



# General Assembly

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## Human Rights Council

### Forty-fifth session

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Agenda items 2 and 8

### Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

### Follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

## National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights

### Report of the Secretary-General\*

#### *Summary*

The present report is submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 39/17, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of the resolution at its forty-fifth session, including examples of best practices among national human rights institutions.

The report covers the period from August 2019 to July 2020. It contains information on the activities undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to establish and strengthen national human rights institutions; on support provided by the United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to national human rights institutions; on cooperation between such institutions and the international human rights system; and on support provided by the Office to the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and relevant regional networks.

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\* The annexes to the present report are circulated as received, in the language of submission only.



## **I. Introduction**

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 39/17, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to submit a report on the implementation of that resolution at its forty-fifth session, including examples of best practices among national human rights institutions. The report covers the period from August 2019 to July 2020.
2. In resolution 39/17, the Council referred to the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and reaffirmed the statement contained therein of the important and constructive role played by national human rights institutions, in particular in their advisory capacity to the competent authorities, and their role in preventing, and assisting victims to find remedies to, human rights violations and abuses, in the dissemination of human rights information, and in education in human rights.
3. In the same resolution, the Council recognized the importance of the independent voice of national human rights institutions in promoting and protecting all human rights, including, in accordance with their mandates, economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, particularly in the context of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which sought to realize the human rights of all.
4. The Council, in the same resolution, also recognized the important role of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, in close cooperation with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), in assessing conformity of national human rights institutions with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) and in assisting States and national institutions, when requested, to strengthen national human rights institutions in accordance with such principles.

## **II. Support provided by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to national human rights institutions**

### **A. Advisory services**

5. The General Assembly and the Human Rights Council, carrying over the mandate given by the Commission on Human Rights to the Centre for Human Rights, have mandated OHCHR to provide assistance for the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions.<sup>1</sup>
6. Together with its field presences and other United Nations entities, including the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), OHCHR assists Governments in establishing and strengthening national human rights institutions and/or contributes to building the capacity of such institutions. In that context, OHCHR works closely with regional intergovernmental organizations, civil society organizations, academic institutions and other relevant stakeholders.
7. OHCHR provides technical and legal assistance to national human rights institutions, particularly in the area of constitutional and legislative frameworks relating to their establishment, nature, functions, powers and responsibilities. It also conducts and supports comparative analysis, technical cooperation projects, needs assessments and evaluation missions to establish national human rights institutions or strengthen their capacity to discharge their mandate effectively and efficiently.

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<sup>1</sup> See Commission on Human Rights resolution 1992/54, General Assembly resolution 70/163 and Human Rights Council resolution 33/15.

8. During the period under review, OHCHR provided advice and/or assistance aimed at the establishment and/or the strengthening of national human rights institutions in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, the Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mexico, Morocco, Mozambique, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, the Philippines, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Serbia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Thailand, Tunisia, Turkey, Tuvalu, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Arab Emirates, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), as well as the State of Palestine. It also provided similar advice in Kosovo.<sup>2</sup> In some cases, assistance was provided jointly with other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and other partners.

## 1. Africa

9. During the period under review, the OHCHR regional offices for Central, East, Southern and West Africa, the OHCHR country offices in Chad, Guinea, Liberia, Mauritania, Mozambique and Uganda, the human rights advisers to the United Nations country teams in Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe, and the human rights components of the United Nations peace missions in Guinea-Bissau, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan and the Sudan (in Darfur) provided advice on and assistance in the establishment or strengthening of national human rights institutions. The activities described below were conducted.

10. OHCHR provided legislative advice to Botswana, Chad, Gabon, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau and Lesotho on the establishment of national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles.

11. OHCHR organized capacity-building and awareness sessions for the staff of the National Human Rights Commission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo on international human rights law, protection mechanisms, monitoring and social auditing. In September 2019, OHCHR provided technical and financial support for the open days event of the Commission to enhance its visibility.

12. In September 2019, OHCHR conducted a workshop on business and human rights for the staff of the National Human Rights Commission of Mozambique. In December 2019, OHCHR conducted seven training sessions and follow-up sessions for the staff of the Commission on human rights indicators and mechanisms, business and human rights, and monitoring human rights in electoral contexts. In February 2020, OHCHR, UNDP and the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions conducted a capacity assessment of the Commission. In June 2020, OHCHR provided technical assistance to the Commission to strengthen its capacity as a national preventive mechanism under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

13. In September 2019, OHCHR organized an induction training for the newly appointed commissioners of the Independent National Human Rights Commission of Burundi. In November and December 2019, OHCHR supported the Commission in the organization of training sessions and a workshop on human rights protection in the context of elections.

14. In September 2019, OHCHR organized for the staff of the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms of Cameroon a workshop on techniques for monitoring and reporting on economic, social and cultural rights. In October 2019, OHCHR and the International Organization of la Francophonie supported the Commission in the finalization of its action plan on business and human rights in the context of extractive industries.

<sup>2</sup> References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

OHCHR also provided advice and technical assistance to the Commission on monitoring the implementation of human rights in business activities, particularly regarding illegal exploitation of natural resources.

15. During the reporting period, OHCHR organized five training workshops for the staff of the National Human Rights Commission of Guinea on reporting to human rights treaty bodies and for the universal periodic review, and on the rights of persons with disabilities. In May 2020, OHCHR organized three awareness-raising sessions on a human rights-based approach to prevention and response to coronavirus disease (COVID-19), training eight commissioners on the monitoring and reporting of violations linked to measures taken by the Government to tackle the pandemic.

16. In October 2019, OHCHR provided financial and technical support to the Independent National Commission on Human Rights of Liberia in drafting and submitting its submission for the stakeholders' report for the universal periodic review. OHCHR also provided technical guidance to the Commission to draft its contribution to the National Human Rights Action Plan for 2019–2024. In March 2020, OHCHR provided technical support to the Commission to sign a memorandum of understanding with the national statistics agency in order to develop a human rights-based approach to data.

17. In December 2019, OHCHR conducted a workshop for the National Human Rights Commission of Djibouti and civil society organizations on the promotion and protection of human rights through interaction with international and regional human rights mechanisms. The participants discussed their role in engaging with international and regional human rights mechanisms, advocating for the implementation of recommendations, and sharing experiences and lessons learned in promoting human rights in Djibouti.

18. In December 2019, in Abuja, OHCHR provided technical assistance to the National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria for the organization of the 2019 human rights summit and awards, which had as its theme adopting a human rights-based approach in the public sector through the 2030 Agenda.

19. In December 2019, OHCHR, in collaboration with the Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance of the United Republic of Tanzania, organized a dialogue for young people on their role in the realization of human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular Goal 16. The dialogue was also aimed at establishing future collaboration between the Commission and young people.

20. In November 2019, OHCHR provided technical support to the South Africa Human Rights Commission on the structure and legal framework of a national preventive mechanism under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. In February 2020, OHCHR provided technical support to the Commission on the establishment of the national monitoring mechanism under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In April 2020, OHCHR provided feedback on the draft internal guidance and strategy of the Commission on monitoring human rights during the COVID-19 pandemic. OHCHR also continued to cooperate with the Commission in the area of constitutional and human rights education.

21. In December 2019, OHCHR carried out workshops on business and human rights for the staff of the National Commission for Human Rights of Rwanda. It also provided technical support to the Commission in drafting and submitting its parallel report on the implementation of the recommendations addressed to Rwanda during the second cycle of the universal periodic review.

22. In January 2020, OHCHR and the Human Rights Commission of Ethiopia organized a national stakeholders' consultation to reform the Commission. The consultation resulted in an outcome statement that focused on the independence of the Commission and the need to strengthen its capacities.

23. Between September 2019 and March 2020, OHCHR and the Uganda Human Rights Commission continued conducting joint monitoring missions and advocacy, including regarding forceful disarmament operations led by the Uganda People's Defence Force, detention conditions and land conflicts, as well as a gold mining operation in Lopedo, Kaabong District. In September 2019, OHCHR supported the Commission in holding a

round-table discussion with justice institutions in Lira, Northern Region, to define security and justice strategies and their role in preventing and addressing the increasing number of cases of mob justice in the region. OHCHR also assisted the Commission in increasing its capacity to report and handle human rights cases by convening protection cluster meetings in the Karamoja Region, involving the main regional and district authorities and other relevant stakeholders. In September and October 2019, OHCHR and the Commission held training sessions on a human rights-based approach to data for representatives of the national and local governments.

24. Between August 2019 and March 2020, OHCHR, in collaboration with the Human Rights Commission in South Sudan, organized 13 capacity-building and educational events on human rights for staff of the Commission, human rights defenders, students and security forces. In October 2019, OHCHR conducted training for the staff of the Commission on detention monitoring, inspection, and documentation and reporting. In December 2019, OHCHR and the Commission conducted a series of activities to commemorate Human Rights Day. OHCHR also supported the Commission in establishing a database and signing a memorandum of understanding with key civil society organizations to facilitate advocacy and coordination of human rights-related activities, including the protection of human rights defenders.

25. In March 2020, OHCHR met with the Chair of the Malawi Human Rights Commission to plan a coordinated national human rights response in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. In April 2020, OHCHR and the Commission coordinated a joint response to a trafficking case, where 11 children from the Democratic Republic of the Congo had been brought into Malawi and detained by border officials. OHCHR arranged for the Commission to visit the children.

26. In May 2020, OHCHR provided technical and financial support to the Independent National Human Rights Commission of Burkina Faso to monitor human rights in the context of elections.

## **2. Americas and the Caribbean**

27. During the period under review, the OHCHR regional offices for South and Central America, the OHCHR country offices in Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico, the human rights advisers to the United Nations country teams in Argentina, Barbados, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Jamaica, Paraguay and Uruguay, and the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti – and subsequently the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti – provided advice on and assistance in strengthening national human rights institutions. The activities described below were conducted.

28. OHCHR and the Office of the Human Rights Advocate of Guatemala developed a joint strategy to strengthen the latter's capacity, which includes joint monitoring missions to identify main human rights violations. In August 2019, OHCHR conducted a survey on access to work for persons with disabilities in order to identify good practices and gaps within the Office of the Ombudsman. Between September and November 2019, OHCHR provided technical assistance to the Ombudsman to establish a specialized unit on human rights defenders and journalists, to develop institutional protocols on forced evictions and to draft and submit a follow-up report on the implementation of a judicial decision regarding the right to food. In November 2019, OHCHR trained staff of the local Ombudsman branches on the human rights of migrants. OHCHR also continued to support the engagement of the Ombudsman with United Nations mechanisms and processes.

29. In November and December 2019, OHCHR and the Office of the Ombudsman of Colombia conducted joint monitoring activities to prevent and document violent outbursts and human rights violations during mass protests. OHCHR also provided technical assistance to the Ombudsman to compile and analyse data, as well as to draft early warning reports on serious human rights violations.

30. In September and October 2019, OHCHR, in collaboration with UNDP and the human rights components of the United Nations Mission for Justice Support in Haiti and the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti, assisted the Office of the Ombudsman of

Haiti in the development and follow-up of its strategy for 2019–2024. OHCHR also continued to provide technical support and advice to that institution to establish a complaint mechanism and a reliable database. In December 2019, OHCHR supported the institution in the organization of a national human rights essay contest for young people and journalists, to boost the outreach strategy of the institution.

31. Between August and November 2019, OHCHR and the National Human Rights Commission of Mexico jointly organized and implemented a seminar on substantive equality and human rights of indigenous women in order to strengthen the capacities on and knowledge of women's rights and gender perspective among civil servants.

32. In March 2020, OHCHR supported a review by the National Human Rights Commission of Honduras of its internal monitoring process, including data analysis, in order to strengthen the Commission's capacity to respond to human rights violations in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

33. In May 2020, OHCHR facilitated a dialogue between the Office of the Ombudsman of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and a platform of non-governmental human rights organizations, the creation of which had been promoted by OHCHR.

34. In June 2020, OHCHR provided technical support to the Office of the Human Rights Advocate of El Salvador to draft an *amicus curiae* brief regarding a petition for habeas corpus on the urgency to adopt measures to tackle the effects of COVID-19 on women criminalized and deprived of their liberty for having suffered obstetric emergencies, in the context of prison overcrowding.

35. In June 2020, OHCHR organized for the Office of the Ombudsman of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela six webinars related to the Paris Principles, the promotion and protection of human rights, the accreditation process for national human rights institutions, and cooperation with national stakeholders (including the judiciary and civil society) and the international human rights system.

### **3. Asia and the Pacific**

36. During the period under review, the OHCHR regional offices for South-East Asia and for the Pacific, the OHCHR country offices in Cambodia and in Seoul for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the human rights advisers to the United Nations country teams in Bangladesh, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste, and the human rights component of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan provided advice on and assistance in the establishment and/or strengthening of national human rights institutions. The activities described below were carried out.

37. OHCHR provided technical advice to the Office of the Ombudsman of Tuvalu to strengthen its capacity.

38. In September and October 2019, in cooperation with the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions and the Regional Rights Resource Team of the Pacific Community, OHCHR conducted two scoping missions for the establishment of a national human rights institution in Kiribati.

39. In October 2019, during her official visit to Malaysia, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights met with representatives of the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia to enhance cooperation, including in the area of climate change adaptation and mitigation. OHCHR continued to support the engagement of the Commission with United Nations mechanisms and processes.

40. In November 2019, OHCHR organized a two-week human rights defenders school in Bangkok, whereby staff of the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand was trained on human rights monitoring, reporting, documentation and advocacy, as well as on engagement with international human rights mechanisms.

41. In November 2019, in Seoul, OHCHR and the National Human Rights Commission of Korea co-hosted the 2019 international symposium on human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, with a view to promoting peace and human rights in the

Democratic People's Republic of Korea through the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

42. In December 2019, OHCHR provided financial assistance to the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines for its participation in the twenty-fifth United Nations Climate Change Conference, held that month in Madrid. On that occasion, the Commission presented the preliminary findings and recommendations of its inquiry into the human rights impacts of climate change in the Philippines and the contribution of 47 "carbon major" companies to those impacts.

43. In collaboration with UNDP and the European Union, OHCHR provided technical assistance to the National Commission for Human Rights of Pakistan to facilitate engagement with the Government and United Nations human rights mechanisms and processes.

44. In March 2020, OHCHR conducted a capacity assessment of the Human Rights and Anti-Discrimination Commission of Fiji, in collaboration with UNDP and the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions.

#### **4. Europe and Central Asia**

45. During the period under review, the OHCHR regional offices for Europe and for Central Asia, the human rights monitoring mission in Ukraine, the human rights advisers for the South Caucasus, in Belarus, in North Macedonia and in Serbia, the human rights officer working with the United Nations country team in the Republic of Moldova, the joint OHCHR-Russian Federation project, and the human rights component of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo continued to provide advice on and assistance in the establishment and/or strengthening of human rights institutions. Related activities included those described below.

46. In September and October 2019, OHCHR conducted a needs assessment with regard to the Human Rights Commissioner of Tajikistan, which resulted in a technical cooperation programme. In October 2019, OHCHR and UNDP supported the Ombudsman in setting up a complaints-handling database.

47. In September 2019, OHCHR organized training sessions for the Office of the Human Rights Commissioner of Uzbekistan and other relevant stakeholders on national preventive mechanisms under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

48. In October 2019, OHCHR conducted two training sessions for the staff of the Commissioner for Human Rights of Kazakhstan and other State bodies on the implementation of United Nations treaty body observations, individual communications and integrating human rights and a gender-based approach to the 2030 Agenda.

49. In December 2019, OHCHR provided the Serbian Protector of Citizens (Ombudsman) with a methodology model for the creation of a national monitoring mechanism under the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. In June 2020, OHCHR and the Ombudsman began discussions on the operationalization of the methodology.

50. OHCHR continued to strengthen the capacity of the Office of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights, providing technical advice on arbitrary detention and transfer of detainees to government-controlled territory, the right to peaceful assembly, gender issues and the rights of minorities and internally displaced people, and on community outreach and advocacy activities. In November 2019, OHCHR supported the Commissioner in planning advocacy activities and methodologies to prevent and address hate speech.

51. Between August 2019 and January 2020, OHCHR continued to strengthen the capacity of the Ombudsperson Institution of Kosovo by providing advice on specific issues, including civil unrest and freedom of expression. In October 2019, OHCHR organized a training workshop for staff of the Institution on the international human rights system. Further, OHCHR facilitated dialogue between the Ombudsperson and the Kosovo Statistics

Agency and organized, in November 2019, a training workshop in Geneva, where representatives from these entities discussed how to operationalize the principles and practices of a human rights-based approach to data and indicators. This resulted in the development, by the two entities, of a memorandum of understanding, signed on 17 January 2020.

52. During the period under review, OHCHR continued to cooperate with the Commissioner for Human Rights of the Russian Federation on human rights education. In October 2019, OHCHR organized a workshop for over 30 representatives of the Commissioner's regional offices on the linkage between human rights indicators and the 2030 Agenda. Also in October 2019, OHCHR, the Commissioner and the Consortium of Russian Universities co-organized the annual module of regular lectures, delivered by the Commissioner, on national protection mechanisms and the human rights situation in the country. In December 2019, OHCHR and the Commissioner organized a special event to commemorate Human Rights Day, including a discussion among students and young human rights activists on a wide range of human rights issues.

53. In September 2019, OHCHR, in cooperation with UNDP and the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions, carried out a capacity assessment of the Human Rights and Equality Institution of Turkey. In February 2020, OHCHR provided advice on a draft amendment to the enabling law on the institution.

54. OHCHR continued to strengthen the capacity of the Ombudsman of Kyrgyzstan, providing expertise and training on human rights issues and reporting. In April 2020, OHCHR provided personal protective equipment to the institution to protect its staff from COVID-19 in their daily work.

## **5. Middle East and North Africa**

55. The OHCHR regional office for the Middle East and for North Africa, the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region, the OHCHR offices in Tunisia and Yemen, as well as in the State of Palestine, the human rights adviser to the United Nations country team in Jordan, and the human rights components of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq and of the United Nations Support Mission in Libya continued to provide advice on and assistance in the establishment and/or strengthening of national human rights institutions. The activities described below were conducted.

56. Between August and December 2019, OHCHR conducted a series of workshops and capacity-building training sessions for the High Committee for Human Rights and Fundamental Liberties in Tunisia. These trainings included strategic planning in human rights governance and a human rights-based approach, aimed at promoting collaboration between the High Committee and other independent public bodies. OHCHR also continued to support the engagement of the Committee with United Nations human rights mechanisms and processes.

57. In November 2019, OHCHR, together with UNDP, organized a retreat for the National Human Rights Commission of Lebanon to strengthen its capacity as a national preventive mechanism under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. In January 2020, OHCHR and UNDP facilitated a consultation between the Commission and civil society organizations. In May 2020, OHCHR provided advice to the Commission to ensure that its enabling law provided for its budgetary and financial independence.

58. In October 2019, in Rabat, in partnership with the National Human Rights Council of Morocco and the Office of the Public Prosecutor, OHCHR organized a workshop on legislation to combat violence against women. Also in October 2019, OHCHR and the Council organized a workshop in Casablanca on legal safeguards to ensure women human rights defenders' safety and protection.

59. In October 2019, in Muscat, OHCHR and the Oman Human Rights Commission co-organized a training workshop on the linkage between the Sustainable Development Goals and human rights. The workshop provided a platform to exchange knowledge and best



practices on the role of national human rights institutions in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

60. OHCHR and the High Commission for Human Rights of Iraq organized a series of events and round tables to promote compliance with the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, the rights to freedom of expression and to peaceful assembly and the rights of women, minorities and human rights defenders. OHCHR also continued to provide technical support to the Commission to enhance its engagement with United Nations human rights mechanisms and processes.

61. In December 2019, OHCHR provided legislative advice to the United Arab Emirates for the establishment of national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles.

62. In March 2020, amid the outbreak of COVID-19, OHCHR, the Independent Commission for Human Rights and the Ministry of the Interior of Palestine outlined in a note specific obligations and recommendations on detention and the treatment of detainees, including preventive and responsive measures to ensure enjoyment of their basic rights amid the health emergency.

## **B. Support provided for regional and subregional initiatives of national human rights institutions**

### **1. Africa**

63. In September 2019, OHCHR held in Sandton, South Africa, the Southern Africa subregional consultation on the Accountability and Remedy Project, with the participation of national human rights institutions, civil society and rights holders. The consultation provided a platform to discuss the role of national human rights institutions in facilitating access to remedy for victims of business-related human rights abuses. The human rights institutions of Mozambique, South Africa and Zimbabwe exchanged experiences and best practices.

64. In November 2019, OHCHR provided technical and financial support to the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions for the organization of its twelfth biennial conference, held in Cairo. Participants discussed the role of national human rights institutions in the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

### **2. Americas and the Caribbean**

65. During the period under review, OHCHR provided technical and financial support for the establishment in Panama of the permanent secretariat of the Network of National Human Rights Institutions in the Americas.

66. In October 2019, in San José, OHCHR, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Costa Rica and the Centre for International Environmental Law co-organized a workshop where representatives of the national human rights institutions of Chile, Colombia and Guatemala discussed practical measures for integrating human rights into climate action.

### **3. Asia and the Pacific**

67. In August 2019, OHCHR hosted a regional human rights and climate change conference in Nadi, Fiji, where national human rights institutions shared knowledge and best practices on climate change and migration.

68. In October 2019, in Bangkok, OHCHR held, in collaboration with the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, a workshop to promote the engagement of national human rights institutions from South Asia and South-East Asia in humanitarian action. Eleven national human rights institutions participated in the workshop.

69. In October 2019, in Bangkok, OHCHR supported the inquiry on climate change of the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines by organizing a regional dialogue on

the role of national human rights institutions in addressing climate change as a transboundary human rights issue. Ten national human rights institutions participated in the dialogue in order to develop a common understanding on the impact of climate change on human rights and to identify good practices and areas of cooperation.

#### **4. Europe and Central Asia**

70. In October 2019, in Brussels, OHCHR organized a regional conference on protecting civic space in the European Union. The European Network of National Human Rights Institutions and the national human rights institutions of Belgium, Croatia and Poland shared their experiences and best practices on support mobilization, and on addressing reprisals, intimidation, hate speech and defamation.

71. In October 2019, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 34/17, OHCHR organized a workshop in Geneva on the role of regional arrangements in combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and in the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. National human rights institutions discussed the effectiveness of national measures in combating racism and shared good practices and challenges in that regard.

72. In November 2019, OHCHR participated in the 2019 annual conference of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions in Brussels. OHCHR emphasized the indivisibility of human rights and their integration into the 2030 Agenda, as well as the role of national human rights institutions in supporting governments to enact legislation and policies in line with international human rights law.

73. In December 2019, OHCHR participated in the national human rights congress in Warsaw. It highlighted the role of national human rights institutions in monitoring the implementation of recommendations emanating from the international human rights system.

#### **5. Middle East and North Africa**

74. In February 2020, in Doha, OHCHR co-organized, with the National Human Rights Committee of Qatar, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, the European Parliament and the International Federation of Journalists, an international conference on social media and challenges, and ways to promote freedom of expression and protect activists. The conference brought together over 250 governmental and non-governmental organizations, human rights defenders, media workers, information technology business representatives, international human rights mechanisms and national human rights institutions. Participants discussed the opportunities that social media had created for protecting and promoting human rights, while raising recurrent forms of interference in the use of social media.

### **C. Contributions to international initiatives supporting national human rights institutions**

#### **1. Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions**

75. Article 6 of the statute of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions provides that general and Bureau meetings, meetings of the Subcommittee on Accreditation and international conferences of the Global Alliance are to be held under the auspices of, and in cooperation with, OHCHR. Hence, during the period under review, OHCHR provided financial and substantive support, as well as secretariat services, to the Global Alliance for the sessions held by its Subcommittee on Accreditation (see para. 76 below), and its Bureau meeting, convened in November 2019.

#### **2. Subcommittee on Accreditation**

76. OHCHR continued to provide substantive support, including technical advice and secretariat services, to the Subcommittee on Accreditation. During the reporting period, the Subcommittee met once, in October 2019, and reviewed 13 institutions. The Subcommittee

on Accreditation agreed to postpone, until further notice, the session scheduled for March 2020 due to the outbreak of COVID-19.<sup>3</sup>

### **3. Fellowship programme for staff of A status national human rights institutions**

77. Since 2008, OHCHR has carried out a fellowship programme for staff of A status national human rights institutions to familiarize beneficiaries with the international human rights system and with the work of OHCHR. The programme therefore contributes to strengthen the capacity of A status national human rights institutions and the capacity of their staff to discharge their mandate in line with international norms and standards. This programme has been praised by participating fellows and their institutions. During the period under review, staff from the national human rights institutions of Egypt, Georgia, Liberia, Mexico, the Philippines and Zimbabwe, as well as the State of Palestine, participated in the programme.

## **III. Best practices among national human rights institutions during the pandemic**

78. In April 2020, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights sent a letter and an aide-memoire to all national human rights institutions on their role in the response to the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery. Subsequently, OHCHR compiled and analysed information received from 57 national human rights institutions regarding actions and initiatives they had undertaken in the context of the pandemic.

79. The main types of actions undertaken by national human rights institutions included:

- (a) Advising Governments by issuing statements and recommendations on how to respond to the pandemic while protecting human rights;
- (b) Issuing guidance to Governments on the importance of applying specific and targeted measures to protect the most vulnerable groups;
- (c) Monitoring the implementation of emergency measures and human rights in general and in places of detention;
- (d) Monitoring health facilities to ensure provision of adequate health care;
- (e) Sharing information with rights holders on their rights and the protection of human rights during the pandemic;
- (f) Ensuring virtual access to their services during lockdown, including through social media platforms where institutions could convey public information and receive information from the public.

80. Most national human rights institutions dedicated a page to COVID-19 on their websites, and some engaged with parliamentary committees and government bodies to draft legislation and policies related to lockdowns. The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions set up an online platform where national human rights institutions may share information and good practices relating to the response to the pandemic.<sup>4</sup>

<sup>3</sup> For additional information, see A/HRC/45/43.

<sup>4</sup> More information is available at <https://ganhri.org/learning-platforms/>.

#### **IV. Support provided by the United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to national human rights institutions**

81. In June 2020, the tripartite partnership between OHCHR, UNDP and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions<sup>5</sup> convened a virtual annual meeting where national human rights institutions discussed their role as accelerators of the Sustainable Development Goals, and identified good practices and areas of cooperation.

82. OHCHR and UNDP supported the African Union Commission and the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions with the organization of, in Addis Ababa, in September 2019, a policy forum for African national human rights institutions on their contribution to durable solutions on forced displacement in Africa. The forum, which gathered about one hundred participants from national human rights institutions across Africa, was aimed at strengthening the role of those institutions in the prevention of forced displacement and identifying strategic collaborations and actions to strengthen their contribution for durable solutions. Also in September 2019, UNDP and OHCHR held capacity-building events for the commissioners and staff of the National Human Rights Commission of the Gambia.

83. In the Asia and the Pacific region, the following support was provided:

(a) In August 2019, UNDP supported the Myanmar National Human Rights Commission in holding a workshop to assist the Government in its preparation for the third cycle of the universal periodic review;

(b) UNDP supported the national human rights institution of Nepal in drafting its contribution to the universal periodic review stakeholders' report;

(c) UNDP supported the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka in conducting a comprehensive study on the prison system in that country;

(d) UNDP supported the National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh in the establishment of its regional offices and of an integrated office management system;

(e) UNDP supported the drafting and endorsement of the internal rules of the National Commission for Human Rights of Pakistan;

(f) In June 2020, UNDP organized an online forum on responsible business and human rights, which brought together six national human rights institutions from Asia to discuss their role in facilitating access to remedy for business-related human rights abuses.

84. In Latin America and the Caribbean, in October 2019, UNDP, OHCHR and the Development Coordination Office, with the sponsorship of the Government of Panama, carried out the first regional consultation on the universal period review and the Sustainable Development Goals held in Latin America. National human rights institutions and other human right actors from the region exchanged experiences and discussed how to strengthen their participation in the universal periodic review processes and in the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals.

85. In Europe and Central Asia, UNDP and the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions provided support to the national human rights institutions of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Serbia and Ukraine, as well as the human rights institution in Kosovo, on their role in conflict prevention.

86. In the Middle East and North Africa, UNDP supported the establishment of the first office of the National Human Rights Commission of the Sudan in Kassala and its regional

<sup>5</sup> In 2011, OHCHR, UNDP and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions entered into a strategic tripartite partnership to support national human rights institutions at the global, regional and national levels. In February 2017, the leadership of the three partners signed a letter of intent formalizing their commitment to enhancing their cooperation.

branch in North Darfur. Together with the National Human Rights Council of Morocco, UNDP organized a study tour for the Sudanese Commission to Morocco.

## **V. Cooperation between United Nations human rights mechanisms and national human rights institutions**

### **A. Human Rights Council**

87. In coordination with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, OHCHR continued to support the engagement of national human rights institutions with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms.

88. During the forty-second and forty-third sessions of the Human Rights Council, and in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Council, which enable the participation of national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles, 34 national human rights institutions and the Global Alliance delivered 51 statements (9 in writing, 19 in person and 23 by video), submitted documentation, participated in general debates, organized parallel events and/or interacted with special procedure mandate holders (see annex I). At the forty-fourth session of the Human Rights Council, eight institutions, as well as the Global Alliance and the Asia-Pacific Forum for National Human Rights Institutions, delivered 14 statements (3 in writing, 1 in person and 10 by video) (see annex I).

#### **1. Universal periodic review**

89. In accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 16/21 and General Assembly resolution 65/281, the universal periodic review stakeholders' report contains, where appropriate, a separate section for contributions by the national human rights institution of the State under review that is accredited in full compliance with the Paris Principles. A status institutions are also entitled to intervene immediately after the State under review during the adoption of the outcome of the review by the Council plenary.

90. In November 2019, during the thirty-fourth session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, five A status national human rights institutions submitted written contributions. During the thirty-fifth session of the Working Group, in January 2020, three A status national human rights institutions submitted input (see annex II).

91. Given the role that national human rights institutions can play in the follow-up on the implementation of recommendations stemming from the universal periodic review, OHCHR continued to support and encourage their participation in this process.

#### **2. Special procedures**

92. In accordance with Human Rights Council resolution 16/21 and General Assembly resolution 65/281, A status national human rights institutions are entitled to intervene immediately after the State concerned during the interactive dialogue between the Human Rights Council and the special procedure mandate holders, following the presentation of a country mission report by the latter. In addition, A status institutions may also nominate candidates as special procedure mandate holders.

93. When special procedure mandate holders conduct missions, national human rights institutions usually share independent analysis and information on issues and on the situation of the persons and groups concerned, facilitate contacts and convene meetings with civil society. In some cases, they host the press conference of the mandate holder(s) at the end of the visit. When preparing reports, special procedure mandate holders usually request input from national human rights institutions, which usually generates a very high response rate.

94. Thematic and country reports by special procedure mandate holders regularly highlight the key role that national human rights institutions play in protecting and promoting human rights.<sup>6</sup>

### **3. Open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights**

95. In October 2019, four national human rights institutions participated, through written submissions and oral interventions, in the fifth session of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights.

## **B. United Nations treaty bodies**

96. OHCHR continued to support the engagement of national human rights institutions with United Nations treaty bodies. OHCHR, as the secretariat of the treaty bodies, and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions in Geneva liaised with national human rights institutions of States that would be reviewed to encourage them to provide written or oral information and/or to attend sessions of the treaty bodies. Furthermore, the National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section of OHCHR disseminated relevant recommendations and concluding observations of treaty bodies to national institutions.

97. During the reporting period, the treaty bodies reviewed 89 States parties that had a national human rights institution. Fifty-eight institutions submitted information and six provided briefings to the treaty bodies (see annex III).

98. Compared with the previous reporting period, there was an increase of 5.5 per cent in the submission of information by national human rights institutions to treaty bodies and a decrease of 31.6 per cent in the number of briefings, partly due to the outbreak of the COVID-19 pandemic.

99. The treaty bodies continued to provide national human rights institutions with information notes, advice and tools to facilitate their effective engagement, and invited representatives of those institutions to their meetings.

100. During the period under review, the Committee against Torture met with 13 national human rights institutions, which submitted substantive reports and/or briefed it. Furthermore, OHCHR organized several training sessions, during which representatives from nine national human rights institutions were briefed on the treaty body reporting process and follow-up.

## **C. Other United Nations mechanisms and processes**

101. During the period under review, national human rights institutions engaged in activities of the United Nations Network on Migration, including its annual meeting, in December 2019,<sup>7</sup> as members of the United Nations Network working groups and as active stakeholders in the implementation, follow-up and review of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration at the country level.

<sup>6</sup> See, for example, the report submitted to the General Assembly at its seventy-fourth session by the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination on the gendered human rights impacts of private military and security companies (A/74/244) contains a recommendation directed at several stakeholders, including national human rights institutions.

<sup>7</sup> The national human rights institutions of Chile and the Philippines attended the annual meeting, on behalf of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institution task force on migration. A representative from the Global Alliance also attended the meeting.

102. National human rights institutions were invited to participate at all stages of the Peoples' Summit on Climate, Rights and Human Survival in New York, in September 2019; the Forum on Business and Human Rights in Geneva, in November 2019; and the twenty-fifth United Nations Climate Change Conference in Madrid, in December 2019.<sup>8</sup>

103. With continued support from OHCHR, national human rights institutions also participated in the work of the Working Group on Ageing of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, with a view to promoting and protecting the rights and dignity of older persons, as part of the mandate of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing established by the General Assembly. In particular, OHCHR supported two major intersessional conferences, including the Asia-Europe Meeting Global Conference on Global Ageing and Human Rights of Older Persons, convened by the Human Rights Commission of Korea in Seoul, in October 2019; and the African Regional High-level Conference on the Human Rights Situation of Older Persons in Africa, convened by the National Human Rights Commission of Nigeria, and other relevant stakeholders, in Abuja, in November 2019.

## **VI. Cases of reprisal or intimidation against A status national human rights institutions**

104. Both the General Assembly, in its resolution 74/156, and the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 39/17, recognized the important role that national human rights institutions played in preventing and addressing cases of reprisal as part of supporting the cooperation between States and the United Nations, and encouraged all relevant United Nations mechanisms and processes to further enhance the participation and contribution of national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles.

105. The Human Rights Council and the General Assembly also stressed that national human rights institutions, and their members and staff, should not face any form of reprisal or intimidation, including political pressure, physical intimidation, harassment or unjustifiable budgetary limitations, as a result of activities undertaken in accordance with their mandates, including when taking up individual cases or when reporting on serious or systematic violations. They also called upon States to promptly and thoroughly investigate cases of alleged reprisal or intimidation against members or staff of national human rights institutions or against individuals who cooperated or sought to cooperate with them, and to bring perpetrators to justice.

106. Since A status national human rights institutions are more visible before the international human rights system, they are at higher risk of reprisals and other acts of intimidation, including in relation to their cooperation with United Nations mechanisms and processes.<sup>9</sup>

107. During the reporting period, the Office of the Human Rights Advocate of Guatemala was subjected to financial budget cuts and was the target of threats, particularly with respect to its support for the continuation of the mandate of the United Nations International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala and its work in combating corruption and impunity.

108. In June 2019, various media channels publicly depicted the Polish Commissioner for Human Rights as “a defender of the murderer” for having issued statements, as the national

<sup>8</sup> The Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines participated in these three events in order to present the preliminary findings of the climate change inquiry undertaken by the Commission.

<sup>9</sup> In 2016, OHCHR, UNDP and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions developed joint guidelines to respond effectively to situations of reprisals and other acts of intimidation against national human rights institutions, their members and staff. According to those guidelines, reprisals may take a wide range of forms, including but not limited to intimidation, harassment, threats, sanctions, travel bans, severe budgetary cuts, arbitrary detention, arbitrary criminal prosecution, torture and killings.

preventive mechanism, related to the procedure used during the arrest of an individual suspected of murder.

109. In November 2019, the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines reported that it had been accused by the Government of the Philippines of favouring criminals for having supported Human Rights Council resolution 41/2 on the promotion and protection of human rights in the Philippines. Also in November 2019, the Commission was requested to submit to the Senate a list of the international organizations it had cooperated with.

## **VII. Recommendations**

### **A. Recommendations to Member States**

110. Member States should make further efforts to achieve indicator 16.a.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which requires the existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles. In this regard, Member States are invited to seek the assistance of OHCHR in drafting founding laws for national human rights institutions.

111. Member States should continue to provide financial contributions to OHCHR for it to sustain high-quality support for the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions, to provide secretariat support to the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and its Subcommittee on Accreditation, and to carry out the fellowship programme for staff of A status national human rights institutions.

112. Members and staff of national human rights institutions should enjoy functional immunity from civil and criminal proceedings for action taken in their official capacity. Member States should take the measures necessary to protect staff of national human rights institutions and individuals who cooperate or seek to cooperate with them. Any cases of alleged reprisals or intimidation should be promptly and thoroughly investigated, and the perpetrators brought to justice.

### **B. Recommendations to national human rights institutions**

113. National human rights institutions should seek regular and constructive cooperation with relevant State bodies to promote the inclusion of human rights issues in legislation, policies and programmes.

114. National human rights institutions should develop, formalize and maintain cooperation with civil society organizations and strengthen their capacity to participate meaningfully in the promotion and protection of human rights.

115. National human rights institutions should continue to engage with international and regional human rights mechanisms and to promote the implementation of their recommendations.



## Annex I

### Submissions from national human rights institutions to the Human Rights Council (submitted between August 2019 and July 2020)

<i>Country/Institution</i>	<i>Segment*</i>	<i>Date</i>
Human Rights Commission of Zimbabwe	Agenda item 3* Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association	July 2020
Independent Commission for Human Rights of the State of Palestine	Agenda item 7* Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian Territory occupied since 1967 (written statement)	July 2020
Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner on Human Rights	Agenda item 3* Interactive Dialogue with Independent Expert on Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity (written statement)	July 2020
Netherlands Institute for Human Rights	Agenda item 9* Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism (video statement)	July 2020
National Human Rights Committee of Qatar	Agenda item 9* Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism (video statement)	July 2020
Office of the Ombudsman of Spain	Agenda item 6* Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights (video statement)	July 2020
Office of the Ombudsman of Ecuador	Agenda item 3* Special Rapporteur on the right to health (video statement)	July 2020
Office of the Ombudsman of Colombia (on behalf of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions)	Agenda item 3* Interactive Dialogue on the Working Group on business and human rights (video statement)	July 2020
Office of the Ombudsman of Colombia (on behalf of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions)	Agenda item 3* Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons (video statement)	July 2020
Human Rights Commission of New Zealand (on behalf of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions)	Agenda item 3* Panel Discussion on Climate Change (video statement)	July 2020
Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner on Human Rights	Agenda item 2* Reports of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General (written statement)	July 2020
National Human Rights Committee of Qatar	Agenda item 3* Special Rapporteur on the right to education (video statement)	July 2020
Australian Human Rights Commission (on behalf of the Asia Pacific Forum for National Human Rights Institutions)	Agenda item 2* Reports of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General (video statement)	July 2020

<i>Country/Institution</i>	<i>Segment*</i>	<i>Date</i>
Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines	Agenda item 2* Enhanced interactive dialogue on the Report on the human rights situation in the Philippines (video statement)	June 2020
Office of the Ombudsman of Colombia (on behalf of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions)	Agenda item 5 General debate (video statement)	June 2020
Independent Commission for Human Rights of the State of Palestine	Agenda item 7 General debate (video statement)	June 2020
Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner on Human Rights	Agenda item 10 Interactive Dialogue on OHCHR report on Ukraine (video statement)	June 2020
Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines	Agenda item 3 Annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities (written statement)	March 2020
Human Rights Commission of New Zealand	Agenda item 3 Annual interactive debate on the rights of persons with disabilities (video statement)	March 2020
Netherlands Institute for Human Rights	Agenda item 3 Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief (video statement)	March 2020
Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka	Agenda item 3 Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief (video statement)	March 2020
Office of the Human Rights Advocate of El Salvador	Agenda item 6 Universal periodic review outcome of El Salvador (video statement)	March 2020
Office of the Ombudsman of the Plurinational State of Bolivia	Agenda item 6 Universal periodic review outcome of the Plurinational State of Bolivia	March 2020
National Council for Human Rights of Egypt	Agenda item 6 Universal periodic review outcome of Egypt (video statement)	March 2020
National Independent Human Rights Commission of Madagascar	Agenda item 6 Universal periodic review outcome of Madagascar (video statement)	March 2020
Human Rights Commission of Zimbabwe	Agenda item 3 Special Rapporteur on the right to food	March 2020
Office of the Ombudsman of Colombia	Agenda item 3 Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders	March 2020
Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions	Agenda item 3 Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders	March 2020
Human Rights Commission of Zimbabwe (on behalf of the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions)	Agenda item 3 Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders	March 2020

<i>Country/Institution</i>	<i>Segment*</i>	<i>Date</i>
French National Consultative Commission on Human Rights	Agenda item 3 Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living	March 2020
Office of the Ombudsman of Spain	Agenda item 3 Special Rapporteur on minority issues	March 2020
Independent Commission for Human Rights of the State of Palestine	Agenda item 7 General debate (written statement)	March 2020
Canadian Human Rights Commission	Agenda item 3 Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities (video statement)	February 2020
Norwegian National Human Rights Institution	Agenda item 3 Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities (video statement)	February 2020
Human Rights Commission of New Zealand	Agenda item 3 Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities (video statement)	February 2020
Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (on behalf of the National Human Rights Council of Morocco)	Agenda item 3 Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities	February 2020
Norwegian National Human Rights Institution	Agenda item 3 Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment (video statement)	March 2020
Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions	Agenda item 3 Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment	March 2020
Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka	Agenda item 2 Reports of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General (video statement)	February 2020
Office of the Human Rights Advocate of Guatemala	Agenda item 2 Reports of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General (video statement)	February 2020
National Human Rights Commission of Honduras	Agenda item 2 Reports of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General (video statement)	February 2020
Human Rights Commission of Malaysia	Agenda item 2 Reports of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General	February 2020
Human Rights Commission of Malaysia (on behalf of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions)	General Segment	February 2020
Human Rights Commission of Malaysia	Agenda item 3 Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation (written statement)	September 2019

<i>Country/Institution</i>	<i>Segment*</i>	<i>Date</i>
Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines	Agenda item 5 Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples (written statement)	September 2019
Independent Commission for Human Rights of the State of Palestine	Agenda item 7 Human rights situation in Palestine and other occupied Arab territories (written statement)	September 2019
Equality and Human Rights Commission of Great Britain, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Scottish Human Rights Commission	Agenda item 6 Universal periodic review general debate (written statement)	September 2019
Danish Institute for Human Rights	Agenda item 3 World Programme for Human Rights Education (written statement)	September 2019
Office of the Ombudsman of Argentina	Agenda item 9 Report of the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent (written statement)	September 2019
National Human Rights Council of Morocco	Agenda item 3 Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence (written statement)	September 2019
National Human Rights Council of Morocco	Agenda item 3 Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence	September 2019
Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (on behalf of the National Human Rights Commission of Korea)	Agenda item 3 Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons	September 2019
Office of the Ombudsman of Ecuador	Agenda items 3 and 5 Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (video statement)	September 2019
Provedoria for Human Rights and Justice of Timor-Leste	Agenda items 3 and 5 Special Rapporteur on the rights of indigenous peoples and Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (video statement)	September 2019
Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions	Agenda item 5 Interactive dialogue with the Assistant Secretary-General on the report of the Secretary-General on reprisals	September 2019
National Human Rights Commission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Agenda item 10 Enhanced interactive dialogue on OHCHR report on the Democratic Republic of the Congo	September 2019
Office of the Public Defender (Ombudsman) of Georgia	Agenda item 10 General Debate/Reports of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General (video statement)	September 2019
Norwegian National Human Rights Institution	Agenda item 6 Universal periodic review outcome of Norway (video statement)	September 2019

<i>Country/Institution</i>	<i>Segment*</i>	<i>Date</i>
People's Advocate of Albania	Agenda item 6 Universal periodic review outcome of Albania (video statement)	September 2019
National Human Rights Commission of the Democratic Republic of the Congo	Agenda item 6 Universal periodic review outcome of Democratic Republic of the Congo	September 2019
Ombudsman of Portugal	Agenda item 6 Universal periodic review outcome of Portugal	September 2019
National Human Rights Committee of Qatar	Agenda item 6 Universal periodic review outcome of Qatar	September 2019
Danish Institute for Human Rights	Agenda item 3 General Debate	September 2019
Office of the Ombudsman of Samoa	Agenda item 3 General Debate (video statement)	September 2019
Equality and Human Rights Commission of Great Britain, the Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission and the Scottish Human Rights Commission	Agenda item 6 Universal periodic review general debate (video statement)	September 2019

\* Only appears for the video and written statements expected to be submitted during the forty-fourth session of the Human Rights Council (June–July 2020).

## Annex II

### Engagement of national human rights institutions in the third cycle of the universal periodic review (2019–2020)

#### Thirty-fifth session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (2020)

<i>State (in order of review)</i>	<i>Written contribution for summary (as used)<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Oral statement to the Human Rights Council during the adoption of the outcome of the universal periodic review of the country concerned (“A” status national human rights institutions only)</i>
Kyrgyzstan		No speaking rights
Spain	Yes (A status)	
Kenya	Yes (A status)	
Armenia	Yes (A status)	
Sweden		No speaking rights

#### Thirty-fourth session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (2019)

<i>State (in order of review)</i>	<i>Written contribution for summary (as used)<sup>a</sup></i>	<i>Oral statement to the Human Rights Council during the adoption of the outcome of the universal periodic review of the country concerned (“A” status national human rights institutions only)</i>
El Salvador	Yes (A status)	Agenda item 6 (forty-third session of the Human Rights Council) Universal Periodic Review of El Salvador
Bolivia (Plurinational State of)	Yes (A status)	Agenda item 6 (forty-third session of the Human Rights Council) Universal Periodic Review of the Plurinational State of Bolivia
Kazakhstan		No speaking rights
Madagascar	Yes (A status)	Agenda item 6 (forty-third session of the Human Rights Council) Universal Periodic Review of Madagascar
Iraq		No speaking rights
Slovenia		No speaking rights
Egypt	Yes (A status)	Agenda item 6 (forty-third session of the Human Rights Council) Universal Periodic Review of Egypt
Bosnia and Herzegovina	Yes (A status)	No statement made

<sup>a</sup> “Yes” appears only where institutions made written contributions.

## Annex III

## Engagement of national human rights institutions in the work of the treaty bodies (August 2019–June 2020)

<i>Committees</i>	<i>Number of States parties reviewed</i>	<i>Number of States parties with a national human rights institution</i>	<i>Submission of information</i>	<i>Briefing</i>
Committee against Torture <sup>a</sup>	10	9	9	0
Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination <sup>b</sup>	17	10	6	0
Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights <sup>c</sup>	11	9	6	1
Human Rights Committee <sup>d</sup>	10	11	7	0
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women <sup>e</sup>	32	21	12	5
Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families <sup>f</sup>	7	6	5	0
Committee on the Rights of the Child <sup>g</sup>	26	13	7	0
Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities <sup>h</sup>	9	8	5	0
Committee on Enforced Disappearances <sup>i</sup>	2	2	1	0
<b>Total</b>	<b>124</b>	<b>89</b>	<b>58</b>	<b>6</b>

<sup>a</sup> Sixty-seventh session (July–August 2019), sixty-eighth session (November–December 2019) and sixty-ninth session (April–May 2020).

<sup>b</sup> Ninety-ninth session (August 2019) and hundredth session (November–December 2019).

<sup>c</sup> Sixty-sixth session (September–October 2019), sixty-fifth pre-session working group (October 2019), sixty-seventh session (February–March 2020) and sixty-sixth pre-session working group (March 2020).

<sup>d</sup> One hundred and twenty-seventh session (October–November 2019), one hundred and twenty-eighth session (March 2020) and one hundred and twenty-ninth session (June–July 2020).

<sup>e</sup> Seventy-fourth session (October–November 2019), seventy-sixth pre-session working group (November 2019), seventy-fifth session (February 2020), seventy-seventh pre-session working group (March 2020) and seventy-sixth session (June–July 2020).

<sup>f</sup> Thirty-first session (September 2019) and thirty-second session (March 2020).

<sup>g</sup> Eighty-second session (September 2019), eighty-fourth pre-session working group (September–October 2019), eighty-third session (January–February 2020), eighty-sixth pre-session working group (February 2020), eighty-fourth session (March 2020), On-line review Pre-Sessional Working Group (June–July 2020).

<sup>h</sup> Twenty-second session (August–September 2019), twelfth pre-session working group (September 2019) and thirteenth pre-session working group (March 2020).

<sup>i</sup> Seventeenth session (September–October 2019) and eighteenth session – online (May–September 2020).