



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS  
MANAGEMENT —————  
2018 ————— 2021 PLAN

EXPANDED VERSION



UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS  
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

**UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS  
MANAGEMENT** \_\_\_\_\_  
2018 \_\_\_\_\_ 2021 **PLAN**



## INTRODUCTION

This document sets out the roadmap for the United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR, UN Human Rights Office) over the four years 2018-2021 inclusive.

In 2017, the UN Human Rights Office undertook consultations on our future priorities with Member States, the UN system, civil society, the philanthropic community, the private sector, and our staff. More than one hundred States, 140 external stakeholders and a large number of OHCHR staff contributed at country, regional and headquarters levels. Regional consultations were held in Bangkok, Panama, Beirut, Brussels and Addis Ababa, while 900 individuals responded to an online survey. The findings of a 'Strategic Foresight' workshop were complemented by an independent analysis of future global trends relevant to human rights. Our new roadmap is the product of this expert advice and technical input, and builds on lessons learned from previous experience, including the findings of evaluations and audits.

This process confirmed the ongoing value of OHCHR's work under six '**pillars**': support for the international **human rights mechanisms**; mainstreaming of human rights within **development** and **peace and security** efforts; and advancement of the core human rights principles of **non-discrimination, accountability and participation**.

However, changes in the world mean we must change too. For the next four years, across our thematic '**pillars**', OHCHR will introduce major **shifts** to: strengthen work to **prevent conflict, violence and insecurity**; help **expand civic space**;

and help **broaden the global constituency for human rights**. We will also shift our work to better understand and engage **human rights dimensions of frontier issues** in the areas of climate change, digital space, inequality, corruption, and people's displacement and movement.

Our new roadmap is strongly anchored to the **2030 Sustainable Development Agenda**. We will focus on the Agenda's human rights-based commitment to 'leave no one behind' and over the next four years will **spotlight** the human rights of **women, young people, and persons with disabilities**.

To deliver this human rights impact successfully, we must also align our organizational processes and working methods to our roadmap. We will step up our operations to enhance how **we operate and work together**, to better **foster innovation and dynamic knowledge**, and to better leverage support for human rights through more effective **communications** and mutually beneficial **partnerships**.

We are confident that the roadmap outlined here is robustly responsive and relevant to the human rights realities of today and tomorrow. We are certain that it will provide sound guidance for an accountable Office as we work to implement effectively the mandates with which we are entrusted and address the challenges of defending all rights for all in a changing world.



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## A CHANGING GLOBAL CONTEXT

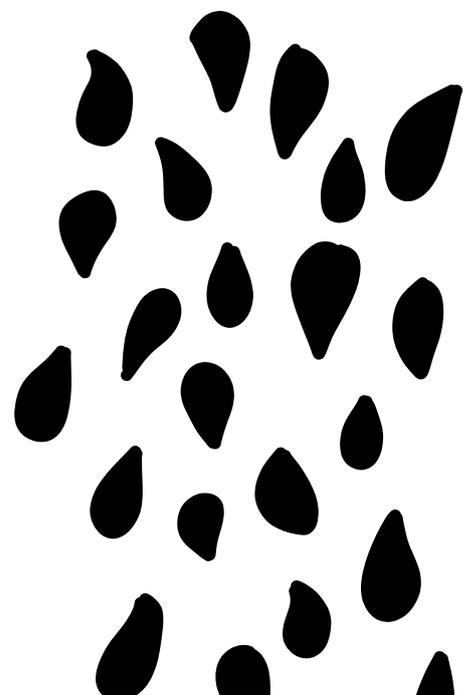
**Across the world, an extraordinary number of institutions and laws promote and protect human rights, thanks to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights first promulgated seventy years ago, in 1948. That mighty document, championed by brave human rights defenders and visionary human rights leaders, has helped change the world. Millions have gained greater freedom and equality and have been empowered to stand up for rights. Millions have greater access to justice, essential services and equality of opportunity. Exploitation has been challenged and poverty has fallen in many countries. Today, more young people go to school and more girls can stay in school. Major diseases, once commonplace, have been eradicated or are now rare. Oppressive dictatorships have been replaced by participative systems of governance that seek to serve their people. Perpetrators of horrific human rights violations – including genocide – have been prosecuted by international tribunals.**

And yet we have also failed. Indices of social and economic inequality have soared in a majority of countries, undermining the public's trust in political and economic institutions and their confidence in the future. While private companies and a handful of individuals have acquired stupendous wealth, many States struggle to raise the resources to govern effectively or provide even essential public services. High levels of corruption are making matters worse. Governments continue to criminalize public dissent for a range of reasons. The “security” state is back, and fundamental freedoms are in retreat in every region of the world.

Human rights currently are under threat from many quarters. The future of many communities, is under threat from climate change. Tensions, inequality, and outright conflict have pushed millions of people to flee their home countries, often at great personal sacrifice. An antagonistic nationalism is on the rise, buoyed by the reassertion of racism and xenophobia and the retreat of shame. Measures to counter discrimination and promote greater justice are being dismantled by those who stand to gain from hatred and exploitation. We had hoped that a more interconnected world would improve knowledge and tolerance. Certainly, a more unequal world has encouraged a retreat to nativism and hostility.

Uncertainty, conflict and inequalities are likely to remain prominent in the coming years. However, deeper, longer term trends may be more positive. Advances in education, a growing middle class, better access to information, faster communications: all may improve the capacity of hundreds of millions of individuals to organize, claim, exercise and defend their rights. Technological advances may enhance our ability to diagnose and treat disease, increase crop yields, preserve energy, predict and prepare for catastrophic events, or eliminate human labour from hazardous work. The overarching objectives agreed in the Sustainable Development Goals mean that, in many countries, policymakers and new social movements are now working in a unified way to respond to the numerous challenges we face. If fear, uncertainty and intolerance have increased, so too have efforts to resist them.

Our environment is changing in ways that we do not altogether understand, with consequences that we cannot fully foresee. Yet human rights remain our most sure and universal point of reference. They can help us set a course towards inclusion, sustainable prosperity, justice, dignity, freedom, and sustained peace. Each day, together, one person at a time if needs be, we can face down hatred, despair and selfishness, and build societies in which everyone has a chance to survive and flourish. In a world divided in so many ways, human rights can unite us. In a world so uncertain, human rights are our sure and steady guiding star.



## INTO THE **FUTURE**

**Human Rights, Peace and Security, and Development are the three pillars of the United Nations as a whole. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), headed by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, acts as the leading United Nations entity for human rights.**

To fulfil its responsibilities, OHCHR will follow a robust framework of results through to the end of 2021. This roadmap is based on the outcomes of consultations with Member States, the UN system, civil society, the philanthropic community and the private sector. It sits firmly within the Secretary-General's strategic framework for 2018-2019; integrates the duties that flow from mandates given to the Office by United Nations intergovernmental bodies; and reflects the High Commissioner's overarching mandate to promote and protect all human rights for all.

The roadmap to 2021 is comprised of:

- i. **Six thematic 'Pillars'** that form the solid base on which the work of the Office continues to stand:
  - Support to (1) the *United Nations human rights system*.
  - Mainstreaming human rights in the United Nations' other pillars: (2) *development* and (3) *peace and security*.
  - Advancing the core human rights principles of (4) *non-discrimination*, (5) *accountability*, and (6) *participation*.

Work under these pillars covers the core components of our mandate, enabling universal but strategic coverage (given resource limits) of human rights in all countries. These thematic pillars are indivisible, interdependent and mutually reinforcing.

- ii. **Four major 'Shifts'** to our approach that will better adapt our work to the changing external context. These will help us focus on key threats to rights and key opportunities for leveraging support to better protect and promote rights. The shifts we will make across our six pillars are to:
  - Support **prevention of conflict, violence and insecurity**.
  - **Protect and expand civic space**.
  - Support and further develop the **global constituency for human rights**.
  - Deliver human rights in the context of **emerging global concerns ('frontier issues')**.

These '*Shifts*' will further unify our efforts as one Office; driving coherence, scale and measurable human rights impact in an uncertain world.

- iii. **Our work will be 'people-centred'**. Further, across everything we do, including when we focus on the human rights of other population groups, we will shine a '*spotlight*' on the human rights of *women, young people* and *persons with disabilities*. In support of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda's human rights-based commitment to 'leave no one behind', we will highlight the human rights concerns of women, young people and persons with disabilities, including as defenders of rights.
- iv. **Action for organizational effectiveness**. In our daily operations as 'one Office' we will invest greater effort in areas that will enhance our programme delivery and in which change is needed to ensure our continued operational relevance and efficiency. This means stepping up our organizational effectiveness to better *foster innovation* and *dynamic knowledge*, and better leverage support for human rights through more effective *communications* and mutually beneficial *partnerships*.

## THEORY OF CHANGE

### WHAT WE DO

- **PROVIDE EXPERT LEGAL ADVICE ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES**
- **FACILITATE LEARNING AND KNOWLEDGE TRANSFER**
- **DELIVER HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION**
- **RAISE HUMAN RIGHTS AWARENESS**
- **COMMUNICATE**
- **MONITOR AND PUBLICLY REPORT ON HUMAN RIGHTS SITUATIONS**
- **ADVOCATE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS**
- **DIRECTLY PROTECT CIVIL SOCIETY MEMBERS AND HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDERS**
- **FACILITATE DIALOGUE BETWEEN DIVERSE STAKEHOLDERS ON HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES**
- **BUILD NETWORKS AND ALLIANCES TO EXTEND HUMAN RIGHTS PROMOTION AND PROTECTION**
- **ENABLE THE FUNCTIONING OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS**

### OUR PILLARS

- **MECHANISMS**  
Increasing implementation of the outcomes of the international human rights mechanisms
- **DEVELOPMENT**  
Advancing sustainable development through human rights
- **PEACE AND SECURITY**  
Preventing violations and strengthening protection of human rights, including in situations of conflict and insecurity
- **NON-DISCRIMINATION**  
Enhancing equality and countering discrimination
- **ACCOUNTABILITY**  
Strengthening the rule of law and accountability for human rights violations
- **PARTICIPATION**  
Enhancing participation and protecting civic space

### THE RESULTS WE CONTRIBUTE TO

- State laws and policies protect and promote human rights
- State institutions, non-state actors and the private sector promote, protect and respect human rights
- State accountability mechanisms monitor, investigate and provide redress for human rights violations
- Public participation in policy-making processes grows, particularly by women and members of groups facing discrimination
- Public support grows for protection of human rights
- Member States and other actors engage with United Nations human rights mechanisms
- International and regional human rights mechanisms and bodies promote and protect human rights effectively
- The international community responds effectively to critical human rights situations and issues
- International human rights law and standards progress
- Human rights are effectively integrated in UN policies and programmes

**GOAL**  
**ALL HUMAN RIGHTS ARE ACHIEVED FOR ALL**

## THEORY OF CHANGE

OHCHR contributes to human rights change on the ground through **a range of intervention**: provision of expert advice, facilitating learning and knowledge transfer, raising awareness, monitoring and reporting on human rights situations, human rights advocacy, providing direct protection to members of civil society and human rights defenders, facilitating dialogue between diverse stakeholders, building networks and alliances, and enabling the functioning of the international human rights mechanisms.

According to context, OHCHR combines and sequences the most relevant and feasible types of intervention for implementation **under six pillars**, which frame OHCHR's work: (1) supporting the UN human rights system; and mainstreaming human rights through (2) the development and (3) the peace and security pillars of the UN; and advancing three key human rights principles, namely (4) participation, (5) non-discrimination, and (6) accountability.

These pillars contribute to the achievement of **6 types of institutional results at national level**:

- State laws and policies protect and promote human rights
- State institutions, non-state actors and the private sector, promote, protect and respect human rights
- State accountability mechanisms monitor, investigate and redress human rights violations
- Public participation in policy-making processes grows, particularly by women and members of groups facing discrimination
- Public support grows for protection of human rights
- Member States and other actors (regional organizations, NHRS, civil society, UN...) engage positively with United Nations human rights mechanisms

And **4 types of institutional results at regional or international level**:

- International human rights law and standards progress
- International and regional human rights mechanisms and bodies promote and protect human rights effectively

- Human rights are effectively integrated in UN policies and programmes
- The international community responds effectively to critical human rights situations and issues

Each **institutional result** applies a set of standard indicators when formulating national targets for country programmes and overall targets for the duration of the OHCHR Management Plan (OMP).

## MONITORING

Well-formulated results and indicators allow OHCHR, while implementing its programme, to monitor its progress towards achieving the intended results. Monitoring permits OHCHR to review on a regular basis the efficiency and effectiveness of its allocation of human and financial resources and their positive contribution to the achievement of OHCHR's planned results and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which is explicitly grounded in international human rights treaties.

Continuous monitoring and targeted evaluations also ensure that evidence and lessons are captured and feed strategic decision-making in a timely manner. Monitoring not only enables OHCHR to track progress towards identified results but validates its theory of change at the design stage and allows it to adapt and adjust in response to changing circumstances. Mid-term and annual reviews of the implementation of annual work plans contribute to the monitoring framework of the Management Plan and help managers to determine the continued relevance of overall targets. Environmental, programmatic and institutional risks are also reviewed in the middle and at the end of the year and mitigation measures are taken to reduce threats to successful implementation of the programme.

OHCHR plans, monitors and reports on one set of organizational results, at the outcome level, it can be held accountable for output level results that feed into these larger outcomes. The regular monitoring required for effective implementation of the Management Plan is supported by a Performance Monitoring System, a database in which the Office's one hundred organizational units and field presences record their strategic programming documents, their annual work and cost plans, and report on programme implementation.

## REPORTING ON RESULTS

To be accountable to rights holders and duty bearers, governments, civil society, and donors, OHCHR produces an annual report on its progress and achievements complemented by information on its budget, expenditure, communications and advocacy, operations, and leadership.

## EVALUATIONS

In line with the United Nations Norms and Standards for Evaluation developed by the United Nations Evaluation Group (UNEG), OHCHR has established an evaluation function, based on UNEG's Norms and Standards. This function is guided by an evaluation policy and plan that follow OHCHR's (currently four-year) programming cycle. The long-term goal is to increase the impact of OHCHR's interventions, to make them more relevant, efficient, effective, and sustainable.

In the mid-term, OHCHR seeks three outcome-level results:

1. **The evaluation function is a well-developed and well-used component of the results based management approach that OHCHR has adopted.** OHCHR conducts a number of evaluations, reviews and lesson learning exercises, ensuring that key stakeholders both participate in these and receive evaluation results for learning and accountability purposes.
2. **OHCHR's senior management systematically takes and reviews decisions on current and planned interventions, and on OHCHR's structures and processes, on the basis of evidence provided by evaluations.** OHCHR ensures that evaluation recommendations are followed up and implemented, and that evaluation results are used in strategic decision-making and programming.

3. **OHCHR strategically applies the evaluation resources of the UN system to improve its relevance, efficiency, effectiveness, impact and sustainability.** OHCHR supports and uses the results of evaluations conducted by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) and the Joint Inspection Unit (JIU), and participates in UNEG, particularly its efforts to integrate human rights and gender equality in evaluations.

Between 2018 and 2021, OHCHR will undertake on an annual basis one strategic thematic evaluation and between two and four evaluations of particular areas of work (programmes or entities).

## RISK MANAGEMENT

Risk is the expression of the likelihood and impact of an uncertain, and extreme event that, if it occurs, may impact negatively (threat) on the achievement of a project or programme objective. A risk can have consequences beyond failure to deliver on results. It may harm the reputation, integrity or credibility of OHCHR, undermine the trust of its donors and stakeholders, or endanger the security and lives of individuals. Every organization must live with risk. Managing risks well is therefore a vital element of good governance and management.

In its 2018-2021 Management Plan, OHCHR has made risk management an integral component of programme management. Risk management contributes to successful achievement of expected outcomes and results.

OHCHR will manage and reduce risk throughout the organization by identifying, assessing, understanding, acting on and communicating risk issues. This will help senior management to plan strategically and allocate resources wisely, enhance responsible decision-making, and contain threats to the organization. Risk management will be monitored as part of programme performance monitoring, strengthening the link between expected outcomes, results and evaluation.

Based on the assessments and assumptions made when developing the different theories of change that OHCHR has adopted, the Office identified three main risk factors: environmental (political/crisis/cultural); programmatic; and institutional. It then assessed the likelihood that each of these risks might occur, and devised measures to prevent them or reduce their effects.

The principal **environmental risks** identified include: lack of political will, leadership or commitment to promote and protect human rights; the spread of opinions and groups hostile to human rights; the eruption of violence or conflict, or natural disasters; the fragmentation of national actors that work to achieve human rights and the 2030 Agenda; harmful social norms; deeply entrenched inequalities; the marginalization of certain groups and individuals in society; and actions, including reprisals, that obstruct civil society efforts to promote human rights.

Key interventions to address such risks include: constructive engagement with governments; bringing development and human rights actors together to ensure that a human rights-based approach to development is followed; and awareness raising, outreach and advocacy to address human rights challenges and highlight the positive effects of actions that promote human rights. Our interventions will identify partners and other actors (including in the private sector) who have traditionally not engaged with human rights organizations, with whom we will work to build national, regional and global constituencies for human rights. The Office will enhance its human rights monitoring, protection strategies, response to reprisals, and political interventions. It will also use its convening power to bring disparate groups together to find common ground. OHCHR will deepen engagement with UN system partners working on crisis prevention, and will elaborate and sharpen the Office's contribution to the UN's prevention strategy, not least by developing OHCHR's regional early warning capacity.

To address and reduce identified risks, OHCHR will cooperate more closely with peace and security, humanitarian and development actors. In the context of 'the New Way of Working', it will work to reduce risk and vulnerability and make specific, measurable contributions towards Agenda 2030 in crisis-affected countries. It will support the 2030 Agenda, which provides opportunities to: frame discrimination and inequality as human rights issues; convey to the public how human rights are relevant to their daily lives; enhance the collection and analysis of disaggregated data at country level; identify, from a human rights standpoint, who is left behind; and ensure the most marginalized and disenfranchised groups and individuals can participate in decisions that affect them.

The main **programmatic risks** include: the lack of OHCHR field presences in United Nations Member States, which means that the Office is unable to extend support; failure to show compelling evidence of the positive impacts of human rights interventions, including of early warning, prevention and peacebuilding interventions; unpredictability of programme funds and lack of disaggregated data. Although OHCHR funding from the UN regular budget has risen steadily since 2004, the Office's share has remained stable at around 3.5%, covering approximately 45% of OHCHR's overall expenditure. Regular budget resources have not kept up with expectations of the organization. Some potential partners of OHCHR are deterred by the UN's formality and 'red tape' and the challenges related to quickly operationalising projects on the ground.

OHCHR will address these risks through the 2018-21 Organizational Effectiveness Action Plans (OEAPs). Specific OEAPs address communications and partnerships, innovation and dynamic knowledge, and resource mobilization. OHCHR will address challenges in administrative and operational effectiveness by promoting innovative business and operational practices; improving human resources processes (including roster recruitments); strengthening the programme management function across the

Office; providing managers with more detailed and up-to-date information to make informed decisions and effectively manage their programmes; providing IT tools and platforms that support decision-making, communication and collaborative work; and enhancing programmatic and administrative support to OHCHR field presences. OHCHR will seek to expand programmatic support by opening new field presences. It will increase financial support for human rights by strengthening advocacy, creating more partnerships, and developing funding strategies that demonstrate a compelling case for giving. The Office will diversify its financial resource base to fund programme expansion and will develop new partnerships to secure support for improved programme implementation.

The ability of OHCHR to respond to the diverse experiences, needs and expectations of OHCHR's partners and stakeholders poses **institutional risks**. Conversely, partners' ability to fulfil their partnership agreements raises potential risks, many of which are unknown when agreements are signed. OHCHR will work together with all its partners to anticipate and reduce the impact of such risks. In addition, in a fast-paced world, changing environments and constant innovation (notably in science and technology) create both threats and opportunities. The huge increase in connections generated by new travel and

information technologies increases interdependence, which means that stakeholder views are increasingly important. And because information travels faster, risks to reputation are sharper. OHCHR will continue to manage reputational risks by consistent messaging from headquarters and in the field, and ensuring that field staff are committed to human rights, trained in media relations, and fully engaged with stakeholders. OHCHR needs to maintain a strong reputation for promoting and protecting human rights for all.

Security of staff is also a vital concern. About half of OHCHR's staff work in the field, where they may face a variety of security risks. Maintaining their security is a key task, assured by the wider United Nations system.

## UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS RISK REGISTER

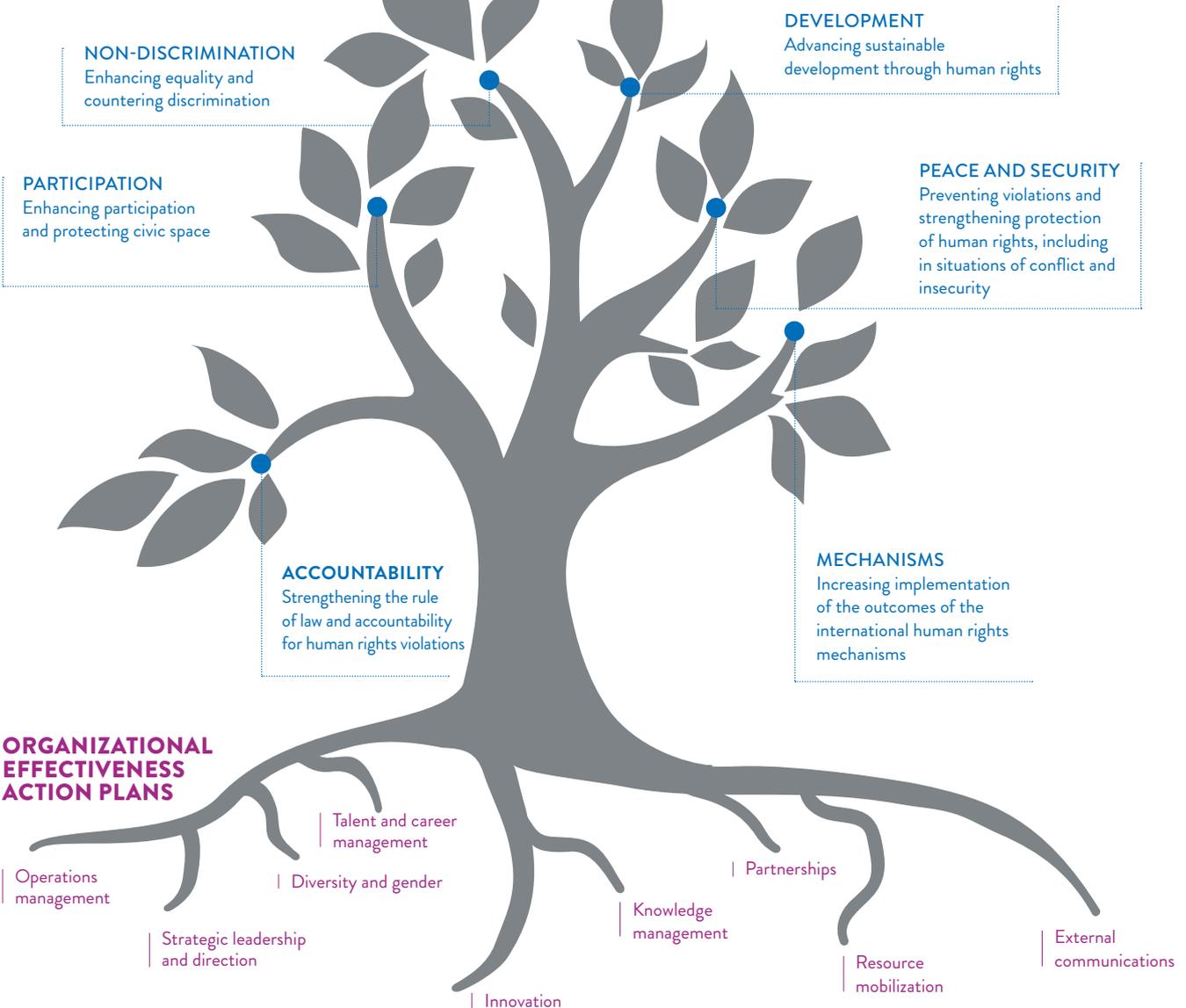
Risk factor	Specific risk defined at country level	Likelihood	Impact	Risk response depending on likelihood and impact
<p><b>Environmental</b> Political change in government or government policy, man-made or natural crises (conflict or natural disaster), changes in social or cultural expectations or attitudes.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Very unlikely</li> <li>- Unlikely</li> <li>- Likely</li> <li>- Almost certain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Insignificant</li> <li>- Minor</li> <li>- Major</li> <li>- Significant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Choice of appropriate</li> <li>1. Type of engagement (what we do) from e.g. provision of expert legal advice, to facilitating dialogue, building networks and advocating, and 2. Topic of engagement, i.e. on what we engage (our pillars/shifts).</li> <li>- Contingency Planning: Development of crisis preparedness and response plans including business continuity plans; engaging in early warning and rapid response activities.</li> <li>- Implementation of Organizational Effectiveness Action plans especially on Strategic Leadership and Direction, Diversity and Gender and External Communications.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Programmatic</b> Changes in the economic and financial context (financial shortfalls); operational failures (over-ambitious objectives, inadequate project management); organizational or administrative problems (inefficiencies, inflexibilities, etc.).</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Very unlikely</li> <li>- Unlikely</li> <li>- Likely</li> <li>- Almost certain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Insignificant</li> <li>- Minor</li> <li>- Major</li> <li>- Significant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of Organizational Effectiveness Action plans especially on Resource Mobilization, Innovation, Knowledge Management, Talent and Career Management, External Communications and Operations Management.</li> <li>These plans include but are not limited to improving flexibility in programming; building internal project/programme management capacity; finding innovative ways to address administrative and operational challenges including addressing ways to reduce staff deployment times.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Institutional</b> Problems associated with stakeholders relationships or partnerships (for example, partners do not deliver on their commitments); reputational or security risks.</p>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Very unlikely</li> <li>- Unlikely</li> <li>- Likely</li> <li>- Almost certain</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Insignificant</li> <li>- Minor</li> <li>- Major</li> <li>- Significant</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Implementation of Organizational Effectiveness Action plans, especially on Partnerships, Talent and Career Management, External Communications and Operations Management.</li> </ul>

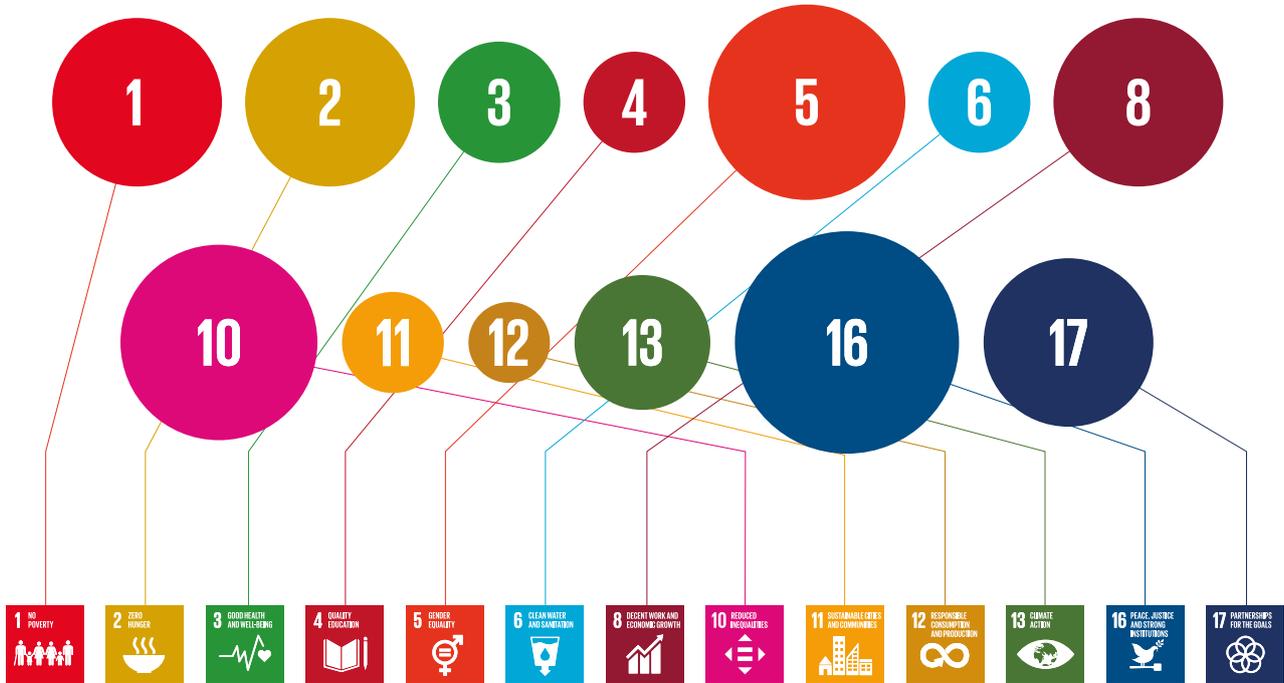
# ROADMAP TO 2021

## SHIFTS



## PILLARS





DEVELOPMENT	NON-DISCRIMINATION	PARTICIPATION	PEACE AND SECURITY	ACCOUNTABILITY	HR MECHANISMS
1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 8, 10, 11, 12, 13, 16, 17	4, 5, 8, 10, 16, 17	5, 10, 16	5, 16, 17	5, 8, 10, 16	5, 16, 17
SDGS HR GROUNDED	LAWS, POLICIES AND PRACTICES	LAWS, POLICIES AND PRACTICES	PARTIES TO A CONFLICT COMPLY WITH HR AND PROTECTION OF CIVILIANS	LAWS, POLICIES AND PRACTICES ON LAW ENFORCEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION OF JUSTICE	STRUCTURES FOR INTEGRATED REPORTING AND IMPLEMENTATION
DISAGGREGATED AND HR BASED DATA	MECHANISMS FOR REDRESS	MECHANISMS FOR PROTECTION OF CIVIC SPACE	PVE AND COUNTER-TERRORISM POLICIES HR GROUNDED	MECHANISMS FOR ACCOUNTABILITY AND REDRESS	CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT WITH HR MECHANISMS
HR IMPACT ASSESSMENT OF DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS	WOMEN /GIRLS' PROTECTION FROM VIOLENCE	PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR CIVIC SPACE AND RECOGNITION OF HR'S CONTRIBUTION IN RESPONSE TO VIOLENCE	PREVENTION AND RESPONSE TO CONFLICT HR GROUNDED	ACCOUNTABILITY FOR GENDER RELATED CRIMES	POLICY MAKERS, PARLIAMENTS AND COURTS USE OUTCOMES
LAND AND HOUSING POLICIES HR GROUNDED	ERADICATING HARMFUL STEREOTYPES	ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS	TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE	TRANSPARENCY	DEVELOPMENT OF INTERNATIONAL HR LAW
HEALTH POLICIES HR GROUNDED	HR PROTECTION IN THE DIGITAL SPACE	CIVIC SPACE MONITORED	HR INFORMATION SERVES EARLY WARNING	UN ENGAGEMENT ON RULE OF LAW AND SECURITY ISSUES HR GROUNDED	EFFECTIVENESS OF HR MECHANISMS
ENVIRONMENTAL POLICIES HR GROUNDED	PROTECTION OF MIGRANTS' RIGHTS	PEOPLE HAVE A VOICE	NEW WEAPONS AND TACTICS HR GROUNDED		
BUSINESS HELD ACCOUNTABLE AND RESPECT UN GUIDING PRINCIPLES	PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES		UN ENGAGEMENT HR GROUNDED		
	UN RESPONSE HR GROUNDED				

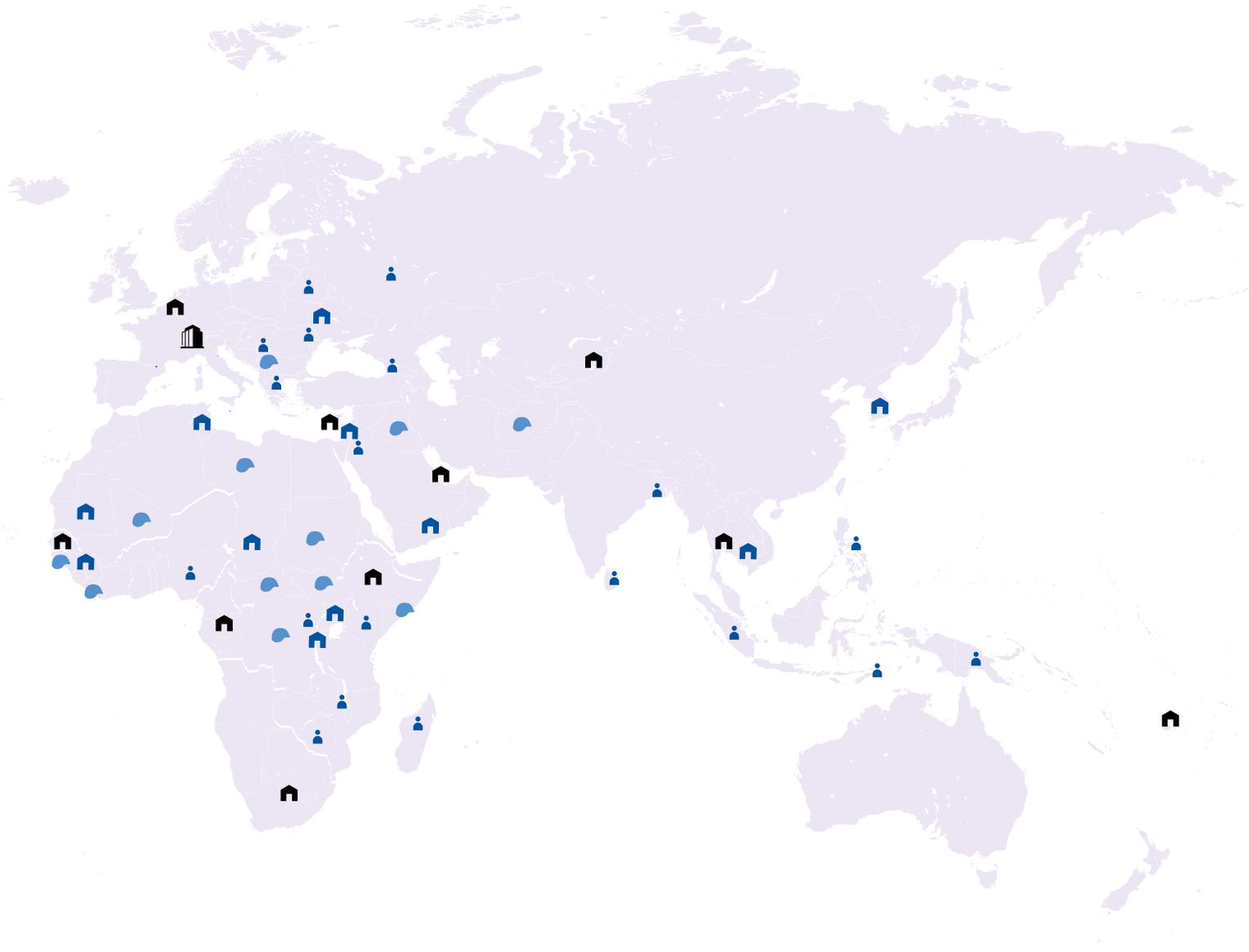
# OHCHR

## AROUND THE WORLD 2018



-  Headquarter
-  Country / Stand-alone Offices / Human Rights missions
-  Regional Offices / Centers
-  Human Rights components in Peace Missions
-  Human Rights Advisers in UNCT / Human Rights Mainstreaming Project

**AMERICAS - Country Offices:** Colombia (1997), Mexico (2002), Guatemala (2005), Honduras (2015) | **Human Rights Component in Peace Mission:** Haiti (MINUJUST, 2016) | **Regional Offices:** Central America (Panama City 2007), South America (Santiago 2009) | **Human Rights Advisers in UNCT / Human Rights Mainstreaming Projects:** Paraguay (2010), Dominican Republic\* (2014), Jamaica\* (2014), Barbados\* (2016), Argentina\* (2018), Bolivia (2018), Brazil\* (2018), Ecuador\* (2018), El Salvador (2018), Peru\* (2018), Uruguay\* (2018)



**EUROPE / CENTRAL-ASIA - Human Rights Mission:** Ukraine (2014) | **Human Rights Components in Peace Missions:** Kosovo\*\* (UNMIK, 2015) | **Regional Offices:** Central Asia (Bishkek 2006), Europe (Brussels 2009) | **Human Rights Advisers in UNCT / Human Rights Mainstreaming Projects:** Southern Caucasus (Tbilisi, 2006), Republic of North Macedonia (2007), Moldova (2016), Serbia (2017), Russian Federation (2017), Belarus\* (2018)

**AFRICA - Country Offices:** Uganda (2005), Guinea (2009), Mauritania (2009), Burundi (2015), Chad (2017) | **Human Rights Components in Peace Missions:** Sudan (UNAMID, 2008), South Sudan (UNMISS, 2011), Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO, 2010), Liberia (UNMIL, 2003), Central African Republic (MINUSCA, 2014), Guinea Bissau (UNIOGBIS, 1999), Somalia (UNSOM, 2013), Mali (MINUSMA, 2013) | **Regional Offices/Centre:** East Africa (Addis Ababa 2002), Southern Africa (Pretoria 1998), United Nations Sub-Regional Centre for Human Rights & Democracy in Central Africa (Yaoundé 2001); West Africa (Dakar 2008) | **Human Rights Advisers in UNCT / Human Rights Mainstreaming Projects:** Kenya (2008), Niger (2008), Madagascar (2011), Rwanda (2007), Malawi\* (2014), Nigeria\* (2014), Zimbabwe\* (2018)

**ASIA PACIFIC - Country Offices:** Cambodia (1993), OHCHR-Field based-structures: Seoul, Republic of Korea\*\*\* (May 2015), Myanmar (Cox Bazar/Bangkok 2018) | **Human Rights Components in Peace Missions:** Afghanistan (UNAMA, 2002) | **Regional Offices:** South East Asia (Bangkok, 2002), Pacific (Suva, 2005), | **Human Rights Advisers in UNCT / Human Rights Mainstreaming Projects:** Maldives (2018), Nepal (2018), Sri Lanka (2004), Papua New Guinea (2008), Timor Leste\* (2013), Philippines\* (2014), Bangladesh\* (2018), Malaysia\* (2018)

**MIDDLE-EAST / NORTH-AFRICA - Stand-alone / Country Offices:** State of Palestine\*\*\*\* (Gaza, 1996, and Ramallah, 2000), Syria (based in Beirut, 2018), Tunisia (2011), Yemen (2012) | **Human Rights Components in Peace Mission:** Iraq (UNAMI, 2003), Libya (UNSMIL, 2011) | **Regional Office / Centre:** Middle East and North Africa (Beirut 2002), United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South West Asia and the Arab Region (Doha 2009) | **Human Rights Advisers in UNCT / Human Rights Mainstreaming Projects:** Jordan\* (2018)

\*\* Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

\*\*\* Mandated by Human Rights Council resolution 25/25.

\*\*\*\* Reference to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.

## THE **PILLARS** OF OUR PROGRAMME



Secretary-General António Guterres address during the Opening of the 40th session of the Human Rights Council, Palais des Nations. 25 February 2019. UN Photo by Violaine Martin.

## INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

The international human rights mechanisms (mechanisms) include the Human Rights Council (HRC), its Special Procedures (independent experts and working groups) and Universal Periodic Review (UPR), and the Treaty Bodies. Their monitoring and analysis, as well as their interaction with States and a wide array of stakeholders, help to identify strengths and weaknesses in human rights law and practice, and create opportunities for reform. The support that we provide to the mechanisms is a core element of our work.

Rising reporting requirements and the volume of mechanisms' recommendations have created an implementation gap for many States. To implement the mechanisms' recommendations in a holistic and integrated manner will require more effective coordination, communication and action.

In the coming years we will strengthen the link between the work of the mechanisms and required action at country level by building partnerships with the UN system, Member States and other stakeholders. We will make better use of key entry points for implementation, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the UN Secretary-General's prevention agenda, and provide tools to support the implementation of recommendations. We will also seek to broaden non-traditional actors' engagement with the mechanisms, especially actors working on emerging human rights issues, and maximize their important preventive role in foreseeing and forestalling violations.

Over the period 2018-2021, together with our partners, we will work so that:

**NATIONAL INSTITUTIONALIZED STRUCTURES FACILITATE AN INTEGRATED AND PARTICIPATORY APPROACH TO REPORTING TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THEIR RECOMMENDATIONS.**

We will help develop additional systems and support existing National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF), to enhance implementation of recommendations of all international human

rights mechanisms. We will support Governments to strengthen their engagement, coordination, consultation, and information management capacity with a focus on ensuring meaningful consultations; and assist States to develop implementation plans and use related tracking databases. Model terms of reference for an NMRF, training materials, guidelines and checklists, and the dissemination of good practices will underpin these efforts.

**CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS, NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS, AND NON-TRADITIONAL ACTORS, PARTICULARLY THOSE WORKING ON EMERGING HUMAN RIGHTS ISSUES (FRONTIER ISSUES), INCREASINGLY ENGAGE WITH THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS AND USE THEIR OUTCOMES.**

We will reach out to civil society organizations, national human rights institutions and non-traditional actors to build networks for cross-learning, develop a one-stop online platform for engagement with the mechanisms, and exploit up-to-date communications to facilitate two-way exchange of information during mechanisms' hearings. To increase engagement by actors unfamiliar with the mechanisms, we will carry out targeted communication campaigns and develop capacity-building tools on emerging human rights issues.

**POLICY-MAKERS, LEGISLATORS AND COURTS MAKE INCREASED USE OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS.**

The outcomes include thematic and country recommendations, but also interim and urgent protection measures. We will seek to ramp up their dissemination by the United Nations inter-agency coordination teams at country level (UNCTs) and communities of practice of State officials. We will also assist policy makers, legislators and courts to translate them into national policies, legislation and decisions; and put processes in place to ensure urgent measures reach relevant actors promptly.

**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).**

We will support mechanisms’ efforts to identify gaps in international law and provide jurisprudential guidance on emerging human rights issues. We will develop our in-house capacity; identify experts and key forums in association with States, UN and regional bodies, NHRIs, and civil society organizations; organize platforms and meetings to elaborate legal issues or clarify standards; increase the collaboration and involvement of the mechanisms with regional human rights organizations; and develop guidelines to facilitate their engagement in judicial proceedings, as *amicus curiae* or expert witnesses.

**INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS ARE INCREASINGLY EFFECTIVE IN PROMOTING AND PROTECTING HUMAN RIGHTS.**

We will focus on making the mechanisms coherent and promote enhanced integration in the various processes that influence their operation. For this purpose we will increase awareness among both the mechanisms and State officials of the importance of concrete, practical and mutually reinforcing recommendations; develop policy and capacity building tools to ensure a holistic approach to implementing mechanisms’ recommendations; and develop information tools for analysing human rights trends and patterns as a contribution to prevention of crisis and early warning. We will work to ensure that the mechanisms are more accessible and visible, through enhanced use of videoconferencing and webcasting, and will document and disseminate stories about the impact that mechanisms have on the lives of people.

## PILLAR RESULTS

### Increasing implementation of the outcomes of the international human rights mechanisms

THE SPECIFIC PILLAR RESULTS WE CONTRIBUTE TO		SHIFTS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE
<p><b>M</b> Mechanisms</p>	<p>M1</p> <p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p>	<p>Prevention   Global Constituency   Civic Space   SDG 16, 17</p>
	<p>M2</p> <p>Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues (frontier issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.</p>	<p>Global Constituency   Civic Space   Frontier issues: Climate change, corruption, inequalities, new technologies, people on the move   SDG 16, 17</p>
	<p>M3</p> <p>Policy-makers, legislators and courts make increased use of the outcomes of the international and regional human rights mechanisms.</p>	<p>Civic Space   Frontier issues: Climate change, corruption, inequalities, new technologies, people on the move   SDG 16</p>
	<p>M4</p> <p>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).</p>	<p>Frontier issues: Climate change, corruption, inequalities, new technologies, people on the move   SDG 16, 17</p>
	<p>M5</p> <p>International human rights mechanisms are increasingly effective in promoting and protecting human rights.</p>	<p>Prevention   Civic Space   SDG 16</p>
	<p>D7</p> <p><i>States integrate human rights, including the right to development and human rights mechanisms’ outcomes, as they implement the Sustainable Development Goals and other development and poverty eradication efforts; and the UN supports them in these purposes, integrating human rights in its own development work.</i></p>	<p>Frontier issue: Inequalities   SDG 1, 17 and all SDGs</p>
	<p>PS5</p> <p><i>Human rights information and analyses are integrated in early warning and analysis systems and influence international and national policy-making, strategies and operations to prevent, mitigate or respond to emerging crises, including humanitarian crises and conflict.</i></p>	<p>Prevention   Civic Space   Frontier issues: Climate change, new technologies, people on the move   SDG 17</p>
	<p>P2</p> <p><i>The UN system and international, regional and national mechanisms provide increased, timely and effective protection to civil society organizations and individuals (including from reprisals).</i></p>	<p>Civic Space   SDG 16</p>

## ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS



Children in Kenya enjoying their right to an education, October 2017. ©OHCHR

Human rights create conditions essential for sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda recognizes that inclusive and participative economies, and societies in which government is accountable, achieve better outcomes for all people, leaving no one behind. The Declaration on the Right to Development emphasizes the right of all individuals and peoples to free, active and meaningful participation. And the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) set out the duty of States and private companies to ensure that business activities do not abuse people's rights.

Civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights and the right to development build on each other and advance together. No matter how free individuals are to speak out and protest, they are not truly free if they lack food, education or adequate housing. The reverse is also true. Societies in which people have access to fundamental social protections, and economic resources and opportunities, are less vulnerable to social fracture and the spread of extremism.

Despite this, economic policies in many countries have curtailed social protection and concentrated wealth and political power in fewer and fewer hands. Unsustainable, wasteful growth patterns increase environmental degradation and accelerate climate change, generating effects that harm health, access to water and sanitation, food, housing and land rights, and endanger life. The poorest, who contribute least to climate change, pay the highest price.

Over the period 2018-2021, together with our partners, we will work so that:

**JUDICIAL AND NON-JUDICIAL  
MECHANISMS HOLD BUSINESS AND  
OTHER ECONOMIC ACTORS TO  
ACCOUNT FOR RIGHTS ABUSES AND  
PROVIDE REMEDIES TO VICTIMS.**

We will provide technical support, guidance and advocacy to increase the effectiveness of judicial and non-judicial accountability mechanisms and policies to address human rights abuses arising

from economic activity, including in cross border cases; clarify legal options and identify practical measures to improve access to remedy for victims of human rights abuses that involve businesses and other economic actors, including in the technology and finance sectors; and strategically engage with business and other economic actors to enhance accountability and access to remedy.

**BUSINESS ACTORS IMPLEMENT THE UN GUIDING PRINCIPLES ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS EFFECTIVELY.**

We will work strategically with States, businesses, civil society and other key stakeholders to apply and integrate the UNGPs in national, regional and international legal and policy frameworks relevant to business and other economic actors, and in company practice. We will advocate, support, convene and participate in multi-stakeholder and inter-governmental processes to develop and strengthen standards and policies in this area, and enter into strategic partnerships where appropriate with business and other actors to enhance implementation of the UNGPs.

**STATE AUTHORITIES ADOPT AND IMPLEMENT LAWS, POLICIES AND STRATEGIES ON LAND AND HOUSING THAT INCREASINGLY COMPLY WITH HUMAN RIGHTS.**

We will strengthen efforts to support authorities to integrate human rights standards when they draft and implement laws, policies and strategies on land and housing; assist accountability mechanisms to address forced evictions, homelessness, displacement, land grabs and other violations of housing, land and related rights such as food, water and sanitation; strengthen partnerships to increase awareness of the right to housing and land rights; and develop practical approaches to implement the SDG commitment to ‘leave no one behind’ with respect to housing, land and related 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.**

We will work to deepen understanding of the impact of discrimination on health rights, including by monitoring health care settings, and provide technical advice on the right to health of people who are marginalized or face discrimination. We will seek to increase awareness among health workers of their role as human rights defenders and protect those who defend and promote human rights, including sexual and reproductive rights. We will promote and support protection of health-related human rights during efforts to prevent or respond to conflicts, epidemics, natural disasters and other crises, and assist humanitarian actors to apply a rights-based approach to health in those situations.

**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.**

We will collaborate with partners to integrate human rights in environmental laws and policies; and press for the inclusion of civil society in environmental decision-making processes, access to information, and effective remedies for victims. We will assist human rights mechanisms to address environmental issues; advocate on behalf of environment defenders and support efforts by the UN system to protect them; and conduct research and advocacy to address human rights harms caused by environmental degradation, particularly to groups in vulnerable situations.

**HUMAN RIGHTS ASSESSMENTS AND IMPACT ANALYSES MITIGATE, PREVENT OR REDRESS THE NEGATIVE EFFECTS OF ECONOMIC, TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT POLICIES AND PROJECTS.**

We will encourage and assist States and partners to apply human rights assessments and impact analysis to trade and investment policies, environmental and social risk management, and development finance. We will help to create and maintain safeguard policies and independent accountability mechanisms for development financing institutions and will support populations affected by them. We will continue to provide technical support to human rights mechanisms on methodologies, including for the drafting of the *Guiding Principles for Human Rights Impact Assessments of Economic Reform Policies*.

**STATES INTEGRATE HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS' OUTCOMES, AS THEY IMPLEMENT THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND OTHER DEVELOPMENT AND POVERTY ERADICATION EFFORTS; AND THE UN SUPPORTS THEM IN THESE PURPOSES, INTEGRATING HUMAN RIGHTS IN ITS OWN DEVELOPMENT WORK.**

We will encourage and support governments, national human rights institutions and civil society to integrate human rights, including the right to development, when they implement, monitor or review the SDGs or other development efforts; and advocate for the integration of human rights in SDG processes in intergovernmental fora. We will advocate for expanding civil society participation in SDG processes; document and communicate how integrating human rights in development reduces poverty and inequality; work to enhance the UN leadership's commitment to align, and advocate for the alignment of, development policies with human rights; and buttress the human rights expertise of Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams in this area, inter alia by operationalizing the UN framework on equality and non-discrimination. Finally, we will provide expertise and support to the Working Group and the Special Rapporteur on the Right to Development; and seek to expand support for the right to development and its integration in the SDGs and work of the UN.

**NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS, ASSISTED BY COMMUNITIES, SYSTEMATICALLY COLLECT, DISAGGREGATE AND USE DATA RELEVANT FOR ADVANCING HUMAN RIGHTS WHEN THEY MONITOR AND IMPLEMENT THE SDGS.**

We will work to improve the capacity of national institutions to collect, analyse and disaggregate data to identify those left behind, and promote the inclusion in data collection of groups who face discrimination. We will develop legal and practical guidance on human rights-based data collection and indicators, including on ways to manage risk; and seek to improve measurement of intersecting and multiple discrimination and inequality. We will assist the international statistical system to mainstream human rights in its standards and methods, and notably in the data disaggregation frameworks that measure and report on human rights indicators as part of SDG progress reports.

## PILLAR RESULTS

### Advancing sustainable development through human rights

THE SPECIFIC PILLAR RESULTS WE CONTRIBUTE TO		SHIFTS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE	
<b>D</b> Development	D1	Judicial and non-judicial mechanisms hold business and other economic actors to account for rights abuses and provide remedies to victims.	Prevention   Civic Space   Frontier issues: Climate change, inequalities, new technologies   SDG 12, 16
	D2	Business actors implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights effectively.	Prevention   Global Constituency   Civic Space   Frontier issues: Climate change, Inequalities, new technologies   SDG 12, 17
	D3	State authorities adopt and implement laws, policies and strategies on land and housing that increasingly comply with human rights.	Prevention   Global Constituency   Frontier issues: Inequalities   SDG 1, 11
	D4	Public health approaches, including sexual and reproductive health policies, comply with international human rights standards and provide non-discriminatory access, especially to children, adolescents, women and migrants.	Frontier issues: Inequalities   SDG 3, 5
	D5	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.	Prevention   Global Constituency   Civic Space   Frontier issues: Climate change, Inequalities, new technologies, people on the move   SDG 13
	D6	Human rights assessments and impact analyses mitigate, prevent or redress the negative effects of economic, trade and development policies and projects.	Prevention   Civic Space   Frontier issues: Climate change, inequalities   SDG 9
	D7	States integrate human rights, including the right to development and human rights mechanisms' outcomes, as they implement the Sustainable Development Goals and other development and poverty eradication efforts; and the UN supports them in these purposes, integrating human rights in its own development work.	Frontier issue: Inequalities   SDG 1, 17 and all SDGs
	D8	National institutions, assisted by communities, systematically collect, disaggregate and use data relevant for advancing human rights when they monitor and implement the SDGs.	Global Constituency   Civic Space   Frontier issues: Inequalities, people on the move   SDG 17
	A2	<i>Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.</i>	<i>Prevention   Global Constituency   Civic Space   Frontier issues: Climate change, corruption, people on the move   SDG 16</i>
	P6	<i>The voice of people affected by decisions, particularly victims and those who face discrimination, is more clearly heard.</i>	<i>Prevention   Civic Space   SDG 10, 16</i>

## PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY



Children in Yemen survey the results of an airstrike which killed at least nine people in Sana'a, March 2018. ©EPA-EFE/YAHYA ARHAB.

The maintenance of international peace and security is one of the purposes of the United Nations Charter. Violence and conflict undermine sustainable development. Human rights violations are at the root causes of conflict and insecurity which, in turn, invariably result in further violations of human rights. As such, action to protect and promote human rights has inherent preventive power while rights-based approaches to peace and security bring this power to efforts for sustainable peace. The human rights normative framework also provides a sound basis for addressing issues of serious concern within or between countries that, if left unaddressed, may lead to conflict. Human rights information and analysis is a tool for early warning and early targeted action that has not yet been used to its full potential.

Failure to adhere to international human rights standards and protect human rights weakens peace-making, peacekeeping and peacebuilding efforts.

Global efforts to counter terrorism and prevent the spread of violent extremism suffer from this failure. The UN's renewed focus on prevention and sustaining peace is key to both this and the previous pillar on advancing sustainable development. We can help to sustain both peace and development by showing how applying human rights norms can address grievances, reduce inequality and build resilience. This pillar also addresses potential threats posed by new technologies in a security context.

From 2018-2021, together with our partners, we will work so that:

**PARTIES TO CONFLICT AND ACTORS INVOLVED IN PEACE OPERATIONS INCREASINGLY COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMANITARIAN LAW AND PROVIDE GREATER PROTECTION TO CIVILIANS.**

We will monitor human rights violations committed during armed conflicts, including civilian casualties and incidents of sexual and gender-based violence; bring facts and evidence to the parties' and public attention, and advocate for changes in policy, practice and conduct; provide training and technical advice to integrate international human rights and humanitarian law in military and peace operations; strategically engage with parties to conflicts to reduce human rights violations and integrate human rights in political decision making and peace agreements; facilitate the participation of diverse groups, including women, in peace negotiations; and cooperate closely with regional and UN peace missions to ensure integration of human rights.

**EFFORTS TO COUNTER TERRORISM AND PREVENT VIOLENT EXTREMISM COMPLY WITH INTERNATIONAL LAW.**

We will gather evidence and undertake further research, monitoring and reporting to support our strategic advocacy on the role of human rights violations in driving violent extremism and terrorism, and the role of human rights protection in prevention. We will build the capacity and commitment of State authorities and other actors to respect international law in their efforts to combat terrorism and prevent violent extremism, and ensure accountability and respect for victims' rights.

**STRATEGIES TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO CONFLICT CONSISTENTLY INTEGRATE HUMAN RIGHTS PROTECTION.**

We will actively engage with UN entities, regional bodies, and individual Member States to show that protection and promotion of human rights contribute to more effective conflict prevention, conflict management, and post-conflict peace. To this end, we will monitor the implementation of relevant strategies, provide advice on what is needed to ensure effective human rights protection; and provide training, operational guidance and technical advice on how to integrate human rights operationally in prevention and peacebuilding activities.

**JUSTICE MECHANISMS, INCLUDING FOR TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE, PROVIDE INCREASED ACCOUNTABILITY FOR CONFLICT-RELATED VIOLATIONS.**

We will document, map and report human rights violations and abuses, and breaches of international humanitarian law in the context of conflict, including through our assistance to inquiry mechanisms established by UN intergovernmental bodies; support justice mechanisms that seek to enhance accountability for conflict-related violations in different jurisdictions, including through universal jurisdiction; and continue to support comprehensive transitional justice processes and the right of victims to an effective remedy. We will develop guidance and tools on victim and witness protection and participation; and enhance the effectiveness of our support to justice institutions. By promoting justice and remedies for past violations, we aim to help prevent new cycles of violence and conflict.

**HUMAN RIGHTS INFORMATION AND ANALYSES ARE INTEGRATED IN EARLY WARNING AND ANALYSIS SYSTEMS AND INFLUENCE INTERNATIONAL AND NATIONAL POLICY-MAKING, STRATEGIES AND OPERATIONS TO PREVENT, MITIGATE OR RESPOND TO EMERGING CRISES, INCLUDING HUMANITARIAN CRISES AND CONFLICT.**

We will further develop information management practices and systems in order to provide real time early warning analysis that can inform UN human rights prevention, early warning, and intervention strategies. This capacity will strengthen our ability to identify potential crises and support responses. The development and launch of the 'Rights View' platform will provide access to OHCHR information and other credible human rights sources and media. In addition, we will progressively deploy emergency response staff to regional offices. Our work in this area will be an integral element of United Nations action on the ground, leveraging the Platform for Prevention, the Human Rights up Front Action Plan, the New Way of Working, and initiatives of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee.

**UNITED NATIONS' SUPPORT TO NATIONAL AND REGIONAL SECURITY FORCES, LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES, AND NON-STATE ACTORS INTEGRATES HUMAN RIGHTS AND COMPLIES WITH THE HUMAN RIGHTS DUE DILIGENCE POLICY.**

An artist works on her paintings as part of an anti-war outdoor gallery at the alleged airstrike-destroyed Republican Palace in Sana'a, Yemen, March 2018. Yemeni artists curated the gallery to further illustrate the human impact of conflict and amplify the call for peace. © EPA-EFE/YAHYA ARHAB.



We will provide support, advice and training to United Nations partners to implement the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP). This policy sets out measures that all United Nations entities should take to ensure support provided to non-United Nations forces is consistent with the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter and with their responsibility to respect, promote and encourage respect for international humanitarian, human rights and refugee law. These measures require United Nations entities to monitor and report on the conduct of security forces they support and assess the risk that grave violations may be committed by them. We will work to strengthen accountability for implementation of the policy, support the development of standard operating procedures, risk assessments and mitigation measures, and ensure that the HRDDP is applied systematically to all forms of UN support to security forces, including actions to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism, regional and peace-building operations, and border control.

We will deepen our understanding of the human rights and gender implications of the development and deployment of new technologies, weapons and tactics. We will articulate an Office-wide strategy to address the human rights challenges posed by these developments and their use in conflict and non-conflict situations. We will also assist States and relevant stakeholders to put in place strong international accountability frameworks to address human rights violations and abuses by private military and security companies (PMSCs), and support national efforts to develop legislation, policies and practices that ensure PMSCs comply with human rights standards.

**THE USE OF PRIVATE MILITARY AND SECURITY COMPANIES, AND THE DEVELOPMENT AND DEPLOYMENT OF NEW TECHNOLOGIES, WEAPONS AND TACTICS, ARE INCREASINGLY CONSISTENT WITH AND RESPECT INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS LAW AND INTERNATIONAL HUMANITARIAN LAW.**

## PILLAR RESULTS

### Preventing violations and strengthening protection of human rights, including in situations of conflict and insecurity

THE SPECIFIC PILLAR RESULTS WE CONTRIBUTE TO		SHIFTS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE
<b>PS</b> Peace and Security	PS1 ▶ Parties to conflict and actors involved in peace operations increasingly comply with international human rights and humanitarian law and provide greater protection to civilians.	Prevention   Civic Space   Frontier issue: People on the move   SDG 16
	PS2 ▶ Efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism comply with international law.	Prevention   SDG 16
	PS3 ▶ Strategies to prevent and respond to conflict consistently integrate human rights protection.	Prevention   SDG 16
	PS4 ▶ Justice mechanisms, including for transitional justice, provide increased accountability for conflict-related violations.	Prevention   Civic Space   Frontier issue: Inequalities   SDG 16
	PS5 ▶ Human rights information and analyses are integrated in early warning and analysis systems and influence international and national policy-making, strategies and operations to prevent, mitigate or respond to emerging crises, including humanitarian crises and conflict.	Prevention   Civic Space   Frontier issues: Climate change, new technologies, people on the move   SDG 17
	PS6 ▶ United Nations’ support to national and regional security forces, law enforcement agencies, and non-State actors integrates human rights and complies with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.	Prevention   Global Constituency   SDG 16
	PS7 ▶ The use of private military and security companies, and the development and deployment of new technologies, weapons and tactics, are increasingly consistent with and respect international human rights law and international humanitarian law.	Prevention   Global Constituency   Frontier issue: New technologies   SDG 16
	A1 ▶ <i>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</i>	Prevention   Frontier issues: Corruption, people on the move   SDG 16
	P6 ▶ <i>The voice of people affected by decisions, particularly victims and those who face discrimination, is more clearly heard.</i>	Prevention   Civic Space   SDG 10, 16

## ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION



A couple enjoying the backyard of a community house in Budapest, Hungary, March 2015. People with disabilities are demanding their equal rights to dignity and respect.  
©EPA/BALAZS MOHAI.

The principles of equality and non-discrimination are at the heart of human rights and help to reduce disadvantage on numerous grounds and in many areas. Human rights are not reserved for special groups. They are for everyone, throughout society and across the globe. However, discrimination persists against religious, ethnic and national minorities, persons of African descent, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, migrants, older persons, children, women, and LGBTI people, among others. Historic forms of prejudice combine with income and social inequality to drive conflict, racism and xenophobia. In addition, the rise of social media has triggered the spread of hateful messages that fuel discrimination. At the same time, the 2030 Agenda and its commitment to ‘leave no one behind’ have created a momentum in favour of equality and non-discrimination.

We will work to promote equality and counter discrimination through laws and institutions, and will encourage rights-based and inclusive public narratives; give particular attention to discrimination against women, persons with disabilities and migrants; combat hate speech in the digital space; and seek to ensure that the UN system and SDG implementation adopt a human rights response to discrimination and inequality, ensuring that no one is left behind.

Over the period 2018-2021, together with our partners, we will work so that:

**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.**

A protester makes a handprint on a canvas, which depicts the objection to racial discrimination and hatred, during a rally three days ahead of the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, in Seoul South Korea, March 2018.  
© EPA-EFE/YONHAP.



We will develop good practices to combat discrimination and engage with policy makers to implement them. We will expose underlying social norms and lead strategic advocacy to combat discriminatory legislation, practices and policies, and oppose racial profiling and segregationist and stigmatizing practices. We will facilitate and build new partnerships for positive change; and advocate for the inclusion of those left behind in the implementation and monitoring of SDGs. We will bolster local efforts to combat discrimination and encourage youth, including through schools, to speak up against discrimination. Throughout our work, we will pay special attention to multiple and intersectional discrimination and counter the growing threats of hate speech and hate crimes.

**JUSTICE SYSTEMS AND RELATED INSTITUTIONS INCREASINGLY MONITOR AND INVESTIGATE DISCRIMINATION AND PROVIDE REDRESS TO VICTIMS.**

We will assist formal and informal justice systems to apply a victim-centred, human rights-based approach, through legal advice and technical assistance; encourage and assist States to address factors that contribute to disparities in the administration of justice, including by gathering and analysing comparative data; monitor and advocate against biases in law enforcement, the administration of justice, and sentencing; and assist national independent accountability mechanisms and State institutions to monitor and investigate cases of discrimination. We will also empower groups and individuals who face discrimination to demand justice and accountability for violations, including by providing support for strategic litigation.

**LEGAL AND SOCIAL FRAMEWORKS INCREASINGLY PROMOTE WOMEN'S AND GIRLS' AUTONOMY AND CHOICE AND PROTECT THEM FROM VIOLENCE, INCLUDING IN THE DIGITAL SPACE.**

We will assist efforts to promote women's and girls' autonomy and comprehensively address gender-based violence (GBV). We will provide assistance to develop non-discriminatory and adequate legal and policy frameworks, focusing on custody, protection orders, access to social services, inheritance, nationality, labour, access to credit, and legal standing; pursue efforts to integrate human rights in policies that address abuse and violence online; develop evidence and rights-based guidance on gender-based violence, harmful practices, and the appropriate use of criminal laws; and assess obstacles to women's and girls' participation online. We will build the capacity of various actors, including civil society, to monitor gender-based violence and harmful practices, and press for approaches that promote women's and girls' autonomy and choice. We will use our convening power to create spaces for discussion and knowledge-sharing; and reach out to new partners.

**JUDICIAL INSTITUTIONS, MEDIA, AND OTHER SECTORS INCREASINGLY RECOGNIZE AND CHALLENGE HARMFUL GENDER STEREOTYPES AND GENDER NORMS WITH A VIEW TO THEIR ERADICATION.**

We will develop research on how harmful gender stereotypes and social norms in the media, the justice system and digital space undermine gender equality; and develop tools and guidance to build the capacity of journalists, judges, digital techno-

logy companies, and border control and law enforcement officers to address harmful gender biases in their work. We will raise the awareness of youth and communities; and assist civil society organizations to monitor and analyse gender stereotyping and challenge harmful social norms and bias.

**PRINCIPLES AND PRACTICES  
EFFECTIVELY COUNTER  
DISCRIMINATION AND HATE SPEECH IN  
THE DIGITAL SPACE.**

We will support analysis of the impact on human rights of artificial intelligence, big data, and discrimination and hate speech in the digital space and identify and clarify principles and best practices. We will cooperate with governments and the private sector to protect human rights in the digital space, and tackle digital discrimination and hate speech. We will help to address the digital divide and work to integrate human rights in the UN system's work in this area.

**THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF ALL MIGRANTS,  
PARTICULARLY THOSE IN VULNERABLE  
SITUATIONS, ARE PROTECTED.**

We will monitor and report on the rights of migrants during all phases of the migration cycle; advocate for full implementation of the specific protections to which migrants in vulnerable situations are entitled; provide technical assistance, guidance materials and legal expertise in support of human rights-based approaches to migration governance; and strengthen the capacity of Member States, civil society, national human rights institutions, and UN partners to advocate for and implement human rights-based approaches. We will research and analyse emerging migration concerns, including migrants in vulnerable situations, return and reintegration, and the human rights links between migration and climate change, poverty, women's rights and child protection; and develop communication tools to reframe anti-migrant narratives and amplify the voices of migrants.

**PUBLIC SUPPORT FOR EQUAL,  
INCLUSIVE AND DIVERSE SOCIETIES,  
WITHOUT DISCRIMINATION,  
INCREASES.**

We will collect and disseminate evidence, human rights stories and effective messages in support of inclusion, including on the negative impacts of discrimination, and support communication strategies and multi-media campaigns, using social media tools, to reach youth and marginalized groups. We will support educational programmes for schools and universities, and for different religious audiences, focusing on equality and non-discrimination; and work closely with partners to build public support for inclusive and diverse societies.

**THE UN SYSTEM IMPLEMENTS A  
COHERENT AND HUMAN RIGHTS-  
BASED RESPONSE TO INEQUALITY  
AND DISCRIMINATION, INCLUDING  
INTERSECTING AND MULTIPLE FORMS  
OF DISCRIMINATION.**

We will play a leading role in the UN's work on discrimination and social and economic inequality, especially in the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which provides an overarching framework for addressing structural discrimination, exclusion and inequality within and among countries. We will help UN country teams to ensure that the 2030 Agenda's commitment to 'leave no one behind' is grounded in the principles of equality and non-discrimination; provide technical support regarding specific groups that face discrimination, based on new research that will examine the human rights dimensions of inequality with respect to such issues as fiscal and tax policy, social protection, and labour rights; and strengthen the UN system's capacity to identify and respond to potential violations and warning signs of discrimination and inequality.

## PILLAR RESULTS

### Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

THE SPECIFIC PILLAR RESULTS WE CONTRIBUTE TO		SHIFTS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE
<b>ND</b> Non-Discrimination	<b>ND1</b> → 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.	Prevention   Global Constituency   Civic Space   Frontier issues: Climate change, corruption, inequalities, new technologies, people on the move   SDG 5, 10, 16
	<b>ND2</b> → Justice systems and related institutions increasingly monitor and investigate discrimination and provide redress to victims.	Global Constituency   Civic Space   Frontier issues: Climate change, corruption, inequalities, new technologies, people on the move   SDG 10, 16
	<b>ND3</b> → Legal and social frameworks increasingly promote women’s and girls’ autonomy and choice and protect them from violence, including in the digital space.	Global Constituency   Frontier issue: New technologies   SDG 5
	<b>ND4</b> → Judicial institutions, media, and other sectors increasingly recognize and challenge harmful gender stereotypes and gender norms with a view to their eradication.	Prevention   Global Constituency   Civic Space   Frontier issues: Inequalities, new technologies, people on the move   SDG 5
	<b>ND5</b> → Principles and practices effectively counter discrimination and hate speech in the digital space.	Prevention   Global Constituency   Frontier issue: New technologies   SDG 10
	<b>ND6</b> → The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected.	Global Constituency   Civic Space   Frontier issues: Climate change, corruption, inequalities, new technologies, people on the move   SDG 8, 10
	<b>ND7</b> → Public support for equal, inclusive and diverse societies, without discrimination, increases.	Prevention   Global Constituency   SDG 10
	<b>ND8</b> → The UN system implements a coherent and human rights-based response to inequality and discrimination, including intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination.	Prevention   Frontier issue: Inequalities   SDG 10
	<b>A3</b> → <i>Justice systems investigate and prosecute gender-related crimes more effectively.</i>	Prevention   Global Constituency   Frontier issue: Corruption   SDG 5, 16
	<b>D8</b> → <i>National institutions, assisted by communities, systematically collect, disaggregate and use data relevant for advancing human rights when they monitor and implement the SDGs.</i>	Global Constituency   Civic Space   Frontier issues: Inequalities, people on the move   SDG 17

## STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS



Black Lives Matter protesters march for Stephon Clark, an unarmed African American man who was shot and killed by police on March 18, 2018.  
© JOSH EDELSON / AFP.

The rule of law and accountability for human rights violations are critical for prevention of violations, conflict, and violence, the building and sustaining of peace, and achievement of inclusive development. The costs of lawlessness are starkly evident across the world: in failures of justice and impunity for crimes, conflict over unaddressed grievances, and oppressive, unaccountable rule. We need governance systems in which all duty bearers, institutions and entities, public or private, are accountable to laws that are publicly promulgated, equally enforced, independently adjudicated, and consistent with international human rights norms and standards.

All countries face challenges in meeting these standards. There are persistent gaps in access to justice, especially for those subjected to discrimination, while much still needs to be done to ensure the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights.

Many public decision-making processes remain opaque and non-participatory, hindering people's ability to demand and secure accountability. Much still needs to be done to ensure that economic, social and cultural rights can be legally claimed and adjudicated. Corruption is a key risk across the board, including in judiciary and law enforcement institutions. The need for vigilance is heightened further by the decision of some States to combat insecurity or terrorism by measures that violate human rights and challenge international standards, including the absolute prohibition of torture and restrictions on use of the death penalty. These measures have proved to be counter-productive and need to be countered.

We will continue to work with our partners to strengthen the rule of law and accountability for human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems, and will pay added attention to those violations which have been traditionally disregarded, such as those relating to economic, social and cultural rights and gender-related crimes. We will move beyond traditional judicial accountability and seek to create conditions in which people can meaningfully shape or challenge policy decisions that affect their lives, as an element of ensuring accountability and good governance. We will work within the United Nations system to ensure that its commitments to secure accountability and strengthen the rule of law are properly coordinated and supported.

Over the period 2018-2021, together with our partners, we will work so that:

**LAWS, POLICIES AND PRACTICES INCREASINGLY ADDRESS, PREVENT AND REDUCE HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IN THE CONTEXT OF LAW ENFORCEMENT AND JUSTICE SYSTEMS.**

We will advocate for administration of justice systems to comply with international human rights law, including through amicus briefs and trial monitoring. Through monitoring, reporting, capacity building and advocacy, we will seek to strengthen institutional policy frameworks and accountability mechanisms to increase human rights protection in the context of law enforcement, specifically with regard to deprivation of liberty, use of force, and prevention of torture and ill-treatment. We will undertake strategic advocacy and develop partnerships to promote the abolition of the death penalty and, pending its abolition, we will promote moratoria and increased adherence to international human rights law. Finally, we will engage strategically to address the human rights implications of responses to transnational crimes, such as drug crimes, terrorism, and human trafficking, including through research, technical support and advocacy.

**STRENGTHENED NATIONAL MECHANISMS PROVIDE REDRESS TO VICTIMS AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS, INCLUDING FOR ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL RIGHTS.**

We will provide support to strengthen independent judicial authorities and oversight mechanisms, as well as legal aid and witness protection programmes; train judicial institutions and administrative authorities; advocate for the establishment of individual complaints mechanisms in national human rights institutions; and promote ratification of the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. We will help civil society and independent monitoring bodies to seek justice in cases relating to economic, social and cultural rights.

**JUSTICE SYSTEMS INVESTIGATE AND PROSECUTE GENDER-RELATED CRIMES MORE EFFECTIVELY.**

We will assist judicial officials to improve their understanding of international standards on gender-based crimes, and their capacity to investigate and prosecute such crimes and implement survivor-centred reparation programmes; and encourage the adoption of gender-sensitive procedures to enhance participation of victims in justice processes. We will support the investigation and reporting of such crimes and strategic litigation before national and regional courts. We will build civil society's capacity to advocate for accountability for gender-related crimes; and support the development, promotion, and application of normative guidance.

**STATES TAKE MEASURES TO ENSURE THAT THEIR DECISION-MAKING, POLICIES AND ACTIONS ARE MORE TRANSPARENT AND THE PUBLIC HAS ACCESS TO INFORMATION FOR ACCOUNTABILITY PURPOSES.**

We will undertake research, policy development and strategic communications to increase understanding of the importance of transparency and access to information as key components of accountability; strengthen the capacity of national human rights institutions and oversight bodies to adjudicate and enforce transparency and freedom of information standards; and work within the UN system to reinforce its policies in this area.

**UN EFFORTS FOR THE RULE OF LAW, JUSTICE, COUNTER-TERRORISM AND ACCOUNTABILITY PUT HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE CORE.**

We will support UN programmes that strengthen countries' rule of law systems, including through law reform and support to justice and security policies and institutions, and ensure they are anchored in human rights law. We will contribute to the development of policies and guidance for human rights and justice mechanisms that United Nations intergovernmental bodies have established to collect, analyse and preserve evidence for use in judicial processes. We will assist the Office of Counter-Terrorism to integrate human rights, including gender perspectives, in its policies and programmes. We will increase partnerships and develop practical guidance on human rights and drug policies. We will strengthen UN accountability mechanisms, including mechanisms and processes to prevent and address violations committed by or attributed to staff members.



# PILLAR RESULTS

## Strengthening the rule of law and accountability for human rights violations

THE SPECIFIC PILLAR RESULTS WE CONTRIBUTE TO		SHIFTS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE
<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p>A1</p> <p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p>	<p>Prevention   Frontier issues: Corruption, people on the move   SDG 16</p>
	<p>A2</p> <p>Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.</p>	<p>Prevention   Global Constituency   Civic Space   Frontier issues: Climate change, corruption, people on the move   SDG 16</p>
	<p>A3</p> <p>Justice systems investigate and prosecute gender-related crimes more effectively.</p>	<p>Prevention   Global Constituency   Frontier issue: Corruption   SDG 5, 16</p>
	<p>A4</p> <p>States take measures to ensure that their decision-making, policies and actions are more transparent and the public has access to information for accountability purposes.</p>	<p>Global Constituency   Frontier issues: Corruption, people on the move   SDG 16</p>
	<p>A5</p> <p>UN efforts for the rule of law, justice, counter-terrorism and accountability put human rights at the core.</p>	<p>Prevention   Global Constituency   Frontier issue: Inequalities   SDG 16</p>
	<p>D1</p> <p><i>Judicial and non-judicial mechanisms hold business and other economic actors to account for rights abuses and provide remedies to victims.</i></p>	<p>Prevention   Civic Space   Frontier issues: Climate change, inequalities, new technologies   SDG 12, 16</p>
	<p>PS2</p> <p><i>Efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism comply with international law.</i></p>	<p>Prevention   SDG 16</p>
	<p>PS4</p> <p><i>Justice mechanisms, including for transitional justice, provide increased accountability for conflict-related violations.</i></p>	<p>Prevention   Civic Space   Frontier issue: Inequalities   SDG 16</p>
	<p>PS6</p> <p><i>United Nations' support to national and regional security forces, law enforcement agencies, and non-State actors integrates human rights and complies with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.</i></p>	<p>Prevention   Global Constituency   SDG 16</p>
	<p>P7</p> <p><i>Public recognition that human rights and accountability make important contributions to effective responses to violence, including terrorism and violent extremism, increases.</i></p>	<p>Prevention   Global Constituency   Civic Space   Frontier issues: Inequalities, people on the move   SDG 16</p>

## ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE



Young people show their inked fingers after casting their vote in India, April 2014. ©EPA/PIYALADHIKARY.

Participation in public life by rights holders and organizations that represent them is a fundamental principle of human rights. Participation also improves the efficacy of political systems, as well as policy development and implementation. Civil society space is therefore a threshold issue, not only for human rights, but also for development and peace and security more broadly. When civil society sits at the table, policy-making is more informed, effective and sustainable. Each advance in protecting civic space has a positive ripple effect for communities and individuals and their rights.

Civic space and civil society participation make critical contributions to the effective prevention of conflict and the fight against impunity and corruption. Jailing critics and suppressing peaceful dissent does not make societies safer: it drives legitimate and constructive opinion underground and deepens grievances. The freedom to speak out to criticize government policies and demand

government accountability accelerates innovation and economic progress.

Yet civil society actors, including those who cooperate with the UN, are facing a push back across the world. Attacks on human rights defenders, including environmental activists, continue and in many places are worsening. Inequalities and discrimination are among the main obstacles that prevent people from exercising their right to participate. For historically marginalized groups, space that was already limited is shrinking further. While new technologies and interconnectedness have helped civil society networks to grow, including across borders, they have also created new excuses to control civil society movements and speech, often under security pretexts.



Students at Dudley Intermediate School in Suva, Fiji, who participated at an OHCHR information session on human rights.  
© OHCHR

Over the period 2018-2021, we will work to protect civic space and those who stand up for human rights; strengthen monitoring of civic space; build public recognition of the role of civic space; and mainstream civic space issues in the UN system. Together with our partners, we will work so that:

**STRONGER LAWS, POLICIES AND PRACTICES PROTECT CIVIC SPACE, INCLUDING ONLINE, AND THE ENVIRONMENT FOR CIVIL SOCIETY IS INCREASINGLY SAFE AND ENABLING.**

We will support the adoption and implementation of laws and policies that protect civic space and the right to participate. We will promote dialogue and participate in law-making processes and develop guidelines on effective implementation of the right to participate, that will target, inter alia, cities and local governments. In parallel, with our partners, we will resist attempts to restrict civic space and support litigation by, and access to justice for, civil society actors. As civic space and participation increasingly move online, we will develop and advocate for application of the human rights framework to the digital space.

**THE UN SYSTEM AND INTERNATIONAL, REGIONAL AND NATIONAL MECHANISMS PROVIDE INCREASED, TIMELY AND EFFECTIVE PROTECTION TO CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANIZATIONS AND INDIVIDUALS (INCLUDING FROM REPRISALS).**

In partnership with others, we will advocate for stronger protection of individuals and groups at risk and work with the UN system and international human rights mechanisms to do the same. We will monitor and report on cases of human rights violations against civil society actors, including reprisals against individuals for cooperating with the UN on human rights; and build on good practices of protection and replicate them. We will strive to increase the capacity of UN human rights mechanisms to protect all civil society actors and will reach out to partners outside the human rights sphere to help us do this.

**BUSINESS, POLICY-MAKERS AND A PUBLIC AT LARGE INCREASINGLY VALUE AND SUPPORT CIVIC SPACE.**

We will collect evidence to show the value of civic space and participation, and challenge negative human rights narratives; develop targeted messages on the value of civic space; and promote public recognition of the legitimacy and contributions of human rights defenders. We will reach out to new audiences and use our convening power to build support for civic space and participation.

**CIVIL SOCIETY ASSISTANCE TO VICTIMS OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS IS STRENGTHENED.**

We will increase our efforts to strengthen the UN Voluntary Funds for Victims of Torture and Contemporary Forms of Slavery, which assist victims through grants to civil society actors. We will make their work better known; simplify the application process; expand partnerships with doctors, psychologists, social workers, lawyers and other professional groups, including national medical associations and bar associations; and develop tools on redress and rehabilitation, based on organizations' experience, to build their capacity.

**MORE SYSTEMATIC MONITORING OF THE ENVIRONMENT FOR CIVIC SPACE, INCLUDING THREATS TO IT, TAKES PLACE.**

We will support and participate in global monitoring efforts on the enabling environment for civic space. We will facilitate the collection and exchange of relevant data, through online platforms, and the implementation of SDG indicator 16.10.1 (number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates). In this context, we will improve data-collection methodologies on civic space on and off-line; strengthen analytical, communication and advocacy tools that make effective use of data to support civic space; build monitoring networks that include non-traditional partners; and encourage the UN to support action to defend civic space.

**THE VOICE OF PEOPLE AFFECTED BY DECISIONS, PARTICULARLY VICTIMS AND THOSE WHO FACE DISCRIMINATION, IS MORE CLEARLY HEARD.**

We will advocate for the participation of civil society in decision-making processes at all levels in different areas, inter alia in matters of development, peace and security, the environment, and corruption. This will help to build stronger alliances around civic space with specialized civil society groups. We will encourage use of Information and Communications Technology (ICT) and social media to promote broad-based consultations. We will help rights holders to build their capacity,

assist their organizations to participate effectively in decision-making processes, advocate for their participation, and foster dialogue across movements for this purpose. In that context, we will strive to ensure gender balance and increasingly involve youth.

**PUBLIC RECOGNITION THAT HUMAN RIGHTS AND ACCOUNTABILITY MAKE IMPORTANT CONTRIBUTIONS TO EFFECTIVE RESPONSES TO VIOLENCE, INCLUDING TERRORISM AND VIOLENT EXTREMISM, INCREASES.**

We will gather evidence, including data, examples, and stories of resilience, that shows the contributions that human rights make to effective responses to terrorism and violent extremism. We will develop public campaigns, assist stakeholders to use the evidence for their own advocacy, and form strategic partnerships to disseminate our message and reach new audiences.

## PILLAR RESULTS

### Enhancing participation and protecting civic space

THE SPECIFIC PILLAR RESULTS WE CONTRIBUTE TO		SHIFTS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE	
<p><b>P</b> Participation</p>	P1	Stronger laws, policies and practices protect the right to participate and civic space, including online, and the environment for civil society is increasingly safe and enabling.	Civic Space   Frontier issues: New technologies   SDG 16
	P2	The UN system and international, regional and national mechanisms provide increased, timely and effective protection to civil society organizations and individuals (including from reprisals).	Civic Space   SDG 16
	P3	Business, policy-makers and a public at large increasingly value and support civic space.	Global Constituency   SDG 10
	P4	Civil society assistance to victims of human rights violations is strengthened.	Civic Space   SDG 8, 16
	P5	More systematic monitoring of the environment for civic space, including threats to it, takes place.	Civic Space   SDG 16
	P6	The voice of people affected by decisions, particularly victims and those who face discrimination, is more clearly heard.	Prevention   Civic Space   SDG 4, 10, 16
	P7	Public recognition that human rights and accountability make important contributions to effective responses to violence, including terrorism and violent extremism, increases.	Prevention   Global Constituency   Civic Space   Frontier issues: Inequalities, people on the move   SDG 16

## ‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE



Dried surface of the water body on the outskirts of Bhopal, India, 15 May 2018. Huge stretches of Madhya Pradesh, India's largest state, are facing an acute water crisis as the state's water reservoir dries up due to scant rainfall this season. Without functioning hand pumps and bore wells villagers have no choice but to drink contaminate water. © EPA-EFE/HARISH TYAGI.

**To leverage greater human rights impact, we will also seek to 'shift' our overall approach to obtain greater coherence across all we do, wherever we do it. To this end, in each of our six pillars we will integrate focused emphases on four 'shift' areas. These shifts will help to better focus and unite our efforts across and within the pillars so that, as one Office, we deepen our expertise, strengthen our partnerships and scale up our human rights results.**

In the period 2018-2021, we will shift to focus more intensively - across all we do - on:

#### **PREVENTING CONFLICT, VIOLENCE AND INSECURITY.**

The Secretary-General has called on the UN system to do more to prevent the outbreak of crises and conflicts. The human rights system was created for that purpose: in response to war and to prevent future wars. It has a special role in averting the escalation of violence. Just as conflicts and insecurity increase the incidence of human rights violations, societies that respect human rights experience less violence and insecurity because they are more inclusive and address grievances through peaceful means.

Over the next four years, we will work to enhance the contribution that human rights make to efforts to prevent conflict, violence and insecurity, and expose the significant roles that inequalities, impunity and discrimination play in triggering conflict.

*We will bring together human rights information for early warning and risk analysis, collect evidence that shows how human rights contribute to conflict prevention, and work to create a culture of prevention informed by human rights and by the recommendations of human rights mechanisms. We will apply human rights norms and the recommendations of international human rights mechanisms to identify, address and overcome prevention challenges.*

#### **EXPANDING CIVIC SPACE.**

People's participation in public life, requiring expanded civic space, is critical. In its absence, no human right can be effectively promoted, exercised or fully enjoyed. It is impossible to protect human rights sustainably if the media, businesses, the professions, civil society organizations, communities, and individuals cannot express themselves freely, organize and protest peacefully, and obtain and

share information. While education and information technologies have increased opportunities to engage and participate, across the world civic space is shrinking. In some societies, civil society faces intensified restrictions, while counter-terrorism and security concerns are used to justify further constraints on liberty. Civil society organizations themselves frequently work in isolation, perhaps unrecognized by the general public and often unaware of how human rights can help protect their work. Yet, a commitment to participation and civic space underpins the SDGs, and Indicator 16.10.1, for which OHCHR has custodian responsibilities, specifically seeks to measure violence against key civil society actors.

*In the coming four years, integrating a focus on civic space in all we do, we will highlight how its protection and expansion helps to advance all human rights for all. We will seek increased public recognition of the value of civic space, work to enhance civil society's visibility, protection and legitimacy, and strive to enable human rights defenders to play their part without fear, intimidation or attack.*

#### **BROADENING THE GLOBAL CONSTITUENCY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS.**

Globally, defence of the universal values of human rights is neither consistent nor robust. Human rights are often regarded as somehow out of touch with reality, or worse, an obstacle to pragmatic resolution of the problems about which people care most, such as jobs and security. Yet human rights violations threaten inclusive development, peace and security, while everyone's wellbeing increases when rights are respected. It seems that while we have been busy developing and defending human rights laws and institutions, we have allowed the public space to be occupied by negative narratives.

Laws and institutions will only be effective if the public supports them. To counter the push back against human rights, shift attitudes, and manage the radical changes that societies are experiencing, we will need to move out of our comfort zones and engage with a broader audience – with people who sympathize with human rights but are inactive, who support human rights but do not know what to do, or who disagree with human rights on the basis of misinformation.

*Over the next four years, in all we do, we will work to broaden the global constituency for human rights. We will promote understanding of and public support for the values of human rights, including women's rights, in workplaces and schools, homes and city halls. We will establish partnerships that reach out to new audiences, and open a dialogue that can inspire and mobilize people to defend and promote rights. To convey, share and promote the core values of human rights, we will communicate in more technologically sophisticated but inclusive ways, emphasizing both listening and dialogue.*

#### **EXPLORING EMERGING HUMAN RIGHTS CONCERNS ('FRONTIER ISSUES').**

Many of the complex challenges that the world faces also have critical human rights dimensions that, if left unseen or misunderstood, will hamper efforts to find (human rights-based) solutions. For this reason, over the coming years, we will also focus on new frontiers for human rights – issues whose connections with human rights are not well understood or well documented.

The 'frontier issues' on which we will focus are: *climate change, digital space, inequality, corruption and people on the move.*<sup>1</sup>

We will examine all our work through the lens of these frontier concerns. We will work with the international human rights mechanisms to identify opportunities to fill associated protection gaps. We will explore associated implications in the contexts of development and peace and security and we will work to bring the principles of accountability, participation and non-discrimination alive in the context of these issues.

*Our aim, over the next four years, is to increase human rights expertise on frontier issues, explore their human rights dimensions, and call for human rights solutions that emphasize the participation of affected people themselves.*

#### **● Climate change**

Environmental degradation and climate change are increasingly impacting the lives of people for the worse, putting at risk their human rights, including their rights to water and sanitation, to housing, food, health, and development. Those who have contributed the least are affected the most. *In line with the 2030 Agenda, our aim is to help human rights inform implementation of the Paris Agreement on climate change so that measures of adaptation and solution are both shaped by affected communities and accountable to them.*

#### **● Digital space and emerging technologies**

Technology offers the world unprecedented opportunities. It is driving widespread social change and may provide solutions to environmental stress. However, if human rights are not considered as innovations are rolled out, they will bring new and potentially grave human rights challenges. Unequal access to technologies and increasingly powerful algorithms contribute significantly to discrimination and inequality. The digital space raises many difficult issues, in relation to privacy, freedom of expression, hate speech, discrimination, violence and exploitation (including against children), and sexual violence. The rise of powerful technology companies challenges the capacity of States and requires new strategies to ensure human rights protection. *Our aims are to better understand the digital sphere, contribute to efforts to ensure it respects and protects human rights, and assist technology companies to recognize and assume their responsibility to respect human rights in line with the UNGPs.*

<sup>1</sup> This list is open-ended. We will periodically revisit it in the light of new developments.

- **Corruption**

The spread of corruption has a profoundly corrosive effect on State institutions and on the capacity of States to protect human rights. It diverts public revenues, cripples public budgets that provide health, education and other essential services, and destroys public confidence in government, judicial institutions, and elections. Efforts to stop corruption and promote human rights are mutually reinforcing, since both demand accountability, participation and transparency. *Our aims are to help explain how human rights can support the anti-corruption movement, and to promote the potential of human rights to combat corruption.*

- **Inequalities**

Inequality, within and among countries, has reached levels that are destabilizing economies and political systems, undermining resilience, precipitating grievances, and sowing the seeds of social unrest and violent conflict. The 2030 Agenda helps connect conceptually the material dimensions of inequality with prohibited grounds of discrimination. That presents a human rights opportunity to challenge structural forms of discrimination, exclusion and inequality. *Our aim is to help to show that policies which reinforce economic inequality foster discrimination and undermine human rights, and that the inequalities that exist within and between countries are a human rights issue.*

- **People on the move**

Migration is as old as human society but today it is also a human consequence of persistent economic, social and demographic asymmetries within and between countries. As migration controls become more restrictive, the journeys many migrants make, within and across borders, become increasingly dangerous. More and more migrants find themselves in vulnerable situations, exposed to discrimination, hatred, trafficking, exploitation and violence. Effective protection of their human rights, *no matter where they are or how or why they are on the move*, must be a central concern if we are to 'leave no one behind'. *Our aim is to work with the Global Compact on Migration to ensure that the human rights of all migrants are better understood, recognized, respected and protected, not least by supporting implementation of the Compact's commitments.*

## SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’ ON **WOMEN**, **YOUNG PEOPLE** AND PERSONS WITH **DISABILITIES**



**While we will work to combat discrimination on all grounds, over the next four years we will spotlight the human rights concerns of women, young people and persons with disabilities across all identities. These populations are constructive agents of change. Yet their potential is often unrecognised. They are distinctively affected by economic instability and insecurity, marginalization and exclusion, whether, for example, they are members of religious or ethnic minorities, indigenous people, people of African descent, or migrants. An intersectional focus on women, young people and persons with disabilities is vital to our efforts to assist States to implement the Sustainable Development Goals and the commitment to ‘leave no one behind’.**

- **Women**

Globally, gender inequality is gradually reducing. However, progress is slow, uneven and non-linear. While inequalities in health and education are closing, women’s participation in economic and public and political life still lags. Moreover, progress is often followed by backlash and roll-back. Retrogressive laws and policies in some countries, particularly against sexual and reproductive health and rights, combine with resistance to gender equality and unchallenged harmful practices to threaten the gains that have been made. Women’s rights must be prioritized. The new movements campaigning against gender-based violence and for women’s rights create vital opportunities for human rights and complement ongoing efforts by women’s rights groups at grassroots level and across the world to counter discrimination and violence.

- **Young people**

Global demographics have changed. There are more adolescents and young people alive today than at any time in human history. Increasingly educated and healthier than previous generations, they have access to more information, new technologies and wider social networks which can be used to promote and protect human rights. At the same time, the vast majority of young people are in the poorest countries, that are most exposed to climate change

and most affected by conflict. Young people have always been major drivers of political, economic and social change. We must work to make human rights more relevant and more useful to them as they strive for dignity for themselves and their communities. We need to develop tools and capacity that will enable us to attract and support young people as they promote positive human rights change.

- **Persons with disabilities**

Persons with disabilities confront discrimination in many forms. They are frequently excluded from employment, have limited access to health and education services, and are often obstructed when they seek to participate in public and political life. Across the multilateral system, including the UN, not enough effort has been made to include persons with disabilities or act in ways that are relevant to them. Disability remains a marginal issue even within the human rights movement. It is time to change this.



On the eve of the Day of People with Disabilities, activists rally in Seoul, South Korea, to raise public awareness of human rights of people with disabilities, April 2018. ©EPA-EFE/YONHAP.

## CHANGING HOW WE OPERATE



**We need to realign and reinforce our internal organizational arrangements if we are to deliver human rights results successfully, across the Pillars and within the framework of our Shifts.**

Our staff are the foundation of all we do, and maintaining their trust, respect and commitment to top quality performance is essential. Further, the dynamic and changing environments in which we work require us to step up the quality and responsiveness of our working methods, while our internal procedures and policies must be fully aligned with our core values and in full compliance with UN standards.

*For the next four years, we will focus strategically on the following operational dimensions so that we deliver our work efficiently and effectively, in a manner consistent with our values and obligations and in support of greater human rights impact.*

### I. LEADING WITH AND FOR OUR PEOPLE

We want and need a more inclusive and diverse Office, founded on an equal sense of belonging for all staff regardless of their identity, duty station, grade or function. We need to lead and manage, for and with, our colleagues so that we deliver our results to a high standard, make the most effective and efficient use of our resources, and increase our accountability to those for whom we work.

Over the period 2018-2021, together as one Office, we will work so that:

- **The potential of our staff is unleashed, with talent and career management accessible to all.**

To this end, we will strengthen staff learning and career support opportunities, aligning these to our results. We will enable managers to manage and leaders to lead, identifying and investing in leadership talent support. We will strengthen human resources management by simplifying procedures, standardizing fairness in conditions of service, enhancing resolution of complaints and establishing a fast track procedure for emergency deployment.

- **Respect for diversity, inclusion and gender equality is at the heart of our organizational culture.**

We will promote a fairer working environment for all, implement a Dignity@Work Strategy, and improve internal communications. We will establish stronger and more transparent accountability measures and set robust targets for monitoring and reporting on our progress, in line also with the Secretary-General's Gender Parity strategy.

- **Timely, evidence-based strategic decisions are taken and anchored in results-based management.**

We will ensure our leadership and management are people-centred, inclusive and inspirational, fostering a sense of shared commitment and common purpose. We will enhance the effectiveness and efficiency of internal decision making to elevate further our focus on field operations, and bring decision making closer to the point of delivery. Consulting and informing staff about decisions that affect them, we will strengthen results-based monitoring and evaluation and develop robust risk management frameworks.

- **Efficient and responsible use of our resources is strengthened, with the support of effective technologies.**

We will enhance administrative and programmatic support to the entire Office, including field presences, strengthen programme management functions, and make sure that IT tools and platforms for sharing information are available to all. We will increase provision of accurate and timely information on income, budgeted expenditure, human resources, and travel, fully implementing the UN's administrative system.

### II. FOSTERING INNOVATION AND MORE DYNAMIC USE OF KNOWLEDGE

In a rapidly changing world, innovation is an essential element of successful knowledge management. We want to create and experiment for break through learning and we need to build, share and apply knowledge that will add value and leverage change. Our partners want us to be at the forefront of innovation for human rights, sifting and vetting human rights ideas, technologies and tools.

Over the period 2018–2021, together as one Office, we will work so that:

- **Our knowledge is used more strategically, and the Office is positioned as a leading source of impartial, accurate and relevant human rights information.**

We will adopt an Office-wide knowledge and information management strategy supported by an appropriate internal and external communication strategy and will embed associated functions strongly in operational plans. We will ensure essential knowledge is readily accessible to all, that tailored knowledge is available to joining staff, and that knowledge is not lost as staff leave.

- **Innovation is encouraged, and proven results implemented.**

We will seek innovative ideas, and foster these by establishing non-hierarchical settings, offering creativity incentives, and showcasing and celebrating innovative work. We will maximize the use of technology to advance human rights work and establish and maintain appropriate partnerships to this end.

### III. LEVERAGING SUPPORT FOR HUMAN RIGHTS THROUGH COMMUNICATIONS AND PARTNERSHIPS

The Office has a wide range of working partnerships with international, regional and local actors. These are essential to generate scalable and more sustainable human rights impact. In the period ahead, we will make a conscious effort to deepen and widen our partnerships, looking beyond partners who can help us to partners we can help.

To position ourselves as a partner-of-choice, effective communication is crucial. Although we have strengthened our capacity in this area, OHCHR is still less widely recognized than other UN organizations. Furthermore, if we ‘tell our story’ powerfully, in a manner that shows our unique added value, we can make a more compelling case for investment. This is particularly important because the Office is chronically unable to meet many of the requests that Member States make of it.<sup>2</sup>

<sup>2</sup> In 2017 alone, the Office had to turn down requests for in-country assistance from 12 Member States because sufficient funds were not available.

Over the period 2018–2021, together as one Office, we will work so that:

- **Our network of institutional partners is broadened and diversified, exchanging expertise, reach and resources to maximize human rights benefits.**

Setting out clearer partnership objectives, following a due diligence framework to ensure that our partnerships ‘do no harm’ to human rights, we will create enabling environments to broaden our partnerships to extend our reach, expertise and resources. We will develop the capacity of staff to initiate and manage partnerships in different sectors and geographical locations.

- **Our human rights impact and messages are effectively communicated.**

We will organize our communications for visibility, advocacy, mobilization, and education, building up our communication capacity in the field and New York, and in social media, audio-visual media, and translation. We will revisit OHCHR’s branding based on the results we want to achieve. Communicating more clearly with broader audiences, we will work to better understand their expectations and use appropriate communication tools, platforms and messengers to ‘tell our story’ in a manner that attracts public support, including financial support.

- **Investment and support for the Office are expanded, with donors expressing confidence in the value delivered by their investments in us.**

We will strengthen our relations with Member States to increase the Office’s regular budget and further engage with current and potential donors, seek to broaden our donor base among Member States and non-traditional actors, enhance our resource mobilization approach, and build up related capacities and skills. We will scan the environment for innovative funding models and step up communication and reporting on our human rights impact.

## ENGAGEMENT **IN THE REGIONS**

The Office implements its work at national and regional levels, which includes the provision of advisory services and technical cooperation and work with its counterparts to strengthen protection systems and implement effective measures to break down obstacles to the realization of human rights, in accordance with the High Commissioner's mandate under General Assembly resolution 48/141. To do so, the Office acts to establish or reinforce the capacity of accountability and justice mechanisms to undertake monitoring and investigation and secure redress for victims of human rights violations. OHCHR prioritizes follow-up to recommendations issued by international human rights mechanisms in relation to Member States, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The ultimate aim of these efforts is to strengthen the national human rights infrastructure including through the establishment of coordination mechanisms that are led by the executive with the active participation of State institutions, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and civil society organizations for integrated reporting and follow-up. Ensuring that this work is systematically and increasingly carried out in line with national development plans enhances the abilities of Member States to address gaps in implementation and revise legislation and practices to be in conformity with human rights norms, while also contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals.

OHCHR operates through 72 field presences with two main types: stand-alone offices and collaborative arrangements. The first category is composed of country and regional offices, which are under the direct supervision of OHCHR. The second category consists of field presences with double reporting lines, namely, human rights components of peace or political missions, which report to the Head of the mission and the High Commissioner and human rights advisers (HRAs), who report to resident coordinators and the High Commissioner. OHCHR's engagement with all States is described hereafter.

# AFRICA

## INTRODUCTION

The OHCHR Africa programme covers 49 countries in Sub-Saharan Africa. The Africa presences include four regional offices in East Africa (EARO), Southern Africa (ROSA), West Africa (WARO), and Central Africa (CARO); six country offices in Guinea, Burundi, Uganda, Chad, Liberia and Mauritania; 8 Human Rights Advisers in the UN Country Teams (UNCTs) of Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Nigeria, Niger (national officer), Rwanda, Sierra Leone (up to 31st March 2018), and Zimbabwe (new office); and seven human rights presences in UN peace missions, in the Central African Repu-

blic (CAR), the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan (Darfur). The Africa programme further supports five special procedures country mandates, in Somalia (1999), Sudan (2009), Eritrea (2012), Mali (2013), and CAR (2013), and the work of the Commission of Inquiry on Burundi (2016), the Commission on Human Rights on South Sudan (2016), and the team of international human rights experts on the event in the Kasai, Democratic Republic of Congo (2018).

## CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS CONTEXT

- ***Civic space and democratic transition.*** During the period under review, contested electoral processes (Burundi) or political impasses (DRC) were marred by violations of civil and political rights and the targeting of political opponents, media workers, human rights defenders and civil society representatives. Outside of electoral processes, civic space was severely restricted in Chad, Gabon, Equatorial Guinea, Sudan Tanzania and Uganda. Incidents included arbitrary arrest and detention, excessive use of force, prohibition of demonstrations for security reasons, and allegations of torture and ill-treatment of political opponents, journalists, and human rights defenders.

On the positive side, some countries (Angola, Liberia, Sierra Leone) experienced peaceful democratic transitions. Eritrea and Ethiopia recently concluded a peace agreement that will hopefully end a decades-long stalemate and improve enjoyment of human rights. In this respect, Ethiopia has already taken some important steps, by releasing political detainees,

lifting its state of emergency and revisiting restrictive norms. In Eritrea, for the time being, arbitrary arrest and incommunicado detention remain widespread and indefinite conscription continues. In Zimbabwe the new Government has created a more conducive environment for civil society and has set up a Commission of Inquiry to investigate violence during the elections; these are positive indicators.

- ***Violations of human rights in situation of conflict, violence and insecurity.*** The continent has continued to experience violence and insecurity, including serious violations of women's rights, in the context of protracted armed conflicts in the Central Africa Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, South Sudan and Somalia. In Mali and Cameroon, communal violence increased alarmingly: incidents of extrajudicial, arbitrary and summary executions, enforced disappearance, kidnapping, rape, torture, arbitrary arrest and detention have been reported.

- **Rise of violent extremism.** Violent extremism in the Sahel and the Lake Chad Basin is a major security concern. Boko Haram and other violent extremist groups continued to be a threat in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger and Nigeria. Incidents of violence included suicide bombings, kidnappings, arson attacks, raids and attacks on villages and educational institutions, looting, cattle raiding, and ambushes on military positions, as well as sexual violence against civilians. The Boko Haram conflict continued to fuel a humanitarian crisis. 10.7 million people needed life-saving assistance in the affected regions of Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria. Likewise, the Lord's Resistance Army (LRA) continued to pose security risks to civilians in the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of the Congo. Its attacks included ambushes, lootings, abductions, sexual violence, poaching and killings. In Somalia, abuses, recruitment of child soldiers and civilian casualties committed by Al Shabaab continued to be reported.
- **Impunity.** Terrorism and conflict are rooted in chronic impunity and lack of accountability. In many countries, very few credible investigations or prosecutions of grave human rights violations have taken place. On a positive note, the Central African Republic (CAR) took some positive steps to address impunity, by operationalizing the Special Criminal Court to ensure that perpetrators of human rights violations are tried for outstanding crimes, including hundreds of sexual violence cases. The CAR Government is also making an effort to coordinate transitional justice initiatives. These include steps to support accountability mechanisms, launch a truth commission, and identify collective reparations, as well as make institutional reforms to ensure that conflict does not recur. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a joint commission was formed to investigate violations and abuses in connection with demonstrations on 31 December 2017 and 21 January 2018. The full report was officially submitted to the Ministry of Justice on 28 June, but five months later, most of the recommendations of the report were not implemented. In South Sudan, the Government's engagement with respect to the establishment of the Hybrid Court for South Sudan has been limited and the Memorandum of Understanding with the African Union for the establishment of the Court has not yet been signed.
- **Violations of the rights of people on the move.** Thousands of Africans have died in the Sahara and the Mediterranean Sea while attempting to reach Europe. The factors that caused Africans to migrate included the serious political and security challenges in many African countries, as well as poor socioeconomic conditions. These were exacerbated by austerity measures that many governments adopted to manage the impact of falling oil prices on tax revenue.
- **Violations of economic, social and cultural rights.** The African continent continued to experience rapid economic and social change as well as steady economic growth. However, large wealth discrepancies exist between countries and within societies and many countries face human rights challenges. These are associated with extreme poverty, discrimination, climate change and environmental degradation, rapid population growth, weak governance, imperfect rule of law, insecurity, and threats to national and regional stability posed by armed conflict. These challenges have made populations more vulnerable and have negatively impacted their access to employment, education, health, social security, food, housing, water and other basic necessities.
- **Gender-based violence.** Sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) continued to be reported. In countries that are undergoing protracted conflicts (Central African Republic, Democratic Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, Sudan, Somalia), large-scale sexual violence is commonly used during attacks against the civilian populations. In other countries (Sierra Leone, Liberia, Mauritania, Somalia, Sudan), female genital mutilation, forced and early marriage, and sexual violence are rooted in traditional practices. Overall, very few SGBV cases have been prosecuted, due to serious deficiencies in national judicial systems and law enforcement agencies, compounded by the absence of laws prohibiting gender-based violence.

## Africa and the United Nations human rights mechanisms

Ratification, reporting and standing invitation (baseline June 2018)

	CERD	CCPR	CESCR	CAT	OPCAT	CEDAW	CRC	CRC:OPSC	CRC:OPAC	CMW	CRPD	CPPED	UPR	Standing invitations to Special Procedure mandate holders
Angola													(Oct-Nov 2019)	No
Benin	X		X			X					X		(6-17 Nov 2017)	Yes (2012)
Botswana	X			X				X	X				(15-26 Jan-2018)	No
Burkina Faso	X						X				X		(7-18 May 2018)	No
Burundi	X						X	X	X		X		(15-26 Jan-2018)	Yes (2013)
Cameroon	X					X			X				(7-18 May 2018)	Yes (2014)
Cape Verde	X			X				X	X	X	X		(7-18 May 2018)	Yes (2013)
Central African Rep.	X	X	X					X					(5-16 Nov 2018)	Yes (2013)
Chad	X		X			X	X	X	X				(5-16 Nov 2018)	Yes (2012)
Comoros	X					X	X	X					(Jan-Feb 2019)	Yes (2013)
Congo	X	X	X					X			X		(5-16 Nov 2018)	Yes (2013)
Côte d'Ivoire	X		X	X				X	X		X		(Apr-May 2019)	No
DRep. Congo	X		X				X				X		(Apr-May 2019)	No
Djibouti		X		X		X	X	X	X				(7-18 May 2018)	No
Equatorial Guinea	X	X	X	X		X	X	X					(Jan-Feb 2020)	No
Eritrea	X	X	X	X				X	X				(Jan-Feb 2019)	No
Ethiopia	X	X	X	X									(Apr-May 2019)	No
Gabon	X	X		X					X				(6-17 Nov 2017)	Yes (2012)
Gambia	X	X	X					X			X		(Oct-Nov 2019)	No
Ghana	X		X	X									(6-17 Nov 2017)	Yes (2006)
Guinea	X		X	X							X		(Jan-Feb 2020)	No
Guinea-Bissau	X	X	X	X		X		X	X		X		(Jan-Feb 2020)	Yes (2010)
Kenya		X		X					X				(Jan-Feb 2020)	Yes (2015)
Lesotho	X	X	X	X		X		X	X		X	X	(Jan-Feb 2020)	Yes (2015)
Liberia	X		X	X			X				X		(Apr-May 2020)	Yes (2015)
Madagascar	X		X	X			X			X	X		(Oct-Nov 2019)	Yes (2011)
Malawi	X		X	X									(Apr-May 2020)	Yes (2015)
Mali	X	X		X			X	X	X		X	X	(15-26 Jan-2018)	No
Mauritania			X					X				X	(Oct-Nov 2020)	No
Mauritius						X		X	X				(5-16 Nov 2018)	No
Mozambique	X	X		X				X	X	X	X		(Jan-Feb) 2021)	Yes (2016)
Namibia							X	X	X		X		(Jan-Feb) 2021)	No
Niger	X								X				(Jan-Feb) 2021)	Yes (2012)

## Africa and the United Nations human rights mechanisms

Ratification, reporting and standing invitation (baseline June 2018)

	CERD	CCPR	CESCR	CAT	OPCAT	CEDAW	CRC	CRC:OPSC	CRC:OPAC	CMW	CRPD	CPPED	UPR	Standing invitations to Special Procedure mandate holders
Nigeria	X	X	X	X			X	X	X	X	X	X	(5–16 Nov 2018)	Yes (2013)
Rwanda			X				X						(Oct–Nov 2020)	Yes (2011)
Sao Tome & Prin.	X	X		X		X				X	X		(Oct–Nov 2020)	Yes (2011)
Senegal	X	X	X										(5–16 Nov 2018)	No
Seychelles	X	X	X	X				X	X				(Jan–Feb) 2021)	Yes (2012)
Sierra Leone	X	X	X	X		X					X		(Jan–Feb) 2021)	Yes (2003)
Somalia	X	X	X	X			X						(Jan–Feb) 2021)	Yes (2016)
South Africa						X			X				(1–12 May 2017)	Yes (2003)
South Sudan						X	X						(Oct–Nov 2021)	No
Sudan							X						(Apr–May 2021)	No
Swaziland	X		X	X			X	X	X		X		(Apr–May 2021)	No
Togo		X	X			X	X		X			X	(Oct–Nov 2021)	No
Uganda	X	X		X		X	X						(Oct–Nov 2021)	No
U. rep. Tanzania	X	X	X								X		(Apr–May 2021)	No
Zambia		X	X	X		X					X	X	(6–17 Nov 2017)	Yes (2008)
Zimbabwe	X	X	X					X	X		X		(Oct–Nov 2021)	No
<b>Total No of ratifications/invitations out of 49 States</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>46</b>	<b>44</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>47</b>	<b>49</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>40</b>	<b>17</b>	<b>42</b>	<b>14</b>		<b>26</b>

	Treaty ratified
	Overdue report as of June 2018
	Outstanding ratification

## REGIONAL OFFICE FOR CENTRAL AFRICA (YAOUNDE)

### Field presence

The OHCHR Regional Office for Central Africa is based in Yaoundé, Cameroon. It was established in 2001.

### Countries of engagement

Cameroon, Republic of Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Sao Tomé and Príncipe (complementing OHCHR country presences in Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, the Democratic Republic of Congo, and Rwanda).

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

All countries have ratified most of the core human rights treaties. The CRPD has not been ratified by Cameroon; the CMW has been ratified only by Sao Tomé and Príncipe; the OP-ICCPR has only been ratified by Congo and Sao Tomé and Príncipe; the OP-ICESCR has only been ratified by Gabon; no country has ratified the CED. While reporting to the Treaty Bodies has improved, implementation in all countries has remained poor. Special procedures find it difficult to obtain approval to visit. Cameroon and Congo completed their third UPR in 2018; Equatorial Guinea will be reviewed in 2019; Sao Tome and Príncipe will be reviewed in 2020. (See the overview table on page 53.)

## CONTEXT

Since 2014, the sub region has been prone to conflicts, violence and insecurity caused by political instability or social tension. Some conflicts have displaced large numbers of people. For example, Cameroon hosts over 360,000 refugees from Nigeria and the Central Africa Republic as well as more than 300,000 internally displaced persons. Violent extremism has become a serious regional threat, especially in the Lake Chad Basin. It has caused untold suffering, especially to women and children, through harassment, displacement, enrolment in armed groups, etc.

Maritime piracy remains a concern. Efforts to boost security in the Gulf of Guinea still lack real effectiveness. Poachers and wildlife traffickers also pose an increasing threat, emphasizing the need for effective sub-regional and inter-regional mechanisms to respond to these human rights and security challenges.

In several countries, poverty has been exacerbated by poor governance, corruption and mismanagement of public funds. Social tensions and protests

by rights holders against degrading living standards have often met a heavy-handed response. Justice and rule of law systems remain weak in all focus countries. The executive's influence over the judiciary and legislature undermines the delivery of fair and objective justice and the quality of legislation, increasing impunity.

In the sub-region, abuses of authority by security and law enforcement officials are perpetuated with impunity. Harassment of the population, and cases of torture and arbitrary arrest and detention, are reported frequently, and these violations are neither investigated nor sanctioned. During elections in the Republic of Congo and Gabon, law enforcement officials arbitrarily arrested, detained and also tortured supporters of opposition groups. In Cameroon, arbitrary arrests and detention are frequent in the North and the North-West and South West regions. Most victims and their families are not aware of their rights and usually lack the means to seek justice; in many cases, victims remain silent for fear of reprisals.

Discrimination is widespread, based on cultural identity, sexual orientation and language. In some priority countries, national legislation includes discriminatory clauses against women, who continue to have unequal access to economic, social and political opportunities. Maternal mortality rates are high, owing to inadequate health facilities. Female illiteracy is high owing to elevated school dropout rates and unwanted pregnancies. Women do not

have equal access to property or employment opportunities; they are frequently victims of violence and harmful traditional practices including rape, child marriage, breast ironing, female genital mutilation, trafficking, and harmful widowhood norms. They are particularly affected by situations of conflict and insecurity because they are exposed to the risk of rape and other forms of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

### THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

#### INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

**M**  
Mechanisms

M1

National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.

States ratify more human rights treaties.

States report under the Universal Periodic Review and report more regularly to the Treaty Bodies.

UN Country Teams, Government institutions, civil society organizations and national human rights institutions (NHRIs) are more aware of the recommendations that have been issued by UN human rights mechanisms and take steps to implement them, including through the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

#### ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS

**D**  
Development

D2

Business actors implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights effectively.

Corporate bodies increasingly comply with relevant human rights norms and standards and implement the UN protect, respect and remedy framework and the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

D7

States integrate human rights, including the right to development and human rights mechanisms’ outcomes, as they implement the Sustainable Development Goals and other development and poverty eradication efforts; and the UN supports them in these purposes, integrating human rights in its own development work.

UN Country Teams have integrated recommendations issued by human rights mechanisms in their plans for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, and in other development programmes including UN development assistance frameworks (UNDAs) and strategic documents on poverty reduction.

D8

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

Relevant official institutions and civil society actors systematically collect and analyse data, particularly data that relates to natural resource exploitation and social expenditure

**THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME**

<p><b>PS</b> Peace and Security</p>	<p><b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b></p>	
	<p>PS3</p>	<p>Strategies to prevent and respond to conflict consistently integrate human rights protection.</p> <p>Regional bodies and national security authorities use information on conflict triggers and on human rights impacts to put effective protection measures in place.</p>
	<p>PS5</p>	<p>Human rights information and analyses are integrated in early warning and analysis systems and influence international and national policy-making, strategies and operations to prevent, mitigate or respond to emerging crises, including humanitarian crises and conflict.</p> <p>The UN Country Teams in Cameroon, Congo and Gabon align their activities with the UN Secretary General’s Human Rights Upfront agenda.</p>
<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p><b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b></p>	
	<p>A1</p>	<p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p> <p>The decisions of judicial actors increasingly reference human rights principles and standards. Law enforcement institutions are taking steps to comply with international human rights norms and standards, notably those that concern torture and ill-treatment and the deprivation of liberty.</p>
<p><b>P</b> Participation</p>	<p><b>ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE</b></p>	
	<p>P1</p>	<p>Stronger laws, policies and practices protect the right to participate and civic space, including online, and the environment for civil society is increasingly safe and enabling.</p> <p>In at least three countries, parliaments, law enforcement institutions and other relevant actors take measures that protect fundamental freedoms and human rights defenders.</p>
	<p>P6</p>	<p>The voice of people affected by decisions, particularly victims and those who face discrimination, is more clearly heard.</p> <p>Marginalized groups participate more actively in political and public life, locally and nationally.</p>

**‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE**

- Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.
- Expand civic space.
- Broaden the global constituency for human rights.
- Explore emerging human rights concerns (‘frontier issues’):
  - Corruption.
  - Inequalities.
  - People on the move.

**SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’.**

Women.

## BURUNDI

### Field presence

OHCHR in Burundi is mandated by UNGA Resolution 48/141 of 20 December 1993 and a host agreement signed in 1995. From 2004 to 2015, OHCHR was embedded in successive UN peacekeeping and special political missions. In 2015, it reverted to being a stand-alone office. In October 2016, following the report of the UN Independent Investigation on Burundi (UNIB), the Government suspended all forms of cooperation with OHCHR. In 2017, OHCHR reduced its presence in Burundi from 51 to 18 staff.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

The country is party to most international and African human rights instruments. It has interacted adequately with human rights Treaty Bodies, has issued an open invitation to special procedures, and has largely complied with reporting obligations, both to the UPR, and under CAT, CRC and CEDAW. Two resolutions on Burundi were adopted at the Human Rights Council (HRC) in September 2017. One (A/HRC/36/L/33), supported by Burundi, requested the High Commissioner to send three experts to assist Burundi through technical cooperation; the other (A/HRC/36/L/9), opposed by Burundi, extended for one year the mandate of the Commission of Inquiry (CoI) on Burundi. In other aspects of international and regional cooperation, Burundi has repeatedly refused to collaborate with human rights experts, notably the Special Envoy of the Secretary General, Michel Kafando. Burundi withdrew from the Rome Statute on 27 October 2017 and announced it will not collaborate with the ICC investigation on Burundi. (See the overview table on page 53.)

### Visits by special procedures in the last four years

None.

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

None.

## CONTEXT

Burundi has been in a political, socio-economic and humanitarian crisis since 2015. The human rights situation remains volatile and the persistent political impasse, combined with narrowing civic space, worsens a situation of poverty and insecurity.

Four factors compromise human rights in Burundi. (1) Widespread impunity and continued violations of human rights nourish a spiral of violence which remains unresolved. Victims are not protected and live in fear. (2) A genuine political effort needs to occur to find solutions to injustice and socio-economic deprivation. Since 2015, civic space has steadily narrowed to the point where the political opposition, media and civil society live in fear and are unable to carry out their activities freely. (3) The country's weak economic infrastructure depresses employment and wealth generation, especially for

the young and women. The health, education and food security sectors face numerous problems. (4) The above factors are aggravated by the Government's reluctance to recognize and address the root causes of the country's problems or cooperate with international human rights mechanisms to improve the situation. There have already been spill over effects on neighbouring countries, notably displacement into the Democratic Republic of Congo and other countries. There are also clear links between corruption, inequality and human rights violations in both public services and in the justice system. Environmental degradation threatens the livelihoods of Burundians, the majority of whom live in rural areas and in extreme poverty. Food insecurity remains a major concern.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<p><b>D</b> Development</p>	<p><b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS</b></p> <p><b>D3</b></p> <p>State authorities adopt and implement laws, policies and strategies on land and housing that increasingly comply with human rights.</p> <p>Civil society is more able to participate in the formation of development policies and in decision-making. Civil society organizations work to promote and protect economic, social and cultural rights.</p> <p>Policies are in place that ensure that all stakeholders enjoy equal participation, access and opportunities with respect to education, health, food, land, and employment. Policies take full account of the interests of youth, women, and persons living with albinism or disabilities.</p>
	<p><b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b></p> <p><b>PS3</b></p> <p>Strategies to prevent and respond to conflict consistently integrate human rights protection.</p> <p>A range of international actors and constituencies are mobilized to prevent conflict in Burundi. Their interventions take into account the specific needs of women, individuals at risk and marginalized groups.</p> <p>The UN Country Team implements the human rights strategy. The strategy guides the design of conflict prevention initiatives as well as humanitarian preparedness and response. The adoption of a human rights-based strategy helps to consolidate peace and security.</p>
<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p><b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b></p> <p><b>A1</b></p> <p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p> <p>The justice system and the administration establish and apply laws, policies and practices that address human rights violations effectively, protect victims and others at risk, and ensure that human rights complaints are investigated. The number of detainees held without trial or conviction ('les oubliés de la justice') falls.</p> <p>Judicial officials, the police, the SNR (National Intelligence Service), the military, and civil servants receive human rights training, including training on gender equality and the rights of minorities. Human rights violations decline before, after and during the 2020 elections.</p>
	<p><b>A3</b></p> <p>Justice systems investigate and prosecute gender-related crimes more effectively.</p> <p>Cases of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) are reported, investigated and prosecuted, enhancing women’s right to justice. Victims, survivors, local NGOs and human rights defenders are supported and protected when they report SGBV crimes.</p>

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

**P**  
Participation

ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE	
P1	<p>Stronger laws, policies and practices protect the right to participate and civic space, including online, and the environment for civil society is increasingly safe and enabling.</p> <p>A national mechanism is created to protect the rights of civil society organisations and individuals, supported by a clear legal framework that complies with international human rights standards.</p>
P2	<p>The UN system and international, regional and national mechanisms provide increased, timely and effective protection to civil society organizations and individuals (including from reprisals).</p> <p>Civil society actors participate freely in public life, including during election periods.</p>

‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE

- Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.
- Expand civic space.
- Broaden the global constituency for human rights.
- Explore emerging human rights concerns (‘frontier issues’):
  - Climate change.
  - Corruption.
  - People on the move.

SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’.

Women, young people, persons with disabilities.

## CHAD

### Field presence

In accordance with the Memorandum of Understanding signed between OHCHR and the Government of Chad on 22 September 2016, an OHCHR stand-alone office has been established. It provides consultative services and technical assistance on regional and international human rights norms to the Government of Chad and other relevant partners. The scaling-up of the Country Office in Chad in 2019 will enable OHCHR to: strengthen its capacity to provide advisory services to the Government of Chad and technical assistance to national institutions; support national human rights protection and promotion mechanisms, including the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC); foster an enhanced human rights environment through the continued provision of independent monitoring and reporting on the human rights situation; and identify strategies to address human rights issues relating to movement of people, drugs and arms linked to terrorist activities. An OHCHR G5 Sahel Joint Force team will be embedded in the Country Office in 2019, based in N'Djamena, to support the implementation of the compliance framework of the G5 Sahel Joint Force (FC-G5S). This step will enable OHCHR to increase the value of its partnership with the FC-G5S by addressing protection concerns and promoting human rights in support of long-term peace and security.<sup>3</sup>

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

The Government has recently made serious efforts to cooperate with international mechanisms. It has submitted its UPR report and several reports to Treaty Bodies (namely CERD, CEDAW, CAT and the CRC). Ratifications of the CRPD and the CMW are expected. (See the overview table on page 53.)

### Visits by special procedures in the last four years

WG on discrimination against women in law and practice (2017), WG on use of mercenaries (2018).

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

The Government invited: the SR on the situation of human rights defenders, the SR on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism, and the SR on the independence of judges and lawyers. The SR on violence against women and the SR on the right to education have asked to visit.

## CONTEXT

After experiencing a period of unrest characterized by repeated attacks from different rebel groups, Chad has been relatively calm since 2010, and has asserted itself at regional and international levels, especially in diplomacy and security. For the first time in its history, Chad was designated a non-permanent member of the UN Security Council and also served as Chairperson of the African Union. Currently, the former Minister of Foreign Affairs is head of the African Union Commission.

The country nevertheless faces serious political, economic, social and human rights challenges. A political dialogue enabled presidential elections to be held in April 2016, though the results were contested by part of the political opposition. The legislative elections, due in 2015, were postponed because of the country's economic difficulties. The mandate of parliamentarians whose term ended in June 2015 have tacitly been renewed to the next elections, for which no date has been set. The

<sup>3</sup> See section on the G5 Sahel Joint Force Compliance Framework project.

economy has been shaken by a fall in the oil price. The security situation has worsened since 2015, mainly owing to an increase in terrorist activities by the Boko Haram group that is active particularly in the Lac Region and from time to time in the capital N'Djamena. Their repeated, random attacks have resulted in loss of life, destruction and pillaging of property and livestock, forced marriages, rape, and the abduction or forced enrolment of people, especially youth, women and children. It restored the death penalty.

Women and children continue to suffer from violence and the impunity of perpetrators. The most common violations are rape, trafficking in persons, domestic violence and exploitation of all kinds (for example, the use of children as herders). Women's participation in decision-making remains low, and laws protecting children's and women's rights are weak and often not enforced. It is positive, for example, that a law has been passed prohibiting child marriage; however, it has not so far been applied by courts.

In general, institutional capacity needs to be strengthened. The National Human Rights Commission is undergoing reform.

## OHCHR's expected contribution by 2021

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b>	
<b>M</b> Mechanisms	<b>M1</b> <p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>Chad submits six reports to Treaty Bodies that are due, in compliance with reporting guidelines.</p> <p>Chad ratifies at least four of the treaties that it has not yet ratified.</p> <p>At least four Special Rapporteurs visit Chad.</p>
	<b>M2</b> <p>Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues (frontier issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.</p> <p>Civil society organizations submit alternative reports to Treaty Bodies in at least 60% of cases.</p>
<b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS</b>	
<b>D</b> Development	<b>D7</b> <p>States integrate human rights, including the right to development and human rights mechanisms' outcomes, as they implement the Sustainable Development Goals and other development and poverty eradication efforts; and the UN supports them in these purposes, integrating human rights in its own development work.</p> <p>Implementation and evaluation of the UN development assistance framework (UNDAF) take account of human rights.</p> <p>When they are drafted, implemented and evaluated, UN strategic programmes take account of human rights.</p>

**THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME**

<b>ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION</b>		
<p><b>ND</b> Non-Discrimination</p>	<p>ND1</p>	<p>Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to ‘leave no one behind’, including by addressing the root causes of inequality.</p> <p>The national programme of human rights education is developed and implemented. The Country Office begins discussions with the Government on launching this programme by the end of 2018. The Country Office produces a study of human rights education that positively influences education programmes on human rights in Chad.</p>
	<p>ND3</p>	<p>Legal and social frameworks increasingly promote women’s and girls’ autonomy and choice and protect them from violence, including in the digital space.</p> <p>The Government, civil society organizations, women and other actors have become more familiar with the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and Resolution 1325 of the UN Security Council.</p>
<b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b>		
<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p>A1</p>	<p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p> <p>The National Human Rights Commission is established and functions in conformity with the Paris Principles.</p>
	<p>A3</p>	<p>Justice systems investigate and prosecute gender-related crimes more effectively.</p> <p>The Country Office forwards to the judicial authorities or the National Human Rights Commission at least half the cases of crimes associated with gender that it receives, including those that involve women and youth.</p> <p>The judicial authorities and the National Human Rights Commission act on at least half the cases of crimes associated with gender that they receive, including those that involve women and youth.</p>

**‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE**

- Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.
- Expand civic space.

**SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’.**

Women, young people.

## CENTRAL AFRICAN REPUBLIC

### Field presence

Bureau Intégré de l'Organisation des Nations Unies en Centrafrique (BINUCA) from 2000 to 2013. Since 2013, Human Rights Division (HRD) of the Mission Interdimensionnelle Intégrée des Nations Unies pour la Stabilisation en Centrafrique (MINUSCA).

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

The Central African Republic (CAR) is a signatory to most of the international and regional human rights treaties and has recently ratified additional instruments. Reporting to Treaty Bodies remains irregular and civil society organizations have submitted few shadow reports and communications. CAR extended an open invitation to special procedures in 2013. It completed the UPR in the same year and in 2018. (See the overview table on page 53.)

### Visits by special procedures in the last four years

The Independent Expert on CAR has made several visits since the mandate was established in September 2013.

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

SR on internally displaced persons.

## CONTEXT

The political and social environment in CAR is marked by a general climate of insecurity, which exposes civilians to grave violations and abuses, restricts humanitarian space, and hinders the voluntary return of IDPs and refugees. There is widespread impunity and state institutions are fragile. Mediation and political initiatives continue to work for a durable peace accord, and efforts are also being made to build institutions and introduce reforms to protect human rights.

Protection of civilians has significantly deteriorated since 2013 due to widespread violence. There has been fighting between armed groups, reprisal attacks, and a resurgence of hate speech and public incitement to violence along ethnic and religious lines. Given the State's weaknesses, these put at risk the civilian population, humanitarian workers, protected groups (IDPs), and MINUSCA itself. State authority is gradually being restored, while coordinated efforts are being made to protect civi-

lians, through early warning and response systems as well as dialogue at local and national level, in line with DPKO's three-tier approach to protection of civilians (POC) and the Human Rights up Front policy. In that regard, reform and redeployment of judicial, defence and security institutions remain critical. Enhanced compliance with human rights and the rule of law is required to restore confidence among Central Africans. The Government is also making efforts to coordinate transitional justice initiatives. In particular, it is supporting accountability mechanisms, establishing a truth commission, identifying collective reparations, and making institutional reforms to ensure that conflict does not recur.

Improvement in the protection of human rights in CAR will only be sustainable if peace and political processes are comprehensive, inclusive and victims-centered.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

### THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS	
<p><b>M</b> Mechanisms</p>	<p><b>M1</b></p> <p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations</p> <p>CAR engages more frequently and deeply with the international human rights mechanisms: it ratifies outstanding treaties, submits overdue reports, and follows up the recommendations of Treaty Bodies and special procedures.</p>
PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY	
<p><b>PS</b> Peace and Security</p>	<p><b>PS1</b></p> <p>Parties to conflict and actors involved in peace operations increasingly comply with international human rights and humanitarian law and provide greater protection to civilians.</p> <p>As a component of CAR’s national infrastructure for peace and human rights, the National Committee on the prevention of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and the fight against discrimination is fully operational. The Committee’s capacity is strengthened to enable it to implement its road map. A national multifunctional mechanism to protect victims and witnesses is established: it is able to hold accountable those responsible for violations of international humanitarian and human rights law, and protect and assist victims of gender-based violence and sexual violence in conflict.</p>
	<p><b>PS4</b></p> <p>Justice mechanisms, including for transitional justice, provide increased accountability for conflict-related violations.</p> <p>A comprehensive national transitional justice strategy is developed and implemented; it is gender-sensitive.</p>
	<p><b>PS5</b></p> <p>Human rights information and analyses are integrated in early warning and analysis systems and influence international and national policy-making, strategies and operations to prevent, mitigate or respond to emerging crises, including humanitarian crises and conflict.</p> <p>National institutions and non-state actors increase their capacity to protect and promote human rights more effectively.</p>

**THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME**

<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p><b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b></p>			
	<table border="0" style="width: 100%;"> <tr> <td style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; width: 50px; text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;"> <p>A1</p> </td> <td style="padding-left: 10px;"> <p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p> <p>The actions of judicial institutions and defence and security forces increasingly comply with human rights.</p> </td> </tr> <tr> <td style="background-color: #0070C0; color: white; text-align: center; vertical-align: middle;"> <p>A5</p> </td> <td style="padding-left: 10px;"> <p>UN efforts for the rule of law, justice, counter-terrorism and accountability put human rights at the core.</p> <p>MINUSCA's components, the UN Country Team and the Humanitarian Country Team integrate human rights policies and tools in their peace-building policies and programmes and their overall work.</p> </td> </tr> </table>	<p>A1</p>	<p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p> <p>The actions of judicial institutions and defence and security forces increasingly comply with human rights.</p>	<p>A5</p>
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<p>A5</p>	<p>UN efforts for the rule of law, justice, counter-terrorism and accountability put human rights at the core.</p> <p>MINUSCA's components, the UN Country Team and the Humanitarian Country Team integrate human rights policies and tools in their peace-building policies and programmes and their overall work.</p>			

**'SHIFTS' ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE**

- Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.
- Expand civic space.
- Broaden the constituency for human rights.

**SHINING A 'SPOTLIGHT'.**

Women, young people.

## DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO

### Field presence

The United Nations Joint Human Rights Office (UNJHRO) was established in 2008.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

The DRC has ratified the major international human rights treaties, except for the Optional Protocol to the ICCPR abolishing the death penalty. The OP-CAT has been ratified (2010) but has not yet been implemented. The DRC's reporting to Treaty Bodies improved in recent years, but at least two reports remain overdue. The initial report to the CRPD and the 5th and 6th reports to the CESCR were recently validated and will soon be submitted. The DRC completed a UPR review in 2014. (See the overview table on page 53.)

### Visits by special procedures in the last four years

The SR for the protection of human rights defenders visited the DRC at the invitation of the National Human Rights Institution, and supported human rights NGOs' advocacy to promote the vote of a model law for the protection of human rights defenders.

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

At least nine Special Rapporteurs and Working Groups have asked to visit since the last UPR.

## CONTEXT

The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) faces a wide range of serious human rights concerns. The activities of armed groups, particularly in eastern DRC, continue to pose a threat to human rights. Between January and June 2017, the UNJHRO documented 2,068 violations. Socio-political turbulence in Burundi, South Sudan and Central African Republic have caused refugees to enter the provinces of Equateur, Ituri and South Kivu, with humanitarian and human rights consequences.

Restrictions of democratic space, political repression and the arbitrary arrest and detention of journalists, political opponents, and human rights defenders (HRDs) are major concerns. Threats to human rights defenders and civil society activists have become increasingly serious. The authorities have responded to protests and activism by civil society groups and the population at large with arbitrary arrests, excessive force, and cruel and inhumane treatment. UNJHRO handled 212 protection cases in 2016 (75 cases against victims, 4 cases against witnesses,

32 cases against journalists and 101 against HRDs) and a further 152 cases in the first half of 2017 (37 victims, 13 witnesses, 12 journalists and 90 HRDs). Although this increase may partly be explained by the electoral cycle, the trend may also be longer term. Inter-ethnic and inter-communal tensions are generated by chieftaincy succession, land disputes, and competition for natural resources, especially in parts of North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri, Tanganyika and the Kasais. They have triggered displacements, inter-ethnic killings, fighting, and the creation of new self-defence militia that subsequently become armed groups. Allegedly, some of these have been promoted by political actors.

Presidential, legislative, provincial and local elections were due in December 2018. The situation was already volatile. As elections approach, major violations of civil and political rights are to be feared, as well as use of excessive or lethal force by the security forces to suppress protests by opposition political parties and civil society organizations.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b>	
<p><b>M</b> Mechanisms</p>	<p><b>M1</b></p> <p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>The inter-ministerial committee responsible for coordinating DRC’s reporting to the Treaty Bodies has become permanent and operational.</p>
	<p><b>M2</b></p> <p>Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues (frontier issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.</p> <p>The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), civil society organizations and human rights defenders submit reports on serious human rights issues in the DRC to the international human rights mechanisms more frequently.</p>
<b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS</b>	
<p><b>D</b> Development</p>	<p><b>D7</b></p> <p>States integrate human rights, including the right to development and human rights mechanisms’ outcomes, as they implement the Sustainable Development Goals and other development and poverty eradication efforts; and the UN supports them in these purposes, integrating human rights in its own development work.</p> <p>The next UN development assistance framework (UNDAF 2018-2023) integrates relevant human rights standards and principles and references recommendations by the human rights mechanisms.</p>
<b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b>	
<p><b>PS</b> Peace and Security</p>	<p><b>PS5</b></p> <p>Human rights information and analyses are integrated in early warning and analysis systems and influence international and national policy-making, strategies and operations to prevent, mitigate or respond to emerging crises, including humanitarian crises and conflict.</p> <p>DRC security forces increase the number of mitigation and corrective measures they adopt, on the basis of risk assessments that comply with the human rights due diligence policy (HRDDP).</p>
	<p><b>PS6</b></p> <p>United Nations’ support to national and regional security forces, law enforcement agencies, and non-State actors integrates human rights and complies with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.</p> <p>Decisions made by MONUSCO in support of the political process or on protection of civilians are guided by relevant human rights standards and principles. This is particularly true of the good offices of the mission leadership and provision of support to the security forces.</p>

**THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME**

<b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b>	
<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p><b>A1</b></p> <p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p> <p>The judiciary increases the number of convictions for human rights violations, including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). Oversight mechanisms strengthen disciplinary measures for the same offences.</p>
<b>ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE</b>	
<p><b>P</b> Participation</p>	<p><b>P1</b></p> <p>Stronger laws, policies and practices protect the right to participate and civic space, including online, and the environment for civil society is increasingly safe and enabling.</p> <p>The NHRC fulfils its mandate and is in compliance with the Paris Principles. Its mandate includes responding to complaints</p>
	<p><b>P4</b></p> <p>Civil society assistance to victims of human rights violations is strengthened.</p> <p>With UNJHRO support, civil society networks assist a larger number of victims of human rights violations.</p>
	<p><b>P5</b></p> <p>More systematic monitoring of the environment for civic space, including threats to it, takes place.</p> <p>Citizens are able to exercise their rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association. The security forces show more respect for these rights and for human rights standards and principles.</p>

**‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE**

- Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.
- Expand civic space.
- Explore emerging human rights concerns (‘frontier issues’):
  - People on the move.

**SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’.**

Women.

## RWANDA

### Field presence

Senior Human Rights Adviser since 2008.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

Rwanda has ratified all the core human rights treaties except the International Convention on Enforced Disappearances. It took part in the UPR process in 2011 and 2015. The Government issued an open invitation to special procedures mandate holders who wish to visit in 2011. (See the overview table on page 53.)

### Visits by special procedures in the last four years

SR on the freedoms of assembly and association (2014).

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

None.

## CONTEXT

Rwanda has earned a reputation for aggressive economic growth, low tolerance of corruption, and promotion of women's rights. With respect to economic and social rights, the country has outpaced others in the region and made exemplary progress. It has experienced continuous economic growth since 2000; per capita income grew from USD 225 in 2010 to USD 729 in 2016.

President Paul Kagame was re-elected president for a further 7-year term in July 2017 under Rwanda's new constitution, following a national referendum that authorized extension of the president's mandate.

During 2018, OHCHR raised several human rights issues with the Government of Rwanda. Concerns included Government restrictions on political and civic space, including exercise of the freedoms of expression, peaceful assembly and association, the

imposition of conditions that make it very difficult for local and international non-governmental organizations to register, and amendments to the penal code that criminalize defamation, an offence now subject to fines and imprisonment.

OHCHR also expressed concern about Rwanda's decision in 2016 to withdraw from the declaration establishing the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights (Article 34(6) of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights).

Rwanda has improved its reporting under the core human rights conventions and has made a serious effort to implement recommendations made by the various Treaty Bodies and the Universal Periodic Review.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b>	
<b>M</b> Mechanisms	<b>M1</b> <p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations</p> <p>The inter-ministerial committee for treaty reporting functions efficiently and has the capacity to implement treaty recommendations.</p>
	<b>M2</b> <p>Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues (frontier issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.</p> <p>NGOs and UN agencies have increased their engagement with the UPR and Treaty Bodies.</p>
<b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS</b>	
<b>D</b> Development	<b>D2</b> <p>Business actors implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights effectively.</p> <p>By 2021, a law regulates the compliance of business with human rights. OHCHR and the National Human Rights Commission help to train corporations in human rights, with the objective of ensuring that all economic actors and businesses adhere to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.</p>
	<b>D7</b> <p>States integrate human rights, including the right to development and human rights mechanisms’ outcomes, as they implement the Sustainable Development Goals and other development and poverty eradication efforts; and the UN supports them in these purposes, integrating human rights in its own development work.</p> <p>All components of the UNDAP comply with and take account of human rights principles and adopt a human rights-based approach. Human rights principles guide the State when it implements the SDGs and other development initiatives.</p>
<b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b>	
<b>A</b> Accountability	<b>A1</b> <p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p> <p>The National Human Rights Commission is strengthened and houses the National Protection Mechanism under the Optional Protocol to CAT.</p>
<b>SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’.</b>	
Young people.	

## REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EAST AFRICA (ADDIS ABABA)

### Field presence

OHCHR's Regional Office for East Africa (EARO) is based in Addis Ababa. It was established in 2002.

### Countries of engagement

Djibouti, Ethiopia, Tanzania (complementing the OHCHR country presences in Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda). The EARO conducts sub-regional activities for all nine countries in the sub-region. It is also the entry point for OHCHR engagement with the African Union. Eritrea is covered by OHCHR Geneva headquarters.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

The majority of countries in the East Africa region have ratified most of the core UN human rights treaties with the exception of the CMW and CED. The three focus countries are not state parties to the CMW or CED and Tanzania is not a party to CAT. In the last four years, all three countries completed a UPR review and appeared before the Treaty Bodies. Currently, Djibouti has three pending Treaty Body reports, Ethiopia five, and Tanzania four. Implementation is imperfect though the UPR process has triggered some follow up action. None of the countries has issued a standing invitation to Special Procedure mandate holders; a number of requests to visit are awaiting response. In 2017, the Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism visited Tanzania. (See the overview table on page 53.)

## CONTEXT

Countries in the sub-region struggle to achieve equality in a number of areas, including women's rights. Several have passed laws on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and discrimination, and taken steps to promote economic, social, and cultural rights. Women's political participation progressed, though not in all countries. The African Union has adopted specific recommendations on women's rights and gender equality.

Civil society organizations and human rights defenders in the sub-region operate in an increasingly complex and sometimes hazardous environment. UN human rights mechanisms have recommended that countries in the sub-region should create a more enabling environment for human rights defenders and civil society, and ensure that national human rights institutions (NHRIs) comply with the Paris principles. Ethiopia, as part of landmark

reforms that began in 2018, has launched a process to revise its legal framework on expression and association, beginning with the country's civil society law, which has been regarded as a major impediment to independent groups.

As a result of conflict, recurring natural disasters, and poverty, the sub-region hosts the largest refugee population on the continent and is itself a source of many migrants. Serious human rights violations are committed in the context of migration, which are often exacerbated by impunity and the absence of effective accountability frameworks. Violent extremism and terrorism is a further cause of concern. Ethiopia and Eritrea signed peace agreements resolving several intractable issues in 2018, giving rise to hope that a series of additional agreements will help in the sub-region to move beyond several intractable conflicts.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

### THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS	
<p><b>M</b> Mechanisms</p>	<p><b>M1</b></p> <p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>National mechanisms for reporting and follow up (NMRFs) are established and strengthened in two countries in the sub-region; their mandates are comprehensive and clear.</p> <p>One to two States in the region improve their capacity to implement and follow up the recommendations of international human rights mechanisms, including by submitting reports to the Treaty Bodies.</p> <p>Three to five outstanding human rights treaties or optional protocols are ratified without reservations.</p>
	<p><b>M5</b></p> <p>International human rights mechanisms are increasingly effective in promoting and protecting human rights.</p> <p>The human rights mechanisms of the African Union and UN deepen their cooperation. The African Union’s human rights organs integrate human rights principles in their work.</p>
ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS	
<p><b>D</b> Development</p>	<p><b>D4</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Sexual and reproductive health policies in the region increasingly comply with international human rights standards.</p>
	<p><b>D7</b></p> <p>States integrate human rights, including the right to development and human rights mechanisms’ outcomes, as they implement the Sustainable Development Goals and other development and poverty eradication efforts; and the UN supports them in these purposes, integrating human rights in its own development work.</p> <p>When they implement the SDGs, UN Country Teams and the Governments of Djibouti, Ethiopia and Tanzania take fully into account human rights principles, including the right to development, as well as recommendations that have been made by the UN human rights mechanisms.</p>
	<p><b>D8</b></p> <p>National institutions, assisted by communities, systematically collect, disaggregate and use data relevant for advancing human rights when they monitor and implement the SDGs.</p> <p>State institutions pay increasing attention to discrimination (as defined in international law) when they collect, analyse and disseminate data</p>

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY	
<b>PS</b> Peace and Security	<b>PS2</b> <p>Efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism comply with international law.</p> <p>Regional and national counter-terrorism measures, and actions to prevent violent extremism, respect and take full account of gender and women’s rights.</p>
	<b>PS3</b> <p>Strategies to prevent and respond to conflict consistently integrate human rights protection.</p> <p>Regional and sub-regional bodies, and individual States, increasingly integrate human rights standards and policies in their conflict prevention and response strategies.</p>
	<b>PS5</b> <p>Human rights information and analyses are integrated in early warning and analysis systems and influence international and national policy-making, strategies and operations to prevent, mitigate or respond to emerging crises, including humanitarian crises and conflict.</p> <p>The East Africa Regional Office has the capacity to contribute appropriately to early warning and emergency responses as well as disaster responses.</p>
ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION	
<b>ND</b> Non-Discrimination	<b>ND3</b> <p>Legal and social frameworks increasingly promote women’s and girls’ autonomy and choice and protect them from violence, including in the digital space.</p> <p>In cases that concern women and girls, the decisions of national human rights and justice mechanisms comply with international and regional human rights standards.</p>
	<b>ND4</b> <p>Judicial institutions, media, and other sectors increasingly recognize and challenge harmful gender stereotypes and gender norms with a view to their eradication.</p> <p>The decisions of national human rights and justice mechanisms increasingly promote gender equality and comply with international and regional human rights standards.</p>
	<b>ND6</b> <p>The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected.</p> <p>African Union policies and migration governance measures more fully integrate international human rights standards.</p>

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

<b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b>	
<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p><b>A1</b> ▶ Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems. Regional human rights mechanisms are increasingly accessible to all. Countries in the region increasingly domesticate, and comply with, international standards on capital punishment.</p> <p><b>A3</b> ▶ Justice systems investigate and prosecute gender-related crimes more effectively. Governments report, investigate and prosecute gender-related crimes more consistently.</p>
<b>ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE</b>	
<p><b>P</b> Participation</p>	<p><b>P1</b> ▶ 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. CSOs, women human rights defenders, and other relevant stakeholders advocate for human rights, and especially women’s rights, more often and more effectively. The African Union’s manuals and guidelines, including those on elections, integrate human rights standards and norms.</p>

**‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE**

- Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.
- Expand civic space.
- Explore emerging human rights concerns (‘frontier issues’):
  - Inequalities.
  - People on the move.

**SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’.**

Women.

## KENYA

### Field presence

OHCHR has been present in Kenya since 2008, following the election violence in 2007/08, currently with a Senior Human Rights Adviser.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

Kenya has ratified the CAT, ICCPR, CEDAW, CERD, CRC, CRPD, and the Optional Protocol on the involvement of children in armed conflict, but not other optional protocols. The Government is willing to ratify the CMW but has not signalled its intention to ratify the Convention on Enforced Disappearances. In 2018, the country is due to be reviewed by CAT and the Human Rights Committee. In 2017, the country was reviewed by CERD and CEDAW. Kenya extended a standing invitation to special procedures in 2015. (See the overview table on page 53.)

### Visits by special procedures in the last four years

SR on water and sanitation (2014), WG on business and human rights(2018), Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism (2018).

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

SR on the human rights of migrants, SR on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, SR on minority issues, WG on use of mercenaries, and WG on enforced disappearances.

## CONTEXT

Since Kenya adopted its Constitution, containing a robust Bill of Rights, in 2010, policies and legislation have been developed to strengthen protection of human rights. Institutions have been built to implement human rights legislation and enhance oversight. Devolution has increased citizens' participation in public life and improved access to basic services, including health. The Government of Kenya actively engaged with the Universal Periodic Review in 2015; it prepared an implementation matrix that has been used by various stakeholders to monitor progress, and submitted a voluntary mid-term report in July 2018.

Yet Kenya faces multiple human rights challenges. These include lack of accountability and remedy for the gross and widespread violations that occurred during the post-election violence of 2007/2008; limited progress on key reforms, including reform of

the national police service; and frequent reports of extrajudicial killings and enforced disappearances by security agencies in the course of fighting criminality, including terrorism. Impunity has been prevalent. During the 2017 elections, close to a hundred deaths, scores of injuries and at least 130 incidents of sexual violence were documented by the local national human rights institution. Most were due to police action. No perpetrator has been brought to book.

Over the last five years, civic space and media freedoms have been under pressure. Attacks peaked during the 2017 elections. A law to protect CSOs (the Public Benefits Organizations Act) has not been implemented despite its adoption by Parliament in 2013. Attempts have been made to de-register and freeze the accounts of prominent civil society organizations.

High levels of poverty and inequality remain critical challenges, compounded by pervasive corruption. Poverty is feminized. Women own roughly one per cent of agricultural land. Women also bear the brunt of SGBV; about 45% of women between the ages of 15 and 49 have experienced physical or sexual violence. Many survivors have limited access to medical care or justice.

Forced evictions in the context of conservation and infrastructure projects (such as road construction) have affected several thousand people in informal settlements or indigenous groups.

The discovery of oil and other natural resources creates opportunities for economic growth, but also risks to human rights. Concerns arise in relation to sustainable land use, relations with local communities, the transparency and accountability of revenue streams, and violation of national laws by foreign companies. There have been allegations of human rights abuse in many business sectors, including in the agricultural sector, where low pay and poor working conditions are reportedly common, especially in salt mining companies and commercial farms that grow tea, coffee and flowers. Kenya is close to finalizing a National Action Plan that will incorporate the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (a first on the continent).

## OHCHR's expected contribution by 2021

### THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

#### M Mechanisms

#### INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

M1

National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.

Kenya creates a formal national reporting mechanism and a recommendations data base.

M2

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

The Government, national human rights institution, civil society organizations and the UN Country Team regularly submit reports to the international human rights mechanisms.

**THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME**

<b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS</b>		
<p><b>D</b> Development</p>	<p>D1</p>	<p>Judicial and non-judicial mechanisms hold business and other economic actors to account for rights abuses and provide remedies to victims.</p> <p>Two landmark litigation cases are successfully completed, and victims receive remedies.</p>
	<p>D2</p>	<p>Business actors implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights effectively.</p> <p>The courts and State non-judicial mechanisms hold businesses and other economic actors accountable, in accordance with human rights standards and the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.</p>
	<p>D3</p>	<p>State authorities adopt and implement laws, policies and strategies on land and housing that increasingly comply with human rights.</p> <p>Kenya implements the decisions of the African Court on Human and People’s Rights with respect to Endorois and Ogiek rights to land and housing.</p>
	<p>D7</p>	<p>States integrate human rights, including the right to development and human rights mechanisms’ outcomes, as they implement the Sustainable Development Goals and other development and poverty eradication efforts; and the UN supports them in these purposes, integrating human rights in its own development work.</p> <p>The next UN development assistance framework (UNDAF 2018-2022) integrates human rights norms, standards and principles in its design and implementation.</p>
<b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b>		
<p><b>PS</b> Peace and Security</p>	<p>PS5</p>	<p>Human rights information and analyses are integrated in early warning and analysis systems and influence international and national policy-making, strategies and operations to prevent, mitigate or respond to emerging crises, including humanitarian crises and conflict.</p> <p>UN early warning and advocacy regularly integrate human rights principles and analysis.</p> <p>The Government finalizes a reparations policy and framework. It covers survivors of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV).</p>
<b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b>		
<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p>A2</p>	<p>Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.</p> <p>The Kenyan authorities strengthen and enforce measures to prevent human rights violations by police and other security agencies, including sexual and gender-based violence. Those responsible for violations are held accountable and prosecuted.</p>

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

**P**  
Participation

**ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE**

**P1**

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

The Kenyan authorities put measures in place to protect civic space, including the Public Benefits and Organizations Act. The measures, and policies on public participation, comply with international human rights standards.

**'SHIFTS' ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE**

- Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.
- Expand civic space.
- Broaden the global constituency for human rights.
- Explore emerging human rights concerns ('frontier issues'):
  - Climate change.
  - Inequalities.

**SHINING A 'SPOTLIGHT'.**

Women.

## SOMALIA

### Field presence

OHCHR began operating in Somalia in 2008 through the human rights component of the UN Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS). Since 2013, it works through the Human Rights and Protection Group (HRPG) of the UN Assistance Mission for Somalia (UNSOM). HRPG is present in Mogadishu, Jubaland, Puntland, South West State, HirShabelle, and in Somaliland. Another field office is expected to be established in Galmudug.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

Somalia is a party to the ICCP, ICESCR, CRC and CAT. It is considering ratification of CEDAW and other instruments. Somalia acceded to the CRPD on 2 October 2018. Somalia completed the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2011/12 and 2015/16. Somalia was elected to the Human Rights Council on 12 October 2018. The Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia has helped shape discussion of human rights in the country. (See the overview table on page 53.)

### Visits by special procedures in the last four years

At the end of October 2018, the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia had visited the country five times: in December 2014, May 2015, April 2016, May 2017, and from 25 April to 4 May 2018.

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

None.

## CONTEXT

Somalia has suffered a human rights and protection crisis for the last 20 years. Major concerns include the protection of civilians in the context of the ongoing armed conflict; cyclical humanitarian emergencies; systematic impunity and lack of accountability; and the need to build national mechanisms and institutions capable of protecting human rights adequately. Other key issues include freedom of expression, the death penalty (particularly its imposition by military courts that fail international standards), arbitrary arrest and detention, and conflict-related sexual violence. As of 30 September, 43 cases of reported sexual violence cases were attributed to members of the Somalia National Army, regional security forces, clan militias and Al Shabaab (AS).

AS continues to control territory in central and southern parts of Somalia, committing serious human rights abuses both against the population under its control and through targeted assassinations, use of IEDs, and large-scale, complex attacks. During the first nine months of 2018, 1,010 civilian casualties were recorded, 55 % of which were attributed to AS and 22% to State actors. AS continues to recruit children and, according to the Country Task Force on Monitoring and Reporting, child recruitment has increased by 10% since 2017 with AS responsible for 82%.

Several communities, including the Bantu ethnic group and smaller and unarmed clans, continue to be marginalized and to occupy a low social, economic and political status. Some of these groups, due to their vulnerability, are disproportionately represented among those who have been internally displaced.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b>	
<p><b>M</b> Mechanisms</p>	<p><b>M1</b></p> <p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>Support is provided for one annual visit by the Independent Expert on Somalia. Somalia submits one UPR report and at least one periodic report to human rights mechanisms.</p>
	<b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b>
<p><b>PS</b> Peace and Security</p>	<p><b>PS1</b></p> <p>Parties to conflict and actors involved in peace operations increasingly comply with international human rights and humanitarian law and provide greater protection to civilians.</p> <p>10,000 members of the Somali National Army (SNA) are trained, including through Training of Trainers (TOTs). A new Human Rights Cell is established in the SNA; one of its responsibilities is to ensure that the SNA mainstreams human rights and IHL training.</p> <p>At least six laws and policies relating to security institutions, including laws and policies on counter-terrorism, are passed or revised; they improve compliance with human rights standards.</p>
	<p><b>PS6</b></p> <p>United Nations’ support to national and regional security forces, law enforcement agencies, and non-State actors integrates human rights and complies with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.</p> <p>Six risk assessments are conducted and at least 40% of mitigation measures are implemented.</p>
<b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b>	
<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p><b>A2</b></p> <p>Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.</p> <p>A functioning and independent National Human Rights Commission is established. It reports annually on the human rights situation. At least two functioning rule of law institutions with oversight and accountability powers are established.</p>

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

**P**  
Participation

ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE	
P5	<p>More systematic monitoring of the environment for civic space, including threats to it, takes place.</p> <p>Four thematic civil society networks are established or strengthened. Five civil society networks are able to monitor, report on and advocate for human rights effectively.</p>
P6	<p>The voice of people affected by decisions, particularly victims and those who face discrimination, is more clearly heard.</p> <p>Human rights violations and abuses against internally displaced persons (IDPs), minorities, persons with disabilities and other marginalized groups that suffer discrimination are monitored, documented and reported for purposes of advocacy and protection.</p>

‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE

- Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.
- Expand civic space.

SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’.

Women.

## SOUTH SUDAN

### Field presence

The Human Rights Division of the United Nations Mission in the Republic of South Sudan also represents the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in South Sudan.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

South Sudan has ratified or acceded to the CAT, CRC and CEDAW and their optional protocols. Currently, a report to the CRC is overdue. South Sudan was reviewed under the UPR in 2011 when it was part of the Republic of Sudan; it completed a UPR in 2016 as an independent state. The Human Rights Council established a Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan (CHRSS) in March 2016. (See the overview table on page 53.)

### Visits by special procedures in the last four years

SR on human rights of internally displaced persons (2013), WG on enforced disappearances (2016).

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

WG on discrimination against women, WG on mercenaries, and SR on minority issues.

## CONTEXT

Overall, the human rights situation and protection environment remain volatile. Information gathered by the United Nations Mission in South Sudan (UNMISS) suggests that fighting declined after the revitalized Agreement on the Resolution of the Conflict in South Sudan (R-ARCSS) was signed. There have been fewer attacks against civilians, although some pockets of localized armed conflict remain. The Human Rights Division (HRD) continues to document human rights violations and abuses by signatory parties especially in Western Bahr El Ghazal and Western Equatoria.

A feature of the conflict in South Sudan is the deliberate targeting of civilians. Civilians have been victims of indiscriminate killings, sexual violence including rape and gang rape, forced displacement, and looting and destruction of property. Government and opposition forces and their allies pose the main threats to civilians, and are the main perpetrators of these violations.

Lack of accountability for violations and abuses of human rights and international humanitarian law remains pervasive in South Sudan and continues to be a driver of conflict. The recent general amnesty of rebel leaders, announced by the Government on the margins of the peace negotiations, would ex-

acerbate impunity for gross human rights violations and abuses.

Weak rule of law institutions, the spread of small arms, and the resurgence of inter-communal conflict have created a tense and unpredictable security and human rights situation in the country, especially in Lakes and Jonglei.

The conflict has exacerbated an acute humanitarian crisis. Violence against civilians across South Sudan has led to the displacement of more than 4 million people (a quarter of South Sudan's population), just over half of whom are internally displaced and the remainder refugees in neighbouring countries.

Many infringements of the right to freedom of expression have been reported. Arbitrary arrests and detentions, and harassment of journalists, human rights defenders and political opponents occur with impunity, continuing to shrink democratic space.

The Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan, the UN Panel of Experts on South Sudan, and the Special Advisor on the prevention of genocide, have repeatedly expressed concern at the level of violence.

## OHCHR's expected contribution by 2021

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<p><b>M</b> Mechanisms</p>	<p><b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b></p> <p><b>M1</b></p> <p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>South Sudan implements UPR recommendations that it has accepted.</p> <p>South Sudan ratifies at least two human rights treaties or optional protocols without reservations.</p>
	<p><b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b></p>
<p><b>PS</b> Peace and Security</p>	<p><b>PS1</b></p> <p>Parties to conflict and actors involved in peace operations increasingly comply with international human rights and humanitarian law and provide greater protection to civilians.</p> <p>The Government and opposition parties adopt mechanisms and initiatives that increase protection of civilians in contexts of conflict, in compliance with human rights law and international humanitarian law.</p>
	<p><b>PS4</b></p> <p>Justice mechanisms, including for transitional justice, provide increased accountability for conflict-related violations.</p> <p>The Transitional Government of National Unity (TGoNU) identifies human rights violations and takes administrative and legal action to hold perpetrators accountable. It establishes transitional justice institutions that comply with international human rights norms, standards and good practice.</p>
	<p><b>PS5</b></p> <p>Human rights information and analyses are integrated in early warning and analysis systems and influence international and national policy-making, strategies and operations to prevent, mitigate or respond to emerging crises, including humanitarian crises and conflict.</p> <p>Human rights data contribute to early warning mechanisms, responses to them, and decision-making strategies and operations, to prevent, mitigate and respond to emerging crises in South Sudan.</p>
	<p><b>PS6</b></p> <p>United Nations' support to national and regional security forces, law enforcement agencies, and non-State actors integrates human rights and complies with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.</p> <p>UNMISS and UN agencies apply the standards set out in the human rights due diligence policy (HRDDP) when they provide support to national security forces, the Sudan People's Liberation Army (SPLA), the police, etc.</p>

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS	
<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p><b>A1</b></p> <p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p> <p>South Sudan authorities release individuals who are arbitrarily detained or held incommunicado; provide information on disappeared persons; and grant access to rule of law institutions, including detention facilities.</p> <p>The Government strengthens national human rights protection systems and the administration of justice.</p>
	<p><b>A3</b></p> <p>Justice systems investigate and prosecute gender-related crimes more effectively.</p> <p>Monitoring, investigation, verification and reporting of abuses and violations committed against women, including conflict-related sexual violence, are strengthened. Formal justice institutions increase their capacity to address cases of sexual violence. The proportion of sexual violence cases they address increases.</p>
ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE	
<p><b>P</b> Participation</p>	<p><b>P1</b></p> <p>Stronger laws, policies and practices protect the right to participate and civic space, including online, and the environment for civil society is increasingly safe and enabling.</p> <p>The security forces comply more with human rights norms, standards and principles. Citizens are more able to exercise their rights to freedom of expression, assembly and association.</p>
	<p><b>P2</b></p> <p>The UN system and international, regional and national mechanisms provide increased, timely and effective protection to civil society organizations and individuals (including from reprisals).</p> <p>Institutional, judicial and civil society mechanisms that protect human rights defenders are strengthened at all levels; they comply with international standards.</p>
	<p><b>P5</b></p> <p>More systematic monitoring of the environment for civic space, including threats to it, takes place.</p> <p>By 2021, the South Sudanese Human Rights Commission is accredited and complies with the Paris Principles.</p>

‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE

- Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.
- Expand civic space.
- Explore emerging human rights concerns (‘frontier issues’):
  - People on the move.

SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’.

Women.

## SUDAN

### Field presence

UNAMID human rights section. The African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID) was established by Security Council resolution 1769 (2007) to bring stability to Darfur region in Sudan. A strategic review of UNAMID, in April 2018, recommended that UNAMID should close by July 2020. The Security Council endorsed this recommendation in resolution 2429, adopted on 13 July 2018. The resolution asked the Mission to develop benchmarks for the closure process and requested a further review of the situation. It also called on the Government to engage with OHCHR to establish an OHCHR Office with a full human rights mandate after UNAMID's departure.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

Sudan is a State party to the ICCPR, ICESCR, CRC, CRDP and CERD. The country has yet to ratify CEDAW, CAT, CED, and CMW. Most regional human rights instruments have not been ratified. Sudan completed the second cycle of the UPR process in May 2016. (See the overview table on page 53.)

### Visits by special procedures in the last four years

On 18 June 2009, the HRC appointed for one year an Independent Expert to assist the Government in areas of technical assistance and capacity building, and thereby aid the country to fulfil its human rights obligations (A/HRC/RES/11/10). Since then, the HRC has renewed the mandate of the Independent Expert on a yearly basis. The current mandate of the Independent Expert on Sudan will expire in September 2019. In the last four years, the Independent Expert visited in May 2015, April 2016, February and May 2017, and April 2018. The SR on violence against women, its causes and consequences visited Sudan in May 2015.

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

WG on use of mercenaries, SR on slavery.

## CONTEXT

Fighting decreased in Darfur after the Government and opposition armed movements declared unilateral ceasefires in June 2016. However, inter-communal violence, violent attacks by pro-government militias, criminality, and displacement continue. Internally displaced persons (IDPs), especially women and children, continue to be targets of violations and random attacks as well as acts of criminality. The humanitarian situation remains extremely serious and in some areas is worsening significantly. An estimated 3.2 million IDPs and refugees currently require humanitarian assistance and protection.

The realization of economic, social and cultural rights in Darfur remains a major human rights concern. The scale of the region and its lack of infrastructure (roads, hospitals and schools) pose enormous challenges to the five state governments

that are responsible for local government. The armed conflict and widespread poverty undermine access to economic and social rights, including the rights to food, housing, health, water, sanitation and education. The entire population is affected but women face particular discrimination because of their social and legal status and traditional norms and customs.

The UNAMID Human Rights Section is mandated to promote respect for and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms in Darfur. A new UN development assistance framework (UNDAF) for 2018-2021 provides the planning framework for UN development collaboration in Sudan in the next four years. Protection and gender inclusion are among its crosscutting issues.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<p><b>M</b> Mechanisms</p>	<p><b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b></p> <p><b>M1</b></p> <p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>Sudan ratifies more international and regional human rights instruments.</p> <p>Sudan engages more deeply and more often with international and regional human rights mechanisms relevant to Darfur.</p> <p>The UN Country Team engages more with international and regional human rights mechanisms relevant to Darfur.</p>
	<p><b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS</b></p> <p><b>D7</b></p> <p>States integrate human rights, including the right to development and human rights mechanisms’ outcomes, as they implement the Sustainable Development Goals and other development and poverty eradication efforts; and the UN supports them in these purposes, integrating human rights in its own development work.</p> <p>Human rights considerations are integrated in the post 2015 Development Agenda and actions to implement it.</p> <p>Civil society organizations contribute meaningfully to preparation of budgets and monitor local programmes and public expenditure. They focus especially on women, youth, IDPs and persons with disabilities</p>
<p><b>PS</b> Peace and Security</p>	<p><b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b></p> <p><b>PS1</b></p> <p>Parties to conflict and actors involved in peace operations increasingly comply with international human rights and humanitarian law and provide greater protection to civilians.</p> <p>Frameworks, policies, mechanisms and initiatives are in place to prevent and respond to human rights violations that States and non-State actors commit in the context of conflict, violence and insecurity.</p>
	<p><b>PS3</b></p> <p>Strategies to prevent and respond to conflict consistently integrate human rights protection.</p> <p>The UN Country Team integrates human rights considerations in its policies and programmes for humanitarian action, early recovery, and security in Darfur.</p>

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p>A1</p>	<p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p> <p>Courts and traditional justice mechanisms significantly increase their compliance with international human rights norms and standards.</p> <p>National and local police and prisons significantly improve their compliance with international human rights standards with respect to arrest, investigation and detention.</p> <p>Transitional justice and other mechanisms of redress are fully operational and comply with international human rights norms and standards.</p>
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ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE

<p><b>P</b> Participation</p>	<p>P6</p>	<p>The voice of people affected by decisions, particularly victims and those who face discrimination, is more clearly heard.</p> <p>An enabling environment has been established that is conducive to dialogue and respect for human rights. It includes the implementation of peace agreements.</p>
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‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE

- Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.
- Expand civic space.
- Explore emerging human rights concerns (‘frontier issues’):
  - Inequalities.
  - People on the move.

SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’.

Women.

## UGANDA

### Field presence

An OHCHR Office since 2005. The original mandate covered Northern Uganda and became country-wide in 2009.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

Uganda is a party to all relevant regional human rights treaties and their optional protocols and to eight of the core international human rights treaties. It has not met all its regional and international reporting obligations. (See the overview table on page 53.)

### Visits by special procedures in the last four years

In the last decade, Uganda has neither invited United Nations or African Union bodies or special procedure mandate holders to visit the country or accepted their requests to visit.

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

Independent Experts on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons, and on persons with albinism; SRs in the field of cultural rights, on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, on minority issues, on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression, on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, and on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment; and the WGs on arbitrary detention, and on the issue of discrimination against women in law and in practice.

## CONTEXT

Since OHCHR first established a presence in Uganda in 2005, the Office has contributed to significant progress towards a legal and institutional framework to advance respect for human rights and advance state compliance with international human rights obligations. National human rights institutions are in place and have been further strengthened, such as the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC), the Equal Opportunities Commission and the National Council for Disability. The UHRC has developed into a stronger institution with a nationwide footprint and clear methods of work. Human rights focal points and human rights desks have been created in ministries and law enforcement agencies. An Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Rights, with civil society participation, has been established and is responsible for Uganda's human rights reporting obligations. A database containing all recommendations from international, regional and national human rights mechanisms was developed by the UHRC with OHCHR support, and will assist Government entities in following-up on

the recommendations in a timely manner. A National Human Rights Action Plan, developed through a participatory process, is currently awaiting approval by the cabinet. The Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights has developed a human rights checklist for the assessment of human rights compliance of bills and policies and programmes handled by Parliament.

OHCHR supported the application of a human rights-based approach in the preparation of the second National Development Plan (2016-2020) and together with the National Planning Authority and the UHRC is sensitising relevant authorities, including at local level, on a human rights based approach to planning and budgeting. OHCHR trained judicial officers in economic social and cultural rights (ESCR) adjudication. Several positive outcomes have resulted, including an October 2015 judgment by the Supreme Court that paved the way for courts in Uganda to adjudicate on alleged violations of ESCR. OHCHR has worked

closely with CSOs across Uganda to improve their monitoring and documentation techniques, and supported work to enhance the protection of Human Rights Defenders (HRDs), including Women HRDs. It has helped CSOs develop a database for registration of human rights cases.

Despite these gains, challenges remain. While Uganda has made progress in domesticating international human rights standards, their enforcement is imperfect. Similarly, Uganda's consolidation of democracy remains fragile, especially after the 2016 general elections. Space for free political participation and to exercise public freedoms has been squeezed in a manner that disproportionately affects human rights defenders and members of the political opposition. Several laws have constrained the rights to freedom of expression and assembly. The interpretation and application of the NGO Act of 2016 unduly restricts human rights organisations, in particular those working on issues considered sensitive. The Public Order Management Act of 2013 negatively affects enjoyment of the right to freedom of assembly.

While the Justice, Law and Order Sector (JLOS) report of 2017/2018 acknowledge higher levels of satisfaction among rights-holders, the sector still grapples with a court backlog, overcrowding in pri-

sons, limited human resources, and low pay. These factors together prevent effective access to justice. Cases of torture and other forms of ill-treatment, and extrajudicial killings, continue to be reported; in most instances those responsible enjoy impunity. There are concerns regarding law enforcement operations in the context of fighting terrorism.

Discrimination persists despite an elaborate legal framework on equality and non-discrimination, including the Constitution, the Domestic Violence Act of 2010, the Prohibition of Female Genital Mutilation Act of 2010, and the Persons with Disabilities Act of 2006. Sexual and gender-based violence remain at a very high level; 51% of women have experienced spousal violence and 22% sexual violence during their life-time, according to the 2016 Uganda Demographic Health Survey. Persons with disabilities, persons living with albinism, minorities and indigenous peoples continue to face discrimination and difficulties in accessing education, health services and employment. Uganda has made efforts to apply a human rights-based approach to the Sustainable Development Goals, but implementation remains a challenge, including with regard to commitments under the Abuja Declaration to allocate 15% of the overall national budget to health sector financing. This also has implications for Uganda's efforts to reduce maternal mortality rates.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

### THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS	
<p><b>M</b> Mechanisms</p>	<p><b>M1</b></p> <p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>The Government has approved a national human rights action plan and has access to sufficient data to enable it to report appropriately to human rights mechanisms, including by making effective use of the database on national, regional and international human rights recommendations.</p>
	<p><b>M2</b></p> <p>Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues (frontier issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.</p> <p>The Government, the Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) and civil society organizations engage more often and more substantively with international human rights mechanisms.</p>
	<p><b>M3</b></p> <p>Policy-makers, legislators and courts make increased use of the outcomes of the international and regional human rights mechanisms.</p> <p>National officials, in particular policy makers, legislators and courts, are more aware of international human rights mechanisms’ outcomes and seek to implement them at national level.</p>

ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS	
<p><b>D</b> Development</p>	<p><b>D2</b></p> <p>Business actors implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights effectively.</p> <p>The Government has approved a dedicated National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights; national programmes and mechanisms are increasingly compliant with international human rights norms and standards on business and human rights, including the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.</p>
	<p><b>D4</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>Government offices increasingly apply a human rights-based approach to maternal health when they formulate and implement policies and programmes.</p>
	<p><b>D7</b></p> <p>States integrate human rights, including the right to development and human rights mechanisms’ outcomes, as they implement the Sustainable Development Goals and other development and poverty eradication efforts; and the UN supports them in these purposes, integrating human rights in its own development work.</p> <p>UNDAF and UN agency programmes and funds increasingly comply with international human rights norms, standards and principles.</p>
	<p><b>D8</b></p> <p>National institutions, assisted by communities, systematically collect, disaggregate and use data relevant for advancing human rights when they monitor and implement the SDGs.</p> <p>The State’s statistical frameworks, including the national standards indicator framework (NSI) and the results and resources framework (RRF), increasingly comply with international human rights norms, standards and principles with respect to data for national development.</p>

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

<b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b>	
<p><b>PS</b> Peace and Security</p>	<p><b>PS6</b></p> <p>United Nations’ support to national and regional security forces, law enforcement agencies, and non-State actors integrates human rights and complies with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.</p> <p>At least one joint programme that relates specifically to the People’s Defence Forces of Uganda is developed to increase compliance with human rights standards in their operations; it addresses non-coercive interview techniques, crowd control operations, and the UPDF’s efforts to advance understanding and respect for women’s human rights and gender equality, including when the UPDF acts as peacekeeper.</p>
<b>ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION</b>	
<p><b>ND</b> Non-Discrimination</p>	<p><b>ND1</b></p> <p>Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to ‘leave no one behind’, including by addressing the root causes of inequality.</p> <p>National laws, policies and practices increasingly comply with international human rights norms and standards on equality and non-discrimination, in particular with regard to persons with disabilities, minorities and women’s rights.</p>
	<p><b>ND6</b></p> <p>Justice systems and related institutions increasingly monitor and investigate discrimination and provide redress to victims.</p> <p>National justice institutions monitor, investigate or provide redress in more discrimination cases.</p>
<b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b>	
<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p><b>A1</b></p> <p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p> <p>State and non-state actors enhance their capacity to institute legal and policy reforms and implement and enforce existing laws. They improve the investigation and adjudication of cases that entail human rights violations, including within their own ranks.</p>
	<p><b>A2</b></p> <p>Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.</p> <p>National justice and human rights mechanisms, including the Uganda Human Rights Commission and the judiciary, provide redress and accountability to victims in more cases.</p>

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

**P**  
Participation

ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE	
P2	<p>The UN system and international, regional and national mechanisms provide increased, timely and effective protection to civil society organizations and individuals (including from reprisals).</p> <p>The Uganda Human Rights Commission (UHRC) continues to implement its mandate in compliance with the Paris Principles.</p>
P4	<p>Civil society assistance to victims of human rights violations is strengthened.</p> <p>Civil society monitors more systematically and is in a position to raise human rights concerns. Women human rights defenders are able to raise concerns affecting them, and enhance their ability to seek redress for threats and attacks against them.</p>
P5	<p>More systematic monitoring of the environment for civic space, including threats to it, takes place.</p> <p>National human rights institutions, in particular the Uganda Human Rights Commission, increasingly monitor and raise concerns about restrictions of civic space.</p>

‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE

- Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.
- Expand civic space.
- Explore emerging human rights concerns (‘frontier issues’):
  - Inequalities.
  - People on the move.

SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’.

Women, young people.

## REGIONAL OFFICE FOR SOUTHERN AFRICA (PRETORIA)

### Field presence

The Regional Office for Southern Africa (ROSA) is based in Pretoria and was established in 1998. A Senior Human Rights Adviser was deployed to the UNCT in Malawi in June 2014 and, at the time of writing this document, was expected to remain there until mid-2019. (Accordingly, this note records results to be achieved by the human rights advisor in the UNCT in Malawi.)

### Countries of engagement

Angola, Botswana, Comoros, Eswatini, Lesotho, Malawi (a senior human rights advisor in 2018-19), Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, and Zambia (complementing OHCHR country presences in Madagascar and Zimbabwe). ROSA conducts sub-regional activities for all countries in the sub-region.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

Many countries in the sub-region have ratified the core human rights treaties and possess laws and constitutions that comply with regional and international human rights standards. All countries have ratified the CRC and CEDAW; all but Angola have ratified CERD; all but the Comoros have ratified the ICCPR; and all but Angola and Zimbabwe have ratified CAT. The main challenges are domestication, implementation and reporting, although some countries have made positive strides in addressing their reporting backlog. Eswatini, Lesotho and Zimbabwe have not hosted any visits by special procedure mandate-holders. Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Seychelles, South Africa and Zambia have issued standing invitations. (See the overview table on page 53.)

## CONTEXT

The sub-region includes several middle-income countries that are battling with poverty, unemployment and inequality. The sub-region is also vulnerable to environmental hazards and recently suffered the most severe drought in 35 years. Over 41 million people required food assistance as a result. At the same time, it has an abundance of natural resources: their exploitation without abuse requires the engagement of both governments and private actors.

The region is paving the way in terms of the justiciability of economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR). At the same time, land rights, business and human rights, inequality, poverty, HIV infection rates, and ESCR rights generally, remain persistent concerns. Sexual and gender-based violence, domestic violence, trafficking of women and children, and homophobia and transphobia also persist. Waves of xenophobic violence and hate crimes have periodically targeted migrants from neighbouring

countries; those responsible are often not held to account. Human rights defenders and political critics have been subject to reprisals, arbitrary arrest and detention, as well as torture and ill treatment by security forces. Political repression before, during and after elections in some countries has contrasted with relatively free and democratic elections in others.

In recent years, human rights groups have been very critical of widening inequality between the rich and poor. SADC member States were also criticised for curtailing political space in their societies and suppressing independent and critical opinions. This trend was strengthened by the demise of the SADC Tribunal after SADC member States decided in 2012 that only States would have access to the tribunal to resolve intergovernmental disputes over the terms of the SADC treaty. Withdrawal from the ICC also remains an issue in the region due to its central role in international criminal justice.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b>	
<b>M</b> Mechanisms	<b>M1</b> <p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>Three countries strengthen or legally establish national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up (NMRFs).</p>
	<b>M2</b> <p>Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues (frontier issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.</p> <p>More NGOs and national human rights institutions (NHRIs) engage with the UN human rights mechanisms.</p>
<b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS</b>	
<b>D</b> Development	<b>D7</b> <p>States integrate human rights, including the right to development and human rights mechanisms’ outcomes, as they implement the Sustainable Development Goals and other development and poverty eradication efforts; and the UN supports them in these purposes, integrating human rights in its own development work.</p> <p>All UNDAF roll-out countries adopt a human rights-based approach to programming; all link the SDGs to human rights standards.</p>
<b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b>	
<b>PS</b> Peace and Security	<b>PS5</b> <p>Human rights information and analyses are integrated in early warning and analysis systems and influence international and national policy-making, strategies and operations to prevent, mitigate or respond to emerging crises, including humanitarian crises and conflict.</p> <p>In at least four countries, UN Country Teams integrate human rights in their early warning, prevention, preparedness and response plans.</p>

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

<p><b>ND</b> Non-Discrimination</p>	<p><b>ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION</b></p> <p><b>ND1</b> ▶ Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to ‘leave no one behind’, including by addressing the root causes of inequality.</p> <p>At least three countries adopt legal and policy measures, aligned with human rights, that prevent discrimination against women, migrants, persons with albinism, and persons with disability.</p>
<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p><b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b></p> <p><b>A2</b> ▶ Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.</p> <p>National human rights institutions (NHRIs) and other national protection systems are established that comply with international human rights standards.</p> <p>Mozambique and Zimbabwe establish transitional justice mechanisms that comply with international human rights standards.</p>
<p><b>P</b> Participation</p>	<p><b>ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE</b></p> <p><b>P6</b> ▶ The voice of people affected by decisions, particularly victims and those who face discrimination, is more clearly heard.</p> <p>Civil society organizations are able to participate in public affairs and advocate for democratic space.</p>

**‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE**

- Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.
- Expand civic space.
- Broaden the global constituency for human rights.
- Explore emerging human rights concerns (‘frontier issues’):
  - Corruption
  - People on the move.

**SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’**

Women, young people.

## MADAGASCAR

### Field presence

Since 2011, OHCHR has deployed a Human Rights Adviser (HRA) in the Resident Coordinator's Office in Antananarivo.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

Madagascar has ratified the main human rights treaties and issued a standing invitation to special procedures. It completed the second cycle of the UPR in 2014. (See the overview table on page 53.)

### Visits by special procedures in the last four years

SR on the right to food (2011), SR on slavery (2012), SR on sale of children (2013), SR on the environment (2016), as well as an academic visit by the SR on the situation of human rights defenders (2017).

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

SR on racism.

## CONTEXT

Madagascar is emerging from a protracted political crisis, one of a succession (1972, 1991, 2002 and 2009). Tension had been mounting in Madagascar over proposed electoral reforms that triggered mass protests at the end of April 2018. Members of opposition political parties took to the streets over President Hery Rajaonarimampianina's attempts to change electoral laws in a manner that opponents said favoured his political party. The proposals were overturned in Court. On 11 June 2018, President Rajaonarimampianina appointed a new government following joint mediation efforts by the African Union and the United Nations, and a Malagasy Court ruling that called for a 'consensus' administration to calm political tensions. Madagascar's new Prime Minister, Christian Ntsay, took office in June 2018, vowing to push ahead with an "inclusive presidential election" that would take the country out of its deep crisis. Presidential elections were held in Madagascar on 7 November and 19 December 2018 and Andry Rajoelina was elected with 56% of the vote.

Madagascar continues to have numerous human rights concerns. They include corruption, harsh prison conditions, prolonged pre-trial detention, social discrimination, violence against women and persons with disabilities, trafficking of women and children, child labour, and child prostitution. The rights to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, as well as freedom of the press have been curtailed, which is a major concern in relation to the elections especially. Many incidents of mob justice have occurred in the country. Increased criminality, especially in urban areas, is largely attributable to the fragile socio-economic situation. Neither the security forces nor the justice system have retained public trust. In the southern region, the security forces have used force to suppress dahalo (cattle rustlers), alleged to have ties with organized crime, resulting in casualties on both sides and among the civilian population. Civil society actors and human rights defenders working to promote economic, social and cultural rights are particularly at risk.

Mining exploration and exploitation and land-grabbing are major issues. In most cases, local communities and affected populations are not consulted in advance, while journalists, civil society actors and human rights defenders cannot obtain information, and neither the Government nor any other stakeholder (including the UN) has established specific protection mechanisms. The deterioration of social, economic and cultural rights arouses strong feelings of injustice and widespread discontent. It is critical to create a business environment that upholds human rights principles and standards, notably in

the extractive sector, and enforce national anti-discrimination legislation. Women, girls and persons living with disabilities are particularly exposed to discrimination.

Madagascar established an independent National Human Rights Commission in 2016. It is currently the main human rights protection organ in Madagascar. Though it has ratified the second protocol relating to the Covenant against torture, Madagascar has not yet taken steps to establish a national preventive mechanism.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<p><b>M</b> Mechanisms</p>	<p><b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b></p> <p><b>M1</b> National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>The government committee in charge of drafting state reports to the human rights mechanisms is effective. It has established a monitoring mechanism.</p>
	<p><b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS</b></p> <p><b>D3</b> State authorities adopt and implement laws, policies and strategies on land and housing that increasingly comply with human rights.</p> <p>National legislation and development policies comply more fully with international human rights norms and principles, notably in regard to land and housing.</p>
<p><b>PS</b> Peace and Security</p>	<p><b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b></p> <p><b>PS4</b> Justice mechanisms, including for transitional justice, provide increased accountability for conflict-related violations.</p> <p>Madagascar’s post-crisis reconstruction includes a genuine reconciliation process that complies with international transitional justice principles.</p>

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p>A1</p>	<p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p> <p>The Independent National Human Rights Commission is fully operational by 2020.</p> <p>Law enforcement officials comply more fully with international human rights norms and standards when they fulfil their functions. An effective accountability mechanism has been established.</p>
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ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE

<p><b>P</b> Participation</p>	<p>P2</p>	<p>The UN system and international, regional and national mechanisms provide increased, timely and effective protection to civil society organizations and individuals (including from reprisals).</p> <p>National and international mechanisms are established that protect civil society and human rights defenders. They are sustainable and supported by the UN.</p>
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‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE

- Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.
- Expand civic space.
- Explore emerging human rights concerns (‘frontier issues’):
  - Corruption

SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’

Women, persons with disabilities.

## REGIONAL OFFICE FOR WEST AFRICA (DAKAR)

### Field presence

OHCHR's West Africa Regional Office (WARO) has been based in Dakar, Senegal, since 2008.

### Countries of engagement

Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, The Gambia, Ghana, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo (complementing OHCHR country presences in Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger and Nigeria). WARO conducts sub-regional activities for all countries in the sub-region.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

WARO supported Governments in the region to better engage with international human rights mechanisms, including international treaties, UPR, and special procedures. Human rights perspectives and issues have been channelled through partnership with UN agencies and funds. WARO is also a fully-fledged member of the UNCTs in the countries of engagement and has consistently helped to mainstream human rights in UN programmes. (See the overview table on page 53.)

## CONTEXT

The 15 States in the sub-region have moved towards greater stability, security, and peace, following successful democratic elections in Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Ghana, The Gambia, Ivory Coast, Mali, and Senegal, and democratic transitions from dictatorial regimes in Burkina Faso and The Gambia.

At the same time, the growing presence and activity of terrorist groups in the Sahel, mainly in Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Niger, and Nigeria, pose a serious threat to security, while environmental degradation, drought, and man-made crises expose the weaknesses of State institutions and challenge the capacity of the international community to anticipate and prevent the breakdown of peace and security. The security crisis has made the Sahel an epicentre of all types of trafficking, transnational crime, violent extremism, and unregulated migration.

In addition, new threats to the rule of law and democracy are emerging in Côte d'Ivoire, Togo, and Guinea, as political actors struggle to reconcile (Côte d'Ivoire) or reach consensus on constitutional change, leading to violent demonstrations (Guinea and Togo).

Economically, the region has some of the fastest growing economies of Africa and has become a strategic political and business centre. It has an average population growth rate of 3% and economic

growth of more than 5%. Driven mainly by mining and petroleum resources, growth has a low impact on the standard of living of the population. The average human development index is 0.4; multidimensional poverty affects 47.6% of people in the region.

West African countries have generally continued to find it difficult to meet economic and social needs, provide transitional justice, and address impunity, inequality, and environmental degradation. In law and policy, gender equality has improved. In February 2017, ECOWAS ministers adopted four key documents to advance gender mainstreaming and promote the inclusion of women in political, peace, and security processes. However, discrimination against women and gender-based violence are widespread. The situation of children remains a concern, especially in early marriage, exploitation including forced begging and child labour, and traditional practices that affect child health.

LGBTI persons suffer discrimination across the West African region. Homosexuality is still a criminal offence in many countries. People with disabilities continue to experience discrimination and stigmatization. Disability and LGBTI rights need to be mainstreamed into policies and programmes.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b>	
<b>M</b> Mechanisms	<b>M1</b> <p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>In four countries, the national mechanism for reporting and follow-up (NMRF) is established or strengthened; NMRFs set out a plan for implementing recommendations.</p> <p>Three countries submit overdue reports to the Treaty Bodies.</p> <p>Two countries ratify outstanding treaties on individual communications and OP-CAT.</p>
	<b>M2</b> <p>Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues (frontier issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes</p> <p>In four countries, the number of submissions from national human rights institutions and civil society organizations has substantially increased. In one country, new actors are engaging with the international human rights mechanisms.</p>
<b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS</b>	
<b>D</b> Development	<b>D2</b> <p>Business actors implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights effectively</p> <p>In two countries, international and national laws provisions on business and human rights are integrated in State and non-State programmes, including business actors’ programmes. In one country the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and ECOWAS Community Guideline has been integrated in the policies, programmes, and strategies of the Government and businesses in ECOWAS’ extractive sector.</p>
	<b>D4</b> <p>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.</p> <p>Laws and policies protect sexual health and reproductive rights and comply with international human rights standards.</p>
	<b>D7</b> <p>States integrate human rights, including the right to development and human rights mechanisms’ outcomes, as they implement the Sustainable Development Goals and other development and poverty eradication efforts; and the UN supports them in these purposes, integrating human rights in its own development work.</p> <p>By 2021, all UN development assistance frameworks (UNDAFs) in the sub-region have fully integrated relevant recommendations of the UN human rights mechanisms.</p>

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY	
<b>PS</b> Peace and Security	<b>PS2</b> <p>Efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism comply with international law.</p> <p>The practical guidance, risk analysis and early warning provided on terrorism by the UN system incorporates human rights standards and principles.</p>
	<b>PS3</b> <p>Strategies to prevent and respond to conflict consistently integrate human rights protection, norms and policies.</p> <p>National policies and programmes comply with international human rights standards and principles, and integrate the recommendations of international human rights mechanisms.</p>
	ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION
<b>ND</b> Non-Discrimination	<b>ND1</b> <p>Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to ‘leave no one behind’, including by addressing the root causes of inequality.</p> <p>In one country, the number of selected policy areas that comply with international human rights norms and standards has significantly improved.</p> <p>In the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), national laws, policies and programmes increasingly protect children from abuse and exploitation.</p>
	<b>ND3</b> <p>Legal and social frameworks increasingly promote women’s and girls’ autonomy and choice and protect them from violence, including in the digital space.</p> <p>The general public, especially human right defenders and civil society organizations, as well as the media, increasingly participate in public affairs and claim their rights freely without being threatened</p>
	<b>ND6</b> <p>The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected.</p> <p>Legal frameworks and protection mechanisms protect and promote the human rights of migrants in their countries of origin and in transit.</p>

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

<b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b>		
<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p>A1</p>	<p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems, including in the context of widespread criminality and insecurity.</p> <p>In one country, the Criminal Code and Criminal Procedure code are reviewed in accordance with international standards.</p> <p>In three countries, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) operate effectively, or have been strengthened, in accordance with the Paris Principles.</p>
	<p>A2</p>	<p>Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.</p> <p>In two countries, accountability or protection mechanisms in conformity with the international human rights standards are in place and functioning.</p> <p>In three countries, transitional justice mechanisms are in place and functioning in line with international human rights norms and standards.</p> <p>An increased number of international treaties and optional protocols are ratified by countries in the region, namely OP-II ICCPR and OP-ICESCR by Burkina Faso, and OP-CAT and CMW by Côte d'Ivoire.</p>
	<p>A3</p>	<p>Justice systems investigate and prosecute gender-related crimes more effectively.</p> <p>States in the region ensure that women, persons with disabilities and LGBTI persons have effective access to justice and that perpetrators of violence are duly prosecuted by a competent criminal court.</p>
<b>ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE</b>		
<p><b>P</b> Participation</p>	<p>P1</p>	<p>Stronger laws, policies and practices protect the right to participate and civic space, including online, and the environment for civil society is increasingly safe and enabling.</p> <p>Women participate more in representative assemblies. In one country, the number of selected policy areas that comply with international human rights norms and standards has increased.</p>

**'SHIFTS' ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE**

- Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.
- Expand civic space.
- Explore emerging human rights concerns ('frontier issues'):
  - Climate change.
  - People on the move.

**SHINING A 'SPOTLIGHT'**

Women.

## GUINEA

### Field presence

OHCHR's office in Conakry was established in 2010 and covers Low and Middle Guinea. The sub office in Nzérékoré covers Upper and Forest Guinea.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

Guinea is party to several human rights instruments, including the ICCPR, CAT, and CRC. It has not ratified the additional protocols to the CAT and ICESCR. Guinea was reviewed in 2016 and 2017 by the Human Rights Committee, CAT and CRC. It has completed two UPR reviews. (See the overview table on page 53.)

### Visits by special procedures in the last four years

None.

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

SR on extra-judicial, arbitrary and summary executions, SR on promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence.

## CONTEXT

Despite some progress, Guinea still struggles to strengthen the rule of law and democracy, ensure security and peace (in particular inter-communal harmony), prevent impunity, guarantee social and economic rights, and restore trust between the authorities and the people.

Violence and grave human rights violations have frequently occurred during elections and public demonstrations. Negotiations between the main political actors led to a political agreement in October 2016 under which long-delayed local elections were to be held, authors of political demonstrations and violence prosecuted, and compensation provided to victims. Local elections were held in February 2018, legislative elections are likely to be held during the first half of 2019 while the term of the Head of State expires in 2020. Conduct of the elections will be an important marker of the country's stability and democratic maturity.

Violations of human rights continue, and include excessive use of force, violation of the right to life, torture, ill-treatment, arbitrary arrests and illegal detentions. Emblematic human rights cases (notably the mass rape and massacre of over 150 persons in a stadium in Conakry in 2009) have yet to reach the Court; indicted officers remain in place. Gender-based violence, female genital mutilation (FGM) and early marriages are also major concerns. In 2016, 96.8 % of girls and women between 15 and 49 had undergone FGM, while in rural areas 61,1 % of girls were married at an early age.

Reform of the justice and security sectors, guided by human rights principles, is critical for the future. It will also be important to promote the participation of women, youth and other vulnerable groups in public life.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<p><b>M</b> Mechanisms</p>	<p><b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b></p> <p><b>M1</b> ▶ National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>An inter-ministerial committee that is mandated to prepare State reports to Treaty Bodies and the UPR is fully operational by 2021.</p>
	<p><b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b></p> <p><b>PS1</b> ▶ Parties to conflict and actors involved in peace operations increasingly comply with international human rights and humanitarian law and provide greater protection to civilians.</p> <p>National authorities are regularly informed about human rights violations and take appropriate measures to investigate and prosecute them.</p> <p><b>PS5</b> ▶ Human rights information and analyses are integrated in early warning and analysis systems and influence international and national policy-making, strategies and operations to prevent, mitigate or respond to emerging crises, including humanitarian crises and conflict.</p> <p>Human rights are integrated in the UN contingency plan, and in UN protection clusters, particularly in Forest region.</p> <p><b>PS6</b> ▶ United Nations’ support to national and regional security forces, law enforcement agencies, and non-State actors integrates human rights and complies with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.</p> <p>The national plan for the security sector has been implemented by 2020.</p>
<p><b>PS</b> Peace and Security</p>	

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

<b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b>		
<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p>A1</p>	<p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p> <p>The justice sector is reformed. National courts increasingly reference human rights principles and standards in their proceedings and decisions. They investigate and prosecute alleged perpetrators of serious crimes.</p>
	<p>A2</p>	<p>Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.</p> <p>By 2021, the Government has implemented the recommendation of the national consultation. In particular, a truth and reconciliation commission has been established.</p>
<b>ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE</b>		
<p><b>P</b> Participation</p>	<p>P1</p>	<p>Stronger laws, policies and practices protect the right to participate and civic space, including online, and the environment for civil society is increasingly safe and enabling.</p> <p>A law that protects human rights defenders has been adopted.</p>
	<p>P2</p>	<p>The UN system and international, regional and national mechanisms provide increased, timely and effective protection to civil society organizations and individuals (including from reprisals).</p> <p>By 2021, a protection mechanism for victims and witnesses has been established.</p>
	<p>P5</p>	<p>More systematic monitoring of the environment for civic space, including threats to it, takes place.</p> <p>By 2019, the law establishing an independent national human rights institution (NHRI) has been amended and a new NHRI has been established. It complies with international standards, including the Paris Principles.</p>
	<p>P6</p>	<p>The voice of people affected by decisions, particularly victims and those who face discrimination, is more clearly heard.</p> <p>By 2021 the participation in public life of discriminated groups, including women, youth, and people living with albinism, has increased. These groups are able to claim their rights.</p>

**‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE**

- Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.
- Expand civic space.
- Broaden the global constituency for human rights.
- Explore emerging human rights concerns (‘frontier issues’):
  - Inequalities.

**SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’**

Women, young people, persons with disabilities.

## GUINEA BISSAU

### Field presence

The United Nations Integrated Peacebuilding Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNIOGBIS) was established by Security Council Resolution 1876 in 2009 for an initial period of one year; its remit has been extended by the Security Council annually. Security Council resolution 2404 renewed the mission's mandate to 28 February 2019.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

Guinea Bissau completed UPR reviews in 2010 and 2015. It issued a standing invitation to the special procedures in 2011. CEDAW reviewed Guinea Bissau in 2009 and CRC in 2013. Despite a number of overdue reports, collaboration with the Treaty Bodies is expected to improve, with assistance from the National Human Rights Commission of the Ministry of Justice. (See the overview table on page 53.)

### Visits by special procedures in the last four years

The SR on extreme poverty visited in 2013, and the SR on the independence of judges and lawyers visited in 2015.

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

No requests to visit are pending.

## CONTEXT

After the presidential and legislative elections of April-May 2014, which marked the return to constitutional order at the end of a two-year transitional period, Guinea-Bissau experienced a brief period of stability following the swearing in of President Jose Mario Vaz and the appointment of Domingos Simões Pereira as Prime Minister. In August 2015, however, the country was plunged into a protracted political crisis and institutional paralysis when the President dismissed the Prime Minister on the basis of significant disagreements. Due to political instability, financial pledges made at the Donor's Round Table in 2015 have remained largely unrealized. Socially and economically, the situation has continued to deteriorate and the State and its institutions remain fragile.

Following almost three years of political deadlock, a major breakthrough occurred in April 2018 with the appointment of a Prime Minister of Consensus, for the first time, since adoption of the Conakry agreement in 2016. On 17 April, after an ECOWAS Extraordinary Summit in Togo on 14 April, the Secretary-General of ECOWAS praised the appointment and the Government reaffirmed its commitment to work closely with the African Union, ECOWAS, the EU and the CPLP to support peacebuilding and consolidation efforts in Guinea-Bissau. On 19 April, the National Assembly held an extraordinary session

to extend the mandate of the current legislature, to ensure that parliamentary business would be conducted until the election, currently expected in 2019.

Progress towards implementation of the Conakry agreement and towards political stability was assessed by ECOWAS at its most recent Summit. On 31 July ECOWAS decided to lift sanctions against the 19 individuals who in February 2018 were considered to be obstructing implementation of the Conakry agreement.

Socio-politically, tensions in the country have been rising. 2017 was a year of relatively solid economic growth; expectations for growth in 2018 remained positive, though the crop and prices of cashew nuts was lower, which pull down overall economic performance. Socially, civil servants went on strike in September 2018 in support of a salary readjustment and payment of salary arrears from 2003, the enforcement of teachers' career status, and protection of the pension fund for public servants. Strikes particularly affected education, health, transport and prison administration. Politically, the atmosphere is changeable: a new date has yet to be set for parliamentary elections, and many political party, including the second largest (the PRS), have been criticizing the organization of voter registration.

## OHCHR's expected contribution by 2021

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b>	
<b>M</b> Mechanisms	<b>M1</b> <p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>Reports are submitted promptly to human rights mechanisms including Treaty Bodies; overdue reports have been submitted.</p>
	<b>M2</b> <p>Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions and non-traditional actors, increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and processes and use their recommendations to address emerging human rights issues (frontier issues).</p> <p>Civil society provides information to the Treaty Bodies, special procedures and UPR.</p>
<b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b>	
<b>PS</b> Peace and Security	<b>PS6</b> <p>United Nations' support to national and regional security forces and law enforcement agencies and to non-state actors integrates human rights and complies with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy</p> <p>Risk assessment mitigation measures and standard operating procedures are applied when implementing the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP) and the guidance note of the United Nations Partnership Framework (UNPAF) Working Group on Human Rights.</p>
<b>ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION</b>	
<b>ND</b> Non-Discrimination	<b>ND3</b> <p>Legal and social frameworks increasingly promote women's and girls' autonomy and choice and protect them from violence in all spheres, including in the digital space.</p> <p>Laws are passed that ensure women's equality; they include a quota system for women's political participation and representation, and prohibit early and forced marriage. Laws are passed that guarantee land rights and prohibit forced begging.</p>
<b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b>	
<b>A</b> Accountability	<b>A1</b> <p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems, including in the context of widespread criminality and insecurity.</p> <p>A national human rights institution is established that complies with the Paris Principles.</p> <p>Human Rights training and education is institutionalized in the justice, health, education, and defence and security sectors.</p> <p>The Government adopts a national policy on human rights, a strategic plan to combat impunity, and a law that protects victims and witnesses.</p>

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

**P**  
Participation

ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE	
P5	<p>Monitoring of enabling environment and threats to civic space is more systematic.</p> <p>OHCHR’s case database is fully functional; national authorities address all cases that OHCHR brings to their attention.</p> <p>A protection mechanism for human rights defenders is in place.</p>
P6	<p>The voice of people affected by decisions, particularly victims and those who face discrimination, is more clearly heard.</p> <p>Rights-holders participate appropriately in reconciliation initiatives and institutional and policy reform processes.</p>

‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE
Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.
Expand civic space.
Broaden the global constituency for human rights.
Explore emerging human rights concerns (‘frontier issues’):
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Corruption.</li> <li>• Inequalities.</li> </ul>

SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’
Women.

## LIBERIA

### Field presence

After the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) was established in 2003, OHCHR worked through the Human Rights and Protection Service (HRPS). OHCHR opened a Country Office in April 2018 following UNMIL's withdrawal.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

Liberia has ratified or acceded to the core international human rights treaties and optional protocols. Nevertheless, its compliance with regional and international human rights norms, standards and treaty obligations, including its reporting obligations, is weak. Liberia submitted reports to CEDAW, CCPR, CRC and CERD belatedly and still has five overdue reports. The Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture is seeking to visit. (See the overview table on page 53.)

### Visits by special procedures in the last four years

SR on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression (2018).

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

SR on health, the Independent Expert on albinism, the SR on extreme poverty, the SR on rights to water and sanitation, the WG on business enterprises, the SR on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, the SR on torture, the Representative of the Secretary General on Internally Displaced Persons, the Independent Expert on foreign debt, and the SR on the independence of judges. The Subcommittee on the Prevention of Torture also plans to visit.

## CONTEXT

Liberia has been recovering from conflict for over a decade, and has recorded several major governance and policy achievements. This said, root causes of Liberia's 14-year civil war remain unaddressed. The human rights challenges in Liberia include: extrajudicial killings by police; abuse, harassment and intimidation of suspects and other citizens by police; arbitrary arrest and detention; protracted pre-trial detention; lack of accountability in cases of violence against women and children, which include rape, domestic violence and traditional harmful practices. Impunity remains a serious issue, both in regard to atrocities committed during the civil war and for recent crimes. It is to be regretted that the findings and recommendations of Liberia's Truth and Reconciliation Commission in 2009 have not been fully implemented. The Commission's report identified the causes of the conflict, described its impact on women, children and Liberian society,

and attributed responsibility for the gross human rights violations that occurred.

OHCHR has been involved in establishing Liberia's human rights system since the United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL) was created in 2003. During UNMIL's mandate (2013-2018), OHCHR's presence was organized through the Human Rights and Protection Service (HRP). In April 2018, OHCHR opened its own country office.

OHCHR has been the primary entity monitoring and reporting human rights in Liberia. It has provided technical assistance to the Government, both to ensure its compliance with international human rights obligations and to facilitate reconciliation. Technical support has addressed the prevention and punishment of SGBV crimes, harmful traditional practices, and impunity.

The engagement strategy of duty holders has focused on the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) and the Human Rights Division (HRD) of the Ministry of Justice (MOJ). INCHR was established in 2010 to sustain and promote human rights in the country. In 2017, INCHR was granted category ‘A’ accreditation by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights institutions. The HRD is the government’s human rights focal point, responsible for leading implementation of the National Human Rights Action Plan (NHRAP). The NHRAP addresses many of Liberia’s human rights challenges, particularly those related to the root causes of conflict, and provides a framework for Treaty Body reports and UPR submissions. On-

going human rights engagement has also included work with civil society organizations (CSOs) that resulted in the establishment of the CSO Human Rights Advocacy Platform, which monitors and promotes the protection of human rights.

Post UNMIL, OHCHR’s programme focuses on all six strategic pillars: mechanisms, development, peace and security, non-discrimination, accountability and participation. Efforts to strengthen Liberia’s weak and dysfunctional justice system, improve accountability and provide remedies, have been prioritized. The Office will continue to provide technical assistance to the INCHR and CSOs.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<p><b>M</b> Mechanisms</p>	<p><b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b></p> <p><b>M1</b> National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>Liberia complies more fully with its international human rights obligations, including by reporting to the Treaty Bodies and the UPR and implementing their recommendations. To this end, the Government ratifies more human rights instruments, creates a national human rights action plan (NHRAP) and appoints a drafting committee and NHRAP steering committee.</p>
	<p><b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS</b></p> <p><b>D2</b> Business actors implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights effectively.</p> <p>The Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR), other relevant institutions, and civil society organizations press public and private sector organizations to adopt and implement human rights standards for business. They monitor the human rights compliance of business enterprises in concession areas and elsewhere, paying special regard to workers’ rights, and cooperate to prevent violence.</p> <p><b>D7</b> States integrate human rights, including the right to development and human rights mechanisms’ outcomes, as they implement the Sustainable Development Goals and other development and poverty eradication efforts; and the UN supports them in these purposes, integrating human rights in its own development work.</p> <p>The UNDAF One Programme promotes human rights objectives, particularly protection of the most vulnerable, and assists Liberia to implement UPR recommendations that Liberia has accepted and its national human rights action plan.</p>

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

<b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b>	
<p><b>PS</b> Peace and Security</p>	<p style="background-color: #800000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"><b>PS6</b></p> <p>United Nations’ support to national and regional security forces, law enforcement agencies, and non-State actors integrates human rights and complies with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.</p> <p>The UN Country Team more often draws on human rights principles when it acts to prevent conflict and promote peace, national reconciliation and the rule of law.</p>
<b>ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION</b>	
<p><b>ND</b> Non-Discrimination</p>	<p style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"><b>ND1</b></p> <p>Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to ‘leave no one behind’, including by addressing the root causes of inequality.</p> <p>Protection mechanisms, including the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) and the Ministry of Justice’s Human Rights Division, monitor and report on efforts to strengthen access to justice, the rule of law and the justice system. They give particular attention to impunity and discrimination against marginalized groups.</p>
	<p style="background-color: #008000; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"><b>ND3</b></p> <p>Legal and social frameworks increasingly promote women’s and girls’ autonomy and choice and protect them from violence, including in the digital space.</p> <p>The Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) assists the Government and specifically the Ministry of Justice’s Human Rights Division to draft and implement the national human rights action plan (NHRAP), fulfil UPR and Treaty Body obligations, and strengthen legal and policy reforms to advance gender mainstreaming and prohibit discrimination, especially with regard to marginalized groups.</p>

## THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

**A**  
Accountability

## STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

A1

Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.

The Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) increases its capacity to fulfil its mandate in accordance with the Paris Principles.

Through human rights training, Liberia's National Police, the Liberia Immigration Service (LIS) and the Armed Forces of Liberia (AFL) strengthen their human rights accountability units and comply more fully with international human rights standards.

A2

Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.

The Ministry of Justice's Human Rights Division and other relevant institutions cooperate with County Attorneys, Judges and Public Defenders to prosecute high profile cases involving sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and harmful traditional practices (HTP).

The Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) takes forward the national Palava Hut talks on memorialization and reparations.

A3

Justice systems investigate and prosecute gender-related crimes more effectively.

Civil society organizations (CSOs) and human rights defenders improve their capacity to assist marginalized and vulnerable groups to seek redress and accountability for human rights violations.

A4

States take measures to ensure that their decision-making, policies and actions are more transparent and the public has access to information for accountability purposes.

The Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) assists and advises members and committees of the Legislature and the Human Rights Legislative Association on human rights to prepare relevant bills, for example bills on domestic violence and on female genital mutilation (FGM).

A5

UN efforts for the rule of law, justice, counter-terrorism and accountability put human rights at the core.

The INCHR will implement 2009 recommendation of the TRC to ensure accountability for crimes of the past.

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

**P**  
Participation

ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE	
P1	<p>P1. Stronger laws, policies and practices protect the right to participate and civic space, including online, and the environment for civil society is increasingly safe and enabling.</p> <p>Government ministries and Parliament consult and cooperate with the Independent National Commission on Human Rights (INCHR) and civil society organizations (CSOs), including the CSO Human Rights platform, when they draft legislation that relates to human rights and act to create a safe and enabling environment for civil society.</p>
P3	<p>Business, policy-makers and a public at large increasingly value and support civic space.</p> <p>Liberia will develop a regulatory framework and a national action plan on business and human rights.</p>
P4	<p>Civil society assistance to victims of human rights violations is strengthened.</p> <p>Civil society organizations monitor, report and advocate in a sustained and effective manner for legal reforms and action to strengthen protection from discrimination, especially for marginalised groups.</p>

‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE

- Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.
- Expand civic space.

SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’

Women.

## MALI

### Field presence

OHCHR deployed a human rights officer in Bamako in 2014. Subsequently, the Human Rights Division was deployed in the UN Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali (MINUSMA). The Division's main office is in Bamako; it has sub-offices in Mopti, Gao, Kidal, Ménaka and Timbuktu.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

Mali has ratified or acceded to all international human rights treaties, with the exception of the Second Additional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights on the abolition of the death penalty. However, Mali has a poor record in reporting to the Treaty Bodies. (See the overview table on page 53.)

### Visits by special procedures in the last four years

Mr. Alioune Tine was appointed independent expert on the human rights situation in Mali in May 2018. He conducted official visits in July and October 2018.

## CONTEXT

The Government of Mali signed the Algiers Peace Agreement with the Plateforme (a pro-government coalition of armed groups) and the Coordination des Mouvements de l'Azawad (CMA) in 2015. Despite strong support by United Nations and the international community, implementation of several key security provisions has made little progress.

The security situation in Mali remains extremely volatile. Government and international forces, including MINUSMA, are subject to repeated asymmetric attacks carried out by terrorist groups. Most human rights violations and abuses are due to communal violence, the activities of armed groups (including signatory armed groups and self-defence groups), terrorism, and criminality, which has increased because the State is absent from many areas in the centre and north of the country. In addition, the counter terrorism operations conducted by Malian and international forces do not always respect human rights standards. Violations include summary executions, enforced disappearances, torture, recruitment and use of child soldiers, detention in inhumane conditions leading to death,

ill-treatment, intimidation, illegal detentions, extortion and pillage, lack of due process as a result of ineffective investigation, abductions, and attacks against humanitarian and peacekeeping personnel. Incidents that put the lives and welfare of civilians at risk include attacks against state representatives or individuals affiliated with them, attacks against humanitarian actors and United Nations personnel, and communal and criminal violence.

Overall, the fight against impunity has made very limited progress, mainly because magistrates have lacked technical and logistic resources, the north of Mali has been insecure outside regional capitals (creating an obstacle to investigation), and some conflict-related detainees were released 'unconditionally' as part of the peace agreement.

Mali has become an important transit route for migrants going to Algeria and Libya. In September 2017, at the 72nd session of the UN General Assembly, the President of Mali declared that his country supports ongoing efforts to adopt a global compact for safe, orderly and regular migration.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

### THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

<b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b>	
<p><b>M</b> Mechanisms</p>	<p><b>M1</b> ▶ National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>The Government engages more often and more substantively with human rights mechanisms, and in particular fulfils its reporting obligations to the Treaty Bodies.</p>
<b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b>	
<p><b>PS</b> Peace and Security</p>	<p><b>PS1</b> ▶ Parties to conflict and actors involved in peace operations increasingly comply with international human rights and humanitarian law and provide greater protection to civilians.</p> <p>Violations of international human rights and humanitarian law are monitored, documented and reported. Particular attention is given to abuses by armed groups and violations by State actors, especially in the Central and Northern regions of Mali. Perpetrators and those responsible are identified.</p>
<p><b>PS2</b> ▶ Efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism comply with international law.</p> <p>Mali’s defence and security forces (MDSF) and G-5 Sahel forces comply with international human rights law and humanitarian law when they conduct counter-terrorism operations.</p>	
<p><b>PS4</b> ▶ Justice mechanisms, including for transitional justice, provide increased accountability for conflict-related violations.</p> <p>The Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission fulfils its mandate and issues its final report. The Malian authorities implement its key recommendations, prioritizing victims’ rights, in accordance with Mali’s international obligations.</p>	
<p><b>PS5</b> ▶ Human rights information and analyses are integrated in early warning and analysis systems and influence international and national policy-making, strategies and operations to prevent, mitigate or respond to emerging crises, including humanitarian crises and conflict.</p> <p>UN-led prevention and protection strategies more fully integrate human rights information and standards.</p>	
<p><b>PS6</b> ▶ United Nations’ support to national and regional security forces, law enforcement agencies, and non-State actors integrates human rights and complies with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.</p> <p>National and regional security forces, law enforcement agencies, and non-State actors seeking support from the United Nations, implement mitigation measures in accordance with the human rights due diligence policy (HRRDP), notably in programmes that are assessed to be high or medium risk.</p>	

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p><b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b></p>	
	<p>A1</p>	<p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p> <p>The internal oversight mechanisms of Mali’s defence and security forces (MDSF) are operational and comply with international human rights standards.</p>
	<p>A2</p>	<p>Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.</p> <p>Criminal courts increasingly process human rights-related cases promptly and in compliance with international due process standards. Serious violations that occurred after 2012 are prosecuted, whether they involve members of armed groups or members of Mali’s defence and security forces (MDSF).</p>

**‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE**

Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.

**SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’**

Women, young people.

## MAURITANIA

### Field presence

There has been an OHCHR country office in Mauritania since December 2010. It also provides technical cooperation to the G5 Sahel, coordinating and monitoring regional cooperation on development and security.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

Mauritania is party to the nine main UN human rights treaties and has submitted most of its outstanding reports to the treaty bodies. The Sub-Committee on the Prevention of Torture undertook an advisory visit to the MNP in 2016. Mauritania completed its second Universal Periodic Review in November 2015. (See the overview table on page 53.)

### Visits by special procedures in the last four years

Mauritania received visits by the SR on torture (2016), the SR on slavery (2009, 2013, 2017), the SR on racial discrimination (2008, 2013), and the SR on extreme poverty (2016).

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

None.

## CONTEXT

Mauritania established a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up, to strengthen its engagement with United Nations human rights mechanisms and implement their recommendations. The government declared its commitment to address the country's main human rights concerns and significant progress was achieved. It established a road map on slavery, created a National Preventive Mechanism on Torture, and adopted legislation on torture and slavery. With support from OHCHR, the government, the judiciary, national institutions and civil society increased their capacity to protect effectively the human rights of all without discrimination, and their technical skills.

The main human rights challenges relate to poverty on one hand, and traditional ethnic and caste-based hierarchies on the other, which are responsible for unequal participation in political power and unequal access to economic opportunities, including land rights and social protection. This situation results in human rights violations, including unequal access to justice, education, health, employment and economic opportunities. The participation of women and persons with disabilities remains an issue. In addition, United Nations human rights mechanisms found instances of torture and ill-treat-

ment, widespread gender-based violence, violations of children's rights, and cases of de facto slavery. While Islam is the strongest unifying social factor in Mauritania's diverse society, public expressions of extremist positions raised concern and doubts about whether the progress of the last four years will be sustained. The media is permitted to express controversial political opinions, but on several occasions well-researched investigative journalism has been suppressed, and journalists arrested, on the grounds that such reports promote radicalism and undermine social cohesion.

OHCHR will continue to assist the government to address the underlying causes of the country's main human rights concerns, drawing on recommendations made by UN human rights mechanisms, the priorities of the current UN Development Assistance Framework (2018-2022), the national development strategy 2015-2030 (SCAPP), and relevant national action plans and programmes. OHCHR seeks to strengthen structures and processes that enable Parliament, civil society, rights holders and other stakeholders to engage fully in participatory processes that promote discussion and protect civic space. Particular attention will be given to the participation of women and persons with disabilities. OHCHR will contribute information and analysis based on its monitoring of human rights.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b>	
<b>M</b> Mechanisms	<b>M1</b> <p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>The Inter-Ministerial Committee coordinates the preparation of State reports to human rights mechanisms and follows up their recommendations, based on a national action plan. It adopts a participatory approach.</p>
	<b>M2</b> <p>Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues (frontier issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.</p> <p>The national human rights institution (Commission Nationale des Droits de l’Homme, CNDH), civil society organizations, and relevant UN entities make regular submissions to human rights mechanisms.</p>
<b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b>	
<b>PS</b> Peace and Security	<b>PS3</b> <p>Strategies to prevent and respond to conflict consistently integrate human rights protection.</p> <p>Populations that host Malian refugees and victims of other humanitarian emergencies are increasingly involved in the development and implementation of response strategies.</p>
	<b>PS4</b> <p>Justice mechanisms, including for transitional justice, provide increased accountability for conflict-related violations.</p> <p>Returnees from Senegal enjoy better access to economic, social and cultural rights.</p>
<b>ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION</b>	
<b>ND</b> Non-Discrimination	<b>ND1</b> <p>Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to ‘leave no one behind’, including by addressing the root causes of inequality.</p> <p>National action plans in favour of vulnerable populations reference and implement the recommendations of human rights mechanisms.</p>
<b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS</b>	
<b>D</b> Development	<b>D2</b> <p>Business actors implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights effectively.</p> <p>Businesses, international companies and investors increasingly apply the Guiding Principles for Business and Human Rights.</p>

**THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME**

**D7** States integrate human rights, including the right to development and human rights mechanisms’ outcomes, as they implement the Sustainable Development Goals and other development and poverty eradication efforts; and the UN supports them in these purposes, integrating human rights in its own development work.

Evaluations of UNDAF implementation and implementation of the Strategy for Accelerated Growth and Shared Prosperity refer more frequently to recommendations made by the human rights mechanisms.

**Accountability**

**STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

**A1** Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.

Court decisions refer explicitly to international human rights obligations.

The National Police Academy develops and teaches human rights training modules.

**A2** Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.

The National Mechanism for Prevention of Torture regularly publishes reports on its visits to places of detention and makes them publicly available.

Prison conditions increasingly comply with international standards as a result of monitoring and coordinated assistance.

**Participation**

**ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE**

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

The law on civil associations and the law on public assembly are applied in a manner that complies with international human rights standards.

When the government develops and implements human rights-related national action plans and legislation, it adopts processes that allow meaningful participation by civil society.

**‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE**

Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.

Explore emerging human rights concerns (‘frontier issues’):

- Inequalities.
- People on the move.

**SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’**

Young people.

## NIGER

### Field presence

Between 2008 and 2014, a Senior Human Rights Advisor was deployed in Niamey. Since June 2014, a national human rights officer serves as a Human Rights Advisor.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

Niger has ratified the core human rights conventions but not yet the optional protocol on abolition of the death penalty. Between 2014 and 2017, it submitted overdue reports to CERD, CMW, and CEDAW. Its initial report on ICESCR and its report on CRC are due in 2018. The Subcommittee for the Prevention of Torture visited in 2017. The UPR second cycle report was considered by the working group on January 2016. (See the overview table on page 53.)

### Visits by special procedures in the last four years

SR on contemporary forms of slavery (2014 and 2017), SR on the human rights of internally displaced persons (2018), SR on the human rights of migrants (2018).

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

None.

## CONTEXT

Niger is one of the poorest countries in the world (ranked 187 out of 188 countries in UNDP's 2016 Human Development Report). The economy relies on the export of uranium and oil, the price of which has been falling, and agriculture, which is under increasing pressure from a growing population and climate change.

Insecurity has increased due to the crises in Mali and Libya and Boko Haram attacks in the Lake Chad Basin. Niger is host to more than 54,000 refugees from Mali, and 100,000 refugees and 25,000 returnees from Nigeria. It also supports 283,930 internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Diffa region. The humanitarian crisis has increased the vulnerability of the local population and generated serious human rights violations. These include loss of life, gender-based violence, restrictions on freedoms

following the declaration of a state of emergency in affected regions, the closure of schools and health centres, a ban on some economic activities, etc.

Women's and children's rights are protected in law; sexual harassment, female genital mutilation, slavery, prostitution, and rape are crimes. Niger formally prohibits slavery and forced labour. However, discriminatory practices persist and particularly affect women and children. Persons with disabilities also suffer social stigmatization and discrimination in employment. The Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of slavery found evidence during her 2014 visit of descent-based slavery, the practice known as *wahaya*, child marriage, child labour, and domestic servitude. Poverty, inequality and customary norms all contribute to widespread discrimination against former slaves and their descendants.

Since 2015, freedom of expression has been restricted in the context of rising political tension and the threat of terrorism. A significant number of journalists and human rights defenders have been arrested since 2016.

Niger lies between West and Central Africa and is a country of transit for migrants. Thousands travel through Niger to Libya and Algeria on their way to Europe. Many end up in Niger without assistance or resources. It is estimated that between 80,000 and 120,000 migrants a year cross Niger to Libya through the Agadez region. IOM data show that

most are young people aged 15 to 29 and include women and children, a profile that can be explained by the lack of economic opportunities for young people and the increasing contribution that women make as a result of the socio-economic crisis in countries of origin. Migration is frequently controlled by criminal organizations and is associated with serious human rights violations, including smuggling, human trafficking, sexual and gender-based violence, exploitation of women and children, modern day slavery, arbitrary arrests and detention, as well as numerous deaths in the desert.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<p><b>M</b> Mechanisms</p>	<p><b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b></p> <p><b>M1</b> ▶ National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>Niger submits reports promptly to the UPR and to the Treaty Bodies, engages with and responds to special procedures, and implements their recommendations.</p>
	<p><b>M2</b> ▶ Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues (frontier issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.</p> <p>UN agencies, civil society organizations, the National Human Rights Commission and other key actors prepare and submit at least one contribution or shadow report to the UPR, Treaty Bodies or special procedures annually.</p>
<p><b>PS</b> Peace and Security</p>	<p><b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b></p> <p><b>PS4</b> ▶ Justice mechanisms, including for transitional justice, provide increased accountability for conflict-related violations.</p> <p>The Government promotes peace processes and justice reforms; these recognize the rights of victims and comply with international human rights norms and standards.</p>

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

<p><b>ND</b> Non-Discrimination</p>	<p><b>ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION</b></p>	
	<p>ND3</p>	<p>Legal and social frameworks increasingly promote women’s and girls’ autonomy and choice and protect them from violence, including in the digital space.</p> <p>Niger fully implements the National Policy on Gender, reduces discrimination against women, and increases the participation of women in public life.</p>
	<p>ND6</p>	<p>The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected.</p> <p>The Government and other relevant actors adopt a human rights-based response to combat migrant smuggling and human rights violations associated with irregular migration; particular attention is given to protecting women’s and children’s rights.</p>
<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p><b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b></p>	
	<p>A2</p>	<p>Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.</p> <p>The action plan of the National Human Rights Commission is updated and fully implemented.</p>
<p><b>P</b> Participation</p>	<p><b>ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE</b></p>	
	<p>P6</p>	<p>The voice of people affected by decisions, particularly victims and those who face discrimination, is more clearly heard.</p> <p>Niger fully implements the human rights education programme and integrates human rights in the national education curriculum.</p>

<p><b>‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE</b></p>
<p>Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.</p>
<p>Expand civic space.</p>
<p>Explore emerging human rights concerns (‘frontier issues’):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• People on the move.</li> </ul>

<p><b>SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’</b></p>
<p>Women, young people.</p>

## NIGERIA

### Field presence

A Senior Human Rights Adviser has been based in the UNDG Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism since 2014. Three human rights officers are deployed in the northeast to strengthen the humanitarian response to the Boko Haram insurgency. Fundraising is in the pipeline to deploy monitors to Benue state to support the humanitarian response to the farmers' and herders' crisis in the Middle Belt.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

Nigeria has ratified the core human rights treaties but has overdue reports to CAT (since 2002), CED (since 2013), CERD (since 2008), CESC (since 2000) and CRPD (since 2012). It was reviewed in 2017 by the CMW and by CEDAW, the former in the absence of a report and delegation from Nigeria. Since 2007 the national legislature has repeatedly blocked attempts to domesticate CEDAW, on cultural and religious grounds. Nigeria issued a standing invitation to UN special procedures in October 2013. Nigeria completed the UPR process in 2013 and will undergo its third cycle review in November 2018. (See the overview table on page 53.)

### Visits by special procedures in the past four years

International Expert on minorities (2014), SR on slavery, on children, and on the right to health joint visit (2016), SR on internally displaced persons (2016), SR on trafficking (2018).

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

SR on racism, SR on freedom of assembly, SR on violence against women, International Expert on foreign debt, SR on toxic waste, SR on counter-terrorism, WG on mercenaries, International Expert on albinism, SR on water and sanitation, SR on the right to housing.

## CONTEXT

Nigeria runs a three-tier system of government (federal, state, and Local Government Areas). For political and administrative purposes, the country is divided into six geo-political zones. It also runs three legal systems (common law, Islamic sharia law, and customary law). The Supreme Court is the apex court with appellate jurisdiction over cases from lower courts. Nigeria's population of more than 180 million accounts for 47 % of the population of West Africa and is projected to exceed 289 million by 2050 (when it will be the world's fourth most populous country). 45.7% of Nigerians are under 15 years old; 31.7% are aged between 10 and 24.

Socio-economically, Nigeria's development is characterized by low individual earnings, poor social indicators, and regional disparities. It missed most MDGs despite abundant resources and wealth. The northern states lag behind southern states on most social indicators.

The 2015 elections (the fifth since Nigeria returned to democracy in 1999) saw the first successful civilian transfer of power. The government has focused on reducing corruption, improving security, and rebuilding the economy. It has made limited progress in tackling the Boko Haram insurgency and other

security challenges have worsened. They include resurgent militancy in the Niger Delta, attacks on farming communities by Fulani herdsmen or associated militia, agitation for secession led by the Indigenous People of Biafra, and a religious crisis linked to clashes between the Islamic Movement of Nigeria and the Nigerian Army. The elections due in February 2019 are expected to be particularly tense; there are increasing signs of potential violence.

The prevalence of conflict in all zones of the country remains a major human rights and security concern. The security agencies are alleged to have been responsible for extra-judicial killings, torture and other ill-treatment, and arbitrary arrests and prolonged detention in conditions that often amount to enforced disappearance. Another major concern is the State’s increasing reliance on the military for internal security operations: they have been deployed in at least 32 of the Federation’s 36 states.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

### THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

#### M Mechanisms

#### INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

M1

National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.

The Government responds more swiftly to requests to visit by mandate holders and accepts 80% of requests.

The Government increases the number of reports it submits on time to the UPR and Treaty Bodies.

M2

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

Civil society organizations double their use of the Human Rights Council’s complaints procedure. The UN Country team and civil society organizations make twice as many submissions to human rights entities.

**THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME**

<b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS</b>		
<b>D</b> Development	<b>D2</b>	Business actors implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights effectively. The Government develops a national action plan on business and human rights that complies with the UN Guiding Principles.
	<b>D6</b>	Human rights assessments and impact analyses mitigate, prevent or redress the negative effects of economic, trade and development policies and projects. Human rights standards and principles guide the implementation of the UN sustainable development partnership (UNSDPF).
<b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b>		
<b>PS</b> Peace and Security	<b>PS2</b>	Efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism comply with international law. Oversight and accountability mechanisms, including the National Human Rights Commission, the National Committee against Torture, and internal oversight mechanisms of the security agencies (the Human Rights Desk and court martials) are in place and function. Terrorism suspects are speedily brought before a judge after arrest; terrorism trials are held with significantly less delay.
	<b>PS3</b>	Strategies to prevent and respond to conflict consistently integrate human rights protection. Human rights are integrated in humanitarian operations; human rights monitoring and reporting are strengthened; particular attention is given to those who are most vulnerable, including women and children and persons with disabilities.
<b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b>		
<b>A</b> Accountability	<b>A2</b>	Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights. Nigeria domesticates at least one human rights treaty and accepts at least two additional individual complaints and inquiry procedures by 2021.

**'SHIFTS' ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE**

Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.

**SHINING A 'SPOTLIGHT'**

Women, young people, persons with disabilities.

## G5 SAHEL JOINT FORCE COMPLIANCE FRAMEWORK PROJECT

Hard hit by terrorism and transnational organised crime, Burkina Faso, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, and Chad created the G5 Sahel on 16 February 2014 to coordinate their regional security and development strategies. On 6 February 2017, the presidents of the G5 Sahel countries intensified this engagement by creating a joint military force, the ‘Force Conjointe-G5 Sahel’ (FC-G5S) to combat terrorism, transnational organised crime and human trafficking in the region.

In its Resolution 2391, adopted on 8 December 2017, the Security Council both supported this G5 initiative to combat terrorism and called on the G5 Sahel States ‘to establish a robust compliance framework to prevent, investigate, address and publicly report violations and abuses of human rights law and violations of international humanitarian law related to the FC-G5S’.

OHCHR has agreed with the FC-G5S the terms of a project to develop and implement this compliance framework. Owned by the G5 Sahel, the framework will assist the FC-G5S to plan and conduct its operations in ways that respect international humanitarian and international human rights law, and thereby minimize adverse consequences for local communities. The package contains specific mecha-

nisms and measures to prevent, mitigate and address violations which include training, rules and regulations, planning and post-action reviews, protection, accountability, and monitoring and reporting.

The compliance framework is based on what OHCHR has learned from its work in Afghanistan, Somalia and other peace operations, and the human rights framework for peace support operations that OHCHR has assisted the African Union to develop. The framework integrates the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy on UN support to non-UN security forces (HRDDP). It will continue to evolve in response to developments on the ground and regular evaluations of its effectiveness.

The project will be delivered by OHCHR teams based in each of the G5 Sahel countries, supported by OHCHR headquarters. It is complemented by an integrated political strategy that host States have agreed with the international community. Alongside its engagement with the FC-G5S, OHCHR will expand its human rights work in each of the G5 Sahel countries to ensure that the root causes of conflict and unrest are addressed. This broader work will link FC-G5S military operations to UN programmes associated with the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

### THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

**PS**  
Peace and Security

#### PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY

**PS2** Efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism comply with international law.

**PS6** United Nations’ support to national and regional security forces and law enforcement agencies and to non-state actors integrates human rights and complies with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.

### ‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE

Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.

# AMERICAS

## INTRODUCTION

Since it established its first country office in Colombia in 1997, OHCHR has observed both human rights achievements and human rights setbacks in the Americas region. Currently, it has: two sub-regional offices in Chile and Panama; four country offices in Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico and Honduras; one human rights component in the peace

mission in Haiti; one senior human rights advisor in Jamaica; and eleven national human rights advisors in UN Country Teams.<sup>4</sup> A Senior Human Rights Officer, based in Washington D.C., works with international financial institutions.

## CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS CONTEXT

With some notable exceptions, the countries of the Americas region have robust national legal frameworks, strong civil society networks, and the highest level of treaty ratifications. Significant implementation gaps mean that serious human rights violations nevertheless occur. OHCHR's early warning, monitoring and reporting mandate has enabled it to identify and assess these gaps and shortcomings and make appropriate recommendations. OHCHR's priorities have been to strengthen accountability systems, improve access to justice and reparations for victims of gross human rights violations, widen civic space, facilitate dialogue, and support technical cooperation and institution building.

The main trends are:

- ***Shrinking democratic space.*** Major corruption scandals and the slow progress of official efforts to reduce poverty and inequality have raised political and social tensions. In some places, violence due to organized crime and

drug trafficking and high levels of impunity have fractured institutional trust. In a number of countries, power is increasingly concentrated in the executive branch to the detriment of other branches of government, media freedom is seriously restricted, political opponents are subject to persecution, and fundamental freedoms are violently repressed.

- ***Human rights defenders and journalists.*** About three quarters of all the human rights defenders (HRDs) murdered worldwide in 2017 were killed in the Americas. The HRDs most at risk include environmental and land rights defenders, HRDs who belong to indigenous peoples or traditional communities, peasants, LGBTI persons and persons of African descent. HRDs and journalists face threats, smear campaigns, attacks, baseless prosecutions, arbitrary detentions, and killings at the hands of State and non-State actors who act with almost complete impunity. The protection mechanisms that some countries have established have generally not reversed these violations effectively.

- ***Poverty, inequality and discrimination.*** Important shortcomings in realization of economic, social and cultural rights have affected traditionally discriminated groups and reinforced inequality. Decreasing economic growth and austerity measures have exacerbated this situation, causing social protests that the authorities often met with repression. Development projects and the growth of extractive industries further affected the rights of indigenous peoples and other traditional communities. Racial discrimination remains a significant barrier to the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights and to political participation by all.
- ***Gender, women and LGBTI.*** A number of countries have strengthened legal and institutional frameworks to protect the rights of women and LGBTI persons. Nevertheless, violence against women, including gender-related killings, remains widespread. Discriminatory sociocultural patterns persist, limiting access to education and work, among other human rights. In several countries, femicide rates are among the highest in the world. Opposition to women's and LGBTI rights, and efforts to seriously restrict gender equality and sexual and reproductive rights, have been growing in the region, supported by religious and conservative groups.
- ***Widespread violence and insecurity.*** The region still faces widespread violence and insecurity. In 2017 homicide rates were three times the global average and Governments continued to adopt security approaches that fall short of human rights standards. In a number of countries, Governments have militarized public security, introduced criminal laws that undermine due process and fair trial guarantees, applied tough anti-terrorist laws, employed private security companies without appropriate oversight, or increased levels of pre-trial incarceration.
- ***Migration.*** The Americas are experiencing unprecedented flows of migrants and refugees. According to UNHCR and IOM, by November 2018 at least three million Venezuelan migrants and refugees had left their country. In response, many countries have adopted open border policies, supported by special measures to provide documentation and humanitarian assistance. Nevertheless, local public infrastructures and public services, already weak, are under massive pressure and protection challenges are acute. Caravans of Central American migrants travelling north have highlighted the situation of thousands of refugees and migrants who have fled violence, insecurity, poverty, social exclusion and environmental degradation in recent years in the northern countries of Central America. The harsher migration policies of the United States and Mexico's decision to adopt a security approach both raise significant human rights concerns. Migrants and refugees from Haiti, Cuba and other countries outside the Americas continued to travel to countries in the region, despite severe restrictions, particularly in countries of the Caribbean. Nicaragua's political crisis generated a new flow of migrants and refugees, most of whom have travelled to Costa Rica.
- ***Impunity and transitional justice.*** Impunity in the region has remained widespread. Political interference and allegations of corruption in the justice system are common, undermining fair trial guarantees and access to justice. The region has been at the forefront of developments in transitional justice processes, but this has a negative as well as a positive face because amnesty laws continue to obstruct the prosecution of perpetrators of serious human rights violations, as well as access to justice for victims and their relatives, making it difficult to establish the truth and provide reparations. Truth and Reconciliation Commissions have published sound reports with recommendations on how to establish the truth, achieve justice, secure reparations and redress, and guarantee non-recurrence, but they have not yet been fully implemented.

## Americas and the United Nations human rights mechanisms

Ratifications, reporting and standing invitations (baseline June 2018)

	CERD	CCPR	CESCR	CAT	OPCAT	CEDAW	CRC	CRC:OPSC	CRC:OPAC	CMW	CRPD	CPPED	UPR	Standing invitations to Special Procedure mandate holders
Antigua & Barbuda	X							X			X		(Apr-May 2021)	No
Argentina													(6-17 Nov 2017)	Yes (2002)
Bahamas		X	X				X		X		X		(15-26 Jan-2018)	Yes (2013)
Barbados	X	X	X								X		(15-26 Jan-2018)	No
Belize	X		X	X		X	X	X	X	X	X		(5-16 Nov 2018)	No
Bolivia	X		X	X			X	X	X			X	(Oct-Nov 2019)	Yes (2010)
Brazil	X	X	X	X		X		X				X	(1-12 May 2017)	Yes (2001)
Canada													(7-18 May 2018)	Yes (1999)
Chile												X	(Jan-Feb 2019)	Yes (2009)
Colombia		X											(7-18 May 2018)	Yes (2003)
Costa Rica	X			X								X	(Apr-May 2019)	Yes (2002)
Cuba				X		X	X						(7-18 May 2018)	No
Dominica		X	X				X	X	X		X		(Apr-May 2019)	Yes (2009)
Dominican Republic	X	X		X		X		X	X				(Jan-Feb 2019)	No
Ecuador			X										(1-12 May 2017)	Yes (2003)
El Salvador	X			X							X		(Oct-Nov 2019)	Yes (2010)
Grenada	X	X	X			X	X	X	X		X		(Jan-Feb 2020)	No
Guatemala													(6-17 Nov 2017)	Yes (2001)
Guyana	X	X		X			X	X	X		X		(Jan-Feb 2020)	No
Haiti	X		X										(Oct-Nov 2021)	No
Honduras													(Apr-May 2020)	Yes (2010)
Jamaica	X		X			X		X	X		X		(Apr-May 2020)	No
Mexico												X	(5-16 Nov 2018)	Yes (2001)
Nicaragua	X	X	X	X		X	X						(Apr-May 2019)	Yes (2006)
Panama	X	X	X			X		X				X	(Apr-May 2020)	Yes (2011)
Paraguay		X											(Jan-Feb) 2021)	Yes (2003)
Peru			X								X		(6-17 Nov 2017)	Yes (2002)
St Kitts & Nevis	X					X	X						(Oct-Nov 2020)	No
Saint Lucia	X					X		X	X				(Oct-Nov 2020)	No
St Vincent & the Grenadines	X	X	X	X				X	X	X	X		(Apr-May 2021)	No

	CERD	CCPR	CESCR	CAT	OPCAT	CEDAW	CRC	CRC:OPSC	CRC:OPAC	CMW	CRPD	CPPED	UPR	Standing invitations to Special Procedure mandate holders
Suriname			X					X					(Apr-May 2021)	No
Trinidad & Tobago	X	X	X				X				X		(Apr-May 2021)	No
Uruguay				X									(Jan-Feb 2019)	Yes (2005)
Venezuela	X												(Oct-Nov 2021)	No
USA	X												(Apr-May 2020)	No
Total No of ratifications/invitations out of 35 States	34	31	30	27	17	34	34	31	29	19	32	15		19

	Treaty ratified
	Overdue report as of June 2018
	Outstanding ratification

## NORTH AMERICA, MEXICO, THE CARIBBEAN AND SURINAME

### CONTEXT

This region includes Canada, The United States, Mexico, the Caribbean and Suriname.

Canada has strong human rights instruments. Rights are protected by its Constitution and its institutions and judicial system. Canada works consistently with Treaty Bodies and special procedures. Since 2014, the CCPR, CEDAW, CESC, CERD, CRPD and CAT have issued concluding observations on Canada. Canada has yet to ratify the Optional Protocol to CAT, the CED and the CMW. In 2018, the country underwent its third UPR review. Recommendations made by the UPR, Treaty Bodies and special procedures have called on Canada to protect the rights of its indigenous populations, especially ESC rights and the right to non-discrimination, focusing on women and girls, and ensure that Canadian companies operating overseas are held accountable for human rights abuses. In the last four years, Canada hosted four Special Procedure mandates: the WG on people of African descent (2016), the WG on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises (2017), the SR on violence against women, its causes and consequences (2018), and the SR on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health (2018). Canada issued a standing invitation to special procedures in 1999.

Although it has strong protection mechanisms and its Constitution affirms civil and political rights, the United States has adopted a range of policies that harm human rights. While its system of checks and balances has been effective in halting the effects of some of these policies, certain groups (women, indigenous peoples, migrants, religious and ethnic minorities, persons with disabilities and members of the LGBTI community) are nevertheless more exposed to human rights violations. Recent policies on migration have resulted in de facto and legal restrictions on those seeking asylum. Policies that banned travel and separated children from their families have been ended. OHCHR has identified the following thematic priorities: migrant rights, racial

bias in the criminal justice system, LGBTI rights, sexual and reproductive rights, and human rights and counterterrorism.

The United States has not ratified several core human rights treaties, including the CRC, CRPD, CED and ICESCR. It ratified no new treaties between 2014 and 2018. Since 2014 the following Treaty Bodies have issued concluding observations on the United States: the HR Committee, CAT, CERD, the OP CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and the OP CRC on the involvement of children in armed conflict. In 2015, the country completed its second UPR review. Recommendations called on the United States to prevent discrimination, end the death penalty, avoid excessive use of force, and respect human rights in the context of migration. Since 2014, the country has received visits by six special procedure mandates: the SR on extreme poverty (2017), the SR on privacy (2017), the SR on indigenous peoples (2017), the SR on trafficking (2016), the WG on people of African descent (2016), the SR on freedom of association (2016), and the WG on arbitrary detention (2016).

A Senior Human Rights Officer, based in Washington D.C., works with international financial institutions.

The countries of the English-speaking Caribbean (ESC, 11 independent countries and six British Overseas Territories) share a common colonial past and similar legal systems, as well as economic, political and social contexts. Dutch-speaking Suriname shares many of the same characteristics, including membership of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM). All the Caribbean states are characterized by uneven economic development and the challenges that confront small island states: energy insecurity; waste management; financial vulnerability; and vulnerability to natural disasters and climate change.

The population of the region is multi-ethnic and mobile. The majority are of African descent. Dis-

crimination on grounds of race, colour, class, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, and health status continues to constrain development. In some countries, indigenous populations are subject to discrimination. The rights of minorities, migrants, and persons with disabilities are not yet fully reflected in national law. Violence against women and children is rife across the region. Almost all ESC States retain so-called ‘buggery’ legislation, and stigma and discrimination against LGBT persons and those living with HIV is widespread.

In the last decade, many Caribbean countries have experienced high rates of violent crime. According to UNODC, three ranked among the ten countries with the world’s highest homicide rates. In early 2018 Jamaica declared a state of public emergency, raising human rights concerns about arbitrary arrests and the conduct of its security forces. The authorities have claimed that robust action is ne-

cessary to address high crime rates in cities. Nine countries in the region have double the world average incarceration rate and in most of them prison conditions are dire. In the majority, torture has not yet been prohibited or criminalized. ESC States retain the death penalty, though executions are now rare. The administration of justice is weak. In general, victims of human rights violations have limited access to justice or remedies. No ESC country has yet established a national human rights institution (NHRI), although Jamaica, Grenada, Bahamas and Barbados have announced their intention to do so. Economic, social and cultural rights (ESCR) are not entrenched in constitutions. Civil society organizations are few in number, have limited resources, and face challenges when addressing controversial human rights issues.

## THE ENGLISH-SPEAKING CARIBBEAN AND SURINAME

### Countries of engagement

Antigua and Barbuda, Bahamas, Barbados, Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Jamaica, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

### Field presence

OHCHR has two Human Rights Advisers in the region. A Senior HRA (based in Kingston) covers Jamaica and Bahamas; a National HRA (based in Bridgetown) covers Antigua and Barbuda, Barbados, the Commonwealth of Dominica, Grenada, Guyana, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Suriname, and Trinidad and Tobago.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

The majority of countries in the region have a low ratification rate. Only the CRC and CEDAW have been ratified by all countries. CAT, CED, CMW and optional protocols that provide complaint mechanisms have not been ratified by the majority of the countries. Many Treaty Body reports remain outstanding. Human rights treaties are not fully incorporated in national law and some legislation is clearly in conflict with human rights obligations. Only two countries in the region (Bahamas and Dominica) have issued a standing invitation to special procedures. All countries were reviewed during the second UPR cycle. The Bahamas and Barbados have already been reviewed in the third cycle. Five ESC countries have created inter-ministerial committees as national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up. (See the overview table on page 130.)

### Visits by special procedures in the last four years

In 2017, the SR on violence against women visited Bahamas and the WG on people of African Descent visited Guyana.

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

Request have been made by: the WG on people of African descent (to Barbados, Jamaica, and Trinidad and Tobago, all in 2018); the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt (to Grenada, request made in 2017); the SR on racism (to Jamaica and to Trinidad and Tobago, both requests made in 2018); the SR on the right to food (to Trinidad and Tobago, request made in 2018).

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

### THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS	
<p><b>M</b> Mechanisms</p>	<p><b>M1</b></p> <p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>At least four Caribbean countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Saint Lucia, Suriname, Jamaica) have established mechanisms for human rights reporting and follow up.</p> <p>At least ten Treaty Body reports (of 24 that are outstanding) have been submitted; they meet reporting guidelines.</p>
	<p><b>M2</b></p> <p>Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues (frontier issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.</p> <p>At least five civil society organizations (from Jamaica, Barbados, Grenada, Antigua and Barbuda, and Trinidad and Tobago) have prepared alternative reports for a Treaty Body or contributed to stakeholder reports for the third UPR cycle.</p>
ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS	
<p><b>D</b> Development</p>	<p><b>D4</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>In at least two countries (Barbados and Suriname), policy or legal frameworks have improved sexual and reproductive health and HIV care, and the provision of information, in a manner that does not discriminate.</p>
	<p><b>D5</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>In at least two countries (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica), disaster risk and response strategies, and environment and climate change policies, safeguard the rights of affected populations, including vulnerable groups.</p>

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION

<p><b>ND</b> Non-Discrimination</p>	<p><b>ND1</b></p> <p>Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to ‘leave no one behind’, including by addressing the root causes of inequality.</p> <p>St. Kitts and Nevis and St. Lucia have ratified the CRPD. At least one country has ratified the CAT. At least one country has ratified the CMW.</p> <p>In at least three countries (Barbados, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago), laws and policies protect the rights of women, persons with disabilities, persons living with HIV, LGBTI persons and religious minorities.</p>
	<p><b>ND4</b></p> <p>Judicial institutions, media, and other sectors increasingly recognize and challenge harmful gender stereotypes and gender norms with a view to their eradication.</p> <p>In at least three Caribbean countries (Barbados, Grenada, Jamaica), laws and policies on domestic violence, marital rape and sexual harassment are being reformed to comply with international human rights standards.</p>

STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p><b>A1</b></p> <p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p> <p>In at least one country (Jamaica) law enforcement authorities and the judiciary have adopted in-house training on human rights. Barbados, Grenada, St. Lucia, and St. Vincent and the Grenadines have taken steps to provide human rights training to law enforcement officials.</p> <p>At least three countries (Bahamas, Grenada, Jamaica) have started to design or have established a national human rights institution (NHRI) that complies with the Paris Principles.</p>
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‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE

- Broaden the global constituency for human rights.
- Explore emerging human rights concerns (‘frontier issues’):
  - Climate change.
  - Corruption.
  - Inequalities.
  - People on the move.

SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’

Women, young people, persons with disabilities.

## HAITI

### Field presence

OHCHR has been present in Haiti since 2004. After closure of the UN Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) in October 2017, OHCHR became a component of the UN Mission for Justice Support in Haiti (MINUJUSTH).

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

Haiti is a party to six of the nine core international human rights law treaties. It has signed but has not yet ratified the CAT, the CED and the CRMW. After ratifying the CESR in 2013, it joined the OP-CRC on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography. Haiti is up to date with its reports to the CRC and CRPD. It appeared before the Human Rights Committee in 2014 and has reports pending to the CESCR (due in January 2016) and CERD (due in 2000). Haiti completed its second UPR in November 2016. (See the overview table on page 130.)

### Visits by special procedures in the last four years

The former Independent Expert on the human rights situation in Haiti conducted seven visits. The SR on the human rights of internally displaced persons visited in 2014.

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

WG on people of African descent; SR on the right to food; SR on torture; SR on extreme poverty; SR on internally displaced persons.

## CONTEXT

The human rights situation in Haiti remains serious and fragile, though violence and extrajudicial killings have significantly diminished since 2004. The political system and economy are characterized by endemic corruption, impunity and systemic inequality, denying basic rights to a majority of the population. Weak governance capacity, political gridlock, poverty, demographic pressure and recurrent natural disasters are complicating factors.

Haiti has shown a commitment to work with the UN human rights mechanisms. It has engaged with the UPR and improved reporting to Treaty Bodies, but has not ratified the United Nations human rights treaties on torture, enforced disappearance, or migrant workers. Follow up on the human rights recommendations made by the Independent Expert on the situation of Haiti (whose mandate was terminated in March 2017) remains patchy. The appointment of a Minister Delegate for Human Rights in September 2018 is a welcome development.

The Government acknowledges rule of law deficits. Some institutions are dysfunctional and weak. It is estimated that over 75% of detainees are in pre-trial detention, and spend an average of 1,100 days detained, well over the two-year limit set by national law. Prolonged pre-trial detention contributes to extreme prison overcrowding as well as practices assimilable to degrading and inhumane treatments. Prisons lack basic sanitary conditions and few detainees have access to legal advice.

The handling of demonstrations has improved and the police use disproportionate force less frequently. Although the Government has made efforts to professionalize the police and curb unlawful arrests and excessive use of force, some members of the National Police continue to commit serious human rights violations, including summary executions. Few cases are prosecuted and judicial accountability is poor. The General Inspectorate of the Police conducts administrative investigations into the majority of allegations, many of which claim excessive use of force, but judicial proceedings against alleged perpetrators are rare. Further reforms are required in the justice sector, including with respect to transitional justice. The army, disbanded in 1995, is being partially re-mobilized.

Discrimination and violence against women, children and persons living with disabilities remain widespread. It is estimated that one child in ten is in domesticity (not living with her or his family and performing domestic services). These children, also known as *restavèks*, often work without remuneration in conditions that violate their rights, and are vulnerable to physical and sexual abuse. Haiti’s LG-BTI community also faces discrimination, violence and threats of violence. Discrimination is a key driver of low human development which is exacerbated by the country’s economic fragility and frequent humanitarian crises. Haiti suffers disproportionately from climate change and natural disasters.

The situation of Haitian migrants is a concern. After countries in the region adopted laws and policies that restrict migration, hundreds of thousands of Haitians and persons of Haitian descent living abroad were deported, or risk deportation, often in violation of their rights; some are at risk of becoming stateless. In particular, many migrant women and minors of Haitian descent in the Dominican Republic lack documentation and suffer rights violations, especially in deportation cases.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b>	
<b>M</b> Mechanisms	<p><b>M1</b> National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>The Inter-Ministerial Committee meets regularly and, basing itself on a national action plan, takes action to implement recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms.</p>
<b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS</b>	
<b>D</b> Development	<p><b>D5</b> 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.</p> <p>The DPC (Direction de la Protection Civile) is strengthened; it works throughout the country and is equipped to address protection concerns associated with different types of disaster, drawing on disaster risk preparedness plans that comply with human rights standards. Haiti receives adequate resources to mitigate and adapt to the effects of climate change.</p>
<b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b>	
<b>PS</b> Peace and Security	<p><b>PS6</b> United Nations’ support to national and regional security forces, law enforcement agencies, and non-State actors integrates human rights and complies with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP).</p> <p>HRDDP implementation mechanisms and procedures have been established; these ensure that HRDDP is implemented fully.</p>

**THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME**

<b>ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION</b>		
<p><b>ND</b> Non-Discrimination</p>	<p>ND1</p>	<p>Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to ‘leave no one behind’, including by addressing the root causes of inequality.</p> <p>Laws criminalize sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV). No laws are discriminatory with respect to LGBTI persons. Incidents of SGBV and acts of violence against LGBTI persons are investigated and prosecuted. Women’s groups and associations that represent LGBTI persons and children are entitled to advocate on behalf of those they represent.</p>
	<p>ND6</p>	<p>The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected.</p> <p>Steps have been taken to ensure that the rights of Haitian migrants are protected, in particular during deportation cases and where persons of Haitian descent become stateless in the Dominican Republic.</p>
<b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b>		
<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p>A1</p>	<p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p> <p>The Inspectorate General for Police and the CSPJ (Conseil Supérieur du Pouvoir Judiciaire) function effectively and consistently investigate and prosecute serious violations.</p>
<b>ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE</b>		
<p><b>P</b> Participation</p>	<p>P1</p>	<p>Stronger laws, policies and practices protect the right to participate and civic space, including online, and the environment for civil society is increasingly safe and enabling.</p> <p>The OPC (Office de la Protection du Citoyen) retains its legal standing and receives the resources it requires to operate independently in all departments.</p>

**‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE**

- Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.
- Expand civic space.
- Broaden the global constituency for human rights.
- Explore emerging human rights concerns (‘frontier issues’):
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  - Corruption.
  - Inequalities.
  - People on the move.

**SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’**

Women, young people, people with disabilities.

## MEXICO

### Field presence

OHCHR has had an office in Mexico since 2002.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

Mexico is a party to most human rights treaties but has not ratified OP CESC, OP IC CRC and article 31 of CED. It has extended an open invitation to special procedures in 2001. It completed UPR reviews in 2009, 2013 and 2018.

(See the overview table on page 130.)

### Visits by special procedures in the last four years

SR on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (2013); SR on torture (2014); WG on business enterprises (2016); SR on HR defenders (2017); SR on water and sanitation (2017); SR on indigenous peoples (2017); SR on freedom of expression (2017).

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

SR on internally displaced persons; WG on people of African descent; SR on human rights and counter terrorism; SR on toxic waste; SR on trafficking; SR on racism; SR on sale of children.

## CONTEXT

Elections for the President, Federal Congress and nine of 32 Governors were held on 1 July 2018. A new Government took office on 1 December 2018. Its new institutional and policy stances will influence the human rights situation in the country.

The overall security context has been very troubling since 2006 when the armed forces were mobilized to fight organized crime, resulting in high levels of violence, record levels of homicide, and many other serious human rights violations, including enforced disappearances, torture and extrajudicial executions. Discussions about possible changes of the security paradigm are under way. The number of disappeared persons has reached at least 37,000 (according to official statistics) and the number of mass graves discovered has risen steeply. The new Government has established a Commission to reset an investigation into the most emblematic case, the disappearance of 43 students from the Ayotzinapa College in 2014, and has asked the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights (IACHR) and OHCHR for cooperation on the case. Transitional justice measures are currently being considered.

In recent years, Mexico has been one of the most dangerous countries for journalists: 12 were killed in 2017 and at least 12 in 2018. Human rights defenders (HRDs), particularly indigenous defenders of land and territory, are also frequent targets of attacks. According to OHCHR-Mexico, 20 HRDs were assassinated between the start of 2017 and the end of 2018. In the last decade, the rights of indigenous communities have been threatened because many indigenous territories have been opened to mining and energy projects. There are calls for more genuine consultation of indigenous communities, and a new National Institute for Indigenous People has been introduced by the incoming Government. A Mechanism for Protection of HRDs and Journalists provides protection to an increasing number of rights-holders, but it remains vital to establish broader public policies, both to protect HRDs and journalists and combat impunity by holding to account those who are responsible for attacks on them.

Socio-economically, Mexico suffers from high levels of inequality. The minimum wage is low and profound poverty exists in both rural and urban areas. Overcoming socio-economic inequality is one of the main priorities of the incoming Government.

Important changes have been made to the legal framework in the last four years. They include the introduction of general laws on disappearances and torture (2017), and adoption by the criminal justice system of an inquisitorial rather than an adversarial model. However, implementation of these normative reforms remains challenging. Another key envisaged reform, the transformation of the Office of the Attorney-General, is still in preparation. Specialized offices have been introduced at both state and federal levels to investigate disappearances, torture, femicides, and crimes against migrants, so far with mixed results.

Threats to women are a particular concern. Women face gender-based violence and are victims of violence as relatives of disappeared persons, migrants,

HRDs, journalists, indigenous, or persons with disabilities. A conservative backlash had been mounting against policies to promote the sexual and reproductive rights of women, but the new Government has announced an ambitious and progressive agenda in this regard.

Most migrants in Mexico are in transit from Central America. For many years, they have been subject to detention and return by the Mexican authorities, and exploitation and violence by organized crime. The new Government aims to take a more humanitarian and human rights-based approach to migration, opening the way to possible cooperation with OHCHR.

Finally, many Mexicans have been displaced by the violence linked to organized crime, local agrarian conflicts, and megaprojects that particularly affect indigenous populations. The phenomenon of internal forced displacement has not yet been officially recognized.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

### THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME



INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS	
M1	<p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>By the end of 2021, Mexico has ratified two international or regional human rights treaties and recognized the competence of the Committee on Enforced Disappearances to receive and consider individual communications.</p>
M3	<p>Policy-makers, legislators and courts make increased use of the outcomes of the international and regional human rights mechanisms.</p> <p>The work plans and activities of national and local institutions of the executive, legislative and judiciary, and other relevant actors, have integrated at least four recommendations of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation, and related mechanisms.</p> <p>The judiciary references international human rights standards more frequently in its decisions and activities; it does so in cases where the OHCHR has submitted a legal brief</p>

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS</b>	
<b>D</b> Development	<b>D2</b> <p>Business actors implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights effectively.</p> <p>Businesses, especially businesses in the energy sector, increasingly apply the UN Guiding Principles, notably in their due diligence procedures.</p>
	<b>ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION</b>
<b>ND</b> Non-Discrimination	<b>ND1</b> <p>Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to ‘leave no one behind’, including by addressing the root causes of inequality.</p> <p>Four laws or public policies have been adopted that combat discrimination and the root causes of inequality. They address the rights of indigenous peoples, migrants, and persons with disabilities, as well as gender-based violence, and comply with international human rights standards.</p>
	<b>ND2</b> <p>Justice systems and related institutions increasingly monitor and investigate discrimination and provide redress to victims.</p> <p>A specific public policy promotes the inclusion of people with disabilities and complies with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).</p>
	<b>ND6</b> <p>The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected.</p> <p>National laws recognize the rights to liberty and judicial guarantees of migrants, who enjoy stronger legal protection through national judicial and non-judicial protection mechanisms.</p>
<b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b>	
<b>A</b> Accountability	<b>A1</b> <p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p> <p>Effective steps have been taken to establish two or more of the following: safeguards during detention including a registry of detentions; a national mechanism for the prevention of torture; exclusion of illicit evidence.</p> <p>Mexico has adopted a national regulatory framework on the use of force that complies with international human rights standards.</p>
	<b>A2</b> <p>Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.</p> <p>At least four public policies have been adopted that protect the rights of individuals who are subject to search and identification (with respect to search commissions, registries, protocols, national plans, etc.). At least three public policies have been adopted that address prosecution, sanction and reparation in cases of disappearances of persons, torture, and other human rights violations. These policies are implemented at federal and local level in compliance with international human rights standards.</p>

**THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME**

<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p><b>A3</b></p> <p>Justice systems investigate and prosecute gender-related crimes more effectively.</p> <p>Relevant authorities take account of international human rights norms and standards in at least four prosecutions for violence against women, femicide, or denial of sexual and reproductive rights.</p>
	<p><b>A4</b></p> <p>States take measures to ensure that their decision-making, policies and actions are more transparent and the public has access to information for accountability purposes.</p> <p>At least ten new federal and local institutions adopt the OHCHR’s indicator framework when they report on the implementation of human rights policies, evaluate the impact of public programmes, or assess the implementation of international human rights recommendations.</p>
	<p><b>A5</b></p> <p>UN efforts for the rule of law, justice, counter-terrorism and accountability put human rights at the core.</p> <p>Selected joint programmes (maternal mortality, migration, other), as well as other documents developed under the UN development assistance framework (UNDAF) and by the United Nations system in Mexico, incorporate international human rights standards.</p>
<p><b>ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE</b></p>	
<p><b>P</b> Participation</p>	<p><b>P1</b></p> <p>Stronger laws, policies and practices protect the right to participate and civic space, including online, and the environment for civil society is increasingly safe and enabling.</p> <p>The relevant authorities take effective action to investigate and sanction attacks or reprisals against journalists and human rights defenders (HRDs) in at least 10% of the cases raised by OHCHR Mexico.</p>
	<p><b>P2</b></p> <p>The UN system and international, regional and national mechanisms provide increased, timely and effective protection to civil society organizations and individuals (including from reprisals).</p> <p>Public policies that protect HRDs and journalists are strengthened and improved. Specifically, protection programmes for HRDs are more effective; a more enabling environment has been created for HRDs and the media; HRDs and journalists receive broader public recognition; and laws on freedom of expression have been adopted or amended to comply with international standards.</p>
	<p><b>P3</b></p> <p>Business, policy-makers and a public at large increasingly value and support civic space.</p>

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

**P**  
Participation

**P6**

The voice of people affected by decisions, particularly victims and those who face discrimination, is more clearly heard.

Indigenous communities participate more, including through prior consultation, in decisions that affect them, including decisions that create or implement megaprojects.

In at least five states, victims of human rights violations and national civil society organizations claim their rights more often and more effectively.

‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE

- Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.
- Expand civic space.
- Broaden the global constituency for human rights.
- Explore emerging human rights concerns (‘frontier issues’):
  - People on the move.

SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’

Women, persons with disabilities.

## REGIONAL OFFICE FOR CENTRAL AMERICA, PANAMA AND DOMINICAN REPUBLIC (PANAMA)

### Field presence

The OHCHR Regional Office for Central America, Panama and Dominican Republic (RO-CAPRD) is based in Panama and was established in 2007.

### Countries of engagement

Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic (from mid-2018), El Salvador, Nicaragua, Panama (complementing field presences in Guatemala and Honduras).

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

Most countries in the sub-region cooperate consistently with the human rights mechanisms. Most countries in the sub-region issued a standing invitation to special procedure mandate holders. Most have reported on time to the Treaty Bodies, though implementation of their recommendations has been less systematic. All States have completed UPR reviews. (See the overview table on page 130.)

## CONTEXT

Peaceful transfers of power through election have been consolidated in the sub-region. The democracies that have emerged have nevertheless not produced balanced representation, nor achieved inclusion and transparency. Institutional and rule of law weaknesses, corruption, high levels of impunity and insecurity, threats to freedom of expression, and inequality and poverty persist in some countries. The failure of Governments to address and root out corruption and impunity is likely to lead to social conflict and more complex governance challenges in several countries. National circumstances differ, but in general most countries face similar calls for electoral reform, including for rules to ensure financial transparency.

Countries of the region are also affected by weak tax systems, tax evasion and tax avoidance, which compound the effects of corruption and undermine social investment and efforts to reduce poverty and inequality and guarantee access to education, health services, housing, justice, and other rights.

Structural discrimination persists, and particularly affects indigenous peoples, persons of African descent, persons with disabilities, women, migrants,

asylum seekers, LGBTI persons, refugees, and youth. Although laws prohibit discrimination in several countries, no country in the region has a comprehensive legal framework to combat discrimination, or mechanisms that permit groups to argue their cause when policies or laws affect them. Despite some positive steps to combat racism, indigenous peoples and afro-descendants face multiple forms of discrimination; many communities still lack effective access to basic services. Discrimination and violence against women and LGBTI groups are also frequent. Few policies or institutions advance or protect sexual and reproductive rights and most countries in the sub-region prohibit or fail to regulate abortion, putting many women at risk. Women and LGBTI defenders are often stigmatized; hate crimes and killings of LGBTI persons, and transwomen in particular, have occurred with impunity, notably in El Salvador. With respect to indigenous peoples, the establishment in 2018 of the Consultation Mechanism for Indigenous Peoples in Costa Rica is an example of good practice. OHCHR's Regional Office provided technical assistance and cooperation to both the Government and indigenous parties to the Mechanism to ensure that it complied with international human rights norms and standards.

Migrants are disproportionately vulnerable to discrimination, marginalization, exploitation, violence, and xenophobia, and suffer a range of human rights violations before departure, during transit, on arrival and on return. People living with disabilities face discrimination and barriers that restrict their full and equal participation in society. In El Salvador, young adults living in poor areas controlled by gangs are at risk of forced recruitment and arbitrary law enforcement.

In recent years, space for civic activity and advocacy has shrunk. The insecurity of civil society activists and human rights defenders, and restrictions on freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and access to information, are growing concerns. Those particularly at risk include lawyers, judges, journalists, women human rights defenders, trades union

leaders, campesino and community leaders who organize public demonstrations, as well as people living with disabilities, indigenous leaders defending the rights of their peoples, activists defending land rights and access to natural resources, human rights defenders investigating corruption, and LGBTI defenders. During the unfolding social, political and human rights crisis in Nicaragua, which the Regional Office has been monitoring and reporting on since it started in mid-April 2018, human rights defenders, student leaders, journalists and media officials and others have been harassed, criminalized, and in some cases detained. Many have been forced to flee the country and seek asylum, mainly in Costa Rica.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

### THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS	
<p><b>M</b> Mechanisms</p>	<p><b>M1</b></p> <p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>Structures to report to human rights mechanisms and follow up their recommendations have been established or strengthened. They are equipped to consult and coordinate with the human rights mechanisms and relevant national actors, manage information, and engage appropriately with the mechanisms, the authorities and the public.</p> <p>National Preventive Mechanisms against Torture have been established and are fulfilling their mandate effectively.</p> <p>Countries have ratified some outstanding treaties.</p>
	<p><b>M2</b></p> <p>Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues (frontier issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.</p> <p>Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and UN Country Teams have increased by at least 25% the number of contributions they submit to the UN human rights mechanisms.</p>

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<p><b>D</b> Development</p>	<p><b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS</b></p> <p><b>D2</b> Business actors implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights effectively. Costa Rica and Panama have incorporated the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in their national action plans, and actively promote its implementation in all sectors.</p>
	<p><b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b></p> <p><b>PS5</b> Human rights information and analyses will have been integrated in early warning and analysis systems and influence international and national policy-making, strategies and operations to prevent, mitigate or respond to emerging crises, including humanitarian crises and conflict. The Regional Office has increased its capacity to gather, analyse and manage information relevant to early warning, advocacy and response to critical situations of violence and insecurity; as a result, it has contributed significantly to key regional and national processes and discussions. Relevant security institutions receive political and technical advice enabling them to protect citizens' security in a manner that complies with international human rights standards.</p>
<p><b>PS</b> Peace and Security</p>	<p><b>ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION</b></p> <p><b>ND5</b> Principles and practices effectively counter discrimination and hate speech in the digital space. States, civil society and the public increasingly recognize that hate speech, disseminated via digital platforms such as social media, fuels discrimination and other human rights abuses, undermining efforts to achieve the SDGs.</p>
	<p><b>ND6</b> The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected. Official migration policies and programmes recognize the need to protect the human rights of migrants, especially those who are in situations of vulnerability, and have taken steps to do so.</p>
<p><b>ND</b> Non-Discrimination</p>	<p><b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b></p> <p><b>A1</b> Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems. A mobile monitoring team has been established that strengthens OHCHR's capacity to gather information on the human rights situation in countries of the region and report on cases and situations; its work enables the international community to make more effective representations to Government on a wide range of concerns.</p>
	<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>

**THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME**

<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p><b>A2</b></p> <p>Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.</p> <p>Processes for election of magistrates to higher courts in the region that comply with international standards have been introduced to guarantee the independence and impartiality of the judiciary.</p>
	<p><b>A3</b></p> <p>Justice systems investigate and prosecute gender-related crimes more effectively.</p> <p>The decisions of judicial institutions increasingly reference international human rights standards and principles of gender equality in cases of femicide and violence against women.</p>
	<p><b>ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE</b></p>
<p><b>P</b> Participation</p>	<p><b>P5</b></p> <p>More systematic monitoring of the environment for civic space, including threats to it, takes place.</p> <p>Governments and other relevant institutions have taken effective steps to protect human rights defenders. The situation and security of human rights defenders is monitored more closely.</p>
	<p><b>P6</b></p> <p>The voice of people affected by decisions, particularly victims and those who face discrimination, is more clearly heard.</p> <p>Groups that suffer discrimination, including women, LGBTI persons, people of African descent, indigenous peoples and people living with disabilities, have increased their advocacy capacity and are able to exercise their right to participate in decision-making processes.</p>

**‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE**

- Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.
- Expand civic space.
- Broaden the global constituency for human rights.
- Explore emerging human rights concerns (‘frontier issues’):
  - Digital space and emerging technologies.
  - Corruption.
  - Inequalities.
  - People on the move.

**SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’**

Women, young people, persons with disabilities.

## GUATEMALA

### Field presence

OHCHR's office in Guatemala was established in 2005<sup>5</sup> to provide a human rights monitoring presence at the end of the UN Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA). It has a full mandate including both technical cooperation and human rights monitoring. The mandate of the Office was extended in 2008, 2011, 2014 and 19 September 2017, on each occasion for three years.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

Guatemala has ratified all the core international HR treaties, except CPED, ICCPR-OP2 and OP-ICESCR. It has not signed ILO Convention 189 and does not recognize CERD's competence under Art. 14, or the CRC's competence under Articles 5, 12 and 13 of OP-CRC-IC. Guatemala has issued a standing invitation to Special Procedures. It completed UPR reviews in 2008, 2012 and 2017, but did not accept recommendations related to land, LGBTI rights, or sexual and reproductive rights. (See the overview table on page 130.)

### Visits by special procedures in the last four years

The Government received the visit of the SR on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography in 2012 and the SR on the rights of indigenous peoples in 2018.

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

WG on enforced disappearances; SR on torture; SR on foreign debt; SR on independence of judges.

## CONTEXT

Guatemala is at a crossroads. It faces a choice between making necessary reforms to create a modern democratic state, based on the rule of law and guided by human rights principles, or sustaining an old and unjust system in which the few profit at the expense of the majority. Wrong choices could set the country back years and halt the transformation begun by Guatemala's impressive, vibrant civil society.

The International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala (CICIG), the Attorney General's Office (AGO), and other key institutions, have taken important initiatives to end corruption and impunity. AGO and CICIG have unveiled criminal and corruption networks involving high level officials in all three branches of the State as well as business. However, reforms of the justice system are not fully consolidated and this progress could be reversed if structural reforms are not approved. The Government announced that CICIG's mandate will not be renewed when it expires in 2019.

An estimated 60% of Guatemalans identify themselves as indigenous. The country remains one of the world's most unequal in terms of health, education, and land and income distribution. Women, indigenous peoples, afro-descendants, migrants, and persons with disabilities face continued discrimination, marginalization, and the pernicious effects of corruption and impunity. Indigenous women do not have adequate access to land, land title or economic resources. Failure to consult indigenous peoples, especially on development and mining projects, has resulted in conflicts and violations of indigenous peoples' rights to lands, territories and natural resources.

Human rights defenders, including journalists and judges, remain highly vulnerable to violence and stigmatization for their work. Many have been the subject of unjustified criminal procedures.

<sup>5</sup> On 31 May 2005, the Congress approved the Agreement to establish an OHCHR Office in Guatemala. It was signed on 10 January 2005.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b>	
<b>M</b> Mechanisms	<b>M2</b> <p>Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues (frontier issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.</p> <p>Civil society organizations use Treaty Body or UPR follow-up procedures to submit individual cases.</p>
	<b>M3</b> <p>Policy-makers, legislators and courts make increased use of the outcomes of the international and regional human rights mechanisms.</p> <p>In coordination with other institutions, the Presidential Commission for Human Rights (CO-PREDEH) improves compliance with requests from international human rights mechanisms.</p>
<b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS</b>	
<b>D</b> Development	<b>D1</b> <p>Judicial and non-judicial mechanisms hold business and other economic actors to account for rights abuses and provide remedies to victims.</p> <p>Businesses and other economic actors are increasingly held to account for rights abuses. Public institutions, including the judicial authorities and the Ombudsman’s Office, are equipped to ensure that the rights of communities affected by natural resource projects are protected and that victims of abuses associated with business projects have access to remedies.</p>
	<b>D3</b> <p>State authorities adopt and implement laws, policies and strategies on land and housing that increasingly comply with human rights.</p> <p>Selected State institutions incorporate international human rights standards more consistently in their interventions and policies on land, housing, poverty and related rights.</p> <p>Rights holders, especially rural dwellers, women, indigenous people, persons with disabilities and other groups affected by discrimination, actively participate in preparing laws, policies and strategies that relate to food, housing and land.</p>
	<b>D6</b> <p>Human rights assessments and impact analyses mitigate, prevent or redress the negative effects of economic, trade and development policies and projects.</p> <p>State institutions design protocols, policies and strategies compliant with international human rights standards and with the full participation of indigenous peoples especially women and indigenous young people.</p>
	<b>D7</b> <p>States integrate human rights, including the right to development and human rights mechanisms’ outcomes, as they implement the Sustainable Development Goals and other development and poverty eradication efforts; and the UN supports them in these purposes, integrating human rights in its own development work.</p> <p>The SDG strategies of UN entities, the evaluation of the 2014-2019 UN development assistance framework (UNDAF), and the design of its successor (2020-2024), integrate a human rights-based approach.</p>

**THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME**

<p><b>PS</b> Peace and Security</p>	<p><b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b></p>	
	<p>PS3</p>	<p>Strategies to prevent and respond to conflict consistently integrate human rights protection.</p> <p>The policies and conduct of State institutions that are responsible for the security of citizens increasingly comply with international human rights standards; they give special attention to the rights of indigenous people, women, children, migrants and other groups subject to discrimination, as well as civil society organizations.</p>
<p><b>ND</b> Non-Discrimination</p>	<p><b>ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION</b></p>	
	<p>ND1</p>	<p>Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to ‘leave no one behind’, including by addressing the root causes of inequality.</p> <p>National laws, policies and practices take a human rights-based approach, and in particular respect the rights of indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, women, LGBTI persons, and other groups that experience discrimination.</p> <p>Indigenous peoples, women, and other groups subject to discrimination make use of strategic litigation to demand their rights and hold to account individuals and institutions that violate human rights.</p>
	<p>ND6</p>	<p>The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected.</p> <p>Institutions that implement migration policies adopt a human rights-based approach. Civil society organizations, State institutions, United Nations agencies and other relevant actors cooperate more actively to monitor, enforce, and ensure respect for migrants’ human rights.</p>
	<p>ND7</p>	<p>Public support for equal, inclusive and diverse societies, without discrimination, increases.</p> <p>The society speaks out on critical human rights issues, reports abuses, demands the necessary changes and participate in decision-making processes.</p>
<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p><b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b></p>	
	<p>A1</p>	<p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p> <p>The Attorney General’s Office, the Public Defence Institute, the judiciary, the Constitutional Court, Congress, and key State institutions increasingly integrate human rights standards in their policies and decisions. National and international civil society organizations, the Congress, and other actors, advocate for abolition of the death penalty and ratification of the second optional protocol of the ICCPR.</p>

## THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

**P**  
Participation

### ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE

P2

The UN system and international, regional and national mechanisms provide increased, timely and effective protection to civil society organizations and individuals (including from reprisals).

Institutional mechanisms to protect human rights defenders are robust, comply with international standards, and are appropriately sensitive to gender and culture.

P6

The voice of people affected by decisions, particularly victims and those who face discrimination, is more clearly heard.

Rights holders, especially women, youth, indigenous peoples and other under-represented groups, defend human rights and make their voices heard.

### 'SHIFTS' ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE

Expand civic space.

Broaden the global constituency for human rights.

Explore emerging human rights concerns ('frontier issues'):

- Corruption.
- Inequalities.
- People on the move.

### SHINING A 'SPOTLIGHT'

Women, young people, persons with disabilities.

## HONDURAS

### Field presence

Human Rights Adviser from 2010. Country Office established in May 2015.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

Honduras is a party to most human rights treaties but has not ratified OP-CEDAW, OP-CRC or OP-CESCR. In 2017 it closed its backlog in reporting to Treaty Bodies. It has extended an open invitation to special procedures, and has received numerous communications; however its response rate is low. (See the overview table on page 130.)

### Visits by special procedures in the last four years

Honduras received official visits by the SR on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (May 2016), the SR on the rights of indigenous peoples (November 2015), the SR on the human rights of internally displaced persons (November 2015), the SR on situation of human rights defenders (2018), and the WG on discrimination against women in law and practice (2018).

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

SR on torture; WG on people of African descent; SR on human rights and counter terrorism; SR on toxic waste.

## CONTEXT

Honduras is the second poorest country in the region. It is characterised by high wealth inequality and widespread poverty, which disproportionately affects rural and indigenous communities. Notwithstanding continued moderate economic growth, poverty rates in 2018 approach 70% and are almost unchanged since 2012. Poverty reduction programmes have had limited impact, due to pervasive corruption and poor management. In June 2018, the Government announced its readiness to promote the development of a National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights.

Institutions remain fragile and continue to lack independence. The security forces have not been held accountable for human rights violations committed during protests that accompanied the 2017 presidential election. The UN-supported National Dialogue concluded without formal agreement in December 2018. The Dialogue's Working Group on Human Rights, which OHCHR-Honduras accompanied, agreed on 46 action points, all based on recommendations made to the country by the international human rights mechanisms.

Despite a fall in the homicide rate, violence and insecurity permeate every level of society, and particularly affect individuals or groups who challenge social norms or the status quo, including human rights defenders (HRDs), indigenous peoples, women, and LGBTI persons. Organized crime remains a challenge to the authority of the state, not least because of connivances with political and economic elites. Concerns include continued use of the armed forces in law enforcement operations and impunity for human rights violations, including torture and extrajudicial executions. Despite efforts in the last few years, Honduras remains a dangerous place for HRDs. Effective enjoyment of the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, access to information, peaceful assembly and association, and participation in public life are restricted by a range of legal and social factors.

Honduras has shown a commitment to work with the UN human rights mechanisms. The Government has established a platform (SIMOREH) to follow-up recommendations issued by the human rights mechanisms, with support from the Office.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b>	
<b>M</b> Mechanisms	<b>M1</b> <p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>An effective national monitoring and reporting mechanism is established.</p>
	<b>M2</b> <p>Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues (frontier issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.</p> <p>The national human rights institution, civil society organizations, and UN agencies cooperate with UN human rights mechanisms and use their recommendations, guidance and jurisprudence in advocacy.</p>
<b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS</b>	
<b>D</b> Development	<b>D2</b> <p>Business actors implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights effectively.</p> <p>The Government and businesses take steps to implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.</p>
	<b>D3</b> <p>State authorities adopt and implement laws, policies and strategies on land and housing that increasingly comply with human rights.</p> <p>Rights holders enjoy improved protection of their rights with regard to land, territory and natural resources.</p>
	<b>D7</b> <p>States integrate human rights, including the right to development and human rights mechanisms’ outcomes, as they implement the Sustainable Development Goals and other development and poverty eradication efforts; and the UN supports them in these purposes, integrating human rights in its own development work.</p> <p>Selected government entities align their programmes on labour rights and poverty reduction with international economic, social and cultural rights.</p>
<b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b>	
<b>A</b> Accountability	<b>A1</b> <p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p> <p>Laws, policies and practices on security, including the participation of military forces in citizen security tasks, comply more fully with human rights standards.</p>

**THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME**

**A2** Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.

The Supreme Office and the Office of the Attorney General strengthen their technical and institutional capacity to prosecute human rights violations promptly, impartially and effectively. As part of its strategic working plan, the Supreme Court adopts and implements strategies that improve the access to justice of marginalized groups, including migrants, women victims of violence, indigenous people, members of the LGTBI community, and persons living with disabilities.

**ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE**

**P**  
Participation

**P2** The UN system and international, regional and national mechanisms provide increased, timely and effective protection to civil society organizations and individuals (including from reprisals).

Legal frameworks, public policies and institutions, and the national protection mechanism, increasingly apply international standards and practices that protect human rights defenders, including from intimidation and attack.

**P5** More systematic monitoring of the environment for civic space, including threats to it, takes place.

By 2021, the relevant authorities are taking effective action to investigate and sanction attacks or reprisals against human rights defenders in cases raised by OHCHR Honduras.

**P6** The voice of people affected by decisions, particularly victims and those who face discrimination, is more clearly heard.

Rights holders, especially women, indigenous peoples and other under-represented groups, participate in selected public processes at local and national level.

**'SHIFTS' ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE**

- Expand civic space.
- Broaden the global constituency for human rights.
- Explore emerging human rights concerns ('frontier issues'):
  - Corruption.
  - Inequalities.

**SHINING A 'SPOTLIGHT'**

Women.

## REGIONAL OFFICE FOR SOUTH AMERICA (SANTIAGO DE CHILE)

### Field presence

The OHCHR Regional Office for South America (ROSA) has been based in Santiago, Chile, since 2009. ROSA currently deploys national human rights advisors in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, and Uruguay. Advisors sit in the Resident Coordinator's office in each country.

### Countries of engagement

Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Paraguay, Peru, Uruguay, Venezuela.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

Almost all countries in the sub-region have ratified all the core human rights treaties. Almost all engage well with human rights mechanisms. Some optional protocols (most referring to individual communications) are pending. All countries except Venezuela have issued a standing invitation to mandate holders. All have engaged actively with the UPR mechanism. The main challenge remains implementation. (See the overview table on page 130.)

## CONTEXT

Countries in the sub-region have a high ratification rate and engage positively with human rights mechanisms. With few exceptions, they have ratified all core human rights treaties. All except Venezuela have issued a standing invitation to mandate holders. All have participated actively in the UPR.

States in the sub-region have strengthened their human rights institutional frameworks, and have established human rights ministries, vice ministries and national human rights institutions (NHRIs). The sub-region also has a network of well-organized and active civil society organizations, which have a record of engaging with human rights mechanisms at UN and regional levels. Nevertheless, several countries face difficulties in sustaining democratic governance. The sub-region is no stranger to anti-human rights and anti-democratic rhetoric or government decisions that infringe international human rights standards and obligations.

The legislative and institutional arrangements in several countries do not adequately protect gender equality and women's rights, the rights of LGBTI persons, public security, or related public freedoms. All countries in the sub-region are characterized by high levels of impunity and inhumane prison conditions. Violence against women and girls is widespread and femicide cases have increased.

In the past years, several countries have struggled with recession and low levels of growth, which have compromised their capacity to implement reforms and policies that promote human rights. Others have prospered economically but failed to tackle inequality. The sub-region grapples with rising levels of inequality, extensive corruption and mismanagement of public resources, failings that threaten the achievement of national development objectives, long-term growth, and progressive realization of social, economic and cultural rights. Most affected by these trends are the poor, women, youth, children, the elderly, indigenous people, afro-descendants, rural communities, LGBTI persons, migrants, refugees, and persons with disabilities.

Other serious human rights concerns include restrictions on freedom of expression and association and, in several countries, the dismal situation of human rights defenders (HRDs). Civil society organizations in the sub-region face growing pressure: social protest is increasingly criminalized, HRDs are stigmatized, and NGOs are subject to onerous regulations.

Because they are poorly regulated or authorities fail to apply regulations, the activities of extractive industries frequently harm indigenous peoples, whose rights to be consulted, and to land, territory and resources, are not respected. Protest that have erupted in several countries against reversals of social and economic policies as well as austerity measures have been met by some governments with excessive force.

The sub-region has developed good transitional justice processes, and has been at the forefront of progress in areas, such as truth telling, justice and reparation. But there have been setbacks. Of particular concern are persistent amnesty laws, the slow progress of criminal investigations and associated trials, and the pardon, release on parole, or annulment of convictions, of persons found guilty of crimes against humanity. The implementation of reparation measures has been hampered by lack of resources, victims' inadequate access to services, and the omission of groups whose recognition as victims is still pending (including women who have suffered torture related to sexual violence).

As of November 2018, at least 3 million Venezuelan refugees and migrants had fled Venezuela, of whom 2.3 million have emigrated since 2015. The majority (2.4 million) are living in Latin America and the Caribbean. Venezuelan migrants, particularly women, children, persons with disabilities and indigenous people, have been at increasing risk given most were in a precarious situation when they left. In general, countries in the sub-region have responded positively. Most have offered a range of options for regularization and have taken steps to provide food, health and shelter. Nevertheless, Venezuelans migrants and refugees have serious protection needs in their host countries. The risks they face include: labour and sexual exploitation; forced recruitment by criminal or armed groups; trafficking; gender-based violence; limited access to health, food, education and housing; lack of access to justice; and discrimination and xenophobia.

## OHCHR's expected contribution by 2021

### THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

#### M Mechanisms

#### INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

M1

National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.

National mechanisms for reporting and follow-up (NMRFs) function effectively in Argentina, Bolivia, Brazil, Chile, Ecuador, Peru, and Venezuela.

M2

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

Civil society organizations report regularly to UN mechanisms, participate in sessions (including through the use of technology), and use concluding observations and reports for advocacy and follow-up purposes.

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS	
<p><b>D</b> Development</p>	<p><b>D2</b></p> <p>Business actors implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights effectively.</p> <p>Business enterprises (particularly in Brazil, Chile, and Peru) progressively adopt human rights policies and due diligence procedures that comply with human rights standards and the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.</p>
	<p><b>D7</b></p> <p>States integrate human rights, including the right to development and human rights mechanisms’ outcomes, as they implement the Sustainable Development Goals and other development and poverty eradication efforts; and the UN supports them in these purposes, integrating human rights in its own development work.</p> <p>States implement the 2030 Agenda using national development plans that integrate recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms.</p> <p>States’ procedures for reviewing and follow-up make increasing use of national human rights mechanisms, and adopt a human rights-based approach to data.</p> <p>State institutions responsible for data collection apply human rights-based methods to address patterns of discrimination and inequality, enabling Governments to target their interventions more precisely.</p>
ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION	
<p><b>ND</b> Non-Discrimination</p>	<p><b>ND1</b></p> <p>Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to ‘leave no one behind’, including by addressing the root causes of inequality.</p> <p>State institutions responsible for meeting the needs of vulnerable groups have been strengthened and receive adequate funding and political support.</p> <p>Discrimination and gender equality laws comply with international human rights standards.</p> <p>Judges and prosecutors are better equipped, in terms of law and training, to prosecute discrimination and gender crimes successfully.</p> <p>State policies protect indigenous peoples against discrimination; consultation protocols have been adopted. Policies provide effective protection to communities that live in isolation or are making initial contact.</p> <p>Schools are increasingly running awareness-raising campaigns and education programmes on human rights and diversity, to combat discrimination, bigotry and hate.</p>

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

**A**  
Accountability

**A1**

Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.

Mechanisms are in place that monitor detention centres effectively; cases of torture are consistently reported and prosecuted by the authorities.

Steps have been taken to protect the rights of persons deprived of their liberty and to improve detention conditions. Improved terms and conditions/contracts enable judges and prosecutors to be properly independent.

Victims of gross human rights violations and their families have enhanced access to information that is still classified. States effectively implement reparation measures, including measures recommended by truth and reconciliation commissions.

ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE

**P**  
Participation

**P1**

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

Indigenous peoples, women, LGTBI rights advocates, human rights defenders, and people of African descent have increased capacity to make use of national, regional and international human rights mechanisms to protect their rights. Human rights defenders and indigenous peoples participate more actively in public affairs and consistently monitor decisions that affect them.

State institutions and national human rights institutions (NHRIs) are better equipped to monitor protests and document human rights violations.

Laws on freedom of expression and assembly comply with international human rights standards.

Police protocols regulating the use of force comply with international standards.

States have adopted laws and taken measures to protect human rights defenders.

NHRIs have developed early warning and rapid response mechanisms that prevent conflict and protect human rights defenders.

‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE

- Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.
- Expand civic space.
- Explore emerging human rights concerns (‘frontier issues’):
  - Corruption.
  - Inequalities.

SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’

Women, persons with disabilities.

## COLOMBIA

### Field presence

OHCHR Colombia was established in 1997. The main office is in Bogotá; 16 territorial presences operate in other departments.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

During the next four years, Colombia will be reviewed by the Committees of the ICMW, the ICCPR, the CRC, and the ICESCR. (See the overview table on page 130.)

### Visits by special procedures in the last four years

Colombia issued a standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders in March 2003. From 2011 to 2017 Colombia did not receive any visit by special procedures. In November 2018, the SR on the situation of human rights defenders visited Colombia.

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

Many Special Procedures mandate holders have requested to visit Colombia in 2019. They include the WG on people of African descent; the SR on internally displaced persons; and the WG on human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises. Other mandates that have expressed their interest in a country visit are the SR on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; and the SR on the rights of indigenous peoples.

## CONTEXT

Since September 2012, Colombian politics have been dominated by peace talks between the Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia (FARC). A Final Peace Agreement was signed in 2016. Initially rejected in a public referendum, it was subsequently ratified by Congress after revision. In August 2018, President Ivan Duque, of the Democratic Center party, took office. The new administration announced that it will change 'structural errors' in the Peace Agreement with the FARC. These modifications are expected to revise transitional justice mechanisms, particularly the Special Jurisdiction for Peace (JEP) and victims' rights, and restore enforced crop substitution programmes.

In the Agreement, the Office was assigned several tasks. These included: monitoring the protection of human rights defenders; monitoring the security of FARC members as FARC becomes a legally recognized political party; reviewing the cases of FARC members currently in detention centres; and accompanying victims through the Integral System of Transitional Justice.

Although the peace process has reduced the overall incidence of violence against civilians, recent trends have been worrying and violence has spiked. Human rights defenders and social leaders have been particularly targeted, as have rural communities that live in areas where illicit crops are farmed or where illegal mining and other activities are occurring.

The preliminary peace talks between the Government and the ELN (*Ejército de Liberación Nacional*) have been at a standstill since August 2018. OHCHR and the international community have pushed for the talks to restart, without much avail. The Office is also working to improve contacts between civil society and the Government. OHCHR acquired considerable experience of social dialogue and trust-building during major protests in 2013, 2016, 2017 and 2018, and has helped to reduce violence and confrontation between civil society protesters and public security forces.

OHCHR Colombia will continue to collaborate with the UN Country Team (UNCT) and UN Verification Mission to oversee the political, economic, and social reintegration of demobilized members of FARC–EP, and monitor and support peace talks with the ELN. OHCHR reports to the Human Rights Council annually, and makes a detailed assessment of the human rights situation in the country. The Peace Agreement requested OHCHR to include a chapter on implementation of the Agreement in its report. International coordination and monitoring are vital, both to protect the human rights of communities and ex-FARC members, and the stability of the peace process.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

### THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

<b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b>	
<span style="font-size: 2em; color: #e67e22;">M</span> Mechanisms	<div style="background-color: #e67e22; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"><b>M2</b></div> <p>Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues (frontier issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.</p> <p>The national human rights institution (NHRI), civil society organizations, individuals, and UN agencies make substantive contributions to the Treaty Bodies, special procedures, and UPR submissions.</p>
<b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS</b>	
<span style="font-size: 2em; color: #2980b9;">D</span> Development	<div style="background-color: #2980b9; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"><b>D2</b></div> <p>Business actors implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights effectively.</p> <p>The national action plan on business and human rights is fully implemented. The institutions responsible for economic and investment policies and for departments, districts and municipalities (including indigenous areas) are more fully engaged.</p>
<div style="background-color: #2980b9; color: white; padding: 5px; margin-bottom: 5px;"><b>D3</b></div> <p>State authorities adopt and implement laws, policies and strategies on land and housing that increasingly comply with human rights.</p> <p>Laws, policies and strategies on poverty, land and housing that the Social Prosperity Agency, Illicit Crop Substitution Division, National Land Agency, Rural Development Agency, and Territorial Renovation Agency adopt and implement increasingly comply with human rights standards.</p>	

**THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME**

<p><b>D</b> Development</p>	<p><b>D4</b> ▶ 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.</p> <p>Populations in situations of vulnerability (including afro-Colombian and indigenous people) participate more fully in realizing their right to health.</p> <p>The policies and programmes of the comprehensive health assistance system (MIAS) and the comprehensive indigenous intercultural health system (SISPI) increasingly comply with human rights standards.</p>
<p><b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b></p>	
<p><b>PS</b> Peace and Security</p>	<p><b>PS1</b> ▶ Parties to conflict and actors involved in peace operations increasingly comply with international human rights and humanitarian law and provide greater protection to civilians.</p> <p>All actors involved in peace operations increasingly recognize and comply with international human rights standards and humanitarian law and enhance protection of civilians.</p>
<p><b>PS3</b></p>	<p>Strategies to prevent and respond to conflict consistently integrate human rights protection.</p> <p>The Ministry of Interior, the Ministry of Defence, the General Command of Military Forces, the National Police, the Procurator General’s Office and the Ombudsman’s Office act proactively to prevent human rights violations and enhance their response when human rights violations occur.</p>
<p><b>PS4</b></p>	<p>Justice mechanisms, including for transitional justice, provide increased accountability for conflict-related violations.</p> <p>Transitional justice mechanisms increase accountability for conflict-related violations of human rights and humanitarian law.</p>
<p><b>ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION</b></p>	
<p><b>ND</b> Non-Discrimination</p>	<p><b>ND1</b> ▶ Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to ‘leave no one behind’, including by addressing the root causes of inequality.</p> <p>National institutions, namely the Ombudsman’s office, the Ministry of the Interior, the Procurator General’s Office, the Ministry of the Environment, the national police, and the Presidential Office for Women’s Equity, combat discrimination against ethnic minorities, women and LGBTI persons more effectively.</p>
<p><b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b></p>	
<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p><b>A1</b> ▶ Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p> <p>The Government adopts or strengthens policies that prevent human rights violations from occurring in the context of the justice system. For instance, it limits military criminal jurisdiction in cases of gross human rights violation; limits the selection and accumulation of cases by the National Attorney General’s Office (Fiscalia General de la Nación); and orients prosecutorial policy to strengthen the operations of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace.</p>

**THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME**

<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p><b>A2</b></p> <p>Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights. The Government strengthens the mechanisms for collective reparation and land restitution.</p>
	<p><b>A3</b></p> <p>Justice systems investigate and prosecute gender-related crimes more effectively. The national justice system investigates and prosecutes gender-related crimes more effectively.</p>
	<p><b>ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE</b></p>
<p><b>P</b> Participation</p>	<p><b>P1</b></p> <p>Stronger laws, policies and practices protect the right to participate and civic space, including online, and the environment for civil society is increasingly safe and enabling. Relevant national, regional and local institutions apply a human rights-based approach in public policies and programmes that result from implementation of the Peace Accords; they emphasize participation and accountability in particular.</p>
	<p><b>P2</b></p> <p>The UN system and international, regional and national mechanisms provide increased, timely and effective protection to civil society organizations and individuals (including from reprisals). Institutions that are responsible for the protection of human rights defenders investigate and prosecute crimes against human rights defenders that are brought to their attention by OHCHR.</p>
	<p><b>P6</b></p> <p>The voice of people affected by decisions, particularly victims and those who face discrimination, is more clearly heard. Victims, indigenous peoples and women participate more fully in decisions that concern them.</p>

**‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE**

- Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.
- Expand civic space.
- Broaden the global constituency for human rights.
- Explore emerging human rights concerns (‘frontier issues’):
  - Inequalities.

**SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’**

Women, young people.

## ASIA PACIFIC

### INTRODUCTION

The Asia Pacific region is vast and diverse being home to more than one third of the world's people. However OHCHR has only a limited footprint in the region: a Regional Office for South-East Asia based in Bangkok; an office in Seoul operating under a specific mandate in relation to the Democratic People's Republic of Korea (DPRK); an Office in Cambodia that provides technical cooperation on the basis of a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Government of Cambodia; and a Regional Office for the Pacific located in Suva. In addition, a human rights unit sits in the UN Integrated Mission in Afghanistan, led by the Department for Political Affairs (DPA). The UN Sustainable Development Group and OHCHR have deployed human rights advisers to Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams in Bangladesh, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Timor-Leste. OHCHR also supports the work of national officers based in the Resident Coordinators' offices in Maldives, Malaysia, Nepal and Pakistan.

The Human Rights Council has mandated three country specific special procedure mandates to work on Cambodia, DPRK and Myanmar, as well as the DPRK Accountability Project (HRC res. 34/24) and the International Independent Fact-Finding Mission on Myanmar, established in March 2017.

OHCHR seeks to promote respect and protection of human rights throughout the region by employing a range of tools, including public and private advocacy, human rights mainstreaming in development programming, technical cooperation and capacity building programmes, protection through presence and monitoring, and support for the implementation of the outcomes of UN human rights mechanisms. OHCHR actively seeks to strengthen civil society and the capacity of national human rights institutions (NHRIs) in the region as well as build strong working relationships with national governments and state institutions. NHRIs in the region vary in their compliance with internationally accepted standards for NHRIs (the 'Paris Principles'): for instance, Sri Lanka, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, India and Indonesia enjoy A-status, Bangladesh, Maldives, Myanmar and Thailand B-status, while Pakistan is yet to be accredited.

OHCHR's South-East Asia Regional Office also actively engages with the sub-regional intergovernmental human rights mechanism of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), known as the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR).

## CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS CONTEXT

This diverse and dynamic region includes China, India and Indonesia, which in terms of geography and population, are among the world's largest countries, as well as small island states in the Pacific whose populations number in the low thousands. In its diversity, the region presents a number of opportunities as well as challenges to the respect, protection and enjoyment of human rights – Sri Lanka and Nepal continue to undergo transitions from conflict. At the same time, protracted national or localized conflicts remain in Afghanistan, India, Indonesia, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines and Thailand, resulting in mass movements of people, increased trafficking in persons, and human rights protection concerns. Migration within and from Asia accounts for approximately 45 percent of the total 250 million migrants globally. More than 80 percent of displacement globally occurs in this region linked to diverse causes, including climate change, conflict, systemic discrimination, and poverty.

- **Economic, social and cultural rights**

Parts of the region are frequently exposed to environmental hazards, including earthquakes, tsunamis, volcanic activity, typhoons, and other natural crises, impacting detrimentally and differentially the most vulnerable. Low-lying coastal areas and many island states are directly threatened by global warming, changing weather patterns, and rising sea levels. While some countries in the region have achieved significant economic growth and development, marked disparities in wealth exist within and between States, leaving entire populations, communities, as well as individuals behind. Average standards of living have markedly improved. However, inequalities and discrimination remain high, further marginalising already vulnerable groups, exacerbating poverty and negatively affecting already low levels of human security, and limiting access to justice, basic services and economic opportunities. Levels of violence against women are high, notwithstanding laws and policies for their protection. Im-

punity for serious human rights violations persists, including extrajudicial executions, torture, and disappearances, committed often by law enforcement agencies, frequently with the collusion of powerful political and economic interests.

- **Marginalized groups**

The region has a rich mix of ethnic and indigenous groups, religions, customs and traditions. Sixty percent of the world's young people live in the Asia Pacific; more than 750 million, about 19 percent of the region's population, are aged between 15 and 24.<sup>6</sup> The persistence of, or rise of authoritarianism, as well as the rise of nationalism and populism seen in many parts of the region is in part due to active policies of incitement to hatred, including through social media, that targets in particular insecurities among the youth population.

- **Civil space**

Civil society space is shrinking in many parts of the region. Local civil society organizations and human rights defenders face harassment and intimidation, while journalists and bloggers are subject to threats and at times violence from the authorities or non-state actors. Governments have increasingly focused their attention on economic development and public security (particularly in the context of counter terrorism measures) rather than protection of civil and political rights. Strengthening authoritarianism is having an adverse effect on the enjoyment of a range of human rights throughout the region.

- **Frontier issues and spotlight populations**

Other areas of concern include the impact of global warming, the lack of focus on sustainable development and environmental protection; the impact of business activities, particularly those associated with land and the extraction of natural resources; and effects of labour migration and human trafficking.

<sup>6</sup> United Nations, 'Regional Overview: Youth in Asia and the Pacific'. At: <https://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/factsheets/youth-regional-escap.pdf>.

## Asia and the Pacific and the United Nations human rights mechanisms

Ratifications, reporting, and standing invitations (baseline June 2018)

	CERD	CCPR	CESCR	CAT	OPCAT	CEDAW	CRC	CRC:OPSC	CRC:OPAC	CMW	CRPD	CPPED	UJR	Standing invitations to Special Procedure mandate holders
Afghanistan	X	X	X			X	X	X	X		X		(Jan-Feb 2019)	Yes (2017)
Australia													(Oct-Nov 2020)	Yes (2008)
Bangladesh	X			X									(7–18 May 2018)	No
Bhutan													(Apr-May 2019)	No
Brunei Darussalam								X			X		(Apr-May 2019)	No
Cambodia	X		X	X			X				X	X	(Jan-Feb 2019)	No
China													(5–16 Nov 2018)	No
Democratic People's Republic of Korea		X	X								X		(Apr-May 2019)	No
Fiji	X			X									(Oct-Nov 2019)	Yes (2015)
India	X	X	X										(1–12 May 2017)	Yes (2011)
Indonesia	X	X		X		X		X	X				(1–12 May 2017)	No
Japan			X	X									(6–17 Nov 2017)	Yes (2011)
Kiribati						X	X				X		(Jan-Feb 2020)	No
Lao People's Democratic Republic	X		X	X									(Jan-Feb 2020)	No
Malaysia							X	X	X		X		(5–16 Nov 2018)	No
Maldives	X	X	X								X		(Apr-May 2020)	Yes (2006)
Marshall Islands											X		(Apr-May 2020)	Yes (2011)
Micronesia								X	X				(Oct-Nov 2020)	No
Mongolia													(Apr-May 2020)	Yes (2004)
Myanmar							X	X					(Oct-Nov 2020)	No
Nauru				X							X		(Oct-Nov 2020)	Yes (2011)
Nepal		X		X									(Oct-Nov 2020)	No
New Zealand											X		(Jan-Feb 2019)	Yes (2004)
Pakistan						X		X			X		(6–17 Nov 2017)	No
Palau													(Jan-Feb 2021)	Yes (2011)
Papua New Guinea	X	X	X			X	X				X		(Apr-May 2021)	Yes (2011)
Philippines	X	X					X						(1–12 May 2017)	No
Rep. of Korea													(6–17 Nov 2017)	Yes (2008)
Samoa		X										X	(Apr-May 2021)	Yes (2011)
Singapore													(Jan-Feb 2021)	No

## Asia and the Pacific and the United Nations human rights mechanisms

Ratifications, reporting, and standing invitations (baseline June 2018)

	CERD	CCPR	CESCR	CAT	OPCAT	CEDAW	CRC	CRC:OPSC	CRC:OPAC	CMW	CRPD	CPPED	UJR	Standing invitations to Special Procedure mandate holders
Solomon Islands	X		X										(Jan-Feb) 2021)	Yes (2011)
Sri Lanka		X									X		(6–17 Nov 2017)	Yes (2015)
Thailand	X			X			X						(Apr-May 2021)	Yes (2011)
Timor-Leste	X	X	X										(Oct-Nov 2021)	No
Tonga	X												(15–26 Jan 2018)	Yes (2013)
Tuvalu											X		(7–18 May 2018)	Yes (2013)
Vanuatu		X		X									(Jan-Feb 2019)	Yes (2009)
Viet Nam	X						X						(Jan-Feb 2019)	No
<b>All ratifications / invitations (38 States)</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>24</b>	<b>25</b>	<b>22</b>	<b>9</b>	<b>36</b>	<b>38</b>	<b>29</b>	<b>28</b>	<b>5</b>	<b>34</b>	<b>5</b>		<b>20</b>

### Non UN States

Cook Islands														
Niue							X							

	Treaty ratified
	Overdue report as of June 2018
	Outstanding ratification

## REGIONAL OFFICE FOR SOUTH-EAST ASIA (BANGKOK)

### Field presence

The OHCHR South-East Asia Regional Office (SEARO) was established in 2002 and is based in Bangkok, Thailand.

### Countries of engagement

Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao Peoples Democratic Republic (PDR), Malaysia, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam. OHCHR also has a field presence in Cambodia, and Human Rights Advisors in the Philippines and Timor-Leste. SEARO conducts regional activities for, and engages with, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP) and the United Nations Development Group (UNDG).

### Engagement with international human rights mechanisms

Brunei Darussalam, Malaysia, and Singapore are party to less than four of the core human rights treaties; Only Thailand, Indonesia, Lao PDR and Viet Nam are party to ICCPR. Few countries in the region have ratified the OP CAT, CMW, CED or individual complaint mechanisms.

Singapore and Thailand have fulfilled their treaty reporting obligations but reports are overdue from Indonesia, Lao PDR, Malaysia, Philippines and Viet Nam. Between 2014 and 2017, all countries in the sub-region completed Universal Periodic Reviews (UPR). Only Thailand has issued a standing invitation to the special procedures (SP). (See the overview table on page 165.)

### Visits by special procedures in the last four years

- **Brunei Darussalam:** None.
- **Indonesia:** SR on health (2017), SR on food (2018).
- **Lao People's DR:** SR on sale of children (2017).
- **Malaysia:** SR on health (2014), SR on trafficking (2015), SR on cultural rights (2017), SR on water and sanitation (2018), SR on sale of children (2018).
- **Myanmar:** SR on Myanmar in February and July 2014, January and July 2015, June 2016, and February and July 2017.
- **Singapore:** None.
- **Thailand:** SR on extreme poverty (2016), WG on business enterprises (2018), SR on Myanmar (January 2018).
- **Viet Nam:** SR on freedom of religion (2014), SR on right to food (2017).

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

- **Brunei Darussalam:** No visit request is pending.
- **Indonesia:** WG on discrimination against women, SR on disability, SR on children, SR on torture, WG on mercenaries, SR on toxic waste, Independent Expert on international solidarity, SR on cultural rights, SR on slavery, SR on freedom of religion, WG on disappearances, SR on leprosy, SR on extreme poverty.
- **Lao PDR:** SR on extreme poverty (agreed with dates for 2019), SR on freedom of assembly, WG on arbitrary detention, SR on rights to water and sanitation.
- **Malaysia:** SR on indigenous peoples and SR on extreme poverty (both agreed with dates for 2019), SR on freedom of expression, SR on torture, SR on freedom of religion, SR on human rights and counter terrorism, SR on migration.
- **Myanmar:** WG on discrimination against women, SR on internal displaced persons, SR on freedom of religion, SR on extrajudicial summary of arbitrary executions, SR on independence of judges, SR on right to food, SR on right to education, WG on arbitrary detention.
- **Singapore:** SR on cultural rights, SR on sale of children.
- **Thailand:** SR on freedom of expression, SR on toxic waste, SR on sale of children, SR on torture, SR on slavery, Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity, SR on indigenous peoples, WG on disappearances.
- **Viet Nam:** SR on freedom of assembly, SR on sale of children, SR on freedom of expression, SR on torture, WG on arbitrary detention, SR on slavery, SR on toxic waste, SR on rights to water and sanitation, SR on disability, SR on HR defenders.

## CONTEXT

South-East Asia is one of the world's most diverse regions in terms of ethnicity and religion. Human rights concerns include restrictions on civil and political rights, religious intolerance and hate speech, impunity for killings, disappearances and torture, violations of land rights, and violations of the rights of women, LGBTI persons, migrant workers, refugees, and indigenous peoples. Many countries retain the death penalty, and some continue to carry out executions.<sup>7</sup> There are significant issues related to accountability for grave human rights violations that remain unaddressed.

With respect to economic and social development, large-scale government development programmes prioritize infrastructure, energy and resource extraction, exacerbating environmental pollution the effects of climate change, and migration. Development projects frequently fail to consult affected communities, which often leads to forced evictions, use of force against community activists, intimidation, or judicial harassment. Many people in South East Asia, notably indigenous, ethnic minority and religious communities and other marginalized groups, and women, continue to face discrimination and have poor or unequal access to basic services and economic opportunities. Climate change also generates human rights concerns, including violations of economic, social and cultural rights. The protection and promotion of the human rights of all people on the move, regardless of their status, remain a critical priority. Corruption, political influence, and gender bias inhibit and limit equal access to justice in many countries.

There have been some significant positive developments. These include the outcome of Malaysia's elections in 2018, the engagement of most States with the UPR, and the performance of many NHRIs. However, these indicators of progress are offset by shrinking democratic space and further

restrictions on civil and political rights in countries such as Brunei Darussalam, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Singapore, Thailand and Viet Nam. Judicial and physical harassment of civil society organizations, and increased surveillance and restrictive legislation, have narrowed public space for advocacy on human rights. Women human rights defenders (HRDs) and environmental activists remain particularly vulnerable across the region. Undocumented migrant workers, victims of human trafficking, and asylum seekers have poor legal protection and experience serious abuses.

Gender inequality remains widespread. Women are over-represented among the poor, under-represented in public life, and are subject to discriminatory laws and violence. Individuals and groups face discrimination because of their sexual orientation, gender identity or gender expression. Religious fundamentalism exacerbates some forms of discrimination and violence. Discriminatory national and local legal frameworks and policies have fuelled violence and discrimination against religious minorities, LGBTI persons, and women.

OHCHR's Regional Office engages regularly with the ASEAN Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights (AICHR) in support of their work on thematic issues and in advocating for strengthened work in the area of protection.

<sup>7</sup> Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand, and Viet Nam retain the death penalty. Malaysia announced a moratorium on implementation of death sentences in 2018, although legislation is yet to be approved by Parliament.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

### THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

**M**  
Mechanisms

INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS	
M1	<p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>National mechanisms for reporting and follow-up (NMRFs) are established or strengthened; they report to the Treaty Bodies and implement recommendations made by all human rights mechanisms.</p>
M2	<p>Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues (frontier issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.</p> <p>The AICHR has more capacity and is fulfilling its protection mandate.</p>

**D**  
Development

ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS	
D2	<p>Business actors implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights effectively.</p> <p>Regional actors and UN Country Teams, notably in countries that provide effective support to SDG reporting, have adopted human rights-based approaches in their regional and country programmes, giving effect to the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.</p>
D3	<p>State authorities adopt and implement laws, policies and strategies on land and housing that increasingly comply with human rights.</p> <p>In the sub-region, relevant ministries, departments and parliamentary committees incorporate human rights standards and frameworks when they fulfil their mandates on land, housing and poverty; they give due attention to gender concerns.</p>
D5	<p>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.</p> <p>Laws and policies on the environment, climate change, extractive industries and urban planning comply with international human rights standards and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. National institutions and civil society organizations act to ensure that rights-holders can participate in decision-making processes on the environment and climate change, and engage with duty bearers and the private sector on these issues.</p>
D7	<p>States integrate human rights, including the right to development and human rights mechanisms’ outcomes, as they implement the Sustainable Development Goals and other development and poverty eradication efforts; and the UN supports them in these purposes, integrating human rights in its own development work.</p> <p>UN Country Teams and UN agencies in UNDAF-roll out countries (2018-21) and countries that support separate SDG planning or programming have adopted a rights-based approach to development planning and implementation that complies with international human rights norms, standards and principles.</p>

**THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME**

D8	<p>National institutions, assisted by communities, systematically collect, disaggregate and use data relevant for advancing human rights when they monitor and implement the SDGs.</p> <p>Regionally and in UNDAF roll-out countries, the UN development system assists national and regional stakeholders to collect, analyse and disseminate data on discrimination, vulnerability, inequality and exclusion. It includes statistical bodies in this process as well as affected communities.</p>
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**PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY**

<b>PS</b> Peace and Security	PS3	<p>Strategies to prevent and respond to conflict consistently integrate human rights protection.</p> <p>Relevant intergovernmental fora, processes and mechanisms, including the Human Rights Council, UN General Assembly and Security Council, integrate human rights concerns when they address situations of conflict and insecurity in the sub-region.</p>
	PS4	<p>Justice mechanisms, including for transitional justice, provide increased accountability for conflict-related violations.</p> <p>Accountability mechanisms are established to improve protection of individuals and groups affected by conflicts, including sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV); victims have better access to remedies.</p>
	PS5	<p>Human rights information and analyses are integrated in early warning and analysis systems and influence international and national policy-making, strategies and operations to prevent, mitigate or respond to emerging crises, including humanitarian crises and conflict.</p> <p>UN country policies and programmes, including UN development assistance frameworks (UN-DAFs), successfully integrate international human rights norms, standards and principles, including the recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms.</p>
	PS6	<p>United Nations' support to national and regional security forces, law enforcement agencies, and non-State actors integrates human rights and complies with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP).</p> <p>Selected country teams apply the HRDDP in their UN programmes.</p> <p>The UN system acts coherently and in a united manner, in accordance with human rights laws and norms, when it addresses issues of accountability in the sub-region.</p>

**ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION**

<b>ND</b> Non-Discrimination	ND1	<p>Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to 'leave no one behind', including by addressing the root causes of inequality.</p> <p>In Myanmar, discriminatory laws, policies and practices that undermine the right to equality and the rights of religious, ethnic or national minorities, and women, children, or persons with disabilities, are reformed or abolished. These include the 1982 Citizenship Law and the four laws associated with the Protection of Race and Religion package.</p>
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**THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME**

ND5	<p>Principles and practices effectively counter discrimination and hate speech in the digital space.</p> <p>Duty bearers effectively address discrimination and hate speech in the digital space. National human rights institutions (NHRIs) and civil society organizations have improved their capacity to communicate human rights-based counter-narratives.</p> <p>In Myanmar, the authorities curb hate speech and acts of incitement to hostility and violence, particularly those spread via the internet and social media platforms. Efforts by civil society to counter hate speech and incitement are encouraged and supported.</p>
ND6	<p>The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected.</p> <p>Migration governance measures (national and regional laws, regulations, policies, processes and agreements and their implementation) increasingly comply with international human rights law. Sustained advocacy with states to ensure migrants in vulnerable situations have improved access to their human rights, with particular attention to their specific experiences, views and needs. Positive public narratives based on human rights, shared values and common humanity increasingly challenge and reframe negative narratives against migrants.</p>
ND8	<p>The UN system implements a coherent and human rights-based response to inequality and discrimination, including intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination.</p> <p>Nationally and regionally, UN development programmes focus more explicitly on inequalities and multiple forms of discrimination, in line with the 2030 Agenda’s objective to leave no one behind.</p>

**STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

A Accountability	A5	<p>UN efforts for the rule of law, justice, counter-terrorism and accountability put human rights at the core.</p> <p>UN policies and practices comply with human rights standards and UNDAF guidance (2017); they focus on accountable institutions, access to justice, and the participation of civil society in planning and monitoring.</p>
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**ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE**

P Participation	P1	<p>Stronger laws, policies and practices protect the right to participate and civic space, including online, and the environment for civil society is increasingly safe and enabling.</p> <p>Civil society can operate more freely; civic space is more fully protected both in practice and by laws and policies. Civil society organizations engage more often and more deeply with UN human rights mechanisms; the communications of special procedures highlight more often the challenges that civil society faces in the region.</p> <p>Oppressive laws, policies and practices that confine civic space and undermine the right to participate in public life, including those that disproportionately affect women, are reformed or abolished.</p>
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## THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

P2

The UN system and international, regional and national mechanisms provide increased, timely and effective protection to civil society organizations and individuals (including from reprisals).

UN agencies, the UNDG Human Rights Network and the reprisals focal point cooperate more fully with national human rights institutions (where NHRIs exist), making it possible to protect individuals and civil society organizations more promptly and effectively.

The international community promotes an increasingly safe and enabling environment for civil society and effectively protects both individuals and organizations.

## 'SHIFTS' ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE

Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.

Expand civic space.

Broaden the global constituency for human rights.

Explore emerging human rights concerns ('frontier issues'):

- Climate change.
- Digital space and emerging technologies.
- Corruption.
- Inequalities.
- People on the move.

## SHINING A 'SPOTLIGHT'

Women, young people.

## CAMBODIA

### Field presence

Country Office. The Government renewed its agreement with OHCHR in 2018 for two years.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

Cambodia is party to all core international human rights treaties with the exception of the ICRMW. It has ratified two complaint procedures (OP CEDAW and OP CAT) but has been slow to establish a national preventive mechanism that complies with OP CAT. Five treaty body reports are outstanding. In the second UPR cycle conducted in 2013, Cambodia accepted 163 recommendations and noted 42 but did not present a mid-term implementation report. (See the overview table on page 165.)

### Visits by special procedures in the last four years

The SR on human rights in Cambodia visited the country, with the cooperation of the Government, in January and June 2014, January and September 2015, March and October 2016, August 2017, March and October 2018.

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

SR on hazardous substances, SR on the right to food, SR on water and sanitation, SR on contemporary forms of slavery, SR on the independence of judges and lawyers, SR on the sale of children, SR on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, SR on the situation of human rights defenders, SR on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, SR on the rights of indigenous peoples, SR on the rights of persons with disability.

## CONTEXT

Respect for human rights has improved in a number of areas since 1993, although challenges remain. The Constitution establishes Cambodia as a democratic State, governed by the rule of law and based on respect for human rights. At the 2018 general elections, the governing Cambodian People's Party secured every seat in the National Assembly and control over all 58 elected seats in the Senate.

Since the 1990s, Cambodia's score on the Human Development Index has risen significantly. Currently, it ranks 146 (out of 189 countries and territories). In 2016, the World Bank also classified Cambodia as a lower middle-income country. The Government expects to achieve upper middle-income status by 2030. Cambodia has made significant advances in access to education and health services: it has achieved universal access to primary education, improved early childhood and maternal health, and made marked progress in preventing and treating HIV, tuberculosis and malaria.

At the same time, inequalities between urban and rural populations remain. Activities by the private sector, notably companies engaged in natural resource extraction and land acquisition for construction, have raised concerns because they displace poorer urban and rural communities, including indigenous

peoples, and because of their links with Government. Many claims for compensation remain outstanding. Land, environmental and housing rights defenders continue to face criminal charges and detention.

With respect to civil and political rights, political tension has recently increased and political and civic space has been curtailed. The leader of the main opposition party was arrested on treason charges, his party dissolved and its seats redistributed to other parties. As a result, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Cambodia questioned the fairness of the 2018 national elections.<sup>8</sup> A number of human rights and environmental NGOs and media organizations have been closed down or restricted.

Conditions in Government detention facilities remain poor and overcrowding has become a serious problem, particularly since a crackdown on drug-related offences increased the size of the prison population. Consolidation of the rule of law and accountability for human rights violations remain important challenges. Essential reforms to the justice system and to reduce impunity have advanced very slowly, prompting the withdrawal of most donors from the sector. Combating corruption remains crucial. Cambodia ranked 156 out of 176 countries in Transparency International's Corruption Perception Index in 2016.

<sup>8</sup> United Nations Human Rights Council, The situation of human rights in Cambodia: Report of the Special Rapporteur, A/HRC/39/73/Add.1, 7 September 2018.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b>	
<p><b>M</b> Mechanisms</p>	<p><b>M1</b></p> <p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>Cambodia submits five reports to Treaty Bodies that conform with reporting guidelines, as well as its report to the UPR. It adopts an integrated and participatory approach to preparing and following up these reports.</p>
	<p><b>M2</b></p> <p>Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues (frontier issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.</p> <p>Civil society organizations and the UN Country Team increasingly engage with the human rights mechanisms when they report to Treaty Bodies, special procedures and the UPR.</p>
<b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS</b>	
<p><b>D</b> Development</p>	<p><b>D2</b></p> <p>Business actors implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights effectively.</p> <p>Business actors increasingly implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, including by engaging with local and national authorities, civil society organizations, local and indigenous communities and other stakeholders.</p>
	<p><b>D3</b></p> <p>State authorities adopt and implement laws, policies and strategies on land and housing that increasingly comply with human rights.</p> <p>Laws, policies and strategies on land, housing and property increasingly comply with human rights standards. Their implementation by the Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction, the Ministry of Environment, the Ministry of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, the Ministry of Interior and the Ministry of Rural Development and sub-national authorities similarly complies with international standards.</p>
<b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b>	
<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p><b>A1</b></p> <p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p> <p>The criminal justice system, and particularly judges, prosecutors and lawyers, become increasingly professional. Prison staffing is professionalized in a manner that accords with international human rights standards.</p> <p>Laws and policies in the areas of justice and prisons increasingly comply with international human rights standards.</p> <p>Allegations of torture and ill-treatment and cases of mob violence are promptly investigated; perpetrators are prosecuted and sanctioned.</p>

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

<p><b>P</b> Participation</p>	<p><b>ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE</b></p>	
	<p>P5</p>	<p>More systematic monitoring of the environment for civic space, including threats to it, takes place.</p> <p>International, regional and national protection mechanisms respond to the protection needs of civil society organizations and individuals, particularly (but not only) in the context of political participation.</p>
	<p>P6</p>	<p>The voice of people affected by decisions, particularly victims and those who face discrimination, is more clearly heard.</p> <p>Rights-holders, in particular those represented by trade unions and organizations promoting political participation as well as the rights of poor, rural and indigenous groups, participate meaningfully in the design of public policy and resolution processes, particularly in the area of land and housing rights. Public policy and resolution processes comply with international standards.</p>
	<p>P7</p>	<p>Public recognition that human rights and accountability make important contributions to effective responses to violence, including terrorism and violent extremism, increases.</p> <p>Youth networks increasingly recognize the value and importance of human rights and accountability and their contribution to development and peace.</p>

**'SHIFTS' ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE**

- Expand civic space.
- Broaden the global constituency for human rights.
- Explore emerging human rights concerns ('frontier issues'):
  - Corruption.

**SHINING A 'SPOTLIGHT'**

Young people, persons with disabilities.

## THE PHILIPPINES

### Field presence

A Senior Human Rights Advisor (HRA) has been deployed since 2014 in the Office of the UN Resident Coordinator (RC) in Manila through the UN Director General's human rights programme.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

The Philippines is party to eight of the nine core international human rights treaties. Though some human rights treaty reports are overdue, the Philippines actively engages with the Treaty Bodies. The Philippines is a member of the Human Rights Council. During the last UPR, held in May 2017, the Philippines accepted 103 of the 257 recommendations received, and noted 154 recommendations. The Government has not issued a standing invitation. (See the overview table on page 165.)

### Visits by special procedures in the last four years

SR on the right to food (2015), SR on the rights of internally displaced persons (2015).

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

SR on the right to health, SR on human rights defenders, Independent Expert on older persons, SR on environment, WG on discrimination against women, SR on disability, SR on sale of children, SR on torture, SR on indigenous peoples, SR on toxic waste, SR on water and sanitation, SR on freedom of expression, WG on disappearances, SR on independence of judges, SR on migrants, SR on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions.

## CONTEXT

Respect for democratic values and human rights are under pressure in the Philippines because the current administration has taken an authoritarian approach to governance, national security and civic engagement. As a result, international and multilateral support to national stakeholders that uphold global values, norms, standards and principles has become of increasing importance.

After the Philippines returned to democracy in 1986, the State developed a comprehensive legislative and institutional framework for promoting and protecting human rights. It established a Commission on Human Rights, a Commission on Women, a National Commission on Indigenous Peoples, Human Rights Offices in the army, police and the National Bureau of Investigations, Human Rights Action Centers at the lowest governmental levels, and various Inter-Agency Councils, notably for youth and children. The Constitution contains a Bill of Rights. The Philippines has a vibrant and diverse civil society and a thriving media sector, both of which engage with the international human rights mechanisms. The Philippines Commission on Human Rights has worked actively to promote

and protect human rights, monitor the human rights situation throughout the country, and engage with international human rights mechanisms and procedures.

However, implementation has remained weak and respect for human rights is currently threatened from a number of quarters, not least by the political environment in the country. The Government has exploited security and other social and economic problems to justify its increasing authoritarianism, and has undermined the effectiveness of State institutions established to promote and protect human rights and the rule of law, eroded enjoyment of a range of human rights, and put pressure on the political opposition, journalists, human rights defenders and civil society. The Government has given strong support for the police and armed forces, which have been responsible for numerous unlawful killings in the course of the Government's declared 'war on drugs'. Its protection of impunity and failure to investigate alleged violations are having a corrosive effect on law enforcement, the rule of law and the country's democratic institutions.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

### THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

<b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b>	
	<p><b>M1</b> National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>An institutional mechanism is established to integrate reporting to human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p>
	<p>Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues (frontier issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.</p> <p>Civil society organisations increasingly engage with Treaty Bodies, special procedures and the UPR.</p>
<b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS</b>	
	<p><b>D7</b> States integrate human rights, including the right to development and human rights mechanisms’ outcomes, as they implement the Sustainable Development Goals and other development and poverty eradication efforts; and the UN supports them in these purposes, integrating human rights in its own development work.</p> <p>The UNCT integrates human rights norms, standards and principles when it formulates and implements programmes and projects.</p>

<b>‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE</b>	
Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.	
Expand civic space.	

## TIMOR-LESTE

### Field presence

Present since 1999. A Human Rights Advisor's Unit (HRAU) has been in place since 2013.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

Timor-Leste is party to seven international human rights treaties and four optional protocols, six fundamental ILO Conventions, the Refugee Convention, the Rome Statute and the protocol related to human trafficking. Despite verbal commitments for almost ten years, ratification of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities remains pending. In the last four years, Timor-Leste doubled human rights treaty reporting but three initial state reports remained overdue. In its second UPR, Timor-Leste agreed to issue a Standing Invitation to the special procedures. Timor-Leste failed to answer communications in the last four years from the High Commissioner, Treaty Bodies and several special procedures. (See the overview table on page 165.)

### Visits by special procedures in the last four years

None.

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

SR on minorities.

## CONTEXT

Political tensions have risen since Timor-Leste held parliamentary elections in 2017, though this has not affected overall security and stability. A minority government was formed after the election but it was unable to pass its programme and budget, and new elections were called in May 2018. An alliance of opposition parties won these elections with an outright majority. The new administration then remained incomplete during 2018 because the President of the Republic refused to inaugurate about a fifth of the proposed Government members on the grounds that they were subject to judicial processes. As a result of these tensions, for more than a year the country's Government has operated on a minimal budget. As Timor-Leste's development is highly dependent on State spending, this situation has depressed economic activity, caused job losses and created anxiety in the population.

The country faces numerous other challenges that could become harder to address if political tensions continue. Four in every ten Timorese live in poverty; 50% of children under 5 are stunted owing to nutritional deficiencies; education and health services require significant improvement. Timor-Leste has the second youngest population in Asia, of

whom 22% are unemployed; partly as a result, gang violence is an issue. Discrimination based on gender, disability and sexual orientation persists. Many women suffer violence, which is tolerated by the population, including some women themselves. Many persons with disabilities and members of the LGBTI community also face violence and exclusion. Violence affects other groups, including children in school settings and at home. It is difficult to access justice, particularly in remote areas. A new land law will address land conflicts but these will persist unless the new law is implemented fairly, and evictions comply with human rights standards and are employed as a last resort.

Allegations of corruption have increased since Timor-Leste gained access to revenues from oil and gas in the Timor Sea; several Government officials have been imprisoned for crimes related to corruption.

Impunity for past serious human rights violations has persisted. Officials and others are not consistently held accountable for more recent violations, including instances of ill-treatment and torture by the security forces, in particular the police.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b>	
<b>M</b> Mechanisms	<b>M1</b> <p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>Reports are submitted in accordance with guidelines and include adequate information.</p>
	<b>M2</b> <p>Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues (frontier issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.</p> <p>The NHRI, the UNCT, and civil society coalitions that work on emerging human rights issues submit reports for each scheduled treaty review; NGOs submit information to the special procedures.</p>
<b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS</b>	
<b>D</b> Development	<b>D3</b> <p>State authorities adopt and implement laws, policies and strategies on land and housing that increasingly comply with human rights.</p> <p>New policies and laws on housing, land and evictions are adopted that comply with human rights standards.</p>
	<b>D7</b> <p>In implementing the SDGs and other development efforts, States integrate human rights, including the Right to Development, and human rights mechanisms’ outcomes; and the UN actively supports this while also integrating human rights in its own development work.</p> <p>National actors and the United Nations integrate human rights norms and standards in their programmes.</p>
<b>ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION</b>	
<b>ND</b> Non-Discrimination	<b>ND1</b> <p>Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to ‘leave no one behind’, including by addressing the root causes of inequality.</p> <p>Legal drafters and judicial actors take account of the rights of persons with disabilities.</p>
	<b>ND2</b> <p>Justice systems and related institutions increasingly monitor and investigate discrimination and provide redress to victims.</p> <p>The judiciary and the Government increasingly pursue and prosecute cases of discrimination against women, persons with disabilities, and LGBTI individuals.</p>
	<b>ND7</b> <p>Public support for equal, inclusive and diverse societies, without discrimination, increases.</p> <p>The public supports a human rights-based approach to disability; the public opposes discrimination based on sexual orientation or gender identity.</p>

**THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME**

<b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b>	
<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p><b>A1</b></p> <p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p> <p>The police and army comply with human rights standards that prohibit torture and ill-treatment.</p>
	<p><b>A2</b></p> <p>Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.</p> <p>Judicial actors increase their knowledge of human rights and apply human rights standards in legal proceedings.</p>
<b>ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE</b>	
<p><b>P</b> Participation</p>	<p><b>P6</b></p> <p>The voice of people affected by decisions, particularly victims and those who face discrimination, is more clearly heard.</p> <p>Youth, women and discriminated groups, and those who represent them, regularly advocate for human rights.</p>

**‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE**

- Broaden the global constituency for human rights.
- Explore emerging human rights concerns (‘frontier issues’):
  - Digital space and emerging technologies.
  - Corruption.
  - Inequalities.

**SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’**

Women, young people, and persons with disabilities.

## SOUTH ASIA

South Asia covers eight countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Maldives, Nepal, Pakistan and Sri Lanka. Although the region contains close to a quarter of the world's population, OHCHR's field presence is limited to the human rights office in the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA), and Human Rights Advisors in Bangladesh and Sri Lanka.

South Asia includes two nuclear-armed states, India and Pakistan, that have fought wars against each other and which remain deadlocked on the status of Kashmir, a contested region whose population has experienced severe human rights violations on both sides of the Line of Control.

Throughout the region, the need for human rights advocacy and protection has continuously escalated. Civil and democratic space has been reduced in some countries; human rights defenders and media professionals have increasingly been targeted, and respect for and protection of the rights to freedom of expression and peaceful assembly have declined. In many countries, electoral processes have been accompanied by violence and restrictions of fundamental rights. There is widespread impunity for serious human rights violations including torture, disappearances, extrajudicial killings, and lack of access to justice.

Laws, policies and/or practices in a number of countries discriminate against minority populations, including Dalits and lower caste groups, religious and ethnic minorities. Weaknesses in the rule of law, lack of independent institutions, and deep-rooted impunity remain among the main challenges. The establishment of transitional justice and accountability mechanisms, e.g. in Nepal and Sri Lanka, still require meaningful efforts in order to address the root causes of conflict and the needs of the victims who have suffered as a result of conflicts. A number of countries in South Asia retain the death penalty. Over 900,000 Rohingya refugees in Bangladesh are at risk of forced repatriation.

While large populations in South Asia have been lifted out of abject poverty, they suffer from increased social and economic inequalities, lack access to basic services, and have impaired access to other social, cultural and economic rights. Women continue to endure high rates of gender-based violence, including rape and sexual assault, honour killings and harmful cultural practices, while indicators on education and health for women and girls are among the lowest worldwide. Women's representation in decision-making processes remains low as does women's equal participation in the labour market. South Asia has a significant youth population which is a significant resource and source of innovation, yet often excluded from decision-making. Countries in the region have made progress with basic education, yet struggle to provide quality higher education.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<p><b>M</b> Mechanisms</p>	<p><b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b></p> <p><b>M1</b> National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations</p> <p>Up to three Governments strengthen their arrangements for implementing recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms.</p>
	<p><b>M2</b> Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues (frontier issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.</p> <p>In two to three countries of the sub-region, the national human rights institution openly submits reports on follow-up to the Treaty Bodies and makes stakeholder submissions. Civil society organizations have the capacity to monitor effectively and report on the human right situation, including freedoms of expression, association, and the media. They are able to submit UPR mid-term reports and shadow and alternative reports to Treaty Bodies without hindrance.</p>
<p><b>D</b> Development</p>	<p><b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS</b></p> <p><b>D2</b> Business actors implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights effectively.</p> <p>Selected multinational and national companies in the sub-region are aware of the business and human rights framework and demonstrate a growing interest in implementing the Guiding Principles.</p>
	<p><b>D8</b> National institutions, assisted by communities, systematically collect, disaggregate and use data relevant for advancing human rights when they monitor and implement the SDGs.</p> <p>One country develops improved indicators on implementation of UPR recommendations and HRC voluntary pledges.</p>
<p><b>PS</b> Peace and Security</p>	<p><b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b></p> <p><b>PS5</b> International, regional, and national justice mechanisms, including for transitional justice, provide increased accountability for conflict-related violations.</p> <p>One country empowers its national transitional justice mechanism to investigate conflict-related cases.</p>

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

<b>ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION</b>		
<p><b>ND</b> Non-Discrimination</p>	<p><b>ND1</b></p>	<p>Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to ‘leave no one behind’, including by addressing the root causes of inequality.</p> <p>Marginalized and vulnerable populations, including Dalits, women, LGBTI persons, and persons with disabilities, have more access to mechanisms that effectively redress grievances related to discrimination.</p>
	<p><b>ND7</b></p>	<p>Public support for equal, inclusive and diverse societies, without discrimination, increases.</p> <p>Civil society organizations increasingly advocate for an inclusive and diverse society and collaborate where possible with national and local institutions.</p>
	<p><b>ND8</b></p>	<p>The UN system implements a coherent and human rights-based response to inequality and discrimination, including intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination.</p> <p>In one country of the sub-region, measures to protect vulnerable populations (with particular emphasis on the elderly, women, people with disabilities and youth) are integrated in disaster mitigation and resilience programming for climate change.</p>
<b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b>		
<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p><b>A1</b></p>	<p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p> <p>In one country, constitutionally-protected rights reflect international human rights law and principles, and are implemented according to the Constitution.</p> <p>At least one country upholds a moratorium on the death penalty.</p> <p>At least one country improves laws that protect juvenile offenders.</p> <p>At least one country aligns crimes that are subject to capital punishment with international standards for serious crimes.</p> <p>Reforms to the justice system address barriers to fair trial, including barriers associated with anti-terrorism and military courts.</p> <p>Legal and policy steps are taken to prevent, reduce and address human rights violations in the context of Kashmir.</p>
	<p><b>A2</b></p>	<p>Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.</p> <p>Two countries of the sub-region mandate and empower the national human rights institution to provide independent reports to the UN human rights mechanisms, conduct and publish research into human rights concerns, and deliver public education programmes on human rights.</p>

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

**P**  
Participation

**ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE**

**P1**

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

In one to three countries of the sub-region, laws and policies on freedom of expression and peaceful assembly significantly improve, creating a political environment in which free, inclusive, fair and transparent elections can be held.

**‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE**

Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.

Expand civic space.

Broaden the global constituency for human rights.

Explore emerging human rights concerns (‘frontier issues’):

- Inequalities.
- Climate change.

**SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’**

Women, young people, persons with disabilities.

## AFGHANISTAN

### Field presence

The Human Rights Service (HRS), a Unit within the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, was established in 2002. It has a monitoring and protection mandate.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

Afghanistan has ratified seven human rights treaties. Reports to five of the Treaty Bodies are overdue. Afghanistan was reviewed by the Committee against Torture in May 2017 and was elected to the Human Rights Council in October 2017. It completed a UPR review in 2014 and is due for review again in 2019. Afghanistan issued a standing invitation to the special procedures in August 2017. (See the overview table on page 165.)

### Visits by special procedures in the last four years

SR on violence against women (2014), SR on the human rights of internally displaced persons (2016).

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

SR on human rights and counter terrorism, SR on right to education, SR on torture, WG on arbitrary detention.

## CONTEXT

Protection continues to deteriorate in Afghanistan due to the armed conflict, which continues to cause a high number of civilian casualties. Human rights concerns include corruption and the absence of functioning accountability mechanisms, particularly to prevent torture. Conflict and insecurity increase political and economic uncertainty, worsen inequality, and further deprive women and youth of opportunities. While the current government has taken some steps to promote the rights of women, gender-based discrimination and violence against women remain endemic. Anti-government elements continue to impose restrictions that seriously limit enjoyment of human rights, specifically for women and girls. The emergence of Islamic State-Khorasan Province has heightened protection concerns. Child recruitment by anti-government elements and sexual violence against boys by all parties to the conflict continues to be reported. With no sign of a military stalemate developing, and limited prospects for a negotiated political solution in the immediate future, it is anticipated that the security situation will deteriorate further. These dynamics

are likely to severely affect the right to life and physical integrity, access to justice for women, the freedoms of expression and opinion, and women's participation in political and peace processes.

The conflict in Afghanistan has seriously undermined the enjoyment of human rights in the country. Although it has been categorized as an internal conflict, regional influences and the presence of various armed groups have pushed Afghanistan to the forefront of international efforts to combat global terrorism as a threat to regional and international peace and security.

OHCHR will continue to focus on: the protection of civilians; child protection; enhancing and protecting civic space and people's participation; reducing inequality and discrimination, giving special attention to violence against women; strengthening the rule of law; and increasing accountability for human rights violations.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b>	
<p><b>M</b> Mechanisms</p>	<p><b>M1</b></p> <p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations</p> <p>Afghanistan submits its third periodic report to the Committee against Torture and subsequently provides information on how the Committee’s recommendations have been followed up.</p>
<b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b>	
<p><b>PS</b> Peace and Security</p>	<p><b>PS1</b></p> <p>Parties to conflict and actors involved in peace operations increasingly comply with international human rights and humanitarian law and provide greater protection to civilians.</p> <p>The Government and armed opposition groups formulate, revise and strengthen policies, mechanisms and regulations to protect civilians and prevent civilian casualties; these comply with international humanitarian law and international human rights standards.</p>
	<p><b>PS3</b></p> <p>Strategies to prevent and respond to conflict consistently integrate human rights protection.</p> <p>UNAMA and the UNCT integrate human rights considerations and norms in all policies and programmes that relate to humanitarian support and the protection and security of civilians.</p>
	<p><b>PS6</b></p> <p>United Nations’ support to national and regional security forces, law enforcement agencies, and non-State actors integrates human rights and complies with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.</p> <p>UN agencies that provide support to Afghan national and defence forces integrate and implement the standards set out in the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.</p>
<b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b>	
<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p><b>A1</b></p> <p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p> <p>Cases of torture and ill-treatment at detention facilities are increasingly investigated promptly, impartially, independently and thoroughly. Accountability and protection mechanisms are strengthened.</p> <p>The Government establishes an independent national mechanism to prevent torture, which has powers to: conduct regular unannounced visits to all places in which individuals are deprived of their liberty; monitor impartially and transparently the treatment of detainees by Afghan security officials; and strengthen implementation of legal and policy frameworks and national protection systems.</p>

**THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME**

<p>A2</p>	<p>Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.</p> <p>Inclusive and accountable peace and reconciliation processes are established that conform to international human rights standards and internationally recognized principles of transitional justice. They include mechanisms for vetting ex-combatants and for identifying potential violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law.</p> <p>The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission works independently and in conformity with the Paris Principles. It improves female representation. It has sufficient resources to operate independently.</p>
<p>A3</p>	<p>Justice systems investigate and prosecute gender-related crimes more effectively.</p> <p>The Government adopts measures to improve implementation of the 2009 law on Elimination of Violence against Women. It effectively investigates cases of violence against women, prosecutes perpetrators, and introduces measures to support victims.</p>
<p><b>ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE</b></p>	
<p><b>P</b> Participation</p>	<p>P1</p> <p>Stronger laws, policies and practices protect the right to participate and civic space, including online, and the environment for civil society is increasingly safe and enabling.</p> <p>The Government promotes diversity in political processes. Political processes are more democratic and participatory. Women and minorities participate more fully in decision-making.</p>

**‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE**

- Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.
- Expand civic space.
- Broaden the global constituency for human rights.
- Explore emerging human rights concerns (‘frontier issues’):
  - Digital space and emerging technologies.

**SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’**

Women, young people.

## BANGLADESH

### Field presence

A Senior Human Rights Adviser has been in place since May 2018, following an earlier deployment between 2014 and 2016.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

Bangladesh is a party to eight core international human rights treaties. It was last considered by CEDAW in 2016 by the Human Rights Committee and by the CMW in 2017, and by CESCR in 2018. The country will be reviewed by CAT *suo moto* in August 2019, pending submission of an initial State report, due since 1999. Bangladesh completed UPR reviews in 2009, 2013 and 20 September 2018. (See the overview table on page 165.)

### Visits by special procedures in the last four years

SR on freedom of religion or belief (2015), SR on Myanmar (February 2017, January and June 2018).

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

Independent Expert on older persons, SR on internally displaced persons, SR on sale of children, SR on slavery, SR on minority issues, SR on human rights and counter terrorism, SR on indigenous people, SR on toxic waste, SR on extreme poverty, SR on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions, SR on racism, SR trafficking, SR leprosy.

## CONTEXT

Bangladesh's socio-economic progress and early adoption of the SDGs, with the view to graduating from the status of least developed country, have contributed to progress in the realization of human rights to education, health, standards of living and work. However, social and economic services of good quality are not sufficiently available or accessible; working conditions are often substandard and hazardous; land grabbing is common; and vulnerable and marginalized groups, especially women and girls, continue to face discrimination and exclusion from political processes, decision making, and economic power. The Human Rights Committee concluded that 'discrimination continues to occur against certain groups, such as women, religious minorities, indigenous people, so-called "lower caste" people, LGBTI persons, etc.'

The Constitution affirms fundamental rights and equality and makes reference to civil and political rights. Bangladesh is a party to eight human rights conventions and will be rejoining

the Human Rights Council in 2019, which provides major opportunities for strengthening human rights. Legislative inconsistencies and weak implementation impair the realization of a range of rights; for example Bangladesh has not yet enacted an anti-discrimination law although it accepted recommendations on this issue in its last UPR. The country has not had an effective parliamentary opposition for years. The National Human Rights Commission (NHRC), established in 2009, was granted B status in 2012 and again in 2015. Observers have noted the increasing politicization of key institutions.

Impunity for serious human rights violations has been a serious concern for many years. Law enforcement authorities continue to be accused of extra-judicial killings, including in the context of a new 'war on drugs', as well as arbitrary arrests and detention, torture, and deaths in custody. Enforced disappearances, notably of political opponents of the Government, appear to have increased.

Intolerance of various ethnic, religious, caste and sexual minorities has grown. Democratic and civic space, particularly for freedom of expression, has been curtailed, and opposition politicians and other critics are subject to harassment and detention. Bangladesh has a vibrant media scene, yet a number of laws raise concern, including the Digital Security Act, which potentially threatens freedom of expression in electronic and social media.

Proposed laws and policies would widen the application of the death penalty to a range of new drug offences and would significantly increase the powers of the police and other security forces. Concerns have been expressed about the Bangladesh International Crimes Tribunal’s respect for fair trial standards and application of the death penalty. It

has also been claimed that the Government’s policies and actions to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism have compromised enjoyment of a range of rights.

The forced expulsion of around 730,000 Rohingya in late 2017 and 2018 from Myanmar to Bangladesh created a major refugee crisis. Bangladesh hosts them and provides them with necessary assistance. Many Bangladeshis continue to support their government’s decision to shelter the refugees, despite the costs and risks involved. The humanitarian response has been one of the largest in the world and includes a focus on protecting women and girls at risk of trafficking, sexual slavery, exploitation or abuse. It also increasingly focuses on ensuring support to host communities.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

### THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME



#### INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

M1

National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.

The Government regularly submits reports to the Treaty Bodies.

M2

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

The National Human Rights Commission and civil society regularly submit reports to the Treaty Bodies.

**THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME**

<p><b>PS</b> Peace and Security</p>	<p><b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b></p> <p><b>PS5</b> ▶ Human rights information and analyses are integrated in early warning and analysis systems and influence international and national policy-making, strategies and operations to prevent, mitigate or respond to emerging crises, including humanitarian crises and conflict.</p> <p>The UN system systematically integrates a human rights-based approach in humanitarian programming in response to the needs of Rohingya refugees.</p>
<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p><b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b></p> <p><b>A2</b> ▶ Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.</p> <p>The National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh increasingly meets international standards (the Paris Principles).</p>
<p><b>P</b> Participation</p>	<p><b>ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE</b></p> <p><b>P1</b> ▶ Stronger laws, policies and practices protect the right to participate and civic space, including online, and the environment for civil society is increasingly safe and enabling.</p> <p>Processes are more democratic and participatory. Women and minorities participate more fully in decision-making.</p>

**‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE**

- Expand civic space.
- Broaden the global constituency for human rights.
- Explore emerging human rights concerns (‘frontier issues’):
  - Digital space and emerging technologies.
  - Inequalities

**SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’**

Women, young people.

## SRI LANKA

### Field presence

A Senior Human Rights Advisor has been deployed since 2004, with an interruption from 2014 to mid-2015. Based in the Resident Coordinator's Office, the Senior Advisor is supported by an international transitional justice advisor and national staff.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

Sri Lanka is a party to most human rights treaties, including most recently the OP CAT, the CRPD and the CED. Sri Lanka is not a signatory to the Second Optional Protocol of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on a communications procedure, or the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court. In December 2015, Sri Lanka extended a standing invitation to special procedures of the Human Rights Council. (See the overview table on page 165.)

### Visits by special procedures in the last four years

Since 2015, Sri Lanka has received twelve Special Procedure visits (four technical advisory visits and eight full country visits by mandate holders). It is expected that this level of attention will be sustained during the life of the HRC Resolution (to March 2019). Visits were conducted by WG on disappearances; SR on independence of judges and lawyers; SR on torture; SR on minority issues; SR on human rights and counter terrorism; SR on truth; WG on arbitrary detention and IE on foreign debt.

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

Forthcoming in 2019: SR on freedom of religion, SR on freedom of assembly and the Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity. Pending: SR on human rights defenders, WG on discrimination against women, SR on freedom of expression, SR on right to education, SR on toxic waste.

## CONTEXT

Sri Lanka is recovering from a long civil conflict, ending in 2009, which had a devastating impact on large sections of the population. Currently Sri Lanka is classed as a middle-income country but it remains characterized by economic and social inequalities. Caste-based and other forms of discrimination based on descent persist in some communities, exacerbated by a rigid social class structure. A culture of corruption and patronage has a corrosive effect on respect for the rule of law and the Government's capacity to address deep-seated social, economic and political issues. Torture, and failure to respect due process and fair trial standards, remain concerns.

The opening of democratic space after 2015, and reform of the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka and other institutions, created opportunities to address the rights of minorities, discrimination (including in relation to sexual orientation), and other cross-cutting issues. The coalition Government elected in 2015 embarked on a reform programme and transitional justice agenda, and committed (notably through Human Rights Council resolution 30/1) to create an Office of Missing Persons, an Office for Reparations, a truth and reconciliation commission, and an accountability mechanism.

While the Government established an Office of Missing Persons and adopted an Act establishing the Office for Reparations, it failed to implement the programme or develop other policies to address social, economic and political inequalities that lay at the root of the conflict. As a result, renewed inter-communal violence remains a risk. During 2017 and 2018, the incidence of hate speech and attacks against specific groups (religious minorities, migrants, and LGBT) increased sharply, and it has become increasingly evident that large sections of society do not support transitional justice or reform processes, or attempts to hold the security forces accountable for violations of human rights that were

committed in previous conflicts. It is to be seen if Government commitment to the reforms will be sustained in a meaningful way to ensure results.

While civic space has increased at national level since 2015, constraints persist in former conflict areas. Civil society is fragmented and is often aligned along ethnic or political or social lines. As Special Procedure mandate holders have remarked, the absence of nation-wide civil society networks weakens their impact.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
	<p><b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b></p> <p><b>M1</b></p> <p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>A standing mechanism is established that integrates reporting to human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>The Government continues to issue a standing invitation to special procedures, agrees to visits, and facilitates visit arrangements constructively.</p>
	<p><b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS</b></p> <p><b>D3</b></p> <p>State authorities adopt and implement laws, policies and strategies on land and housing that increasingly comply with human rights.</p> <p>Measures in place ensure that all land occupied by the military is returned or that appropriate compensation is provided; and that land-related disputes associated with displacement during the thirty years of conflict will be settled.</p>
	

**THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME**

<b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b>		
<p><b>PS</b> Peace and Security</p>	<p>PS2</p>	<p>Efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism comply with international law.</p> <p>The Prevention of Terrorism Act (PTA) is replaced by legislation that complies with international human rights standards and international best practice.</p>
	<p>PS5</p>	<p>Human rights information and analyses are integrated in early warning and analysis systems and influence international and national policy-making, strategies and operations to prevent, mitigate or respond to emerging crises, including humanitarian crises and conflict.</p> <p>The Human Rights Working Group (HRWG) operates as an early warning mechanism when the human rights situation deteriorates. The HRWG helps to integrate human rights approaches in specific programmes.</p>
	<p>PS6</p>	<p>United Nations’ support to national and regional security forces, law enforcement agencies, and non-State actors integrates human rights and complies with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.</p> <p>All Sri Lanka military or police personnel proposed for deployment in UN peacekeeping operations undergo a stringent screening process, led by civilians.</p>
<b>ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION</b>		
<p><b>ND</b> Non-Discrimination</p>	<p>ND1</p>	<p>Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to ‘leave no one behind’, including by addressing the root causes of inequality.</p> <p>Measures are taken to strengthen legal protection against discrimination on grounds of gender or sexual orientation; consensual same-sex relations are decriminalized.</p>
<b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b>		
<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p>A2</p>	<p>Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.</p> <p>Fulfilling Human Rights Council resolution 30/1, Sri Lanka implements a comprehensive transitional justice strategy that is victim-oriented, gender-sensitive and complies with international human rights standards. It establishes an Office for Missing Persons, a truth and reconciliation commission, a reparations programme, and a credible special judicial accountability mechanism in which foreign experts participate.</p>
	<p>A3</p>	<p>Justice systems investigate and prosecute gender-related crimes more effectively.</p> <p>The recommendations of the Consultations Task Force on participation of women in the design of transitional justice mechanisms are taken into account; the mechanisms’ mandates include sexual violence in conflict.</p>

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

**P**  
Participation

ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE

**P6** ▶ The voice of people affected by decisions, particularly victims and those who face discrimination, is more clearly heard.

New laws establish transitional justice mechanisms and take into account the results of consultations held in 2016. Wherever necessary, victims of violations, women, and groups with specific needs are consulted in more detail about each element of the transitional justice agenda.

‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE

- Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.
- Expand civic space.
- Broaden the global constituency for human rights.
- Explore emerging human rights concerns (‘frontier issues’):
  - Corruption.
  - Inequalities.

SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’

Women.

## NORTH-EAST ASIA

The North-East Asia region includes China, Japan, the Republic of Korea (ROK), the Democratic Peoples' Republic of Korea (DPRK), and Mongolia. While these countries are geographically adjacent to each other and similar in certain respects, they vary widely in their size, economic development, and systems of governance. Differences in almost every aspect of social, cultural, economic, civil and political life create unique challenges for OHCHR as well as opportunities for engagement. In particular, wide disparities in economic development impact the kinds of human rights issues that each country is facing, but also account for the influence that particular countries have on regional and international peace, security, development and human rights agendas.

The rapid economic development that many countries in the region have enjoyed, have in many instances created disparities and negatively impacted individuals and communities. The diverse development models require human rights impact assessments, particularly in light of the objectives of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, to assist states ensure that no one is left behind. Development projects, such as China's "one belt one road" initiative, while largely benefitting a number of countries within the region, also require analysis from the human rights perspective to address differential or unequal impacts that such policies may have on individuals and communities.

Compliance with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, to ensure that development is sustainable and does not negatively impact the environment, and that workers, particularly migrant workers, are protected from exploitation remain areas of concern. Discrimination against women, the poor, minorities, and indigenous peoples remain problematic across the region. Women in many countries do not have equal access to economic opportunities, and they continue to suffer from sexual and gender-based violence, and other forms of social, economic and political discrimination. Trafficking of women within and between a number of countries of the region continues to leave them vulnerable and subject to exploitation and abuse. Respect for the rights of minorities, particularly recognition of cultural rights, land ownership, and equal participation in economic, social and political life remain issues of concern within some countries.

Countries in the sub-region share a number of security concerns, particularly with regard to tensions on the Korean peninsula. While most countries place a heavy emphasis on peace and security and economic development, OHCHR believes that for long-term peace and stability within the region, ongoing political processes must address longstanding human rights concerns.

## OHCHR's expected contribution by 2021

### THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

#### INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

**M**  
Mechanisms

M1

National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.

States in the region improve their capacity to implement and follow up the recommendations of international human rights mechanisms, including by establishing a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up (NMRF) and by submitting reports to the Treaty Bodies.

More thematic special procedure mandate holders are invited to visit the sub-region.

**THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME**

	M2	<p>Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues (frontier issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.</p> <p>Civil society organizations are free to operate in a safe and secure environment. Rights-holders, especially women and groups that face discrimination, meaningfully participate in decisions and processes that concern them.</p>
<b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS</b>		
<p><b>D</b> Development</p>	D1	<p>Judicial and non-judicial mechanisms hold business and other economic actors to account for rights abuses and provide remedies to victims.</p> <p>States in the region investigate and prosecute violations of human rights committed by businesses.</p>
	D7	<p>States integrate human rights, including the right to development and human rights mechanisms' outcomes, as they implement the Sustainable Development Goals and other development and poverty eradication efforts; and the UN supports them in these purposes, integrating human rights in its own development work.</p> <p>Governments in the region integrate a human rights-based approach in their international cooperation policies and programmes, and ensure that their national plan on business and human rights complies with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.</p>
<b>ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION</b>		
<p><b>ND</b> Non-Discrimination</p>	ND1	<p>Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to 'leave no one behind', including by addressing the root causes of inequality.</p> <p>States in the sub-region adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination laws that protect everyone, address all spheres of life, and define and prohibit discrimination on any ground, including sexual orientation and gender identity.</p>
	ND6	<p>The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected.</p> <p>Cases of discrimination against migrant workers are addressed promptly and more consistently.</p>
	ND7	<p>Public support for equal, inclusive and diverse societies, without discrimination, increases.</p> <p>Public awareness of equality and discrimination increases significantly. People in the sub-region increasingly recognize and condemn discrimination based on social status (against migrants, the poor, minorities, indigenous people) or gender. Domestic discussions of equality and discrimination improve significantly. Several countries in the sub-region adopt comprehensive anti-discrimination laws that comply with international human rights standards.</p>

**THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME**

<b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b>		
<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p>A1</p>	<p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p> <p>Laws on national security and social stability, and their application, comply to a greater extent with international human rights standards.</p> <p>One country amends its domestic laws and practices on conscientious objection to align them with international human rights standards.</p> <p>Countries in the region initiate steps to abolish the death penalty; pending abolition, they comply with international human rights obligations.</p>
	<p>A2</p>	<p>Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.</p> <p>The national human rights institutions in the Republic of Korea and Mongolia have become more effective. Other countries will have taken steps to establish a NHRI that complies with the Paris Principles.</p>
<b>ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE</b>		
<p><b>P</b> Participation</p>	<p>P5</p>	<p>More systematic monitoring of the environment for civic space, including threats to it, takes place.</p> <p>In two countries, the authorities investigate and prosecute cases of intimidation and reprisals against human rights defenders who have cooperated with the UN. In both countries, laws and policies protect civic space. Civil society and media organizations can express themselves, meet together, and participate in public life without fear.</p> <p>Members of civil society at risk report cases to the UN; the UN takes the appropriate action.</p>

**‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE**

- Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.
- Expand civic space.
- Broaden the global constituency for human rights.
- Explore emerging human rights concerns (‘frontier issues’):
  - Climate change.
  - Corruption.
  - Inequalities.
  - People on the move.

**SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’**

Women, young people.

## DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA

### Field presence

OHCHR has been based in the Republic of Korea since June 2015. It does not have access to the DPRK.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

The DPRK has ratified five core human rights treaties: ICCPR, ICESCR, CRC, CEDAW and CPRD. In 2017, the DPRK was reviewed by the CEDAW and CRC Committees, after submitting overdue periodic reports in 2016. The country has accepted recommendations of the first and second cycle of the UPR and will complete its third review early in 2019. A SR on the situation of human rights in the DPRK has been mandated since 2004, but has not been able to visit the country. The visit of the SR on the rights of persons living with disabilities in 2017 was the first visit by a thematic rapporteur since 1995. (See the overview table on page 165.)

### Visits by special procedures in the last four years

SR on the rights of persons living with disabilities (2017).

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

SR on situation of human rights in DPRK, SR on rights to water and sanitation, WG on enforced disappearances, SR on right to food, SR on freedom of religion.

## CONTEXT

The political system in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea severely restricts civil, political, economic and social rights. In 2014, a UN commission of inquiry found that in many cases these restrictions led to violations that amounted to crimes against humanity. Human rights violations reported include state executions, torture, discrimination based on social group, and severe restrictions of the right to freedom of expression, association and religion. Access to basic economic and social rights remains limited. The Commission of Inquiry estimated that between 80,000 and 120,000 persons are being held in political prison camps. Individuals who leave the DPRK and are forcibly returned face severe punishment. Most of those who leave the DPRK irregularly are women, many of whom are victims of trafficking and are sold into forced marriage, the sex trade or bonded labour in neighbouring countries. If returned to the DPRK, they are at risk of further violations in detention, including sexual violence.

The DPRK's domestic legal framework provides some human rights protection. However, its provisions are rarely applied. The general population is prevented from accessing information

not sanctioned by the government. Corruption is pervasive in all areas of society. The population remains very vulnerable to food insecurity and a cycle of droughts and floods has shown that the rural population is highly vulnerable to the effects of climate change.

Since late 2014, the DPRK has resumed its interactions with international human rights mechanisms, including through accepting recommendations from its first two cycles of the UPR. The DPRK accepted a country visit by the Special Rapporteur on persons with disabilities in 2017, has discussed possible country visits by other rapporteurs, and established unofficial communications with the country mandate holder in 2016 and 2017. In 2017, the DPRK was reviewed by the CEDAW and CRC Committees, after submitting overdue periodic reports in 2016. In the future it will be even more important to work closely with governments and civil society actors to monitor developments, respond appropriately, and take opportunities when they arise to extend respect for and knowledge of human rights and protect individuals whose rights have been violated.

## OHCHR's expected contribution by 2021

### THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

<b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b>	
 <p><b>M</b> Mechanisms</p>	<p><b>M1</b> ▶ National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>The Government engages with the country mandate holder, who is able to conduct a visit. Two thematic rapporteurs are able to visit.</p> <p>The Government of the DPRK submits reports to two Treaty Bodies and participates in the UPR process.</p>
<b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b>	
 <p><b>PS</b> Peace and Security</p>	<p><b>PS3</b> ▶ Strategies to prevent and respond to conflict consistently integrate human rights protection.</p> <p>International approaches to the DPRK integrate human rights as a cross-cutting issue and recognize the centrality of human rights in the promotion of peace and security in the DPRK.</p>
 <p><b>PS</b> Peace and Security</p>	<p><b>PS5</b> ▶ Human rights information and analyses are integrated in early warning and analysis systems and influence international and national policy-making, strategies and operations to prevent, mitigate or respond to emerging crises, including humanitarian crises and conflict.</p> <p>Humanitarian programmes adopt a rights-based approach and comply with the requirements of the UN's Human Rights up Front Action Plan.</p>
<b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b>	
 <p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p><b>A2</b> ▶ Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.</p> <p>National institutions in DPRK curb violations of human rights in response to international pressure.</p> <p>The international community continues its efforts to hold perpetrators of crimes against humanity accountable.</p>

## THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

**P**  
Participation

### ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE

P4

Civil society assistance to victims of human rights violations is strengthened.

Human rights principles, norms and language are embraced by civil society organizations that work with the DPRK government or with DPRK escapees.

### 'SHIFTS' ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE

Expand civic space.

Explore emerging human rights concerns ('frontier issues'):

- Climate change.
- Corruption.
- Inequalities.
- People on the move.

### SHINING A 'SPOTLIGHT'

Women, persons with disabilities.

## REGIONAL OFFICE FOR THE PACIFIC (SUVA)

### Field presence

The OHCHR Regional Office for the Pacific (ROP) is based in Suva.

### Countries of engagement

Australia, Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, Kiribati, Nauru, New Zealand, Niue, Papua New Guinea, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms.

Between 2015 and September 2018, Pacific countries ratified 18 treaties and increased their engagement with UN special procedures. Two rounds of UPR generated dialogue and commitments to human rights, though implementation of recommendations remains a challenge. Ratifications of the CCPR and the CESCR by the Pacific countries also increased; Fiji and the Marshall Islands acceded to these core treaties. Samoa established a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up (NMRF). (See the overview table on page 165.)

### Visits by special procedures in the last four years

The OHCHR Regional Office for the Pacific provided support to eight SP country visits. Australia, Fiji and Samoa were among the countries visited. The SR on right to education, SR on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia and related intolerance, and the IE on albinism visited Fiji in 2015, 2016 and 2017 respectively. The WG on discrimination against women in law and practice visited Samoa in 2017. Similarly, SRs on human rights of migrants, on the rights of indigenous peoples, trafficking on persons, contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination and xenophobia. The SR on violence against women, its causes and consequences visited Australia in 2017.

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

Most Pacific Island Countries and Territories, except Kiribati and the Federated States of Micronesia, have extended standing invitations to special procedures. More Special Procedure mandate holders have made requests to visit. Fiji has received requests from the SRs on health, torture, independence of judges, freedom of assembly, and human rights defenders, as well as from the WG on arbitrary detention. Samoa has received a request from the SR on the right to development. Vanuatu has yet to respond to requests from the Independent Expert on foreign debt and the SRs on water and sanitation, indigenous peoples, and minority issues. Tonga has received a request from the WG on discrimination against women in law and practice. The Solomon Islands has yet to respond to requests from the SRs on violence against women, water and sanitation, and indigenous peoples, and from the Independent Expert on foreign debt.

The Pacific includes some of the world's smallest and least-developed national economies and is an area particularly subject to disasters. In recent years, climate change has caused new issues to emerge, including climate-induced mobility and the world's first climate change refugees. The Regional Office for the Pacific in Fiji will promote a rights-based approach to policy and protection.

## CONTEXT

The Pacific region is highly vulnerable to both rapid and slow-onset natural disasters. Eight of the Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs), namely the Cook Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji, the Marshall Islands, Niue, Tonga, the Solomon Islands and Vanuatu, are among the 15 countries in the world that are most at risk from natural disasters: between 2014 and 2016 alone, the region was affected by at least seven events. Climate change is increasing the risk of weather-related disasters in the Pacific and their incidence is expected to rise. The tropical cyclones Gita, Josie and Keni in 2018, earthquakes in Papua New Guinea, and the volcanic eruptions on Ambae Island in Vanuatu confirm the region's vulnerability.

The Pacific Island countries vary greatly in geography, demography, size, history, culture, and socio-economic and political environment. Governments in the region have renewed commitments in recent years to reinforce human rights frameworks and have made efforts to engage with the UPR process and align national laws with international human rights standards. Parliaments have strengthened their ability to defend human rights and taken legislative measures to create more robust human rights protection systems.

The human rights infrastructure nevertheless remains weak. In the 14 PICTs, only two national human rights institutions (NHRIs) exist, in Fiji and Samoa. Civil society organizations working on human rights issues include NGOs, community groups and networks, and faith-based groups. Primarily they focus on awareness-raising, advocacy and service delivery, including on gender, child rights

and disability rights. Few work on LGBTI rights, the impact on human rights of business activities, or the effect of climate and environmental change on human rights.

Elections were conducted successfully in Australia, Nauru, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga and Vanuatu. Elections in Fiji, Nauru and Solomon Islands are due in late 2018-2019. In many States, governance challenges include reliance on chiefly and religious structures, socio-economic constraints, and the impact of humanitarian disasters that contribute to political instability. Laws, policies and practices restricting freedoms and limiting accountability are also problematic.

The main human rights concerns in the region include violations of the rights to life and security, housing, food security, health, information, and nationality; poor access to basic services, including drinking water, sanitation, education, and health care; limited access to justice, discrimination, corruption, and harms associated with climate change. Limited trade and employment opportunities, migration, and exploitation are also issues of concern. The negative impact on human rights of Australia's policy of offshore processing of refugee and asylum seekers in Nauru and Manus Island in Papua New Guinea remains an issue of serious concern. Violence against women is a major problem in many PICTs. In some countries, ethnic tensions and ethnic discrimination regularly threaten political stability. The region also hosts the world's first recognized climate refugees.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

### THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

#### INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

**M**  
Mechanisms

<b>M1</b>	<p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>More Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs) ratify at least five core international human rights treaties.</p> <p>Kiribati, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Marshall Islands and Vanuatu establish national mechanisms for reporting and follow up (NMRFs) to coordinate reporting and implement recommendations made by the Treaty Bodies, special procedures, the Human Rights Council, and the UPR.</p> <p>States in the region submit on time a higher proportion of the reports that are due to the Treaty Bodies and UPR.</p> <p>Special Procedure mandate holders make at least two visits each year to the Pacific region.</p>
<b>M2</b>	<p>Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues (frontier issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.</p> <p>National human rights institutions, civil society organizations and individuals from Fiji and Samoa make more submissions to Treaty Bodies, special procedures and the UPR.</p>

**D**  
Development

#### ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS

<b>D1</b>	<p>Judicial and non-judicial mechanisms hold business and other economic actors to account for rights abuses and provide remedies to victims.</p> <p>More of the judgements made by courts and judicial mechanisms comply with human rights norms and standards. In at least two countries, law enforcement officials (including maritime officials) are trained in relevant human rights standards.</p>
<b>D2</b>	<p>Business actors implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights effectively.</p> <p>The Fiji Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission, the Fiji Chamber of Commerce and Industry, civil society organizations in Fiji, the Maritime Authority, and relevant government departments provide human rights training as a matter of course.</p>
<b>D5</b>	<p>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.</p> <p>Tuvalu and Vanuatu strengthen the legal framework of their labour migration and climate finance policies, and adopt a human rights-based approach. The Marshall Islands develops a human rights plan. Under the joint human security project, States in the region develop a draft regional legal framework on climate change and migration that complies with international human rights standards.</p> <p>The Framework for Resilient Development in the Pacific is implemented using a human rights approach.</p>

**THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME**

	<b>D7</b>	<p>States integrate human rights, including the right to development and human rights mechanisms’ outcomes, as they implement the Sustainable Development Goals and other development and poverty eradication efforts; and the UN supports them in these purposes, integrating human rights in its own development work.</p> <p>Increased capacity of Member States to integrate human rights, including recommendations made by UN human rights mechanisms, into national sustainable development plans.</p>
	<b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b>	
<b>PS</b> Peace and Security	<b>PS6</b>	<p>United Nations’ support to national and regional security forces, law enforcement agencies, and non-State actors integrates human rights and complies with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.</p> <p>Humanitarian operations adopt a human rights-based approach in their programming.</p>
	<b>ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION</b>	
<b>ND</b> Non-Discrimination	<b>ND6</b>	<p>The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected.</p> <p>National human rights institutions increase their capacity to monitor the human rights of migrants affected by climate change, and exercise oversight.</p>
	<b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b>	
<b>A</b> Accountability	<b>A1</b>	<p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p> <p>The Cook Islands and Vanuatu establish national human rights institutions, and existing national human rights institutions in Fiji, Samoa and Tuvalu are further strengthened in full respect of the Paris Principle.</p> <p>The police academies and penitentiary services in Fiji and Vanuatu include human rights training in the curriculum of pre-service and in-service training.</p>
	<b>A2</b>	<p>Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.</p> <p>Judiciaries, law enforcement and oversight mechanisms in the region uphold human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights. They take measures that provide protection to victims of climate change, abusive business practices, and unsafe migration.</p>

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

**P**  
Participation

**ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE**

<p>P1</p>	<p>Stronger laws, policies and practices protect the right to participate and civic space, and the environment for civil society is increasingly safe and enabling.</p> <p>National protection systems receive capacity training. Civil society actors receive technical assistance, including training, increasing their capacity to monitor and influence national protection systems. Oversight and accountability mechanisms improve access to justice and widen civic space.</p>
<p>P6</p>	<p>The voice of people affected by decisions, particularly victims and those who face discrimination, is more clearly heard.</p> <p>In at least two Pacific island countries, civil society organizations push for anti-discrimination laws.</p>

**‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE**

- Expand civic space.
- Explore emerging human rights concerns (‘frontier issues’):
  - Climate change.
  - Inequalities.
  - People on the move.

**SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’**

Young people, persons with disabilities.

## PAPUA NEW GUINEA (PNG)

### Field presence

The OHCHR Human Rights Advisor's Unit, established in 2008, currently has one international Human Rights Adviser, a national human rights officer and an administrative assistant.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

PNG is party to six core human rights treaties: CEDAW, CRC, CERD, ICCPR, ICESCR and CRPD. All treaty reports are overdue. The terms of reference for a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up (NMRF) are awaiting approval by the National Executive Council. PNG has issued a standing invitation to special procedures mandate holders. However, implementation of recommendations by the Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions has been poor. PNG completed the second UPR cycle in 2016 and accepted 108 recommendations. (See the overview table on page 165.)

### Visits by special procedures in the last four years

SR on extrajudicial, summary, or arbitrary executions (2014).

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

WG on discrimination against women, WG on mercenaries, SR on indigenous peoples.

## CONTEXT

Papua New Guinea (PNG) is the largest Pacific Island State. Its population of 7.3 million is culturally and linguistically diverse. Over 80% of its people live in rural areas and face numerous human rights challenges. In the last four years, PNG has strengthened child protection, and the rights of persons with disabilities, as well as its laws and policies on gender-based violence and violence associated with sorcery accusations. However, implementation is slow and the rule of law remains weak. Extractive industries operate with little oversight in remote areas and contribute to serious human rights violations. Although the Government is committed to universal healthcare and education, the quality of both is low and access is limited. The participation of women in governance and policy-making is poor; no female candidate won a seat in the 2017 parliamentary elections.

As provided by the Bougainville Peace Agreement, a referendum has been scheduled in June 2019 to determine Bougainville's political status;

independence will be an option. A human rights enforcement mechanism to address past and current human rights violations was foreseen under the Constitution of Bougainville but has yet to be established.

People with disabilities face discrimination, including restricted access to public buildings and basic services. LGBTI persons and persons living with HIV/AIDS experience discrimination and stigma; sex between males remains a crime. Instances of police brutality, including extrajudicial killings and deaths in custody, continue to be reported and officials responsible for such crimes are rarely held accountable. High rates of impunity are also reported when violence, killings, and property damage occur during tribal fights in the Highlands Region.

The human rights of asylum seekers and refugees, on Manus Island and in other parts of Papua New Guinea brought under the Regional

Resettlement Arrangement, remain a serious concern. In November 2017, over 600 male adult asylum seekers and refugees remained at the decommissioned regional processing centre (RPC) for almost three weeks without access to food, water or electricity. They had refused to move to other designated locations on Manus Island due to cited concerns over their safety and security and access to essential services, but were moved forcibly by the Government at the end of November 2017. Since the RPC’s closure and discontinuation of the services contracted by the Australian Government, basic services, particularly health care services, have deteriorated significantly. This is of particular concern because the majority of asylum seekers and refugees have developed mental illnesses due to prolonged arbitrary detention. After five years, no effective durable solutions have been found for this population; five persons have died, and only 108 persons have been resettled in the USA under a deal between the Governments of Australia and the USA made in December 2016.

PNG lacks an independent mechanism to address human rights, because the Government has not so far implemented its commitment to establish a national human rights commission. A National Human Rights Track has been established in the national courts, but few people have knowledge of or access to this court. The Ombudsman Commission has the power to monitor correction and detention facilities but lacks the capacity and resources to monitor comprehensively or regularly, investigate complaints effectively, or protect the rights of prisoners. No civil society organizations in PNG provide consistent human rights monitoring and reporting.

The Human Rights Advisor’s Unit provides human rights advice and analysis to the UN Resident Coordinator and UN Country Team in PNG, and assists the Government to respect, protect, and fulfil its international human rights obligations. It works with civil society to widen democratic space.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<p><b>M</b> Mechanisms</p>	<p><b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b></p> <p><b>M1</b> National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>PNG ratifies at least two additional human rights conventions (including CAT and one or more of the optional protocols to ICCPR, ICESCR, CEDAW, and CRC). The Government strengthens its reporting to Treaty Bodies, coordination of its reports, and its engagement with the UN human rights mechanisms.</p>
	<p><b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS</b></p> <p><b>D1</b> Judicial and non-judicial mechanisms hold business and other economic actors to account for rights abuses and provide remedies to victims.</p> <p><b>D2</b> Business actors implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights effectively.</p> <p>Government regulatory bodies increase oversight of extractive industries to prevent and mitigate adverse human rights effects of their activities.</p>
<p><b>D</b> Development</p>	

**THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME**

<b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b>		
<b>PS</b> Peace and Security	<b>PS4</b>	Justice mechanisms, including for transitional justice, provide increased accountability for conflict-related violations.  The Autonomous Bougainville Government develops a comprehensive policy to address past, present, and future human rights violations and promote reconciliation with respect to past conflict in Bougainville.
	<b>PS5</b>	Human rights information and analyses are integrated in early warning and analysis systems and influence international and national policy-making, strategies and operations to prevent, mitigate or respond to emerging crises, including humanitarian crises and conflict.  Relevant Government agencies and humanitarian actors increasingly integrate human rights in humanitarian interventions and preparedness.
<b>ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION</b>		
<b>ND</b> Non-Discrimination	<b>ND2</b>	Justice systems and related institutions increasingly monitor and investigate discrimination and provide redress to victims.  The Government amends selected laws to ensure that they comply with the CEDAW and the CRPD.
	<b>ND6</b>	The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected.  Civil society organizations and the Government increasingly monitor and address human rights violations suffered by refugees, migrants and targeted vulnerable groups, advocate on their behalf, and produce regular public reports.
<b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b>		
<b>A</b> Accountability	<b>A1</b>	Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.  The Royal PNG Constabulary and PNG Correctional Services receive regular human rights training.  Civil society organizations increase their capacity to lobby the Government to maintain its de facto moratorium on the death penalty, with a view to abolition.
	<b>A2</b>	Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.  An operational National Human Rights Commission is established, which complies with the Paris Principles.

## THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

**P**  
Participation

### ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE

P6

The voice of people affected by decisions, particularly victims and those who face discrimination, is more clearly heard.

Disenfranchised male and female youth, and persons with disabilities, participate meaningfully in the 2019 Bougainville referendum.

### 'SHIFTS' ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE

Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.

Broaden the global constituency for human rights.

Explore emerging human rights concerns ('frontier issues'):

- Climate change.
- Digital space and emerging technologies.
- Inequalities.
- People on the move.

### SHINING A 'SPOTLIGHT'

Women, young people, persons with disabilities.

# EUROPE AND CENTRAL ASIA

## INTRODUCTION

In the vast and diverse region of Europe and Central Asia, OHCHR maintains a strong country engagement through the Geneva Headquarters, the New York Office and ten field presences. These include the Regional Offices for Europe (in Brussels) and for Central Asia (in Bishkek); Senior Human Rights Advisers in the South Caucasus and Belarus; a Human Rights Adviser in the Republic of Macedonia; Human Rights Officers and staff in the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, and Serbia; the Human Rights Office in the UN Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo;<sup>9</sup> and the Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine (HRMMU).

OHCHR supports a number of inter-governmental mandates, including the drafting and presentation

to the Human Rights Council of the High Commissioner's annual reports on the "Question of human rights in Cyprus". OHCHR also supports the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Belarus, who reports annually to the Human Rights Council in Geneva and the General Assembly in New York. Additionally, OHCHR reports annually on cooperation with Georgia to the Human Rights Council, and participates in the Geneva International Discussions. Since deployment of the HRMMU in 2014, OHCHR monitors the human rights situation in Ukraine and releases quarterly reports complemented by thematic reporting, including on Crimea as per General Assembly Resolutions. These are presented at an interactive dialogue of the Human Rights Council.

## CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS CONTEXT

- ***Discrimination and exclusion remain systemic in many countries of Europe and Central Asia***, particularly with regard to economic and social rights, and have been compounded over recent years by the negative impact of austerity measures in some countries. Vulnerable persons may include but are not limited to: women; youth; migrants; lesbian, gay, bisexual, transsexual and intersex persons (LGBTI); persons with HIV/AIDS; persons belonging to ethnic or religious minorities; persons with disabilities; and older persons (particularly in relation to the right to live independently and in the community, rather than in institutions).
- ***Nationalist policies and exclusionary rhetoric, which used to be the monopoly of extremist groups, are entering the mainstream.*** Migrants and other groups, including religious minorities and Roma, have been targeted, and incidents of racism and xenophobia are on the rise in numerous countries across the region.
- ***The human rights of migrants in Europe have been increasingly restricted by border controls, and security and defence policies.*** Human rights concerns include the immigration detention of children, the increasing incidence of returns, denial of entry to European ports, and restrictions on the activities of NGOs that provide assistance to migrants.
- ***Challenges to democracy and the rule of law are also a growing concern***, as is the legacy of protracted conflicts, which affects the daily lives of many populations around conflict areas. In addition to the plight of internally displaced persons and refugees, a wide range of human rights protection issues needs to be addressed to close gaps in the protection of affected people and build public confidence.

<sup>9</sup> \* Reference to Kosovo shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999) and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

## Europe and Central Asia and the United Nations human rights mechanisms

Ratifications, reporting and standing invitations (baseline June 2018)

	CERD	CCPR	CESCR	CAT	OPCAT	CEDAW	CRC	CRC:OPSC	CRC:OPAC	CMW	CRPD	CPPED	UPR	Standing invitations to Special Procedure mandate holders
Albania				X			X						(Apr-May 2019)	Yes (2009)
Andorra		X		X			X						(Apr-May 2020)	Yes(2010)
Armenia		X											(Jan-Feb 2020)	Yes(2006)
Austria	X												(Oct-Nov 2020)	Yes (2001)
Azerbaijan			X				X			X			(7-18 May 2018)	Yes (2013)
Belarus							X						(Apr-May 2020)	No
Belgium				X									(Jan-Feb 2021)	Yes(2001)
Bosnia & Herzeg													(Oct-Nov 2019)	Yes (2010)
Bulgaria													(Apr-May 2020)	Yes (2001)
Croatia	X		X					X					(Apr-May 2020)	Yes (2003)
Cyprus							X	X					(Jan-Feb 2019)	Yes (2001)
Czech Republic													(6-17 Nov 2017)	Yes (2000)
Denmark			X										(Jan-Feb) 2021)	Yes (2001)
Estonia				X									(Jan-Feb) 2021)	Yes (2001)
Finland						X	X	X					(1-12 May 2017)	Yes (2001)
France	X												(15-26 Jan-2018)	Yes (2001)
Georgia			X	X			X						(Oct-Nov 2020)	Yes (2010)
Germany													(7-18 May 2018)	Yes (2001)
Greece						X	X						(Apr-May 2021)	Yes (2001)
Hungary	X		X	X		X							(Apr-May 2021)	Yes (2001)
Iceland	X		X	X			X						(Oct-Nov 2021)	Yes (2000)
Ireland	X												(Apr-May 2021)	Yes (2001)
Italy													(Oct-Nov 2019)	Yes (2001)
Kazakhstan	X												(Oct-Nov 2019)	Yes (2009)
Kyrgyzstan		X		X									(Jan-Feb 2020)	No
Latvia			X	X		X							(Jan-Feb) 2021)	Yes (2001)
Liechtenstein	X						X	X					(15-26 Jan-2018)	Yes (2003)
Lithuania	X			X									(Oct-Nov 2021)	Yes (2001)
Luxembourg	X	X	X										(15-26 Jan-2018)	Yes (2001)
Malta	X		X	X		X		X					(5-16 Nov 2018)	Yes (2001)
Rep. of Moldova						X							(Oct-Nov 2021)	Yes (2010)
Monaco	X							X					(5-16 Nov 2018)	Yes (2008)
Montenegro				X									(15-26 Jan-2018)	Yes (2005)

## Europe and Central Asia and the United Nations human rights mechanisms

Ratifications, reporting and standing invitations (baseline June 2018)

	CERD	CCPR	CESCR	CAT	OPCAT	CEDAW	CRC	CRC:OPSC	CRC:OPAC	CMW	CRPD	CPPED	UPR	Standing invitations to Special Procedure mandate holders
Netherlands		X											(1–12 May 2017)	Yes (2001)
North Macedonia							X						(Jan–Feb 2019)	Yes (2004)
Norway													(Apr–May 2019)	Yes (1999)
Poland													(1–12 May 2017)	Yes (2001)
Portugal													(Apr–May 2019)	Yes (2001)
Romania	X							X	X		X		(15–26 Jan-2018)	Yes (2001)
Russian Fed.													(7–18 May 2018)	No
San Marino	X		X	X		X	X	X	X		X		(Oct–Nov 2019)	Yes (2003)
Serbia							X						(15–26 Jan-2018)	Yes (2005)
Slovakia													(Jan–Feb 2019)	Yes (2001)
Slovenia													(Oct–Nov 2019)	Yes (2001)
Spain													(Jan–Feb 2020)	Yes (2001)
Sweden													(Jan–Feb 2020)	Yes (2001)
Switzerland	X												(6–17 Nov 2017)	Yes (2002)
Tajikistan													(Apr–May 2021)	No
Turkey		X	X				X						(Jan–Feb 2020)	Yes (2001)
Turkmenistan													(7–18 May 2018)	No
Ukraine													(6–17 Nov 2017)	Yes (2006)
United Kingdom													(1–12 May 2017)	Yes (2001)
Uzbekistan							X						(7–18 May 2018)	No
<b>Total No of ratifications/invitations out of 53 States</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>41</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>52</b>	<b>53</b>	<b>7</b>	<b>51</b>	<b>23</b>		<b>47</b>

	Treaty ratified
	Overdue report as of June 2018
	Outstanding ratification

## EASTERN AND WESTERN EUROPE

### Countries of engagement

Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Republic of North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, the Russian Federation, San Marino, Slovakia, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, United Kingdom, and Ukraine.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

(See the overview table on page 211.)

### Mandates from the Human Rights Council

The SR on Belarus; Annual reports on the question of human rights in Cyprus; oral updates and written reports to the Human Rights Council on cooperation with Georgia; Interactive Dialogue with the Human Rights Council on OHCHR public reports on Ukraine prepared by UN Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine.

## CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS CONTEXT

The continent of Europe (Western and Eastern Europe and South Caucasus) remains at the centre of numerous complex challenges, many of which are affected by historical fault lines, political divergences, or frozen or active conflicts. In some cases, they are shared by the countries of Western and Eastern Europe; others are more peculiar to certain subregions of the continent.

In a number of West European or European Union (EU) countries, the human rights system faces a series of challenges. The idea of the EU as a union of shared values of human rights, democracy and the rule of law is increasingly contested by, and in, certain EU member States. In many EU member States, elections to the European Parliament (due in May 2019) will be a major test of the ability of traditional political parties to withstand the growing influence of populist parties and movements which manipulate public opinions by stoking racism and Islamophobia. The new European Commission will also be chosen in 2019.

Across the region, a discourse that privileges political stability, public order and the fight against terrorism and extremism is gaining force at the expense of democratic space and political freedoms. Of particular concern are laws and regulations that limit the freedoms of peaceful assembly, speech, and religion or belief. Harassment of human rights defenders, especially in the context of elections, is equally worrying.

In addition, throughout the region, social security, inclusion and equality have weakened in a process exacerbated by socio-economic hardship and austerity measures in the context of the global financial and economic crisis. In Eastern Europe and South Caucasus, disparities have grown, worsening poverty, inequality and exclusion, especially for vulnerable groups. More broadly, these trends undermine economic, social and cultural rights but also civil and political rights, including the rights to life and to liberty and security, to freedoms of peaceful assembly, association and expression, and due process.

Discriminatory legislation, policies and practices continue to disadvantage or harm migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons, ethnic minorities, especially Roma and Travellers, persons with disabilities, children, youth, women, older persons, LGBTI persons, and persons living with HIV/AIDS. Institutionalization, particularly of persons with mental and intellectual disabilities but also children and older persons, continues to raise human rights concerns. Poverty and economic instability fuel migration and human trafficking, generating significant human rights violations in both Western and Eastern Europe. Faced by these challenges, concern has increased as to the capacity of States to make adequate provisions in accord with their international human rights obligations.

Corruption, impunity and lack of accountability, and deficiencies in the rule of law (including the independence of the judiciary and fair trial rights) remain problems, particularly in Eastern Europe and South Caucasus. Torture and ill-treatment at arrest, during pre-trial detention and in penitentiary institutions are also persistent violations of the rule of law. Transitional justice issues are still relevant in the Balkans. Protracted conflicts, which vary in nature and intensity, further hinder the protection and realization of human rights in Cyprus, Kosovo,\* the Republic of Moldova, South Caucasus and Ukraine. Throughout the region, more effective, independent 'A' status national human rights institutions (NHRIs) are needed to support national human rights protection systems.

## OHCHR's expected contribution by 2021

### THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME



#### INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

M1

National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.

In at least two countries, a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up engages regularly with international human rights mechanisms and implements recommendations made by them.

M2

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

In at least five countries, the national human rights institution (NHRI) and government representatives are more aware and have more knowledge about human rights mechanisms and their use.

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

**PS**  
Peace and Security

**PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY**

**PS1**

- Parties to conflict and actors involved in peace operations increasingly comply with international human rights and humanitarian law and provide greater protection to civilians.
- Human rights space in protracted conflicts has widened, protection gaps minimized and attention, coherence and action within the UN system, in international fora, by Member States and de facto authorities has increased; the UN human rights toolbox is used and policies are followed-up.
- Strategic negotiations with parties to conflicts integrate human rights norms and a gender perspective in political decision-making and peace agreements.

**ND**  
Non-Discrimination

**ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION**

**ND1**

- Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to ‘leave no one behind’, including by addressing the root causes of inequality.
- NHRIs and civil society organizations significantly strengthen their anti-discrimination work, giving particular regard to domestic violence, gender equality, disability, and the rights of indigenous people. This work complies with international human rights standards.

**P**  
Participation

**ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE**

**P3**

- Business, policy-makers and a public at large increasingly value and support civic space.
- The Russian Federation and selected countries in the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS) expand and strengthen their human rights higher education programmes.

**‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE**

- Expand civic space.
- Broaden the global constituency for human rights.

**SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’.**

Women, young people, persons with disabilities.

## REGIONAL OFFICE FOR EUROPE (BRUSSELS)

### Field presence

The OHCHR Regional Office for Europe (ROE) is based in Brussels, seat of the European Union. The programme was established in 2009.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

The engagement of States in the EU with the international human rights mechanisms is regular and constructive. (See the overview table on page 211.)

## CONTEXT

"International human rights mechanisms have expressed concern over deteriorating conditions for the independence of the judiciary, media freedom, and freedom of association in some member countries of the European Union (EU), which risk spreading to other EU countries.

Exclusionary rhetoric has entered mainstream politics and persons belonging to racial, ethnic and religious minorities have become increasingly the target of hate crimes. Although patterns of discrimination have now been clearly mapped by UN human rights mechanisms, the EU Fundamental Rights Agency, the Council of Europe, and States themselves, their recommendations have not yet been adequately implemented. For example, of the EU's 28 member states, only 14 have adopted a National Action Plan against Racism and Intolerance, which States committed to do at the World Conference against Racism in 2001.

Social media has made it easy to amplify hate messages. According to a study in 45 European countries by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, 58 per cent of female lawmakers interviewed said they have been the target of sexist attacks on social media; 47 per cent said they had received threats of death, rape, or beating; 25 per cent said they were victims of sexual harassment.

Roma and persons with disabilities continue to suffer exclusion and segregation, living mostly at the margins of society, often deprived of their economic and social rights. Growing inequality has also

caused a sharp rise in homelessness in Europe. In some regions, prejudice persists against LGBTI persons. Older persons, on the other hand, are increasingly claiming their rightful place in society. The Sustainable Development Agenda - with its promise to 'leave no one behind' - and the adoption of the European Social Pillar provide new opportunities to include discriminated groups and realize their human rights.

The human rights of migrants in the EU have been increasingly restricted in favour of border control, security and defense. Human rights concerns include immigration detention of children, denial of entry to European ports, and restriction of the activities of NGOs that provide assistance to migrants (to the point of criminalizing them). Access to health and justice, including for undocumented migrants, is also a concern in some EU member States.

In some EU member States, democratically elected governments have enacted legal measures that have undermined public freedoms and the rule of law. In the countries concerned, this has set back the independence of the judiciary, confined civic space, and thinned the media diversity that is required for open and informed public debate.

Externally, the EU continues to play an important role in promoting and protecting human rights globally by integrating UN human rights principles, norms and standards in EU external action and humanitarian and development policies.

## OHCHR's expected contribution by 2021

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b>	
<b>M</b> Mechanisms	<b>M1</b> <p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>At least two more countries have set up a national mechanism for reporting and follow-up (NMRF).</p>
	<b>M2</b> <p>Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues (frontier issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.</p> <p>More rights holders and civil society organizations, national human rights organizations and equality bodies (particularly those that work with children and young people, women, migrants, Roma, persons with disabilities, LGBTI and older persons), engage with the international human rights mechanisms and apply their outcomes to address inequality.</p>
<b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS</b>	
<b>D</b> Development	<b>D3</b> <p>State authorities adopt and implement laws, policies and strategies on land and housing that increasingly comply with human rights.</p> <p>EU policies affirm housing rights, in particular to address homelessness and forced eviction.</p>
	<b>D7</b> <p>States integrate human rights, including the right to development and human rights mechanisms' outcomes, as they implement the Sustainable Development Goals and other development and poverty eradication efforts; and the UN supports them in these purposes, integrating human rights in its own development work.</p> <p>EU institutions further integrate human rights and a human rights-based approach in EU external development programming.</p> <p>The EU and UN Brussels team further integrate a human rights approach in their work on the Sustainable Development Agenda.</p>
<b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b>	
<b>PS</b> Peace and Security	<b>PS3</b> <p>Strategies to prevent and respond to conflict consistently integrate human rights protection.</p> <p>EU external action is increasingly underpinned by international human rights norms and standards.</p>

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

<b>ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION</b>		
<p><b>ND</b> Non-Discrimination</p>	<p><b>ND1</b></p>	<p>Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to ‘leave no one behind’, including by addressing the root causes of inequality.</p> <p>The EU amends and extends its policies on equality and discrimination to reflect international human rights law, especially with respect to Roma, persons with disabilities, older persons, LGBTI persons, and women.</p> <p>Both in EU Member States and candidate countries for EU enlargement, the content and implementation of policies on equality and discrimination comply with international human rights law and jurisprudence. Particular attention is given to the desegregation, de-institutionalization and inclusion of Roma and persons with disabilities, especially women and children.</p>
	<p><b>ND3</b></p>	<p>Legal and social frameworks increasingly promote women’s and girls’ autonomy and choice and protect them from violence, including in the digital space.</p> <p>EU legal and policy frameworks increasingly protect women and girls from violence in the digital space.</p>
	<p><b>ND6</b></p>	<p>The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected.</p> <p>The EU and its member States respect migrants’ right to information as well as procedural safeguards in migration processes, and have taken steps to end the detention of migrant children.</p> <p>The EU and member states (including Greece, the Netherlands, Portugal, Sweden and Italy) have adopted measures that safeguard migrants’ access to health services and justice; the measures include firewalls.</p>
	<p><b>ND7</b></p>	<p>Public support for equal, inclusive and diverse societies, without discrimination, increases.</p> <p>Across the EU, there is an increase in public support for equality and non-discrimination measures; new strategic partnerships have been created to encourage this trend.</p>
<b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b>		
<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p><b>A2</b></p>	<p>Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.</p> <p>More EU States have ratified the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (OP-ICESCR). Courts increasingly use it, alongside other human rights standards, to render economic, social and cultural rights justiciable.</p>

## THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

**P**  
Participation

### ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE

P5

More systematic monitoring of the environment for civic space, including threats to it, takes place.

National, regional and international actors act promptly and more effectively to protect civic space, especially in Hungary and Poland.

### 'SHIFTS' ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE

Expand civic space.

Broaden the global constituency for human rights.

Explore emerging human rights concerns ('frontier issues'):

- Digital space and emerging technologies.
- Inequalities.
- People on the move.

### SHINING A 'SPOTLIGHT'

Women, young people, persons with disabilities.

## REPUBLIC OF NORTH MACEDONIA

### Field presence.

A national Human Rights Adviser has worked in the UN Country Team (UNCT) since 2007.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

The Republic of North Macedonia is a party to seven core UN treaties and their optional protocols. A standing invitation to UN Special Procedures is in place since 2004. The State has participated fully in UPR reviews and was a member of the UN Human Rights Council between 2014 and 2016. The Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture paid its first visit in 2017, with reports issued for the Government and for the National Preventive Mechanism. A national mechanism for reporting and follow-up (NMRF) has been in place since 2012. (See the overview table on page 211.)

### Visits by special procedures in the past four years

The SR on human rights defenders, the SR on freedom of religion, and the SR on freedom of expression made visits in the period 2002-2013.

## CONTEXT

After internal conflict in 2001, Macedonia remained stable until 2015, when a fresh political crisis renewed uncertainties. Subsequently, discriminatory practices, corruption and societal divisions deepened, disproportionately affecting human rights defenders, women, Roma, and LGBTI persons, while civil society space diminished and the national human rights protection system weakened. A joint mission by the Assistant Secretary General for human rights and the UN Department of Political Affairs that year identified a number of human rights concerns, including threats to privacy, freedom of expression, peaceful assembly and equal access to justice.

In addition, between 2015 and 2016 close to a million migrants and refugees crossed the country on their way to the EU, creating a humanitarian challenge that tested the capacity of both the State

and host communities. An OHCHR monitoring mission in 2016 helped identify the human rights issues and protection gaps faced by migrants and refugees in the country.

A new government took office in June 2017, which declared its commitment to ‘restoring democracy, the rule of law and respect for human rights’. Some positive changes are already evident. Transparency has improved and the national anti-discrimination, disability and gender equality frameworks are being aligned with international human rights standards. However, to address the country’s accumulated human rights concerns, the Government requires technical expertise and capacity that it does not currently possess. The volatile political environment, a divided civil society and weak human rights institutions (NHRI) add to the challenges.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<p><b>M</b> Mechanisms</p>	<p><b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b></p>
	<p><b>M1</b></p> <p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>The national mechanism for reporting and follow-up (NMRF) regularly gathers and disseminates information for purposes of reporting and implementation, and uses information management tools effectively. Its procedures ensure that it consults meaningfully with stakeholders, including civil society and people who are ‘left behind’.</p>
	<p><b>M2</b></p> <p>Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues (frontier issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.</p> <p>Civil society organizations engage systematically with the international human rights mechanisms.</p>
<p><b>D</b> Development</p>	<p><b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS</b></p>
	<p><b>D4</b></p> <p>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.</p> <p>The national strategy on sexual and reproductive health ensures that services, including modern contraception and pregnancy termination, are provided without discrimination, especially to marginalized women and girls.</p>
	<p><b>D8</b></p> <p>National institutions, assisted by communities, systematically collect, disaggregate and use data relevant for advancing human rights when they monitor and implement the SDGs.</p> <p>The State collects reliable data systematically and in a timely manner on the situation of women and groups at risk of discrimination.</p>

## THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

## ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION

**ND**  
Non-  
Discrimination

ND1

Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to ‘leave no one behind’, including by addressing the root causes of inequality.

Anti-discrimination and gender equality laws comply with international human rights standards and ensure effective protection from all forms of discrimination.

National mechanisms to implement the Convention on the Rights of Disabled Persons (CRPD), and monitor its implementation, are effective, adequately resourced, and comply with international standards.

ND3

Legal and social frameworks increasingly promote women’s and girls’ autonomy and choice and protect them from violence, including in the digital space.

National laws on sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) protect women from SGBV and comply with international human rights standards.

ND6

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

There is growing public recognition that child marriage is a harmful practice that must end.

## SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’

Women, persons with disabilities.

## MOLDOVA

### Field presence

From 2008 until 2015, an international Human Rights Adviser was based in the UN Resident Coordinator's Office. Since September 2015, a National Human Rights Coordinator has led a team of national human rights staff and consultants. The UN Assistant Secretary General for Human Rights visited Moldova in (2016) in follow-up to visits by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights (2011) and the UN Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights (2014).

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

Moldova has ratified the ICCPR, ICESCR, CERD, CEDAW, CAT, CRC, and CRPD, and accepted the individual complaints procedure under the ICCPR, CERD, CEDAW and CAT. In 2018, the country signed the CRPD individual complaints procedure. In 2016, the UN Human Rights Committee reviewed Moldova's human rights record followed by 5 reviews in 2017 by the Committees for CRPD, CERD, CRC, ICESCR and CAT in 2017. Moldova is due to be reviewed by CEDAW in 2019. Moldova's last UPR review took place in November 2016 (Moldova issued a standing invitation to the HRC special procedures in 2010). A member of the UN Human Rights Council between 2011 and 2013, Moldova aspires to be re-elected in 2019. (See the overview table on page 211.)

### Visits by special procedures in the past four years

SR on human rights defenders (2018); SR on minority issues (2016); SR on rights of persons with disabilities (2015).

## CONTEXT

Social cohesion in the country is fragile and the society remains divided, primarily along geopolitical and ethno-linguistic lines. Political instability, economic strains and alleged corruption have been among the major obstacles to consolidating democratic institutions and the rule of law, reducing poverty, and achieving economic growth. Significant labour-related emigration has resulted in the loss of young and skilled workers. The protracted conflict in the Transnistrian region adversely affects the human rights of the affected populations, particularly those who are most vulnerable, and could destabilize the broader region. Rising internal political instability and the volatile regional context may undermine human rights protection.

Moldova has developed a solid institutional and policy framework for human rights protection. In 2018, the country adopted a National Human Rights Action Plan based on findings of the UN human rights mechanisms. In May 2018, the People's Advocate was granted 'A' status under the Paris

Principles. The Equality Council (a quasi-judicial body appointed by Parliament) is a credible institution.

A number of human rights gaps remain. Moldova needs to create an enabling environment for civil society and media pluralism, and space for free expression of dissenting views. It needs to promote effective participation in transparent decision-making processes, and establish due process guarantees, an independent judiciary, and accountability for and prevention of human rights violations, including torture and ill-treatment. Women continue to experience social, economic and political inequality. Domestic violence is reportedly widespread. The situation of linguistic and ethnic minorities is a potential fracture point. High economic disparities and discrimination prevent the most disadvantaged groups (Roma, the rural population, women, elderly persons and persons with disabilities) from obtaining their social and economic rights.

## OHCHR's expected contribution by 2021

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b>	
<b>M</b> Mechanisms	<b>M1</b> <p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>A national mechanism implements and reports on outstanding international human rights commitments in an integrated and participatory manner.</p>
	<b>M2</b> <p>Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues (frontier issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.</p> <p>The national human rights institution (NHRI), civil society organizations and individuals make alternative submissions more frequently to the UN human rights mechanisms.</p>
<b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS</b>	
<b>D</b> Development	<b>D8</b> <p>National institutions, assisted by communities, systematically collect, disaggregate and use data relevant for advancing human rights when they monitor and implement the SDGs.</p> <p>Data on education, employment and justice are more consistently available; they are disaggregated by disability status and type.</p>
<b>ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION</b>	
<b>ND</b> Non-Discrimination	<b>ND1</b> <p>Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to 'leave no one behind', including by addressing the root causes of inequality.</p> <p>Laws, policies and practices more effectively prevent and prosecute discrimination against women, persons with disabilities, Roma and other minorities.</p>
	<b>ND7</b> <p>Public support for equal, inclusive and diverse societies, without discrimination, increases.</p> <p>By 2021, public discourse and media reports are more inclusive and non-discriminatory.</p>

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS	
<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p><b>A1</b></p> <p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p> <p>Law enforcement institutions have substantially improved systems and procedures that protect the human rights of women, persons with disabilities, victims of torture and ill-treatment, and Roma and other minorities.</p>
	<p><b>P4</b></p> <p>Civil society assistance to victims of human rights violations is strengthened.</p> <p>Victims of human rights violations, notably women and youth with disabilities and women survivors of sexual violence, more frequently engage with national and international protection systems.</p>
ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE	
<p><b>P</b> Participation</p>	<p><b>P6</b></p> <p>The voice of people affected by decisions, particularly victims and those who face discrimination, is more clearly heard.</p> <p>Vulnerable rights-holders, notably individuals with disabilities, participate more frequently and more fully in forming public policy and drafting laws, including by taking public office. A civil society monitoring mechanism is established to help implement UN human rights recommendations and the National Human Rights Action Plan. Several women, including women with disabilities, are elected to local councils.</p>

‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE

- Broaden the global constituency for human rights.
- Explore emerging human rights concerns (‘frontier issues’):
  - Inequalities.

SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’

Women, young people, persons with disabilities.

## SERBIA

### Field presence

A national Human Rights Programme Officer is heading the Human Rights Team of the Resident Coordinator's Office.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

(See the overview table on page 211.)

### Visits by special procedures in the past four years

SR on torture (2017); SR on cultural rights (2016); follow-up visit by the SR on IDPs (2016); SR on adequate housing (2015, 2014). The WG on enforced or involuntary disappearances conducted a regional visit to Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia and Kosovo<sup>10</sup>.

## CONTEXT

Serbia's society and its political environment remain in transition, affected by 'democratic' changes made in the early 2000s, previous regional conflicts, and the accession process to the European Union.

Strategic and legal frameworks are generally in place, though certain obvious gaps remain and the country does not fully comply with international human rights standards. The main challenge continues to be implementation of human rights protection in practice. Concerns relate to: low living standard, insufficient inclusion of vulnerable groups, perception of widespread corruption, a weak rule of law, and constraints on freedom of the media. In addition, the deep-rooted marginalization of some social groups is changing very slowly. Persons with disabilities, Roma, and LGBTI continue to face visible and systemic discrimination.

Gaps in legal standards exist with respect to prohibition of discrimination, prohibition of

torture and ill-treatment, discrimination on the basis of disability, freedom of the media, and social inclusion more generally. In practice, there remain concerns with regard to judicial protection of human rights, separation of political powers, the safety and freedom of journalists, institutional capacities, and participation.

A report by the European Union in 2017, on Serbia's progress towards implementing negotiation chapters 23 and 24 on fundamental rights and the rule of law and justice, reported that little or no progress had been made, notably on fundamental rights, the rule of law, and protection of specific marginalized groups.

Serbia is troubled by hate speech and hate crimes against vulnerable populations. Roma, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups do not have full access to their rights and are under-represented in education, the labour market, and social activities.

<sup>10</sup> \* Reference to Kosovo shall be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999) and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b>	
<p><b>M</b> Mechanisms</p>	<p><b>M1</b></p> <p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>The national mechanism for reporting and follow-up (NMRF) verifies that recommendations made by human rights mechanisms are implemented; it uses human rights indicators.</p>
<b>ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION</b>	
<p><b>ND</b> Non-Discrimination</p>	<p><b>ND1</b></p> <p>Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to ‘leave no one behind’, including by addressing the root causes of inequality.</p> <p>The Government adopts or reforms five policies, laws or practices that prevent or sanction discrimination in a manner that ensures they comply with human rights standards; in doing so, it pays particular attention to the rights of women, persons with disabilities, LGBTI persons, Roma, and migrants and refugees.</p>
<b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b>	
<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p><b>A1</b></p> <p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p> <p>The judiciary more often and more comprehensively references international human rights law in domestic decisions.</p>
<b>ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE</b>	
<p><b>P</b> Participation</p>	<p><b>P6</b></p> <p>The voice of people affected by decisions, particularly victims and those who face discrimination, is more clearly heard.</p> <p>Organizations of persons with disabilities (OPDs), organizations of national minorities, and other human rights civil society organizations are more visible, are included consistently in relevant policy and decision making, and engage more frequently with UN mechanisms and the implementation of SDGs.</p>
<b>‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE</b>	
<p>Explore emerging human rights concerns (‘frontier issues’):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Inequalities.</li> <li>• People on the move.</li> </ul>	
<b>SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’</b>	
<p>Women, young people, persons with disabilities.</p>	

## UKRAINE

### Field presence

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

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

Ukraine is a party to the core UN human rights treaties, with the exception of the CRMW. Ukraine has been reviewed under the CAT, CESCR, CRPD, CERD, CEDAW; and by the UPR. (See the overview table on page 211.)

### Visits by special procedures in the past four years

Seven Special Procedures visited Ukraine between January 2014 and October 2018. They included the SR on torture, the SR on minority issues, the SR on the human rights of internally displaced persons, and the SR on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions. In addition, visits were made by the WG on enforced or involuntary disappearances, the WG on the use of mercenaries; and the Sub-Committee on Prevention of Torture.

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

A visit by the SR on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity is tentatively scheduled for May 2019.

## CONTEXT

In early 2014, protests in the Maidan, Kyiv's central square, led to the deaths of over one hundred people, the departure of Ukraine's then President Yanukovich, and the formation of a new government. Subsequently, the Crimea region was occupied by the Russian Federation after a referendum on 16 March 2014 that Ukraine and the United Nations considered invalid. In eastern Ukraine, armed groups seized control of parts of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions and declared the creation of the self-proclaimed 'Donetsk people's republic' and 'Luhansk people's republic'. On 14 April 2014, the Government of Ukraine launched an anti-terrorist operation to restore control over these territories. Violence in Odesa on 2 May 2014 led to the deaths of 48 people, most of whom were trapped in a building that caught fire. Opposing narratives about the causes and responsibilities for this tragedy fuelled the conflict. Despite internationally-mediated agreements (the Minsk Agreements in September 2014 and February 2015), armed conflict continues. It has led to the internal displacement of approximately 1.5 million people.

Grave conflict-related human rights abuses have been committed, including torture, ill-treatment, abductions, summary executions and sexual violence. In violation of international humanitarian law, civilian infrastructure was shelled and used for military purposes. Between 14 April 2014 and 15 August 2018, at least 2,737 civilians were killed and between 7,000 and 9,000 injured. The conflict has led to dramatic country-wide social and economic losses and aggravated systemic human rights concerns that existed before the conflict. These include inadequate accountability, widespread corruption, a judiciary that lacks independence, and the absence of effective remedies for victims.

The Government of Ukraine has undertaken to introduce reforms. It has ratified the EU Association Agreement, created anti-corruption laws and mechanisms, passed constitutional amendments designed to strengthen judicial independence, and adopted a human rights strategy and action plan. However, the reforms have yet to produce tangible results and the country's unstable and highly volatile political and security environment hinders progress.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<p><b>M</b> Mechanisms</p>	<p><b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b></p> <p><b>M1</b></p> <p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>The Government of Ukraine implements recommendations by the human rights mechanisms in line with international human rights principles, standards and best practice.</p>
	<p><b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b></p> <p><b>PS3</b></p> <p>Strategies to prevent and respond to conflict consistently integrate human rights protection.</p> <p>State authorities and non-state actors protect and promote the human rights of populations living in territories affected by conflict.</p> <p>State authorities adopt and implement laws and programmes to prevent sexual violence from occurring in the context of conflict, violence and insecurity; they investigate and prosecute allegations of sexual violence.</p> <p>The UN’s early warning systems and strategies in Ukraine integrate and update human rights information and analysis.</p>
<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p><b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b></p> <p><b>A1</b></p> <p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p> <p>State institutions hold to account a higher proportion of those who are responsible for grave violations of human rights or humanitarian law.</p>

### ‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE

Explore emerging human rights concerns (‘frontier issues’):

- Inequalities.
- People on the move.
- Corruption.

### SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’

Women, young people, persons with disabilities.

## SOUTH CAUCASUS (TBILISI)

### Field presence

A Senior Human Rights Adviser for the South Caucasus is based in Tbilisi, supported by national staff based in the UN Country Teams in Azerbaijan and Georgia. Since August 2018, a human rights officer has been deployed on a short assignment with the United Nations Country Team in Armenia. The programme began in May 2007.

### Countries of engagement

Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

All three countries have ratified the CRPD, ICERD, ICCPR, OP-ICCPR, ICESCR, CAT, OPCAT, CEDAW, OP-CEDAW, CRC, and CRC-OPSC. Georgia and Azerbaijan have ratified the 2nd OP-ICCPR. Azerbaijan has also ratified CMW, OP-CRPD, and CRC-OPAC. All three countries have issued standing invitations to Special Procedures. All three countries submit most reports to Treaty Bodies on time. Azerbaijan completed the third cycle of the UPR in 2018, and Armenia and Georgia have completed the first two UPR cycles. (See the overview table on page 211.)

### Visits by special procedures in the past four years

The most recent visits by Special Procedures were made by the SR on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association (Armenia 2018), the Independent Expert on sexual orientation and gender identity (Georgia 2018) and the Independent Expert on older persons (Georgia 2018). The SR on health visited Armenia in 2017; the SR on the sale of children visited Georgia in 2016 and Armenia in 2015; the SR on violence against women visited Georgia in 2016; the SR on human rights defenders visited Azerbaijan in 2016; the SR on internally displaced persons visited Georgia in 2016; the SR on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment visited Georgia in 2015; and the WG on arbitrary detention visited Azerbaijan in 2016.

## CONTEXT

Since Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia gained independence in the early 1990s, the South Caucasus has experienced armed conflicts, tensions and challenges to security. The protracted conflicts involving Abkhazia, Nagorno-Karabakh and South Ossetia have not yet been resolved, which directly affects the lives of their populations. More recent armed conflicts in nearby countries have reinforced insecurity. Currently Armenia has no diplomatic relations with its neighbours Azerbaijan and Turkey; Georgia has no diplomatic relations with its neighbour Russia.

All three Governments need to continue making efforts to strengthen the justice sector and combat discrimination. The independence of the judiciary

and oversight of law enforcement bodies need to be strengthened, and (despite differences between them) in all three countries significant power is concentrated in the hands of law enforcement and security agencies. These structural weaknesses result in violations of due process and insufficient public trust in the judiciary. They affect all rights holders in the sub-region, particularly detainees and persons under police investigation. The Governments have taken some steps towards reforming the justice system and further steps are probable. In a commendable step Georgia adopted a Law on the State Inspector in July 2018 which establishes an independent mechanism to investigate alleged violations by law enforcement officers, as recommended on various occasions by international mechanisms.

The status of traditional values in the sub-region has led to various forms of intolerance, inter alia, against migrants, ethnic and religious minorities, LGBTI persons, and persons with HIV/AIDS or disabilities. The situation of women needs also to be addressed. Women are underrepresented in senior positions, domestic violence remains a serious concern, and a disturbing trend of sex-selective abortions has emerged. LGBTI communities are marginalized in all three countries. Anti-LGBTI rhetoric and actions, sometimes supported by clerics and politicians, have been documented in different forms and on various occasions in all three countries.

The European Court for Human Rights plays a significant role and is often seen as the last arbiter in contentious human rights cases. Civil society organizations frequently pin their hopes on the Court, though its judgments often take many years. In general, the three countries implement the European Court's decisions. Action by other mechanisms, including those of the UN, can help to address various human rights concerns in a swift and coordinated manner and provide redress to victims.

The three countries have taken some steps to acknowledge and protect the rights of persons with disabilities. Their national human rights institutions (NHRIs) in particular have begun to work more in this area. The NHRIs in Armenia and Georgia have 'A' status; the NHRI in Azerbaijan had B status in 2018. Civil society organizations are active in Armenia and Georgia.

All three countries have UNDAF-type documents, finalized in 2016, that mainstream human rights in UN programming. OHCHR enjoys good relations with all UN partners. The work of OHCHR contributes to UN joint programmes on democratic governance, which seek in particular to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 16, and notably to mainstream human rights in justice systems. The UN assists various elements of justice systems in the region, which creates opportunities for OHCHR to partner with other agencies in the UN system and ensure that recommendations of the UN Human Rights Mechanisms are incorporated in UN programmes in the three countries.

## OHCHR's expected contribution by 2021

### THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

#### INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

**M**  
Mechanisms

M2

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

More civil society organizations submit alternative reports to the UPR and Treaty Bodies in two countries of the sub-region.

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

<p><b>ND</b> Non-Discrimination</p>	<p><b>ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION</b></p>	
	<p>ND7</p>	<p>Public support for equal, inclusive and diverse societies, without discrimination, increases.</p> <p>Officials, journalists, lawyers, university and high school students increasingly advocate for, and work to create, inclusive and diverse societies.</p>
<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p><b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b></p>	
	<p>A1</p>	<p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p> <p>The National Human Rights Action Plan continues to comply with international human rights standards and is periodically updated to reflect recommendations of international and regional human rights mechanisms.</p> <p>The High School of Justice, the Police Academy and the Legal Affairs Committee in Parliament, as well as the Bar Association and its Training Centre in Georgia, deepen their knowledge of international human rights standards.</p>
	<p>A5</p>	<p>UN efforts for the rule of law, justice, counter-terrorism and accountability put human rights at the core.</p> <p>UN assistance to the justice sector promotes and respects international norms and standards; Governments of the region and UN bodies institutionalize processes for discussing justice sector reform.</p>
<p><b>P</b> Participation</p>	<p><b>ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE</b></p>	
	<p>P4</p>	<p>Civil society assistance to victims of human rights violations is strengthened</p> <p>In at least one country, persons with disabilities make increasing of national protection systems.</p>

**‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE**

- Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.
- Expand civic space.
- Broaden the global constituency for human rights.
- Explore emerging human rights concerns (‘frontier issues’):
  - Digital space and emerging technologies.

**SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’**

Women, young people, persons with disabilities.

## REGIONAL OFFICE FOR CENTRAL ASIA (BISHKEK)

### Field presence

The OHCHR Regional Office for Central Asia (ROCA), based in Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan), has existed since 2008. There are national presences (one post each) in Astana (Kazakhstan) and Dushanbe (Tajikistan). A national post in Tashkent (Uzbekistan) is being recruited. The Office has a limited project presence in Osh (Kyrgyzstan) and also Almaty (Kazakhstan). A human rights and political affairs officer is based at the United Nations Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy in Central Asia located in Ashgabat.

### Countries of engagement

Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms.

All five countries have ratified most of the core human rights treaties. In 2017, four countries had fulfilled all their reporting obligations to the Treaty Bodies; the fifth is remedying its delays. Only Kazakhstan has issued a standing invitation to Special Procedures; the other four issue invitations on a case-by-case basis. Between 2014 and 2018, mandate holders made ten visits, including a ground-breaking visit by the SR on freedom of religion or belief to Uzbekistan in September 2017. All States have completed UPR reviews. (See the overview table on page 211.)

### Visits by special procedures in the past four years

Kazakhstan: SR on freedom of religion (2014), SR on slavery (2014), SR on freedom of assembly (2015), SR on toxic waste (2015), SR on disabilities (2015). Kyrgyzstan: SR on health (2018). Tajikistan: SR on torture (2014), SR on water and sanitation (2015), SR on freedom of expression (2016). Turkmenistan: none. Uzbekistan: SR on freedom of religion (2017).

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

Kazakhstan: SR on human rights and counter terrorism, SR on extreme poverty, SR on arbitrary detention, SR on human rights defenders. Kyrgyzstan: SR on human rights defenders, SR on extreme poverty, SR on slavery, SR on freedom of religion, SR on arbitrary detention, SR on freedom of assembly, SR on water and sanitation. Tajikistan: SR on arbitrary detention, SR on human rights and counter terrorism. Turkmenistan: SR on water and sanitation, SR on extreme poverty, SR on cultural rights, SR on independence of judges and lawyers, SR on freedom of expression, SR on arbitrary detention, SR on summary executions, SR on violence against women, SR on freedom of assembly, SR on enforced disappearances. Uzbekistan: SR on water and sanitation, SR on freedom of expression, SR on slavery, SR on freedom of assembly, SR on independence of judges and lawyers, SR on arbitrary detention, SR on enforced disappearances, SR on extreme poverty.

## CONTEXT

Central Asia is a heterogeneous region both socio-economically and politically; a situation reflected vividly in the region's human rights problems. UN human rights mechanisms have highlighted a broad array of human rights concerns: a steady contraction of civic space; the adoption of restrictive legislation that infringes fundamental freedoms; undercutting of judicial processes and limited judicial independence; endemic corruption; pressure on peaceful opposition groups; discrimination against ethnic minorities, women, and LGBTI persons.

Comprehensive legislation against discrimination does not exist in any of the five countries in the sub-region.

Civil society space and public participation are severely restricted. While the region's often dynamic civil society actors and human rights defenders display remarkable resilience, many remain highly vulnerable in an increasingly hostile environment.

Partly on the grounds that Central Asians participated in terrorist attacks, authorities in the region have introduced repressive laws and policies and excessively broad definitions of ‘extremism’ to counter the threat of terrorism and violent extremism. These laws potentially render individuals stateless, permit ethnic profiling and persecution, and severely restrict fundamental freedoms (in particular the freedoms of expression, association, and religion or belief). As implemented, they appear to target certain ethnic minorities and faith-based groups.

In addition, a range of unaddressed historical grievances, relating to past conflicts in Kyrgyzstan (Osh 2010), Tajikistan (civil war 1992-97), and Uzbekistan (Andijan 2005), nourish social cleavages. Continued impunity for the violations that occurred

during these events, denial of the grievances that gave rise to them, and discriminatory judicial decisions against victims, generate social tensions, particularly in Kyrgyzstan.

Across the region, women’s lives are still predominantly framed by patriarchal norms and institutions. Gender inequality is reflected in widespread gender-based violence, labour market discrimination, and low representation of women in political and decision-making positions.

Although all Central Asian States recognize the important role of national human rights institutions (NHRIs), in practice they have not taken adequate measures to ensure that these institutions comply with the Paris and Belgrade Principles.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

### THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME



#### INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

M1

National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.

National mechanisms for reporting and follow up (NMRFs) successfully fulfil their mandates; they engage with international human rights mechanisms, and coordinate reporting and follow up, and to that end, consult relevant national actors and share information with them and with the public.

M3

Policy-makers, legislators and courts make increased use of the outcomes of the international and regional human rights mechanisms.

Policy-makers, legislators and judges more frequently reference and apply the recommendations of international human rights mechanisms.

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

<b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS</b>	
<p><b>D</b> Development</p>	<p><b>D7</b></p> <p>States integrate human rights, including the right to development and human rights mechanisms’ outcomes, as they implement the Sustainable Development Goals and other development and poverty eradication efforts; and the UN supports them in these purposes, integrating human rights in its own development work.</p> <p>When they implement the SDGs and other development plans, more Central Asian States and UN Country Teams adopt a human rights-based approach and the recommendations of human rights mechanisms.</p>
<b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b>	
<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p><b>A1</b></p> <p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p> <p>Governments act to ensure that legislation, policies and State practices with respect to the criminal justice system comply with international human rights standards.</p> <p>Institutions that train judges, law enforcement officials, the staff of security-related agencies, or lawyers, and other educational institutions, include human rights in their training as a matter of course.</p>
<p><b>A2</b></p>	<p>Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.</p> <p>National human rights institutions are more effective, independent and interconnected in accordance with the Paris Principles; nationally and sub-regionally, they play a leading role in protecting and promoting human rights at national level and in the region.</p>
<b>ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE</b>	
<p><b>P</b> Participation</p>	<p><b>P1</b></p> <p>Stronger laws, policies and practices protect the right to participate and civic space, including online, and the environment for civil society is increasingly safe and enabling.</p> <p>Civil society organizations, human rights defenders, and marginalized groups increasingly claim their rights and promote the rights of their constituencies, and can participate more freely in public life.</p>

**SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’**

Women, young people, persons with disabilities.

## MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA

### INTRODUCTION

OHCHR has a total of nine field presences in the region. It has two human rights components in UN integrated missions (UNAMI in Iraq and UNSMIL in Libya); four country offices, in Palestine, Tunisia, Yemen, and Syria (located in Beirut due to lack of access to Syria); a Senior Human Rights Advisor in a United Nations Country Team in Jordan; and two sub regional offices. The two sub-regional offices are the Regional Office for Middle East and North Africa (ROMENA) in Beirut, Lebanon; and the UN Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region in Doha, Qatar. Mandated by the General Assembly, the Centre in Doha covers 25 States, the majority of which are situated in the Arab region (Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, Yemen and State of Palestine) and three in South-West Asia (Afghanistan, Iran (Islamic Republic

of), Pakistan). The Centre carries out training and documentation activities according to international human rights standards and supports such efforts within the region by Governments, UN agencies and programmes, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations

The Human Rights Council has mandated two country-specific mandate-holders in the region: the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967, and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran. In addition, the Human Rights Council has mandated Commissions of Inquiry into the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Syria, as well as a Group of Independent Eminent International and Regional Experts on Yemen. The UN General Assembly has mandated a Special Committee to Investigate Israeli Practices affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People.

## CURRENT HUMAN RIGHTS CONTEXT

- **Violations of IHL and IHRL in the context of violence and armed conflicts.** Protracted, linked conflicts in the region have caused incalculable loss of life and damage to physical infrastructure and affected the rest of the region, causing instability and disturbing regional inter-State dynamics. Serious violations of International humanitarian (IHL) and international human rights law (IHRL) have been documented in the context of armed conflicts, which in some cases may amount to war crimes. Civilians have been the main victims. Journalists, human rights defenders, minorities, and displaced persons have been targeted. Gender-based violence has been documented.
- **Rights of people on the move.** 47 million people in the region need humanitarian assistance, and over 21 million are internally displaced. Conflicts have undermined protection of civilians and people on the move in particular.
- **Restrictions on civil and political rights (including in civic and digital spaces) under the guise of counter-terrorism.** Security bodies in repressive or authoritarian regimes have targeted minorities, political opponents, media workers, human rights defenders and other civil society actors to silence protest, legitimate criticism (including online) or opposition to government policies. Arbitrary detention, extra-judicial killings, torture, and disappearances have been documented, notably in the context of counter-terrorism. Several Middle East and North Africa (MENA) States have implemented measures that limit or erode exercise of the rights to freedoms of expression, association and assembly.
- **Lack of access to justice.** In many countries of the region, security and law enforcement institutions are not impartial or accountable and do not respect and protect human rights and the rule of law, due process and fair trial standards.
- **Restrictions on economic, social and cultural rights.** Marginalized and disempowered groups across the region, including women, young people (60 percent of the population across the region), and minority communities, suffer restrictions and lack access to social services, education and employment.
- **Rise of violent extremism.** Violent extremism has spread. Mistrust and fear of security institutions continue to fuel radicalization and extremism.
- **Death penalty.** All countries in MENA continue to impose the death penalty, including against juveniles. Iran, Iraq and Saudi Arabia have the highest execution rates.
- **Women and gender.** Systematic discrimination of women persists in law and practice across the region.
- **Discrimination against minorities.** Religious and ethnic minorities, people with disabilities, LGBT persons, and other vulnerable groups including refugees and migrants, continue to be marginalized.
- **Impunity.** Continued impunity for past human rights violations and abuses perpetuates and exacerbates cycles of violence in the region.

## Middle East and North Africa and the United Nations human rights mechanisms

Ratification, reporting and standing invitation (baseline June 2018)

	CERD	CCPR	CESCR	CAT	OPCAT	CEDAW	CRC	CRC:OPSC	CRC:OPAC	CMW	CRPD	CPPED	UPR	Standing invitations to Special Procedure mandate holders
Algeria			X	X		X		X					(1–12 May 2017)	No
Bahrain			X					X	X				(1–12 May 2017)	No
Egypt	X	X		X		X	X			X	X		(Oct–Nov 2019)	No
Islamic Republic of Iran	X	X	X					X					(Oct–Nov 2019)	Yes (2002)
Iraq						X							(Oct–Nov 2019)	Yes (2010)
Israel			X										(15–26 Jan-2018)	No
Jordan			X										(5–16 Nov 2018)	Yes (2006)
Kuwait													(Jan–Feb 2020)	Yes (2010)
Lebanon								X					(Oct–Nov 2020)	Yes (2011)
Libya	X	X	X	X		X		X	X				(Apr–May 2020)	Yes (2012)
Morocco	X			X		X						X	(1–12 May 2017)	No
Oman													(Oct–Nov 2020)	No
State of Palestine <sup>1</sup>		X	X	X			X		X		X			Yes (2014)
Qatar													(Apr–May 2019)	Yes (2010)
Saudi Arabia													(5–16 Nov 2018)	No
Syrian Arab Rep.	X	X	X	X						X	X		(Oct–Nov 2021)	No
Tunisia	X					X		X					(1–12 May 2017)	Yes (2011)
UAE				X									(15–26 Jan-2018)	No
Yemen	X	X		X			X				X		(Jan–Feb 2019)	No
<b>Total No of ratifications/invitations out of 20 States</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>19</b>	<b>16</b>	<b>6</b>	<b>18</b>	<b>4</b>		<b>8</b>

	Treaty ratified
	Overdue report as of June 2018
	Outstanding ratification

## REGIONAL OFFICE FOR MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA (BEIRUT)

### Field presence

The Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa (ROMENA) is based in Beirut. It was established in 2002.

### Countries of engagement

Algeria, Bahrain, Jordan (this note includes results to be achieved by the Senior Human Rights Advisor in the United Nations Country Team- UNCT), Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Oman, Saudi Arabia, United Arab Emirates.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

(See the overview table on page 238.)

## CONTEXT

The Middle East and North Africa region faces continuing armed conflict and political uncertainty. The priorities of the region have shifted from human development, debating freedoms, and ensuring participation in political and public affairs, to containing the overspill from conflicts in neighbouring countries, responding to refugee and humanitarian crises, and coping with the potential or actual threats of terrorism. The region is affected by several long-standing conflicts and disputes, as well as newer situations that have developed in the last decade. As a result, countries face significant challenges, including armed conflict, the rise of violent extremism, terrorism and shrinking civic space.

Intimidation, arbitrary arrest, enforced disappearances of political opponents, media professionals and civil society actors by governments and security institutions continue to take place in the majority of countries in the region, and are often justified on the grounds of national security. In relation to the administration of justice, the extensive use of the death penalty persists. Weak legal systems with lack of access to fair trials reinforce impunity.

In several countries, internal conflict has created a humanitarian crisis, unprecedented refugee flows,

internal displacement, and significantly harmed the delivery of public services. The effect of these developments has been to sharply constrain democratic and civic space for social and political movements. They have also exacerbated latent or explicit divisions in society, and heightened discrimination on grounds of religion, nationality, race, gender or other grounds. The conflicts in the region have affected the countries in which conflict has taken place, but also neighbouring countries, whose production, trade, tourism, and infrastructure have been disrupted or dislocated. The decline in oil prices has affected both oil-producing countries and the region as a whole.

The human rights of displaced persons, migrants and stateless persons are severely restricted. Human rights concerns in the countries of the region include detention of migrants, slavery and forced labour, violence, extortion and exploitation by State and non-State actors.

Inequalities throughout the region, in enjoyment of economic and social rights, require effective responses. Lack of access to basic services and discrimination against specific groups, including women, youth, migrants, and ethnic and religious minorities remain a long-standing and urgent concern necessitating changes in laws, policies and practice.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b>	
<b>M</b> Mechanisms	<b>M1</b> <p>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>National mechanisms for reporting and follow up (NMRFs) are established and strengthened in three countries in the sub-region; their mandates are comprehensive and clear.</p>
	<b>M2</b> <p>Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues (frontier issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.</p> <p>Civil society organizations and national human rights institutions (NHRIs) are recognized as key stakeholders in the work of the human rights mechanisms; they are protected from reprisals by States.</p>
<b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS</b>	
<b>D</b> Development	<b>D7</b> <p>States integrate human rights, including the right to development and human rights mechanisms’ outcomes, as they implement the Sustainable Development Goals and other development and poverty eradication efforts; and the UN supports them in these purposes, integrating human rights in its own development work.</p> <p>UN Country Teams in at least three countries integrate human rights and the linkages between SDG and human rights in their work and programmes.</p>
<b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b>	
<b>PS</b> Peace and Security	<b>PS2</b> <p>Efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism comply with international law.</p> <p>Steps are taken in at least three countries to improve the degree to which civilian and military efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism comply with international human rights law.</p>
	<b>PS5</b> <p>Human rights information and analysis are integrated in early warning and analysis systems, and influence international and national policy-making, strategies and operations to prevent, mitigate and/or respond to emerging crises, including humanitarian crises and conflict.</p> <p>The Regional Office acquires dedicated capacity to provide early warning analysis and response.</p>

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

**PS6** United Nations’ support to national and regional security forces, law enforcement agencies, and non-State actors integrates human rights and complies with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy (HRDDP).  
 In two countries, United Nations’ support to national and regional security forces and law enforcement agencies, and to non-State actors, integrates human rights and complies with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.

ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION

**ND**  
 Non-Discrimination

**ND1** Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to ‘leave no one behind’, including by addressing the root causes of inequality.  
 National laws, policies and practices combat discrimination more effectively, particularly discrimination against religious, ethnic and national minorities, people with disabilities, migrants, and women. Authorities in at least three countries work actively to ‘leave no one behind’, addressing the root causes of inequality, and linking implementation of the SDG agenda with human rights.  
 Two Governments in the sub-region promote and defend freedom of religion and religious diversity among ethnic minorities, in accordance with Articles 5 and 6 of CERD.

**ND3** Legal and social frameworks increasingly promote women’s and girls’ autonomy and choice and protect them from violence, including in the digital space.  
 At least two Governments enhance legal and policy frameworks that address gender-based violence (GBV) and promote women and girl’s autonomy and choice. They eliminate legal provisions that discriminate against women in matters of inheritance, nationality, employment, and access to credit, legal standing or other matters.

**ND4** Judicial institutions, media, and other sectors increasingly recognize and challenge harmful gender stereotypes and gender norms with a view to their eradication.  
 The image of women in public life is more positive and diverse; traditional stereotypes with respect to the roles and responsibilities of women and men in society and in the family are challenged.

**ND6** The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected.  
 Three countries take steps to ratify the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families (CMW).  
 Member countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) take steps to abolish the Kafala (sponsorship) system.

STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

**A**  
 Accountability

**A1** Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.  
 In two countries, laws and policies that protect human rights are significantly strengthened; these laws and policies comply with international human rights norms and standards.

**THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME**

**P**  
Participation

ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE	
P1	<p>Stronger laws, policies and practices protect the right to participate and civic space, including online, and the environment for civil society is increasingly safe and enabling.</p> <p>Two countries act to ensure that the legal, policy and accountability environment protects civil society groups, human rights defenders, and activists.</p>
P2	<p>The United Nations system and international, regional and national mechanisms provide increased, timely and effective protection to civil society organizations and individuals (including from reprisals).</p> <p>The network of women human rights defenders in the sub-region increases its capacity to address areas of concern and to participate.</p>
P5	<p>More systematic monitoring of the environment for civic space, including threats to it, takes place.</p> <p>In two countries, OHCHR increases its monitoring and reporting on human rights violations committed against civil society.</p>

**'SHIFTS' ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE**

- Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.
- Expand civic space.
- Broaden the global constituency for human rights.
- Explore emerging human rights concerns ('frontier issues'):
  - People on the move.

**SHINING A 'SPOTLIGHT'**

Women, young people, persons with disabilities.

## IRAQ

### Field presence

OHCHR operates through the Human Rights Office in the integrated United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq (UNAMI). It conducts activities in accordance with the mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner and the mandate bestowed by the UN Security Council at the request of the Government of Iraq. The Office has national and international staff located in Baghdad, Basra, Erbil, Kirkuk, and Mosul (temporarily relocated in Dohuk/Erbil).

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

Iraq is a signatory to eight of the core human rights treaties. It is not a Party to the International Convention on Refugees of 1951 or the Additional Protocol to that Convention. It is not a Party to Additional Protocol II of 1977 to the Geneva Conventions of 1949, or to the Statute of the International Criminal Court. Iraq has not agreed to provisions of the ICCPR, ICESCR, CEDAW, ICERD and CRC relating to individual communications. Since 2011, Iraq has submitted reports to the Human Rights Committee, CERD, CEDAW, CRPD, the CRC, CRC-OP-AC, CRC-OP-SC, and CAT. Iraq underwent its second Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2014. For a variety of reasons, Iraq's implementation of recommendations from Treaty Bodies and UPR remains a challenge. (See the overview table on page 238.)

### Visits by special procedures in the past four years

SR on minority issues (2016), SR on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (2017), SR on internally displaced persons (2015).

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

WG on enforced or involuntary disappearances.

## CONTEXT

The people of Iraq have suffered decades of human rights violations and abuse due to international and non-international armed conflicts, invasion, occupation, terrorism and violence. Saddam Hussein's downfall in 2003 was followed by a US-led military occupation, then the re-establishment of an independent Government, as the country descended into inter-communal armed conflict, violence and terrorism, culminating in the seizure of northern and western Iraq by the so-called Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL) in June 2014. ISIL perpetrated systematic and widespread human rights crimes, including attacks that targeted civilians and civilian infrastructure, murder, abductions, rape and other forms of gender-based violence against women and children, forced recruitment of child-

ren, destruction of places of religious or cultural significance, wanton destruction of property, and denial of fundamental freedoms. Members of Iraq's diverse ethnic and religious communities were intentionally and systematically targeted. As a result, by the end of 2017 some 3.6 million Iraqis had been displaced and many areas were destroyed. Armed groups combating ISIL were also reported to have committed human right violations and abuses, including targeted killings, kidnappings, destruction of civilian property, and expulsion of targeted individuals and communities. Armed conflict, terrorism and violence have had a corrosive effect on the enjoyment of other human rights, in particular on the rule of law and the rights of women, minorities, and persons with disabilities etc., as well as their participation in political, economic and social life.

Many of the factors that contributed to Iraq’s cycle of violence have their roots in decades of unaddressed human rights violations. They include non-participatory and authoritarian decision-making, lack of respect for due process and fair trial standards, high levels of social violence, including gender based violence, discriminatory access to basic services, discrimination against religious and ethnic minorities, women and people with disabilities, and the absence of transitional justice process. In addition, the population suffers from widespread poverty, economic stagnation and lack of economic opportunities, and environmental degradation.

These factors have created widespread alienation which terrorist and armed groups have exploited to fuel and exacerbate extremist thinking and ethnic and sectarian divisions. They must be addressed if Iraq is to break its cycle of violence and develop into a peaceful, democratic and inclusive state built on the rule of law and respect for human rights.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

### THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

<b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b>	
	<p><b>M1</b> National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</p> <p>Iraq develops a plan to implement the recommendations of Treaty Bodies and UPR recommendations that it accepts. By the next reporting deadline, Iraq is implementing all Treaty Body and accepted UPR recommendations.</p>
<b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b>	
	<p><b>PS1</b> Parties to conflict and actors involved in peace operations increasingly comply with international human rights and humanitarian law and provide greater protection to civilians.</p> <p>Civilians are protected to the greatest extent possible from the effects of armed conflict. They can leave areas affected by conflict in safety and dignity, they can return to their homes in full compliance with humanitarian principles (voluntarily, and in dignity and security when it is safe to do so), and they can access basic humanitarian assistance at all times.</p> <p>The policies of the Government of Iraq and the Iraqi security forces that combat terrorism, armed violence, and conflict fully respect and protect human rights at all times and in all circumstances, and comply with international humanitarian law.</p>
	<p>Justice mechanisms, including for transitional justice, provide increased accountability for conflict-related violations.</p> <p>All sectors of Iraqi society, including communities and individuals, have access to justice for human rights violations, abuses or crimes, regardless of when or where they were committed or by whom.</p> <p>Community and national reconciliation processes take place that are built on respect, mutual understanding and trust. They provide justice to victims of human rights violations and abuse.</p>

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION

**ND**  
Non-Discrimination

ND1

Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to ‘leave no one behind’, including by addressing the root causes of inequality.

Iraq develops as a multi-ethnic and religiously inclusive State in which the country’s ethnic and religious minority communities are protected from violence and can fully participate on equal terms in political, social and economic life.

Members of Iraq’s diverse ethnic and religious communities have returned to their places of origin in accordance with humanitarian principles.

All sectors of Iraqi society are protected from violence, and have equal access to justice without discrimination, irrespective of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, orientation, disability, or other status.

People with disabilities enjoy guaranteed and universal access to basic services.

Laws are in place that prevent discrimination against individuals on grounds of race, ethnicity, religion, gender, orientation, disability, or other differences.

ND3

Legal and social frameworks increasingly promote women’s and girls’ autonomy and choice and protect them from violence, including in the digital space.

The Family Protection Law and other relevant laws and policies protect and provide care for women and children who are victims of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and conflict-related sexual violence (CRSV). The Government holds to account those responsible for SGBV and CRSV.

STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

**A**  
Accountability

A1

Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.

Iraq has an independent national human rights institution that complies with the Paris Principles, fulfils its mandate under the Constitution of Iraq, and meets international standards.

The institutional frameworks of Committees of the Council of Representatives ensure that human rights are respected and protected by the legislative process and when public policies are formulated.

Government departments fully respect Iraq’s international obligations with respect to human rights and the rule of law. These standards are understood to be fundamental to public policies and programmes.

Iraq fully respects the rule of law in the administration of justice. In particular, courts fully comply with due process and fair trial standards, as set out in international law and the Constitution of Iraq.

Allegations of torture are fully investigated, victims are provided appropriate care and protection (and compensation), and those responsible are held accountable according to the law.

Iraq fully complies with international standards in relation to the treatment, care, protection and rehabilitation of women and children who enter the criminal justice system.

All sectors of Iraqi society have equal access to justice, including women, ethnic and religious and other minorities, people with disabilities, youth, and other marginalized groups.

The Government of Iraq ensures that any person who violates international human rights law, international humanitarian law, or international criminal law will be held accountable according to law before competent courts that fully respect due process and fair trial standards. Legislation grants Iraqi courts jurisdiction over international crimes and Iraq becomes a signatory to the Statute of the International Criminal Court.

**THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME**

<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p><b>A3</b> Justice systems investigate and prosecute gender-related crimes more effectively.</p> <p>Women and children who are the victims of SGBV/CSRV or honour crimes (including women from Iraq’s ethnic and religious minority communities) have access to justice and appropriate support services.</p>
<p><b>ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE</b></p>	
<p><b>P</b> Participation</p>	<p><b>P1</b> Stronger laws, policies and practices protect the right to participate and civic space, including online, and the environment for civil society is increasingly safe and enabling.</p> <p>Iraq citizens have full and equal access to basic services, including clean water, electricity, healthcare, housing, and education.</p> <p>The rights of freedom of expression and freedom of assembly are fully respected and protected in law and policy.</p> <p>The role of journalists and media professionals is respected and protected by law and policy, and they are protected from threats, intimidation or violence when they carry out their professional duties.</p> <p>Parliamentary and democratic procedures are consultative and participatory, notably with respect to women, youth, ethnic and religious minorities, persons with disabilities, and LGBTI persons.</p>

**‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE**

- Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.
- Expand civic space.
- Broaden the global constituency for human rights.
- Explore emerging human rights concerns (‘frontier issues’):
  - Inequalities.
  - People on the move.

**SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’**

Women, young people, persons with disabilities.

## LIBYA

### Field presence

The United Nations Support Mission for Libya (UNSMIL) is an integrated special political mission established on 16 September 2011 by UN Security Council Resolution 2009 (2011). The Head of the Human Rights, Transitional Justice and Rule of Law Service represents OHCHR.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

Libya is party to nine of the nine core international human rights conventions. The International Commission of Inquiry into human rights violations in Libya presented its final report to the Human Rights Council in March 2012. Since then, OHCHR has reported regularly to the Human Rights Council. Libya was last reviewed under the Universal Periodic Review in 2015. It issued a standing invitation to Special Procedures in 2012. (See the overview table on page 238.)

### Visits by special procedures in the past four years

SR on the human rights of internally displaced persons (January 2018).

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

SR on slavery (December 2017 – reminder April 2018); WG on arbitrary detention (July 2018); WG on mercenaries (since 2012 – last reminder July 2017); SR on summary executions (last reminder October 2017); SR on the rights of migrants (2010); SR on violence against women (2013, reminder in 2014).

## CONTEXT

After the 2011 revolution and its first democratic elections, Libya relapsed into conflict in 2014. The internationally recognized Government of National Accord (GNA) began operating from Tripoli in April 2017. However, the GNA has struggled to assert control over the remainder of the country and to rein in and hold accountable armed groups and criminal networks. The Presidency Council has not been able to take full control of governmental functions or to implement many of the provisions of the 2015 Libyan Political Agreement (LPA), including those relating to security, human rights, transitional justice and rule of law.

In September 2017, UNSMIL announced an Action Plan, which included limited amendments to the LPA, a national conference, a referendum on a draft constitution, and parliamentary and presidential elections within a year. A new surge in violence in August-September 2018 stalled progress and confirmed the fragility of the GNA vis-à-vis armed groups in the country.

Libya remains divided under the control of different armed groups, which engage in multiple and serious human rights violations, including killings, abductions, widespread arbitrary arrests and unlawful deprivation of liberty, and discrimination against women and minorities. These violations and endemic impunity are compounded by fragmentation of national institutions, collapse of the rule of law, deterioration of the economic situation and public services, and ongoing violence and insecurity. The population suffers almost daily from power cuts and cash shortages, high levels of criminal activity, and acts of political violence.

Libya is a key destination and transit country for refugees, asylum seekers and migrants from Sub-Saharan Africa and other countries. As a result of Libya's general lawlessness and the involvement of armed groups and State agents in the smuggling business, widespread abuses occur against migrants and refugees, particularly those in detention. Human rights violations of migrants in Libya include prolonged arbitrary detention in inhuman conditions, torture and other ill-treatment, unlawful killings, rape and other forms of sexual violence, selling of migrants, slavery, forced labour, extortion and exploitation.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b>	
<b>PS</b> Peace and Security	<b>PS1</b> <p>Parties to conflict and actors involved in peace operations increasingly comply with international human rights and humanitarian law and provide greater protection to civilians.</p> <p>Violations of international human rights and humanitarian law are monitored and reported by human rights defenders, enabling the international community to respond effectively to abuses by armed groups and cases of arbitrary and unlawful detention, torture, hostage taking, and extra judicial kidnappings, while protecting civilians, upholding freedom of expression, and halting discrimination against women and migrants.</p>
	<b>PS4</b> <p>Justice mechanisms, including for transitional justice, provide increased accountability for conflict-related violations.</p> <p>Vetting processes, transitional justice processes, and compliance mechanisms are established or strengthened.</p>
	<b>PS6</b> <p>United Nations’ support to national and regional security forces, law enforcement agencies, and non-State actors integrates human rights and complies with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.</p> <p>The Human Rights Due Diligence Policy is used to conduct risk assessments of all the main national security forces (as well as non-State actors and de facto authorities where applicable). The UN provides support and appropriate mitigation measures are adopted and acted on.</p>
<b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b>	
<b>A</b> Accountability	<b>A1</b> <p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p> <p>Libya’s penal code, criminal procedure, and related laws are increasingly compliant with international human rights standards. They increasingly provide legal guarantees against discrimination, including for women.</p> <p>Detention centres operate legally and under the control of the State. Trained judicial police officers and procedures are in place to prevent torture and ensure that individuals who are unlawfully detained are released.</p> <p>Those who are charged are prosecuted promptly in accordance with due process. Crimes committed after 2011 are prosecuted.</p>
<b>ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE</b>	
<b>P</b> Participation	<b>P1</b> <p>Stronger laws, policies and practices protect the right to participate and civic space, including online, and the environment for civil society is increasingly safe and enabling.</p> <p>National and international stakeholders strengthen their networking and coordination. Civil society organizations provide assistance, including legal aid, to human rights defenders and victims of torture and other violations.</p>

**'SHIFTS' ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE**

Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.

Expand civic space.

Broaden the global constituency for human rights.

Explore emerging human rights concerns ('frontier issues'):

- People on the move.

**SHINING A 'SPOTLIGHT'**

Women

## STATE OF PALESTINE<sup>10</sup>

### Field presence

Established in 1996, the field presence in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (oPT) has 43 staff. The main office in Ramallah is supported by a sub-office in Gaza and field offices in East Jerusalem and Hebron. It is the largest UN Human Rights Office in the MENA region.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

The State of Palestine has acceded to seven of the nine core human rights treaties and three additional protocols (Children and armed conflict, Sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography, and OP-CAT). It has made no reservations, which is unprecedented in the region. (See the overview table on page 238.)

### Visits by special procedures in the past four years

SP mandate-holders have had only limited access to the Occupied Palestinian Territory. In September 2016, the SR on Violence Against Women visited Israel and the Occupied Palestinian Territory. Before this, the most recent visit was conducted by the SR on adequate housing in 2012.

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

The SR on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territory occupied since 1967 has not had been granted access to the OPT by Israel since 2008, despite repeated and regular requests over the past 10 years by three successive mandate-holders.

A number of thematic Rapporteurs have requested access from Israel, including most recently the SR on the situation of human rights defenders, the SR on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment, and the WG on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination, among others. To date, none of these requests has been granted by Israel.

## CONTEXT

The Palestinian Territory has been under Israeli military occupation since 1967. Within this context, and in light of the ongoing split between Fatah and Hamas, violations of human rights are committed by all three duty-bearers: the Government of Israel, the Government of the State of Palestine/Palestinian Authority, and the de facto authorities in Gaza.

The human rights situation in the OPT worsened during the last cycle, particularly in East Jerusalem, Hebron and Gaza. After more than half a century of occupation by Israel, Palestinians face increasing challenges to the realization of their human rights. In Gaza, continuing regression of development re-

sulting from the ongoing blockade is coupled with the constant risk of new conflict. Access to health-care, education, and livelihoods is severely impacted. Accelerated expansion of settlements in the West Bank, including East Jerusalem is a concern, as settlements are a principal driver of human rights violations. Restrictions on freedom of movement as well as arbitrary detention remain of serious concern. An ongoing cycle of violence including the excessive use of force by Israeli security forces, continues.

The State of Palestine will be expected to take concrete steps to live up to the human rights obliga-

<sup>10</sup> Reference to Palestine is in compliance with General Assembly resolution 67/19.

tions it accepted in the seven human rights treaties to which it acceded in 2014. Concerns about the use of arbitrary detention and about ill-treatment continue. Reconciliation between the West Bank and Gaza would provide important opportunities to improve human rights protection; protection would become harder if reconciliation were to fail.

Accountability for alleged violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law by all actors is rarely seen. In the coming years, the impact of the occupation on women and on youth will become more pronounced. In addition, attacks on civil society and human rights defenders by all duty bearers – which are currently of serious concern – are expected to increase.

## OHCHR's expected contribution by 2021

### THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

#### M Mechanisms

#### INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

M1

National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.

The inter-ministerial committee charged with coordinating implementation of Palestine's international human rights obligations reports consistently to international human rights mechanisms and implements their recommendations. It operates in an integrated and participatory manner and includes civil society in its work.

M2

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

Palestinian civil society organisations, the Independent Commission for Human Rights, and non-traditional human rights organisations, make increasing use of international human rights mechanisms to hold Israel and the State of Palestine accountable for their human rights obligations and help Palestinians to claim their rights.

**THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME**

<b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS</b>		
<p><b>D</b> Development</p>	<p>D7</p>	<p>States integrate human rights, including the right to development and human rights mechanisms’ outcomes, as they implement the Sustainable Development Goals and other development and poverty eradication efforts; and the UN supports them in these purposes, integrating human rights in its own development work.</p> <p>A growing proportion of actions taken by the Palestine Government to promote its national programme of action (NPA) respect international human rights obligations. These, and actions to implement the SDGs, are supported by a UN development assistance framework (UNDAF) that is human rights-based.</p>
	<p>D8</p>	<p>National institutions, assisted by communities, systematically collect, disaggregate and use data relevant for advancing human rights when they monitor and implement the SDGs.</p> <p>Palestine’s official institutions, the Independent Commission for Human Rights, and civil society increasingly use human rights indicators to guide their activities and decision-making.</p>
<b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b>		
<p><b>PS</b> Peace and Security</p>	<p>PS3</p>	<p>Strategies to prevent and respond to conflict consistently integrate human rights protection.</p>
	<p>PS5</p>	<p>Human rights information and analyses are integrated in early warning and analysis systems and influence international and national policy-making, strategies and operations to prevent, mitigate or respond to emerging crises, including humanitarian crises and conflict.</p> <p>Human rights are integrated in the Humanitarian Programme Cycle, including its strategy, planning and programming, and in advocacy by the Humanitarian Coordinator and Humanitarian Country Team.</p>
<b>ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION</b>		
<p><b>ND</b> Non-Discrimination</p>	<p>ND3</p>	<p>Legal and social frameworks increasingly promote women’s and girls’ autonomy and choice and protect them from violence, including in the digital space.</p> <p>Israeli practices (as the occupying power) and Palestinian laws, policies and practices increasingly comply with international human rights standards with respect to sexual and gender based violence (SGBV) and other discriminatory practices against women, as a first step towards the promotion of women’s equality.</p>
	<p>ND7</p>	<p>Public support for equal, inclusive and diverse societies, without discrimination, increases.</p> <p>National authorities recognize and have started to address discrimination against groups with hidden vulnerabilities who are at high risk of institutional and social discrimination for cultural reasons.</p>

**THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME**

**STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS**

<p><b>A</b> Accountability</p>	<p><b>A1</b></p> <p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p> <p>Palestinian duty-bearers have agreed and sustained a de facto moratorium on the death penalty in the oPT, and have made progress towards a formal moratorium.</p> <p>Member States, and international and regional actors, take account of OHCHR's information, analysis and recommendations when they demand accountability for Israeli violations of IHL and IHRL in the oPT.</p> <p>A higher proportion of Palestinian legislative instruments and policies, in particular in the security and justice sectors, comply with the State of Palestine's international human rights obligations.</p>
	<p><b>A2</b></p> <p>Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.</p> <p>Israeli and Palestinian detention policies and practices conform more closely to international human rights standards. The number of cases of arbitrary detention, ill-treatment and torture has declined.</p>

**ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE**

<p><b>P</b> Participation</p>	<p><b>P1</b></p> <p>Stronger laws, policies and practices protect the right to participate and civic space, including online, and the environment for civil society is increasingly safe and enabling.</p> <p>Laws, policies and practices that protect the right to participate and civic space, including on-line, are strengthened, and respected by both Israeli and Palestinian authorities.</p>
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**'SHIFTS' ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE**

- Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.
- Expand civic space.
- Broaden the global constituency for human rights.
- Explore emerging human rights concerns ('frontier issues'):
  - Inequalities.
  - People on the move.

**SHINING A 'SPOTLIGHT'**

Women, young people.

## SYRIA

### Field presence

OHCHR has recently developed a new strategic approach to Syria which focuses on establishing a Country Office for Syria (temporarily based in Beirut since 2018). The Country Office includes three components: a Monitoring and Reporting Unit; a Civil Society Engagement and Technical Cooperation Unit; and a Rule of Law and Community Reconciliation (Transitional Justice) Unit. The aim is to establish an OHCHR presence in Syria to ensure that human rights and the rule of law are on the post conflict agenda. Human Rights Council resolutions S-18/-1 (2011) and 19/22 (2012) call on the Syrian Authorities to cooperate fully with OHCHR, including through the establishment of a field presence mandated to protect and promote human rights.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

Syria took part in its second UPR review in October 2016 and continues to engage with the Treaty Bodies. (See the overview table on page 238.)

### Visits by special procedures in the past four years

SR on unilateral coercive measures (May 2018); SR on internally displaced persons (May 2015).

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

SR on internally displaced persons; SR on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; SR on violence against women; WG on mercenaries; SR on minority issues.

## CONTEXT

After eight years of war, all parties to the conflict continue to commit violations and abuses of international human rights law (IHRL) and international humanitarian law (IHL) on a daily basis. Civilians are paying the highest cost; many are denied the most basic human right, the right to life. In many instances, the violations committed amount to war crimes or crimes against humanity. It is generally estimated that over 400,000 persons have been killed. Approximately 13.1 million need humanitarian assistance; 6.1 million are internally displaced; worldwide, more than 5.5 million have been registered as refugees.

Impunity on all sides led the High Commissioner and the UN Secretary-General to request the Security Council to refer the situation in Syria to the International Criminal Court. In order to secure a sustainable peace at the end of this brutal civil war, Syrians will need to make a significant effort to come to terms with the crimes, suffering and grievances that have occurred. To avoid relapse into a new conflict, a future Syria will need help to address the past and find ways to ensure that the rights of all Syria's people are protected, respected and fulfilled. This will require the engagement and participation of a broad spectrum of Syrian society, including government and civil society actors, as well as women, disabled persons, religious, and marginalized and other vulnerable groups.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS</b>	
<b>D</b> Development	<b>D3</b> <p>State authorities adopt and implement laws, policies and strategies on land and housing that increasingly comply with human rights.</p> <p>National mechanisms are in place that effectively protect housing, land and property (HLP) rights.</p>
	<b>D7</b> <p>States integrate human rights, including the right to development and human rights mechanisms’ outcomes, as they implement the Sustainable Development Goals and other development and poverty eradication efforts; and the UN supports them in these purposes, integrating human rights in its own development work.</p> <p>The reconstruction and development efforts of the UN and the Government integrate human rights standards.</p>
<b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b>	
<b>PS</b> Peace and Security	<b>PS3</b> <p>Strategies to prevent and respond to conflict consistently integrate human rights protection.</p> <p>Any UN-mediated peace agreement contains comprehensive human rights provisions. Syria’s human rights obligations are reflected in any new constitution.</p> <p>The humanitarian response in Syria integrates human rights in planning, strategy, and operations.</p>
	<b>PS4</b> <p>Justice mechanisms, including for transitional justice, provide increased accountability for conflict-related violations.</p> <p>Justice mechanisms that are supported by the international community are in place and address the past in Syria in ways that empower victims and prevent gender-based discrimination.</p>
	<b>PS5</b> <p>Human rights information and analyses are integrated in early warning and analysis systems and influence international and national policy-making, strategies and operations to prevent, mitigate or respond to emerging crises, including humanitarian crises and conflict.</p> <p>Early warning actions issued by OHCHR are regularly used by the international community and UN actors in the context of preventive action.</p>

**THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME**

<b>STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS</b>	
<b>A</b> Accountability	<b>A3</b> <p>Justice systems investigate and prosecute gender-related crimes more effectively.</p> <p>Accountability initiatives address sexual and gender based violence. Syrian civil society has increased its capacity to monitor sexual and gender based violence and violations associated with it.</p>
<b>ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE</b>	
<b>P</b> Participation	<b>P4</b> <p>Civil society assistance to victims of human rights violations is strengthened.</p> <p>The civic space in Syria has expanded, allowing civil society actors and victims groups to defend human rights in a safe and enabling environment.</p>

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**SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’**

Women, young people.

## TUNISIA

### Field presence

The Country Office was established in 2011.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

Tunisia has ratified all major international human rights treaties, with the exception of the ICRMW, and actively engages with international human rights mechanisms. The country has increased its ability to work with Treaty Bodies, has extended an open invitation to special procedures and has hosted a large number of mandate holders. Tunisia engaged effectively in its third UPR review in 2017. (See the overview table on page 238.)

### Visits by special procedures in the past four years

SR on torture (2014) SR on independence of judges (2014); WG on mercenaries (2015); IE on foreign debt (2017); SR on freedom of religion (2018); SR on freedom of peaceful assembly and association (2018), SR on human rights and counter terrorism (2018).

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

Requested: SR on racism. Accepted: SR on housing, SR on education.

## CONTEXT

Tunisia has achieved a relatively peaceful transition and remarkable progress following the 2011 events. A new Constitution was adopted, initiating the reform and creation of democratic institutions central to the protection of human rights and the rule of law. Opportunities for citizen's participation in public life were enhanced, with important advances in the area of freedom of expression. Among the efforts to harmonize national legislation with interna-

tional standards, the parliament adopted the most progressive laws in the region on violence against women and girls, and racial discrimination. A transitional justice process is underway, aimed at ensuring truth, justice, reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence. Challenges remain with respect to the independence of the judiciary, security reform, the prevention of violent extremism, and realisation of economic, social and cultural rights.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME	
<b>INCREASING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OUTCOMES OF THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS</b>	
<b>M</b> Mechanisms	<b>M1</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>National institutionalized structures facilitate an integrated and participatory approach to reporting to the human rights mechanisms and implementation of their recommendations.</li> <li>The National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow Up (NMRF), the National Human Rights Institution (NHRI), civil society organizations, and the UN Country Team engage with international human rights mechanisms.</li> </ul>
	<b>D</b> Development
<b>ADVANCING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT THROUGH HUMAN RIGHTS</b>	
<b>D</b> Development	<b>D2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Business actors implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights effectively.</li> <li>The Government adopts and applies the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.</li> </ul>
	<b>D7</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>States integrate human rights, including the right to development and human rights mechanisms’ outcomes, as they implement the Sustainable Development Goals and other development and poverty eradication efforts; and the UN supports them in these purposes, integrating human rights in its own development work.</li> <li>National stakeholders adopt a human rights-based approach when monitoring and evaluating realization of the SDGs. Local elected representatives and public servants at local and regional level are aware of their obligations with respect to economic, social and cultural rights.</li> </ul>
<b>PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY</b>	
<b>PS</b> Peace and Security	<b>PS2</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Efforts to counter terrorism and prevent violent extremism comply with international law.</li> <li>The State develops and implements policies and practices to counter terrorism and violent extremism that comply with international human rights standards and relevant UN resolutions and guidelines, and ensures that civil society participates meaningfully in this process.</li> </ul>
	<b>PS4</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Justice mechanisms, including for transitional justice, provide increased accountability for conflict-related violations.</li> <li>Specialized Chambers, the Government, Parliament and civil society are equipped to fulfil their respective mandates and roles with regard to the transitional justice process.</li> </ul>

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

ENHANCING EQUALITY AND COUNTERING DISCRIMINATION	
<b>ND</b> Non-Discrimination	<b>ND1</b> <p>Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to ‘leave no one behind’, including by addressing the root causes of inequality.</p> <p>National laws, policies and practices combat racial discrimination more effectively, including discrimination against ethnic and national minorities, persons of African descent, indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, migrants, women, and LGBTI individuals.</p>
	<b>ND6</b> <p>The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected.</p> <p>The Government enhances its capacity to protect human rights at national borders and protect the rights of migrant workers and their families.</p>
STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS	
<b>A</b> Accountability	<b>A1</b> <p>Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</p> <p>Law enforcement institutions and the prison administration respect international human rights standards more completely.</p>
	<b>A2</b> <p>Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.</p> <p>The national preventive mechanism (NPM) is operational and delivers its mandate in compliance with international human rights standards.</p> <p>Procedures and decisions of the judicial sector comply with international human rights standards and improve the redress provided to victims and accountability for human rights violations.</p>
	<b>A3</b> <p>Justice systems investigate and prosecute gender-related crimes more effectively.</p> <p>Judges assigned to cases that involve gender-based violence are equipped to apply national legislation in compliance with international human rights standards.</p>

THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

**P**  
Participation

ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE	
P1	<p>Stronger laws, policies and practices protect the right to participate and civic space, including online, and the environment for civil society is increasingly safe and enabling.</p> <p>Laws, policies, and practices more fully protect the right to participate and civic space, including online. Civil society operates in an increasingly safe and enabling environment.</p>
P2	<p>The UN system and international, regional and national mechanisms provide increased, timely and effective protection to civil society organizations and individuals (including from reprisals).</p> <p>The new national human rights institution is established and functions in accordance with the Paris Principles and other relevant international standards.</p>
P5	<p>More systematic monitoring of the environment for civic space, including threats to it, takes place.</p> <p>Independent public institutions promote and protect civic space and public freedoms as well as civil society organizations, including journalists and reporters. Such institutions increasingly monitor and report publicly on human rights issues and assist victims of human rights violations.</p>
P7	<p>Public recognition that human rights and accountability make important contributions to effective responses to violence, including terrorism and violent extremism, increases.</p> <p>There is increasing public recognition of the importance of human rights education. Public education helps to develop effective responses to violence, including terrorism and violent extremism.</p>

‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE

- Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.
- Expand civic space.
- Broaden the global constituency for human rights.
- Explore emerging human rights concerns (‘frontier issues’):
  - Corruption
  - Inequalities.
  - People on the move.

SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’

Women

## YEMEN

### Field presence

Since 2012, OHCHR has had a country office in Sana'a and human rights field monitors in 11 governorates.

### Engagement with the human rights mechanisms

Yemen is a party to seven of the nine core international human rights treaties and to the two Optional Protocols to the CRC. It has yet to ratify the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court, the Optional Protocol to the CAT, and the Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons. Yemen is a party to all four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and to Additional Protocols I and II, and to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons which may be deemed to be Excessively Injurious or to have Indiscriminate Effects. In September 2017, a resolution of the Human Rights Council established a Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts on Yemen. The Council renewed the mandate of the Group in September 2018. (See the overview table on page 238.)

### Pending visit requests by special procedures

SR on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions; SR on contemporary forms of slavery, including its causes and consequences; SR on human rights and counter terrorism; WG on enforced or involuntary disappearances; SR on the right to food; SR on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association; SR on freedom of religion or belief; WG of experts on people of African descent; SR on internally displaced persons.

## CONTEXT

Since September 2014, Yemen has suffered from a catastrophic man-made humanitarian crisis fuelled by conflict and lack of accountability on all sides. Fighting between Members of the Popular Committees affiliated with the Houthis (aligned with former President Saleh until 30 November 2017) and Yemen's national army and Popular Resistance Committees supported by a Saudi-led coalition, has imposed a huge burden on civilians. Besides the civilians, including children killed and injured by airstrikes, shelling, landmines and snipers, there are documented incidents of arbitrary detention, enforced disappearance and treatment tantamount to torture. All sides to the conflict have continued to conscript or enlist children into armed forces or groups and used them to participate actively in hostilities. Other armed actors, including groups affiliated to Al-Qaida and Islamic State, continue to take advantage of the prevailing insecurity. In September 2017, the Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts on Yemen concluded that all sides had committed violations of international humanitarian law and abuses of human rights, and that parties to the conflict, including individuals from Yemen, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates, were possibly involved in international crimes.

The conflict has created the world's largest humanitarian crisis. Currently, the people of Yemen are more vulnerable and hungrier than at any time since the escalation of the conflict in March 2015. More than 22 million people, 75 per cent of the population, requires some form of humanitarian assistance - mainly water, food, healthcare - and protection due to the breakdown of basic social services, a health care system on the verge of collapse and the rising food insecurity. Over 2 million children are suffering from acute malnutrition in Yemen, including 360,000 from severe acute malnutrition.

Since April 2017, more than 1 million suspected cases of cholera have occurred and 8.4 million people remain on the brink of famine. More than 3 million people have been forced to flee their homes. The conflict, internal displacement and unpaid public salaries have devastated basic services and institutions with serious effects on socio-economic rights, particularly health and education.

## OHCHR’s expected contribution by 2021

### THE PILLARS OF OUR PROGRAMME

PREVENTING VIOLATIONS AND STRENGTHENING PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS, INCLUDING IN SITUATIONS OF CONFLICT AND INSECURITY	
<b>PS</b> Peace and Security	<b>PS1</b> ▶ Parties to conflict and actors involved in peace operations increasingly comply with international human rights and humanitarian law and provide greater protection to civilians.  Violations of international human rights and humanitarian law are monitored and reported; particular attention is given to abuses perpetrated by parties to the conflict, especially arbitrary detention and abuses that target civilians and civilian objectives. The information gathered informs UN responses.
	<b>PS4</b> ▶ Justice mechanisms, including for transitional justice, provide increased accountability for conflict-related violations.  All sectors of Yemeni society, including both communities and individuals, enjoy guaranteed access to justice, no matter when, where or by whom human rights violations or crimes are committed.  Community reconciliation is built on respect, mutual understanding and trust, supports national reconciliation processes, and ensures that victims of human rights violations and abuses obtain justice.
	<b>PS6</b> ▶ United Nations’ support to national and regional security forces, law enforcement agencies, and non-State actors integrates human rights and complies with the Human Rights Due Diligence Policy.  Yemen’s judicial system provides increasing accountability for violations committed by Yemeni security forces.

### STRENGTHENING THE RULE OF LAW AND ACCOUNTABILITY FOR HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS

<b>A</b> Accountability	<b>A1</b> ▶ Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.  National institutions, including the Ministry of Interior’s Corrections and Rehabilitation authority and the national commission of inquiry, curb human rights violations.
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### ENHANCING PARTICIPATION AND PROTECTING CIVIC SPACE

<b>P</b> Participation	<b>P3</b> ▶ Business, policy-makers and a public at large increasingly value and support civic space.
	<b>P4</b> ▶ Civil society assistance to victims of human rights violations is strengthened.
	<b>P5</b> ▶ More systematic monitoring of the environment for civic space, including threats to it, takes place.  The capacity of civil society organizations to protect and promote human rights is strengthened.

### ‘SHIFTS’ ACROSS OUR PILLARS TO INCREASE OUR RELEVANCE

- Prevent conflict, violence and insecurity.
- Expand civic space.
- Explore emerging human rights concerns (‘frontier issues’):
  - People on the move.

### SHINING A ‘SPOTLIGHT’

Women

## TARGETS FOR 2018-2021 - OHCHR RESULTS FRAMEWORK

The type of results we contribute to	OHCHR Programme Indicator <sup>1</sup>	What we expect to have contributed to by 2021, in cooperation with our partners...	Pillars
State laws and policies protect and promote human rights.	# of countries of engagement <sup>2</sup> where the level of compliance of legislation/policy with international human rights standards in selected human rights areas has significantly improved.	In <b>63</b> countries*, laws and policies will have significantly increased protection and promotion of human rights in selected human rights areas <sup>3</sup> .	Development, Peace and Security, Non-Discrimination, Accountability, Participation
	# of countries of engagement where NHRIs have been established or have improved compliance with international standards (Paris Principles).	In <b>35</b> countries*, national human rights institutions will have been established or will have improved their compliance with international standards (the Paris Principles).	Human Rights Mechanism, Peace and Security, Non-Discrimination, Accountability, Participation
State institutions, non-state actors and the private sector, promote, protect and respect human rights.	# of countries of engagement where the level of compliance of selected State institutions and programmes with international human rights standards has significantly improved.	In <b>54</b> countries*, state institutions, non-state actors or the private sector will have increased their contribution to the promotion, protection and respect of human rights.	Human Rights Mechanism, Development, Peace and Security, Non-Discrimination, Accountability, Participation
	# of countries of engagement where human rights trainings have been institutionalized in one or more selected human rights areas.	In <b>15</b> countries*, human rights education and training programmes will have been institutionalized.	Development, Peace and Security, Non-Discrimination, Accountability
	# of countries of engagement where the use of international human rights law in court proceedings and decisions has increased to a significant extent.	In <b>15</b> countries*, the use of international human rights law and jurisprudence will have increased in court proceedings and decisions.	Human Rights Mechanism, Development, Non-Discrimination, Accountability
State accountability mechanisms monitor, investigate and redress human rights violations.	# of countries of engagement where oversight, accountability or protection mechanisms have been established or have improved compliance with international human rights standards	In <b>46</b> countries*, oversight, accountability or protection mechanisms will have been established or improved their compliance with international human rights standards.	Development, Peace and Security, Non-Discrimination, Accountability, Participation
	# of countries of engagement where transitional justice mechanisms which conform to international human rights standards have been established or have improved compliance with international human rights standards.	In <b>24</b> countries*, transitional justice mechanisms will have been established or improved their compliance with international human rights norms and standards.	Peace and Security, Accountability, Participation
	# of countries of engagement where the number of human rights violation cases raised by OHCHR which are positively addressed by the government has significantly increased.	In <b>33</b> countries*, an increased number of cases of human rights violation raised by OHCHR will have been positively addressed.	Development, Peace and Security, Non-Discrimination, Accountability, Participation

<sup>1</sup> These are the same as in previous programming cycles.

<sup>2</sup> 'Countries\*' refers to countries in which the Office plans to undertake activities towards a planned result. It is not limited to countries where OHCHR has a presence.

<sup>3</sup> Note that due to potentially shifting priorities, these targets should not be understood as the baselines for upcoming programming cycle. Similarly, the achievements from the previous programme cycle cannot be understood as the baseline. Baselines have been provided for those targets that are cumulative, i.e. ratification.

The type of results we contribute to	OHCHR Programme Indicator <sup>1</sup>	What we expect to have contributed to by 2021, in cooperation with our partners...	Pillars
Public participation in policy-making processes grows, particularly by women and members of groups facing discrimination.	# of countries of engagement demonstrating significant improvement in the level of meaningful participation in selected public processes.	In <b>35</b> countries*, the level of meaningful participation by selected groups in public processes will have improved significantly.	Development, Peace and Security, Non-Discrimination, Accountability, Participation
	# of countries of engagement where the level of use of national protection systems has increased significantly.	In <b>23</b> countries*, the use of national protection systems will have increased significantly.	Development, Peace and Security, Non-Discrimination, Accountability, Participation
The international community responds effectively to critical human rights situations and issues.	# of countries of engagement where the international community has engaged in an objective and constructive way on specific issues raised by OHCHR.	In <b>13</b> countries*, the international community will have engaged objectively and constructively on issues raised by OHCHR.	Development, Peace and Security, Non-Discrimination, Accountability, Participation
	# of countries of engagement with UN peace missions which have integrated international human rights standards and principles, as well as the recommendations of the human rights mechanisms, into their work to a significant extent.	<b>16</b> UN peace and political missions will have integrated international human rights norms, standards and principles, as well as the recommendations of the human rights mechanisms, into their work.	Development, Peace and Security, Accountability
Human rights are effectively integrated in UN policies and programmes.	# of countries of engagement with humanitarian operations which have integrated international human rights standards and principles, as well as the recommendations of the human rights mechanisms, into their work to a significant extent.	<b>12</b> humanitarian operations will have integrated international human rights norms, standards and principles, as well as the recommendations of the human rights mechanisms, into their work.	Development, Peace and Security
	# of UN country teams where human rights norms, standards and principles, as well as the recommendations of the human rights mechanisms, have been integrated to a significant extent.	<b>50</b> UN country teams will have satisfactorily integrated international human rights norms, standards and principles, as well as the recommendations of the human rights mechanisms, into their work.	Development, Peace and Security, Non-Discrimination, Accountability
	# of UN policies and programmes at global level will have significantly integrated a human rights-based approach.	<b>25</b> UN policies and programmes at global level will have significantly integrated a human rights-based approach.	Human Rights Mechanism, Development Peace and Security, Non-Discrimination, Accountability, Participation
Widespread public support for protection of human rights.	# of countries of engagement where the narrative on selected HR topics has significantly improved.	In <b>23</b> countries*, the narrative on selected human rights topics will have improved significantly.	Human Rights Mechanism, Development, Non-Discrimination, Participation

The type of results we contribute to	OHCHR Programme Indicator <sup>1</sup>	What we expect to have contributed to by 2021, in cooperation with our partners...	Pillars
Member States and other actors (regional organizations, NHRS, civil society, UN...) engage positively with United Nations human rights mechanisms.	# of countries of engagement where mechanisms for integrated reporting and/or implementation of outstanding recommendations of treaty bodies, special procedures or Human Rights Council are in place or increasingly functioning.	In <b>68</b> countries*, mechanisms for integrated reporting or implementation of recommendations of international human rights mechanisms will have been put in place or have improved functioning.	Human Rights Mechanism
	Total # of international human rights treaties ratified.	<b>100</b> additional ratifications of international human rights treaties. Baseline: <b>2,233</b>	Human Rights Mechanism
	Total # of reservations withdrawn from international human rights treaties	<b>10</b> reservations will have been withdrawn from international human rights treaties.	Human Rights Mechanism
	Percentage of countries that submit reports to treaty bodies on time.	<b>35%</b> of countries will have submitted reports to treaty bodies in a timely manner. Baseline: <b>32 per cent</b>	Human Rights Mechanism
	# of countries which have issued a standing invitation to special procedures mandate-holders.	<b>125</b> countries will have issued a standing invitation to special procedures mandate-holders. Baseline: <b>118</b> .	Human Rights Mechanism
	# of countries for which requests for visits of thematic special procedures have resulted in at least one visit.	In <b>63</b> countries, requests for visits of thematic special procedures will have resulted in a visit.	Human Rights Mechanism
	Rate of responses from governments to special procedures communications.	<b>60%</b> of special procedures' communications will have received a response from Governments. Baseline: <b>57.6 per cent</b> .	Human Rights Mechanism
	Percentage of reprisals raised by OHCHR, which are positively addressed by the government.	<b>50%</b> of the cases of reprisals against individuals for cooperation with HR mechanisms that are reported by OHCHR will have been addressed.	Human Rights Mechanism
	# of countries of engagement with a significant number of substantive submissions or submitting actors to UN human rights mechanisms.	In <b>51</b> countries* the number of submissions to UN human rights mechanisms will have increased significantly.	Human Rights Mechanism
	Total # of substantive submissions from national human rights institutions, civil society organizations, UN entities and individuals to UN human rights mechanisms.	<b>15,000</b> substantive submissions to UN human rights mechanisms will have been received from national human rights institutions, civil society organizations, UN entities and individuals.	Human Rights Mechanism
International human rights laws and standards are elaborated.	# of thematic areas where international and/or regional human rights law or standards have been strengthened/developed.	In <b>12</b> areas, international/regional human rights law/standards will have been strengthened.	Human Rights Mechanism
International and regional human rights mechanisms and bodies promote and protect human rights effectively.	# of countries which submitted or updated common core documents.	<b>85</b> countries will have submitted or updated their common core documents.	Human Rights Mechanism
	Degree of progress made in improving the level of harmonization of treaty bodies' work.	Harmonization of treaty bodies' work will have improved significantly.	Human Rights Mechanism
	Degree of coordination among the special procedures	A high degree of coordination among the special procedures will have been achieved.	Human Rights Mechanism

## ANNEX I PROGRAMME GLOSSARY FOR OHCHR

**PILLAR/ COUNTRY RESULTS.** Institutional, legislative or behavioral changes (results at the outcome level) to which OHCHR contributes. The Pillar Strategies and the Country/Sub-regional Programmes define OHCHR's office-wide thematic and country results for a concrete programming cycle (four years), which are the basis for the definition of the annual outputs and activities. OHCHR is not in full control of these changes, but should be planning to have a meaningful contribution to them and reasonable expectations to see them happening.

**ORGANIZATIONAL EFFECTIVENESS RESULTS.** The changes (results at the level of outputs) OHCHR commits to achieve during a specific programming cycle to improve its organizational effectiveness.

**OUTPUTS.** Changes of capacities, skills or abilities, or deliverables (new products and services) of a certain magnitude, generated by the programme, as a contribution to the defined results. Managers should have a high degree of control and accountability for the delivery of outputs. Outputs are defined in the OMP and further refined in Annual Work/Cost Plans (AW/CP).

**ACTIVITIES.** Processes that convert Inputs (financial, human, material, technological and information resources) into Outputs. They describe what the Office plans to do and are defined in the AW/CP. Implementation of activities needs to lead to the achievement of Outputs.

**INDICATOR.** A quantitative or qualitative variable to detect changes in the situation and to verify progress (or not) towards the expected changes (results). Quantitative indicators are represented by a number, percentage or ratio. In contrast, qualitative indicators seek to measure quality and often are based on perception, opinion or levels of satisfaction. Indicators should be expressed in neutral language, such as 'the level or degree of satisfaction' or 'the percentage of, e.g. school enrolment by gender'.

**BASELINE.** The status of the indicator at the beginning of a programme or project that acts as a reference point against which progress or achievements can be assessed.

**TARGET.** A reference point to aim for; the goal intended to be attained (and which is believed to be attainable). Targets are used to:

- Provide a measurable dimension to an indicator so that the extent of progress can be assessed
- Provide a basis for planning resources and activities for an intervention

The Country/Sub-regional Programme select the applicable office-wide indicators and define the baselines and targets for each country specific result.

**THEORY OF CHANGE.** A method that explains how a given intervention, or set of interventions, is expected to lead to specific development change, drawing on a causal analysis based on available evidence. A theory of change must be driven by sound analyses, consultation with key stakeholders and learning on what works and what does not in diverse contexts drawn from the experiences of the UN and its partners. A theory of change helps to identify solutions to effectively address the causes of problems that hinder progress and guide decisions on which approach should be taken, considering comparative advantages, effectiveness, feasibility and uncertainties that are part of any change process. A theory of change also helps to identify the underlying assumptions and risks that will be vital to understand and revisit throughout the process to ensure the approach will contribute to the desired change.

**ASSUMPTIONS.** Variables or factors that need to be in place for results to be achieved. Assumptions can be internal or external to the particular programme or organization.

**RISK.** A potential future event, fully or partially beyond control that may (negatively) affect the achievement of results.

## ANNEX II PROGRAMME LOGIC FOR OHCHR

### The 2018-2021 OMP consist of

- Six **Pillar strategies** that include for each of the pillar results a detailed theory of change that clearly defines major outputs for the four-year period. Pillar results also link to shifts and SDGs.
- 70 **Country** and/or sub-regional **programmes** with selected pillar results adjusted to specific country results based on OHCHR’s programme indicators. Each country result has a baseline and a target value, which contribute to reaching OHCHR’s programme targets. Country-results identify also a spotlight population. For each country result a detailed theory of change with clearly defined major outputs was defined.
- Ten Institutional results with the 30 **OHCHR** programme indicators and clearly defined **targets** based on the assessment of the pillars and country results. OHCHR’s programme indicators are the same as in previous programming cycles. Some indicators are the aggregation of the country results specified in the country programmes and as such change from programming cycle to programming cycle. Others are cumulative. For these baselines have been provided.
- Nine **Organisational effectiveness action plans (OE-APs)** with detailed theory of change that clearly define major outputs for the four-year period.
- For the **Annual Work Plans/ Cost Plans (AWP/CPs)** all activities are linked to one of the pillar results; country results or OE-AP results as well as the major outputs.

All parts of the 2018-2021 OMP are interlinked and have been integrated in the **Performance Monitoring System**. Implementation will be regularly monitored including through the crosscutting lenses of the spotlights population and shifts. Programme monitoring is done through ‘Monthly reports’, ‘Mid-Year review’ of the AWP/CPs and the ‘End of Year report’. All OHCHR programme indicators have a standard protocol for assessment. These are used whenever a result is achieved and for all country result at the end of the programming cycle.

