in Sierra Leone and a significant global reduction of executions for drug crimes. In 2020, only 30 executions were reported for drug offences, representing a 70 per cent decrease from 2019. However, a significant higher number of executions was reported in 2021, in particular for drug-related offences.

In the context of the **Technical Cooperation and Capacity-Building Programme for Egypt, OHCHR organized a five-day** training of trainers for Egyptian law enforcement officials, in Cairo, from 28 November to 2 December. A total of 26 participants, including five women, attended the training from different entities, including the General Prosecutor's Office, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Justice. The participants were introduced to international norms and standards related to the work of law enforcement officials, including in relation to investigations, detention and protests, and the importance of ensuring equality and non-discrimination.

OHCHR supported the **Group of Governmental Experts on Torture-Free Trade**, which was established under General Assembly resolution 73/304 to deliberate on the development of common international standards for the import, export and transfer of goods used for capital punishment and torture or other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. The Group held meetings in October and December and will present its report to the General Assembly at its seventy-sixth session.

OHCHR continued to collaborate with UNDP, WHO, UNAIDS and other partners to disseminate and promote the 2019 *International guidelines on human rights and drug policy*. As a result of this work, the Council of Europe launched a national assessment tool on human rights and drug policy, using the Guidelines as its foundation. In the Philippines, a national dialogue on the Guidelines was organized, with the support of OHCHR, that contributed to the development of the UN joint programme on human rights to implement Human Rights Council resolution 45/33.

OHCHR continued to support the development of the UNPOL/OHCHR/UNODC *Training manual on investigative interviewing for criminal investigations*. Existing guiding principles informed the development of the manual, which will be validated soon. OHCHR provided inputs, advice and observations that will equip law enforcement personnel with technical tools to improve their performance on investigative interviewing.

A2 – ACCESS TO JUSTICE and REMEDIES – Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.

Shifts / SDGs

Results

OHCHR advocated for the establishment of a **mechanism to address the fate and whereabouts of missing persons in Syria** and provided support to their families through the High Commissioner's statements and speeches, outreach to Member States and an oral update to the Human Rights Council, in September. In response, the Third Committee of the General Assembly adopted a resolution, in November, calling on the Secretary-General to conduct a study on how to bolster efforts, including through existing measures and mechanisms, to clarify the fate and whereabouts of missing persons in Syria.

In compliance with HRC resolution A/HRC/RES/46/1 and the call for the collection and preservation of evidence for potential accountability processes, OHCHR created a **dedicated evidence repository in relation to Sri Lanka**. To date, 120,000 items have been uploaded.

During the year, the **Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions** issued a total of 219 communications and 66 press releases, alone or jointly with other mandates, to a number of State and non-State actors. The objective of the communications was to address concerns in relation to the protection of the right to life, including through urgent appeals and letters regarding cases involving the death penalty. In a case in Saudi Arabia, two individuals were sentenced to death for crimes that were allegedly committed when they were under 18 years of age. Since 2015, the Special Rapporteur repeatedly raised concerns about the case and in October and November, the individuals were released from prison. The Special Rapporteur's multiple communications helped to maintain international pressure on national authorities, raised awareness about the Government's actions and proved to be instrumental in saving the lives of the two individuals.

A3 – Investigation of GENDER-related CRIMES – Justice systems investigate and prosecute gender-related crimes more effectively.

Shifts / SDGs

Results

In Latin America, OHCHR supported the establishment and strengthening of civil society-led initiatives to **increase accountability for gender-based crimes and to fight against impunity through strategic litigation**. Technical support from the Office contributed to addressing forced sterilizations as crimes against humanity in Peru and sexual violence in the Maya Achí case in Guatemala. In the Dominican Republic, OHCHR supported more than 25 youth activists in relation to the litigation of cases on sexual and reproductive health and rights, including through webinars on strategic litigation and good practices.

As a member of the Team of Experts on the Rule of Law and Sexual Violence in Conflict (ToE), OHCHR supported national authorities in the **investigation and prosecution of sexual violence crimes in conflict and post-conflict settings**. For instance, in the **Central African Republic**, the ToE deployed a specialist to provide mentoring and capacity support to national authorities. This resulted in the finalization of two field investigation reports regarding serious incidents in Kaga Bandoro and Bossangoa. The two cases involving 264 and 150 victims of CRSV, respectively, have been referred to the Office of the Prosecutor in Bangui and Kaga Bandoro's High Court.

OHCHR led the development of a joint United Nations amicus brief to the International Criminal Court in relation to the case of The Prosecutor v. Dominic Ongwen. Dominic Ongwen was found guilty of 61 crimes against humanity and war crimes, including sexual and gender-based crimes, which took place in Northern **Uganda** between July 2002 and December 2005. This case marked the first time that the **crime of forced marriage was considered by the Court**. On 6 May, he was sentenced to 25 years in prison.

A5 – UN ACTION on the RULE of LAW – UN efforts for the rule of law, justice, counter-terrorism and accountability put human rights at the core.

Shifts / SDGs

Results

OHCHR continued to be involved in the development of the **Global Framework for UN Support on Syria/Iraq Third Country Returnees**, until its official launch, in September. OHCHR will continue to play an active role in its implementation, stressing the need for mainstreaming human rights principles and gender perspectives into every stage of the returns process. Furthermore, in its capacity as the Chair of the Working Group on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights, the Rule of Law and Supporting Victims of Terrorism, within the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, OHCHR finalized and published the *Basic human rights reference guide: proscription of organizations in the context of countering terrorism*. The Guide aims to assist Member States in ensuring that the domestic process for proscribing entities and/or individuals and the subsequent consequences comply with international human rights law.

OHCHR led the development of the **report of the Secretary-General on terrorism and human rights**, which was presented at the seventy-sixth session of the General Assembly. The report focuses on concerns relating to national counter-terrorism legislation, due process and fair trial rights and the impact of counter-terrorism measures on civic space, the limited progress made in prosecuting sexual and gender-based crimes, procedural fairness and humanitarian concerns associated with sanctions listing and delisting and the situation of third-country nationals with suspected ties to designated terrorist groups.

Due to OHCHR's strategic advocacy for the **seventh review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy**, some of OHCHR's inputs were incorporated into the review resolution (A/RES/75/291), which include: a reference to the UN Guidance Note on the promotion and protection of civic space; a call for the creation of an enabling environment for civil society; an explicit reference to OHCHR and the integration of the reports and recommendations issued by the human rights treaty bodies, the special procedures and the UPR; recognition of the differential impact of terrorism and counter-terrorism measures on women and girls; and an explicit reference to freedom of expression.

Participation (P)

Shifts: Prevention, Global constituency, Civic space, Climate change, Corruption, Inequalities, New technologies, People on the move

Spotlights: Disabilities, Women, Youth

COVID-19 response and recovery

OHCHR highlighted the critical **work of women human rights defenders and leaders in the COVID-19 pandemic response and recovery** as part of the #IStandWithHer campaign throughout the year. This was emphasized on International Women's Day, on 8 March, including through social media, two feature web stories, six video profiles and a series of six quote cards and illustrations. The six videos amassed a total of over 80,000 views across OHCHR's social media channels.

P1 – ENABLING NORMATIVE FRAMEWORK for civil society – Stronger laws, policies and practices protect the right to participate and civic space, including online, and the environment for civil society is increasingly safe and enabling.

Shifts / SDGs

Results

OHCHR sought to promote a safer environment for HRDs, including by monitoring legislation and policies that could shrink the civic space, as well as technical assistance. For instance, in 2021, OHCHR provided crucial technical support towards the **adoption of a law dedicated to the protection of human rights defenders in Mongolia**, which would be the first in the region. In addition, OHCHR and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR collaborated on the creation of a "community of practice" among national mechanisms dedicated to the protection of HRDs in the region. Within this framework, OHCHR facilitated two regional dialogues for staff of national protection mechanisms from Brazil, Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Peru. Participants were able to share good practices, challenges, needs and opportunities to develop new or improved strategies to increase the protection of HRDs in their countries.

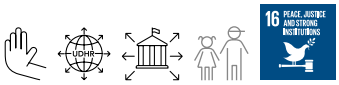
A surge capacity team was deployed to Eswatini, from September to mid-November, to support the RCO in relation to the **UN response to political violence in the context of elections**. Similar surge deployments were made to Chad, the Gambia and Niger to support UN partners and advocate for increased attention to the situation of HRDs.

As part of its **advocacy efforts around online digital space**, OHCHR published explainers on Internet shutdowns and online content moderation. Throughout the year, OHCHR raised issues on regulation in the digital space, including by the EU and a number of Member States. Furthermore, on 19 July, the High Commissioner made some key points on freedom of expression and privacy in relation to spyware, which were widely picked up by the press in different countries.

Significant work was undertaken by the human rights treaty bodies to **address cases of reprisals**. CED and CEDAW adopted specific guidelines on reprisals and OHCHR supported treaty body focal points to follow up on allegations of reprisals (CAT, three cases; CED, two cases; CEDAW, one case; Human Rights Committee, one case). Support primarily involved the identification of information that might corroborate or substantiate allegations of reprisals and the preparation of letters for the respective committees to send to the States Parties concerned. In the context of urgent actions registered with CED and individual communications registered with other committees, protection measures were issued based on actual or potential threats to the life and integrity of the authors. In the case of CED, protection measures were issued in 58 cases concerning Honduras, Iraq, Mexico, Morocco and Paraguay.

P2 – PROTECTION of CIVIL SOCIETY ACTORS – The UN system and international, regional and national mechanisms provide increased, timely and effective protection to civil society organizations and individuals, including from reprisals.

Shifts / SDGs



Results

Following the Taliban takeover of Afghanistan, in August, OHCHR processed more than 1,500 **appeals for assistance or protection from Afghan HRDs**. Of these, interventions were made in relation to 400 cases and approximately 100 HRDs were successfully relocated outside of the country.

In March, OHCHR and the IACHR organized a strategic discussion within the framework of the 2017 **Joint Action Mechanism to Contribute to Protection for Human Rights Defenders in the Americas**. The meeting took stock of the implementation of the Joint Action Mechanism, strengthened and reaffirmed cooperation and established/aligned priorities to contribute to the prompt and effective protection of HRDs in the region. The meeting was attended by all Heads of OHCHR field presences and focal points for the Mechanism in the region, OHCHR Geneva staff members, the IACHR President and Rapporteur on the Situation of Human Rights Defenders, the Acting Executive Secretary and other key staff members. A road map to strengthen collaboration was adopted by consensus. OHCHR also supported the preparation of three joint press releases with the IACHR on the entry into force of the Escazú Agreement, in April; on the protection of women in the context of peaceful protests and their participation in feminist movements, in July; and to mark the International Day of HRDs, in December.

As a result of OHCHR's efforts, the Management and Accountability Framework of the UN Development and Resident Coordinator System now includes **an indicator to assess the engagement of Resident Coordinators and UNCTs with civil society**, including in relation to the CCA processes. At the field level, with OHCHR's support, civic space goals were included in the programmes and plans of UNCTs, including in Cambodia, Ecuador, Fiji, Jordan, Kenya and Sudan.

OHCHR strengthened **networks for women human rights defenders and journalists in Libya**, including through support to develop a protection strategy that they are leading and that is responsive to their gender-specific contexts and situations.

As co-lead of Action Coalition 6 of the Generation Equality Forum, the High Commissioner presented the Office's 12 commitments **for the next five years to support women human rights defenders and feminist movements and expand civic space**. OHCHR also co-signed the Compact on Women, Peace and Security in Humanitarian Action and committed to ensure gender expertise in human rights investigations.

Allegations of **reprisals reported to the HRC Secretariat** were handled according to internal protocols, with a view to recommending appropriate action to the HRC President on each case. At its forty-eighth session, held in October, the Human Rights Council adopted its biannual resolution on reprisals, by consensus. The resolution reflects global trends and critical challenges, in particular those exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic and, for the first time, invites the Secretary-General to submit his report to the General Assembly for a more coherent and coordinated system-wide response.

OHCHR **finalized its UN Guidance on intimidation and reprisals for cooperation with the UN, with a specific focus on counter-terrorism**. The Guidance delineates practical steps for UN entities working on counter-terrorism and preventing and countering violent extremism to formulate a policy on reprisals and intimidation, verify and monitor allegations and adopt urgent protective measures. The Guidance also includes information on the gendered nature of counter-terrorism-specific intimidation and reprisals. In 2022, OHCHR will organize events to launch the Guidance and promote its use among relevant UN entities.

P3 – PUBLIC SUPPORT for CIVIC SPACE – Business, policymakers and the public at large increasingly value and support civic space.

Shifts / SDGs

Results

A number of interventions from senior UN officials in different forums highlighted the **key role of civic space for trust and resilience**. For example, the High Commissioner's statement at the Third Committee focused on the centrality of participation and civic space, among other important issues. The crucial role of civil society during the pandemic and in the post-COVID-19 world remained a key focus of interventions by the High Commissioner and other OHCHR senior managers and in meetings with civil society representatives held in Geneva and elsewhere.

On the occasion of the launch of *the Guiding principles on business and human rights: Guidance on ensuring respect for human rights defenders,* the Office supported the UN Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises in holding two regional dialogues in **Latin America**, in September. One dialogue gathered 150 HRDs to discuss collaborative strategies to counter the phenomenon of legal claims against HRDs working on the issue of business and human rights. The other dialogue brought together 400 representatives of business, CSOs, communities and governments to discuss the situation of HRDs working on business and human rights. The discussion pushed for new commitments from governments and the business sector to protect the work of HRDs. As a result, OHCHR's Guidance is being integrated into **CSO advocacy and government policies for the protection of human rights defenders**, notably the protection mechanism for human rights defenders in Peru, the Attorney General of Peru's Protocol for the protection of human rights defenders, the ongoing baseline study for environmental defenders by the Ministry of Environment in Peru and the Policy on protection of social leaders of the Ministry of Mines and Energy of Colombia.

P4 – ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS – Civil society assistance to victims of human rights violations is strengthened.

Shifts / SDGs

Results

OHCHR supported the Danish Institute for Human Rights in developing a **monitoring framework for human rights defenders** and the implementation of the Declaration on Human Rights Defenders. This development includes a consideration of the conceptual issues from a civic space perspective and methodological issues related to indicators. Once finalized, the monitoring framework is expected to be a practical tool for civil society, national institutions, the UN and Member States.

In 2021, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture awarded 171 annual direct assistance grants and seven emergency grants to support civil society actors, in 79 countries, that are providing **assistance to more than 47,000 survivors of torture** and their family members. Over the same period, the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery awarded 37 direct assistance grants, in 30 countries, that are **assisting more than 17,000 survivors of slavery**.

P5 – CIVIC SPACE MONITORING – More systematic monitoring of the environment for civic space, including threats to it, takes place.

Shifts / SDGs

Results

In **Ukraine**, OHCHR carried out a **mapping of the situation of women human rights defenders**, validated and raised awareness of the findings and supported the network of WHRDs to identify the next steps for addressing the identified challenges. OHCHR also continued to monitor the situation of WHRDs in **Kenya**, including in the context of the upcoming elections. In collaboration with UN Women, OHCHR convened a workshop with 17 grassroots WHRDs to discuss protection plans and strategies. This deepened their protection network and informed OHCHR's strategy, support and collaboration in relation to civic space in Kenya.

OHCHR provided data to the **report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders** entitled *Final warning*, which notes that the killings of HRDs, journalists and trade unionists have been reported in over one third of Member States. Moreover, the killings of 331 human rights defenders were reported in 32 countries, representing an 18 per cent increase over 2019, along with 19 enforced disappearances in 14 countries. Women comprised 13 per cent of the victims. Latin America remains the region that is most affected.

OHCHR enhanced the **monitoring of civic space online** by developing its own capacity to monitor global Internet connectivity and by engaging stakeholders in the Internet measurement community, thereby enabling data-sharing and research for improved detection of Internet shutdowns. OHCHR now accesses global high-frequency data on Internet connectivity, which it uses to detect and report on Internet shutdowns, as part of its broader monitoring and prevention efforts. In 2021, OHCHR used this capacity to investigate 13 Internet shutdowns spanning three continents, the results of which were integrated into OHCHR analysis, reporting, advocacy and public statements.

P6 – PEOPLE HAVE a VOICE – The voices of people affected by decisions, particularly victims and those who face discrimination, are more clearly heard.

Shifts / SDGs

Results

The Office contributed to **increased youth participation in intergovernmental mechanisms**. The HRC's intersessional seminar on youth and human rights, which brought together over 115 participants from across the globe, saw the active participation of 13 UN Youth Delegates from nine countries. This is the highest level of UN Youth Delegate participation in a Human Rights Council-mandated activity in the Council's history. Along with the eight youth panellists who made up the majority of speakers and more than 10 youth organizations who took the floor, young people and youth representatives shaped the discussion, issued key recommendations to Member States and the Human Rights Council on the challenges and discrimination faced by young people and suggested measures to advance youth rights.

In cooperation with Amnesty International and Soka Gakkai International, the Office released the first of a series of **documentaries on young human rights educators across the world**, accompanied by a conversation series on human rights education for youth. Through a course co-organized by the Office together with the Council of Europe, 37 young human rights educators from over 25 countries increased their capacities to develop quality human rights education with their peers and to advocate for it in their countries.

OHCHR supported the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation and paid increased attention to **the voices of those identifying issues related to the rights to water and sanitation**. The Special Rapporteur did so through a series of consultations called the "Open channel of dialogue," which were held from February to December. Through these consultations, the Special Rapporteur held over 50 exchanges with various stakeholders, including NGOs, regional organizations and rights-holders. The consultations strengthened the visibility of this mandate and its outreach, leading to the Special Rapporteur's engagement with new constituencies.

To ensure that new technologies expand UN engagement with civil society, OHCHR conducted a desk review of **key UN processes in relation to the online participation of civil society**, resulting in the identification of common trends, practices and good examples. This mapping served as a basis for further discussions with UN partners and Member States, led to the UNmute Civil Society Dialogue and will inform broader recommendations and a practical tool on conducting inclusive online meetings within the UN system.

OHCHR supported the civil society network, La Sombrilla Centroamericana for the defence of sexual and reproductive rights, composed of approximately 60 women's NGOs from six **Central American countries** and the Dominican Republic, in their advocacy efforts during the 16 Days of Activism against Gender-Based Violence campaign. This included the production of three radio podcasts on the sexual and reproductive health and rights of women and girls in crisis situations that were based on a report of the UN Working Group on discrimination against women and girls. This work contributed to raising awareness about the **impacts of COVID-19 on the enjoyment of sexual and reproductive health and rights** and the need to ensure the **participation of women and girls in national recovery processes**.

P7 – Human rights RESPONSE to VIOLENCE – Public recognition increases that human rights and accountability make important contributions to effective responses to violence, including terrorism and violent extremism.

Shifts / SDGs

Results

OHCHR developed and implemented a **Member State engagement action plan on counter-terrorism and human rights**. OHCHR tracked and documented engagement with partners including Member States and formulated key messages for specific occasions, such as meetings with Azerbaijan, Belgium, Egypt, India, Morocco, Norway, Pakistan, Sweden and the EU. These advocacy efforts yielded positive results as Member States are now more aware of OHCHR's work on counter-terrorism and human rights.

Organizational effectiveness results

In the following pages, we will provide examples of achievements in the implementation of the UN Human Rights 10 Organizational Effectiveness Action Plans (OEAPs) in 2021 (see pages 89-107 of the report for summary information on progress made towards the achievement of organizational effectiveness results under the 10 OEAPs).

STRATEGIC LEADERSHIP AND DIRECTION

UN Human Rights leadership bodies are making timely, evidence-based strategic decisions in line with results-based management (RBM) principles.

- As the **OHCHR Management Plan** (OMP) 2018-2021 proved to be a valuable guiding framework, including throughout the pandemic, OHCHR decided to extend the OMP until the end of 2023. A process to update some of the OMP's aspects took place in 2021. The original six pillars that underpin global efforts to advance the enjoyment of all human rights by all have been retained. Building on the foundation established by these pillars, additional shifts have been defined for 2022 and 2023, along with specific spotlight populations. A series of deep dive events were organized for staff members to explore prominent themes that require closer attention. Based on inputs from these events, an analysis and proposed revisions to the OMP were developed. Furthermore, briefings with Member States and civil society were held to present the overall direction of the extended OMP. Taking into account inputs and feedback received during the process, an extended OMP for 2022 and 2023 was drafted. Its publication and dissemination are planned for April 2022.
- During the year, the Senior Management Team (SMT) met on seven occasions to take **decisions on policy-related matters**. The SMT endorsed the OHCHR Risk Register, the extension of the OMP until 2023, the OHCHR Strategy on the Sahel, the revision of the OHCHR Publications Policy, the recommendations emanating from strategic visioning exercises for the Brussels Office and for the Doha Training and Documentation Centre and the OEAP on Diversity and Inclusion.
- The Programme and Budget Review Board (PBRB) held 11 regular meetings in 2021 and **reviewed 54 fundraising and fund allocation proposals**, representing a 20 per cent increase over the previous year, but lower than the record highs of 2018 and 2019. The lower number of proposals, compared with 2018 and 2019, can be explained by enhanced efforts to encourage the inclusion of expected income during the planning stage in order to avoid budgetary increases throughout the year.
- OHCHR developed a **strategy for engagement on COVID-19 for 2021** and beyond and produced internal guidelines for field presences in relation to their engagement on advocacy and technical cooperation for equitable access to vaccines.
- **Guidance was provided to staff on operational matters** through the COVID-19 Crisis Response Team (CRT), set up by the Deputy High Commissioner. In 2021, the CRT issued more than a dozen staff messages, guidance on telecommuting, return to office, meetings and travel and replied to daily staff inquiries and concerns within a 24-hour timeframe through the COVID-19 staff email system. It also ensured cooperation between different entities to ensure a quick and coordinated response.
- In the context of the extension of the OMP, 12 **new country programmes** were created and 15 country and subregional programmes were updated. Most of the country programmes that were created resulted from the deployment of new human rights advisers.
- During 2021, the following **evaluations** were finalized: the UN Free & Equal campaign (the first time that an OHCHR campaign has been evaluated), the Indigenous and Minorities Fellowships Programme, and the Iraq Accountability Project. Other evaluations being conducted include the Colombia Country Programme; the Ethiopia Country Programme; the Youth and Human Rights Project; the project "Strengthening the Capacity of Regional Actors to Promote Human Rights, Accountability, Democratic Space and Gender in the Asia-Pacific Region;" the

projects "Enhancing and Protecting the Civic Space" and "Preventing and Responding to Conflict Related Sexual Violence" in the Democratic Republic of Congo; and the Liberia Country Programme. Regarding the implementation of the recommendations issued following the evaluation of RBM in OHCHR, the Office's Programming Manual has been prepared and the RBM training package has been updated and includes an evaluation module.

- A **comprehensive all staff survey** was conducted, complementing the Secretary-General's Staff Engagement Survey and the Secretary-General's dialogues. Topics included career and development, diversity and inclusion, health and well-being, accountability, innovation and general questions related to leadership and communication. A response rate of 59 per cent across global offices was attained. The results were disseminated to staff in broadcast messages and at an all staff meeting. As a follow-up, focal points and volunteers were nominated to develop an 18-month action plan on the priority areas identified through the survey. The next OHCHR staff survey will take place at the end of 2022 or in early 2023.

DYNAMIC KNOWLEDGE

UN Human Rights' knowledge base is used strategically to actively shape programming, capacity, culture and structure.

- The development of an **OHCHR knowledge management policy** began in 2021 with a desk review of relevant UN system policies and consultations with the UN Inter-Agency Knowledge Management Network. It is anticipated that the policy will be adopted in 2022.
- The **redesign of the OHCHR Intranet with an integrated Knowledge Hub** continued, building on the scoping phase that began in 2021. Once finalized, the new Knowledge Hub will offer a gateway for staff to find the information and knowledge they need to do their work, connect with knowledge owners and contribute to OHCHR bodies of knowledge in a dynamic way.
- Capacity-building efforts were maintained to enhance the staff capacity to use and adopt **new knowledge-sharing and collaboration tools**, in particular in relation to the un.org tenant migration and access to Office365 tools, such as Teams channels, Yammer and SharePoint online pages.
- **Staff capacities to facilitate and contribute to online knowledge exchange events** were enhanced through several thematic events that focused on civic space, the rights of minorities, hate speech, elections and the sharing of good practices by human rights advisers.
- The OHCHR new onboarding platform, **Welcome Mat**, was completed and launched in 2021. The platform provides new staff with a gateway to the information and organizational knowledge that they need to situate themselves and perform their jobs in an efficient and coherent way from the start. In 2022, the Welcome Mat will be expanded, with the development of tailor-made welcome booklets for field presences and entities.
- A **study documenting good practices at the country level**, reported during the third Universal Periodic Review (UPR) cycle, was conducted in 2021. The compilation includes practices that demonstrate three or more features that highlight structural, process and outcome indicators of positive change in the human rights situation in a given country.
- In partnership with UNICEF, DCO, DPPA/DPO, the World Bank, IOM and UN Women, OHCHR contributed to the development of **a toolkit to assess knowledge use and uptake**. This toolkit offers a set of indicators, means of verification and examples of tools to assist users in tracking and documenting how knowledge products and processes are used and the impact they facilitate. The toolkit is expected to be finalized and rolled out in 2022.
- UN Human Rights staff created **Yammer groups** to share information and experiences. For instance, staff working within the framework of the **G5 Sahel** Joint Force Compliance Framework Project used a Yammer group to facilitate knowledge management and access to information across the three continents where the project operates. At headquarters, the Treaty Body Capacity-Building Programme created a Yammer group called **"Engaging with human rights mechanisms"** to share information on the work of the human rights treaty bodies, the Human Rights Council (HRC), the UPR and the special procedures and on the implementation of their

respective outcomes. The group enabled its members to share good practices and lessons learned, new ideas, developments, events and activities of the international human rights mechanisms; fostered exchanges between the field and headquarters and the dissemination of tools on engaging with the mechanisms and implementing their outcomes; and enhanced support between colleagues.

INNOVATION

Across UN Human Rights, innovation is encouraged, supported and its results are implemented accordingly.

- Based on lessons learned from the COVID-19 Tracker, which was developed in 2020 to capture COVID-19-related issues of concern and actions undertaken by the Office in response to the pandemic, OHCHR developed a **vaccine-focused tracker** to increase monitoring, with an emphasis on vulnerable populations. The COVID-19 Tracker was also used to support the integration of media monitoring data streams that were delivered through OHCHR's partnership with the Joint Research Centre of the European Commission. This work is a component of the early warning systems being developed to respond to the 2020 HRC resolution on the prevention of human rights violations (A/HRC/RES/45/31).
- The Office developed the Kyrgyzstan Tracker as an innovative solution to provide structure to the **information gathering efforts of a field presence**. It incorporates data provided by human rights officers and data collected through the Europe Media Monitor feeds.
- OHCHR launched its annual **Innovation Challenge** and a total of 10 proposals were submitted. The shortlisted proposals will take part in a pitch event that will be held in 2022. A series of webinars were held during the year to promote the Innovation Challenge and to share information, tools and resources related to innovation.
- The pandemic triggered the need for innovative methods and work processes. The **digital transformation** of the Office is ongoing. Meeting spaces are now equipped with innovative, state-of-the-art technology to facilitate online and hybrid meetings, enabling an increase in participation levels around the world. Online evaluations are being conducted to increase the reach of persons being contacted and interviewed. Additionally, to increase the efficiency and accessibility of the international human rights mechanisms, a consultancy was commissioned to assess possible solutions to modernize the technology supporting the mechanisms and prevent unnecessary duplication.
- The **Innovation Engine or Light Up! Innovation Engine** continued to seek innovative means to enhance OHCHR's work processes, methodologies and technology. In collaboration with the University of Geneva, the Innovation Engine developed several projects to: improve the online monitoring of civic space; scale-up the coverage of human rights indicator production by surfacing leads through web scraping; enhance OHCHR's conceptual framework for sustainable environmental management and human rights; and digitize the Gender Accreditation Programme.

- The piloting of the **Ditch UNfair Internships programme**, designed to bring students from the Global South to Geneva through a University UNV (UUNV) contract, was expanded and launched as a project. A total of 10 UUNVs arrived in Geneva for six-month assignments in various divisions. Young graduates from Argentina, Cameroon, Iran, Kenya, Nigeria, State of Palestine,[18] Yemen and Zimbabwe are currently working in each of OHCHR's four divisions, in Geneva. This initiative was a selected finalist for the 2021 Secretary-General Awards in the diversity and inclusion category.

SUSTAINABLE ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT

UN Human Rights is set on a path to global leadership in sustainable environmental management (SEM), catalysing efforts to build back better and strengthening partnerships and global standard-setting, especially with regard to the right to a healthy environment and climate change.

- OHCHR is working towards the **implementation of an environmental management system** by 2023. The focus in 2021 was carrying out research on similar systems in comparable organizations and the development of a road map. To kick start this project, a consultant with expertise in developing environmental management systems will be hired in 2022 to work with relevant OHCHR colleagues on taking the first steps towards implementation.
- Led by the OHCHR Working Group on Sustainable Environmental Management, an office-wide **sustainability survey** was organized in the first half of 2021 to give staff an opportunity to share their views on this subject, raise awareness about the role of the Working Group, take stock of where the Office stands on sustainable environmental management and gather good practices. The survey received 600 responses from across OHCHR and resulted in nearly 5,000 comments. The responses are being used to align OHCHR's operations, including in relation to procurement and travel, in accordance with sustainable criteria.
- The Office's **carbon emissions** for 2020, which were calculated in 2021, were estimated at 3,307 tCO2eq, below the UN average and representing a reduction of over 50 per cent, compared with its 2019 footprint. This reduction can largely be attributed to changes related to the pandemic, including a reduction in staff travel. The revised OEAP took steps to lock in some of these reductions, including through a commitment to maintaining travel expenditures in 2022 at 50 per cent of the 2019 levels.
- An **OHCHR Green Fund** was set up to provide field offices with the opportunity to "green" their operations. In 2021, over 30 projects were implemented in 12 countries, across four regions. The types of projects supported included funds for solar panels or supplements for existing solar panels, water filters, portable solar chargers and environmental audits to identify potential improvements. A total of 35 field presences expressed an interest in greening their operations.
- An **e-learning course on Sustainable Environmental Management and Human Rights** was developed, with the objective of identifying areas where SEM can be included in the Office and in the daily activities of staff members. The course modules include SEM and human rights, SEM at the Office, mobility and travel, sustainable procurement and collective engagement to be more sustainable. The draft content was reviewed by the OHCHR Working Group on Sustainable Environmental Management and a pilot, with internal and external reviewers, took place in December. The finalized product will be launched in 2022.

[18] All references to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.

- OHCHR participated in Phase I of the **UN Sustainability Strategy** 2020-2030 and was part of the Task Team that developed Phase II of the Strategy. During the consultations and drafting process, OHCHR emphasized the importance of strengthening the social dimension of sustainability and human rights and ensuring the full integration of field perspectives and development frameworks, including CCAs and the UNSDCFs, as well as lessons learned from the Model Approach to Environmental and Social Standards in UN Programming. OHCHR also supported the inclusion of key strategies and guidance documents, including the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights, the UNGPs and the UN Guidance Note on the promotion and protection of civic space. Phase II of the Strategy was adopted at the twenty-seventh Senior Officials Meeting of the United Nations Environment Management Group, in October.

EXTERNAL COMMUNICATIONS

The human rights impact and messages of UN Human Rights are effectively communicated, helping to position it as a partner of choice for its key stakeholders.

- New **public information officers were deployed to the field** (Dakar and Nairobi), thereby increasing the capacity of OHCHR to communicate at national and regional levels.
- OHCHR's **social media channels** continued to grow with an increase in total follower growth of eight per cent in 2021. Globally, OHCHR has 61 social media accounts in eight languages. The channels have a combined following of 10.5 million followers (compared to 9.7 million followers in 2020).
- The record number of **media articles** generated by the Office reflects the relevance of strong storytelling and effective messaging that is geared towards the needs and requirements of the news media. A total of 64,787 articles were generated in 2021, nearly doubling the number of articles that were posted in 2020 (38,922). In addition, the implementation of a 10-month pilot project to enhance the **TV news coverage** of OHCHR was met with remarkable success. Data from UNifeed shows that 93 news stories that were fed into this vector were broadcast 3,652 times by 459 television stations in over 70 different countries. This number is three times higher than the number of stories that were broadcast in 2020 (1,150).
- Work on the **Web Transformation Project** continued on two fronts, namely, content review and taxonomy and migration to Drupal, the new website management platform. At the end of 2021, over 5,000 pages had been reviewed, rewritten and reorganized and almost 8,000 pages and 50,000 documents had been tagged with a new comprehensive taxonomy. Additionally, a total of 115,000 pages were available in Drupal, including migrated content, manually created content and pages created from integration with other databases. The new OHCHR website was launched in March 2022.
- The OHCHR Library updated the **voting catalogue for each session of the Human Rights Council**. It currently contains 5,095 records and the interface allows users to filter the resolutions by body, type of document, type of vote, date and subject. Each record also provides links to the full text documents.
- The ongoing COVID-19 restrictions in 2021 led to a decrease in the quantity of **print materials that were disseminated**, amounting to 27,268 copies of publications, corporate reports, civil society guides and promotional materials. Nevertheless, OHCHR noted a significant increase in requests from previously untapped geographic regions, totalling 85 countries worldwide. This expanded geographic reach can be linked to linguistic diversity in the distribution of print materials in all available official UN languages. The upward trend towards digital materials continued in 2021. There were over 6.99 million visits to online publications on OHCHR's website, representing an increase of 800,000 visits compared to 2020.

PARTNERSHIPS

UN Human Rights has broadened and diversified its institutional partners and maximized the mutually reinforcing human rights benefits of the exchange of expertise, reach and resources.

- OHCHR strengthened its existing **partnerships with regional institutions**. For example, the first OHCHR-European Union (EU) strategic dialogue was held in Brussels, in October. Further editions of this dialogue will be organized on an annual basis to facilitate discussions on subjects of mutual interest. OHCHR and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights (IACHR) regularly exchanged analysis and views on the human rights situation in priority countries and, following a March meeting attended by representatives from both organizations, a road map was adopted to strengthen collaboration. In addition, collaboration with the African Union (AU) continued on the development of a framework on good practices in relation to early warning and conflict prevention systems of national human rights institutions (NHRIs), as well as on the implementation of a compliance framework for AU peace operations.
- In the context of the Surge Initiative, OHCHR reinforced critical **partnerships with development actors**. Emphasis was placed on collaboration with Resident Coordinator's Offices (RCOs) to reinforce engagement with international financial institutions and advise States on economic policy-making. OHCHR also entered into a strategic partnership with the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law to support its work on extending development partnerships and outreach. In cooperation with the Institute, OHCHR established a collaboration with the Faculty of Economics of the University of Lund and is exploring possibilities of initiating a Master's programme on human rights and economics.
- OHCHR **partnered with UNDP and UNODC to pilot the SDG 16 Survey Initiative** in eight countries, across different regions and diverse development contexts (Cabo Verde, El Salvador, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania, Togo and Tunisia), in collaboration with NHRIs, National Statistical Offices, ministries and CSOs in those countries. This generated vital data on peace, justice and inclusion, which can help the Office to better understand complex human rights challenges at national and subnational levels.
- The Office broadened its **institutional partnerships with universities** in Brazil, Nigeria, Norway, South Africa and the United Kingdom to organize "Faith for Rights" learning events. The interactive methodology and case studies from the #Faith4Rights toolkit were also piloted with civil servants in Brazil and Nigeria and with judges in Indonesia.
- In support of the UN Youth Strategy 2030, UN Human Rights joined forces with **Education Above All and Silatech to promote and protect the human rights of youth around the world**, including the right to education, supporting young people's economic and social empowerment and developing learning opportunities for youth affected by conflict and displacement on peacebuilding and conflict prevention. In 2021, partners issued a call for a Youth Advisory Board to promote a participatory and consultative approach on youth engagement, and to encourage them to act as agents of change and contribute to building more just, prosperous and peaceful societies. A dedicated tool on youth and human rights will be developed and made available in 2022. The tool will be among the first of its kind to be crafted for and by youth to empower young people to advocate for their rights.
- OHCHR's partnership with **UNOSAT enables the provision of satellite imagery and analysis**. The OHCHR Emergency Response Section facilitates the coordination of all ad hoc satellite imagery requests from OHCHR field presences and headquarters and serves as a liaison with the independent investigative bodies. During the year, OHCHR was able to leverage satellite imagery for remote-based monitoring of attacked villages in Myanmar, airstrikes in conflict zones in Yemen and to undertake further analysis in Afghanistan and Ethiopia. In addition, UNOSAT supported investigative efforts by remotely locating and analysing alleged mass graves in Libya and other investigations in the Occupied Palestinian Territories, South Sudan, Syria and Yemen.
- Call for Code: Tech for Good. In 2021, the awards shone a spotlight on developers taking on the climate change challenge and the interrelated issues of water, hunger and the economy. Over 500,000 changemakers answered the call and developed cutting-edge technology to address the climate crisis. Since 2018, OHCHR has been the Global Challenge Charitable Partner of the **Call for Code Initiative**, which is one of the largest Tech for Good Initiatives of its kind, inviting developers and problem solvers from around the world to build and contribute to sustainable, open-source technology projects that address social and humanitarian issues.

Winning solutions are deployed to make a demonstrable difference.

- Organized in partnership with the Wikimedia Foundation and UNEP, the **#WikiForHumanRights campaign**, which was held between April and June, widened the focus from climate change to the "triple planetary crisis" of climate, pollution and biodiversity loss and their impacts on the well-being and survival of humanity. In 2021, virtual events were held in all regions, producing 27 community events and 2,000 articles in more than 30 languages.
- OHCHR signed a letter of agreement with the **United Cities and Local Governments**, the world's largest network of regional and local governments with 250,000 affiliates. This agreement will facilitate improved collaboration in a number of areas, including supporting the integration of human rights into the work of local governments, capacity-building, taking stock of promising local human rights practices and increasing interaction between sub-national authorities and the human rights system.

DIVERSITY AND GENDER

Respect for diversity, gender equality and inclusion is at the centre of UN Human Rights' organizational culture and is fully supported by appropriate organizational arrangements.

- The **OHCHR Gender Accreditation Programme** continued to be implemented in the field offices in Colombia and Ukraine. The implementation of the Programme in the two offices was extended until the end of 2021. Due to COVID-19 restrictions, in-person missions, which are an essential part of the Programme, were challenged. The field offices that previously participated in the Programme (Cambodia and the State of Palestine) increased their activities and outputs focused on gender equality and women, as well as their allocated budgets. In addition, they considerably improved the integration of gender analysis into their monitoring work and consequently, into their public reports, statements, social media campaigns and other relevant outreach materials. Field presences in Guatemala and Syria have been selected to participate in the third round of the programme (2022-2023).
- The OHCHR Working Group on Inclusion drafted the new **OEAP on Diversity and Inclusion**, which will replace the existing OEAP on Diversity and Gender. The new OEAP will introduce an additional focus on race, while updating the components on diversity and gender, taking into consideration existing institutional commitments and emerging developments.
- A **network of Gender Focal Points** has been established to support the integration of gender into OHCHR's work, culture, policies and processes, in accordance with the OHCHR Gender Equality Policy and the OEAP on Diversity and Gender. This network will encompass the existing focal points in field presences and in sections at headquarters. Furthermore, a new community of practice has been created for this network on Yammer to ensure the consistent provision of information and the exchange of good practices among members.
- A second round of the **Fellowship for LGBTI Human Rights Defenders (HRDs)** was launched in 2021. The Fellowship provides opportunities for LGBTI HRDs to enrich their experiences in working within the international human rights system.
- In 2021, OHCHR continued to implement its **introductory electronic course on the human rights of LGBTI persons** to equip staff and others with information on key terms and concepts related to LGBTI persons, harmful myths and stereotypes, human rights violations faced by LGBTI persons, the role of the UN and steps that UN officials and others can take to tackle violence and discrimination against members of the LGBTI community. More than 250 OHCHR staff members and external stakeholders completed OHCHR's introductory electronic training course.

- The Secretary-General launched the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy (UNDIS), in June 2019, with a view to enhancing the work of the UN system to more fully include persons with disabilities in its programmatic and operational work. The **UN Human Rights' Disability Rights Strategy**, aimed at increasing the Office's performance under the UNDIS, was developed and reviewed by the Senior Management Team, in December.
- OHCHR is approaching the **requirement to achieve gender parity** for staff at each level in the General Service and Professional and higher categories. When combining regular staff appointments for OHCHR contracted staff at their current levels, women account for 60 per cent of the overall OHCHR workforce. By category, women account for 59 per cent in the Professional and higher categories and 69 per cent in the General Service staff category. The status of women at the senior management P-5 level has risen from 43 to 46 per cent and at the D-1 level from 36 to 43 per cent. Gender parity in the General Service category has been achieved at all levels except G-3.

MANAGING OUR TALENT

UN Human Rights is actively unleashing the full potential of its staff, with focused talent and career management accessible to all.

- Through its internal Rapid Deployment Roster, OHCHR continued to **deploy staff members to the field for emergency operations**, fostering opportunities for staff to increase and strengthen their capacities and experiences in other duty stations. More than 20 staff members have been deployed in this manner, half of whom were women, drawing on field- and headquarters-based capacities. A new call for OHCHR staff to join the roster was sent out in September and the renewed roster now includes more than 150 Professional and General Service staff members who are ready to be deployed to emergency settings.
- The Office assumed **full human resources business partner services** from the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG), in July, and commenced responsibility for self-administering all OHCHR staff in headquarters and field locations. The Office adjusted its functions and teams and recruited additional human resources experts to meet the career lifecycle needs of its staff members.
- To support the **OHCHR Mental Health and Well-Being Action Plan**, OHCHR's chartered psychologist was available to meet the psychological needs of staff. Over 200 team webinars were conducted on stress management, trauma, secondary trauma prevention and practical interventions for managers. A further 2,300 individual sessions were undertaken, alongside multilingual psychological support, in conjunction with UN Staff Counsellors and regional contacts.
- The **new organizational approach to Performance Management** was implemented through a combination of messaging and briefings attended by over 260 staff. A dedicated Intranet page complemented office-wide presentations and engagement with communities of practice. Individual client support was offered to over 312 staff members and seven group briefings were conducted in English, French and Spanish across offices.
- OHCHR engaged in several global learning initiatives that underpin and elevate the role of learning, training and career support, including the UN Secretariat Learning Strategy 2021-2025 and the Learning Lab Initiative. As co-lead for the Geneva Learning Network, OHCHR facilitated regular meetings and events on innovation in learning and training with over 200 regular participants. The Office delivered over 60 individual coaching sessions and facilitated 17 Coffee Briefings on thematic human rights issues, alongside administrative topics, such as the web-based Welcome Mat for new staff members.

- OHCHR is increasingly using technology in its human rights training work. An OHCHR learning management system has been set up and 20 courses were designed, developed and delivered through this system.
- The revised Managing our Talent OEAP for 2022-2023 outlines OHCHR's investment in managing career development opportunities for all staff to ensure that it employs a supportive and fully inclusive approach to staffing, while enhancing the demographic profile of the office. Outputs are anchored to the Secretary-General's priorities and call for coherence in learning management, with links to organizational and individual performance and a more articulated learning programme.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Investment in and support for UN Human Rights has expanded and donors are expressing confidence in the value delivered by these investments.

- OHCHR developed its first **Resource Mobilization and Partnerships Strategy**, covering 2022-2027, which seeks to support the delivery of OHCHR's mandate by securing predictable, sufficient and sustainable funding, cultivating and scaling-up existing funding partnerships and broadening its donor base. The development of the Strategy was informed by a resource mobilization needs assessment survey that gathered inputs from 260 colleagues in headquarters and the field.
- **Total voluntary contributions** amounted to US$227.7 million, representing an increase of US$3.4 million, compared with 2020 (US$224.3 million). In 2021, 89 donors contributed to the Office, including 59 Member States. In addition, a deepening of partnerships with the UN Multi-Donor Trust Funds (MDTFs), including the Human Rights Mainstreaming and Peacebuilding Funds, led to a significant increase of contributions received, from US$16.1 million in 2020 to US$20.5 million in 2021. Unearmarked contributions increased by US$22 million. The percentage of unearmarked contributions reached 37 per cent, almost 10 percentage points higher than in 2020. This is a welcome development as OHCHR continued to advocate on the importance of unearmarked funds for securing the independence of the Office in the implementation of its mandate.
- Notwithstanding the difficulties created by COVID-19, the Office managed to maintain a **strong relationship with its donors**. It provided regular updates on OHCHR's work through eight consultations and 17 briefings. A total of 120 funding agreements were also signed in 2021. Efforts to reach out to non-traditional donors bore some fruit and resulted in the establishment of nine new partnerships and the receipt of funding from several companies in the technology sector, as well as from private foundations, primarily to support work on business and human rights and climate change. OHCHR received over US$1 million from eight private foundations/NGOs. Individuals also donated on OHCHR's website, with a 20 per cent increase, compared with 2020.
- OHCHR applied a **results-based management approach** in its fundraising and reporting. This proved to be critical in building the trust of donors and increasing accountability. In 2021, the Office submitted 92 funding proposals and 226 reports to donors that were both narrative and financial. The Office enhanced the development of funding proposals that focus on specific spotlight populations, including: 1) youth (a funding agreement was signed with Silatech and Education Above All to promote and protect the rights of young people, achieve progress on youth components of the 2030 Agenda and implement the United Nations Youth Strategy); 2) persons with disabilities (joint submissions to the United Nations Partnership on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities resulted in funding for four offices in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Georgia, Guatemala and the Republic of Moldova); and 3) women (gender-sensitive results-based proposals and frameworks led to increased financial support from several donors).

- By supporting the operationalization of the **UNDG Strategy for the Deployment of Human Rights Advisers** and securing the required resources, OHCHR ensured the timely and effective processing of extensions of existing human rights advisers and the approval of new deployments, in 2022, to support RCOs in Bahrain, the Republic of the Congo, Kazakhstan, Samoa, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan.
- Efforts continued to **increase the capacity of OHCHR staff members on resource mobilization**. All tools and resources developed in this respect (i.e., standardized templates and guidelines) were made available through the Office's Intranet page, briefings and virtual workshops. In addition, some key resources, including the resource mobilization guide, were made available on OHCHR's new onboarding portal. A new video platform was also used to highlight key information and resources for effective resource mobilization. In 2022, OHCHR will forge ahead with the development of an e-learning module for resource mobilization, while the recent movement of two donor and external relations positions to the Regional Offices in Southern Africa and South-East Asia will provide further opportunities to strengthen capacity-development in these regions.
- A **customer relationship management platform** was enhanced to respond to OHCHR's needs for donor intelligence in the form of donor profiles, reports and dashboards. The platform hosts a wealth of information on both public and private sector donors and partners, as well as the results of due diligence reviews of potential and actual corporate donors. The Office began to roll out the platform to selected field offices, with 46 licenses in use across OHCHR. The module to record initiatives/events was further developed and it can now track workshops and trainings, as well as appeals and funding proposals.

OPERATIONS MANAGEMENT

UN Human Rights managers are enabling the most efficient and responsible use of all available resources, supported by the effective deployment of relevant technologies.

- The Office is developing a **digital transformation strategy** and has adopted a Digital Technology OEAP. The new OEAP will enable the Office to scale-up its impact by fully integrating its technology stack and digital services into efforts to advance its mandate and to take advantage of the huge potential of digital technology.
- The new **Umoja Grants Management Module** was fully implemented in 2021, despite the complexity of the solution. This module will help streamline the process of grants management, along with providing information for comparison and benchmarking across the organization. Primarily due to travel restrictions, the Umoja Procurement Module could not be fully rolled out to field presences. The full roll-out of this module, as well as the delegation of authority for informal procurement, will allow for a more efficient use of available resources.
- The **migration of all email accounts** from ohchr.org to the un.org domain was completed in 2021. This also required a change in available collaborative solutions, as the Office began using Microsoft Teams, which transformed the way colleagues collaborate and greatly enhanced communications and operations at all levels.
- OHCHR provided **operational support on budget and staffing to human rights components of UN peace operations**. Significant efforts were invested in designing an integrated human rights component for the new special political mission in Sudan, the United Nations Integrated Transition Assistance Mission in Sudan (UNITAMS) and in the drawdown of the African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID).