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# **Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

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# **Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**



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## Chapter I

### Introduction

1. The present report, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/141, contains an overview of the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Geneva, New York and in the field from 1 January to 30 June 2024. The report should be read in conjunction with the annual report of the High Commissioner to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/56/20), which contains an overview of the activities of OHCHR from 1 July 2023 to 1 March 2024. As at 30 June 2024, OHCHR had 88 field presences in 84 countries.

2. During the reporting period, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Türk, undertook missions to Belgium, Burkina Faso, Chile, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, France, Iraq, Italy, Jordan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Liechtenstein, Malaysia, Norway, Thailand, the United States of America and the Holy See. The Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights undertook missions to Belgium, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Kenya, Qatar, Switzerland and the United Republic of Tanzania. The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights and Head of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights in New York undertook missions to Belgium, Nigeria, Thailand and the United States of America.

3. OHCHR strives to deliver on the promise of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and is guided by a strategic management plan to reinvigorate the global movement for human rights and foster inclusion, equality and diversity. In implementing the Secretary-General's call to action for human rights and with the launch of the system-wide Agenda for Protection<sup>1</sup> in February, OHCHR continued to make a considerable impact through its efforts within the United Nations system to place people and their rights at the centre of the Organization's work, despite the constraints imposed by the liquidity crisis, in particular at the country level.

4. The efforts of OHCHR leadership to bolster the human rights ecosystem continued to be guided by the Human Rights 75 initiative and the High Commissioner's vision statement, entitled "Human rights: a path for solutions",<sup>2</sup> the main goals of which are to promote the universality and indivisibility of rights. In the vision statement, the High Commissioner sets out eight messages to guide renewed action for peace and underscores the need for economies that work for people and planet, effective governance and guardrails for digital and scientific progress. The vision statement is aimed at broadening the way we think about rights in ways that can transform societies and our global community, and is intended to serve as a contribution to the Summit of the Future, to be held in New York on 22 and 23 September.

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<sup>1</sup> United Nations, "United Nations agenda for protection: strengthening the ability of the United Nations System to protect people through their human rights", February 2024.

<sup>2</sup> OHCHR, "Human rights: a path for solutions", 2024.

## Chapter II

### Activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner

#### A. International human rights mechanisms

##### 1. Treaty bodies

5. During the reporting period, the treaty bodies reviewed 70 State party reports and adopted nine assessments of follow-up reports and 114 decisions under individual communication procedures. As at 1 June 2024, 346 State party reports were pending review and 1,899 individual communications were under consideration. The Committee on Enforced Disappearances, as at 18 June 2024, had 755 living cases comprising a total of 1,086 individual cases addressed either individually or in groups.

6. The Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment carried out visits to four States parties during the reporting period. In the same period, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, acting under its early warning and urgent action procedure, issued one decision on the Sudan and four letters. The Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment is supporting 13 projects that are being implemented in 2024, including, most notably, providing support to national preventive mechanisms in 11 States.

7. The treaty bodies systematically engaged with States, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations, other United Nations human rights mechanisms, United Nations agencies and regional and other organizations during the reporting period. The treaty bodies continue to communicate widely about their work through the use of social media and other means and received 184 submissions from non-governmental organizations and other stakeholders during the reporting period.

8. OHCHR continued to support the Chairs of the treaty bodies in formulating proposals to strengthen the treaty body system, including by publishing, in April, a revised version of a working paper on options and guiding questions for the development of an implementation plan for the conclusions of the Chairs of the treaty bodies at the thirty-fourth meeting of the Chairs<sup>3</sup> that includes reactions to the original working paper.

##### 2. Human Rights Council

9. OHCHR supported the Human Rights Council in the holding of the fifty-fifth and fifty-sixth regular sessions.

10. The Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the Work of the Human Rights Council supported the participation of 28 delegates (15 women and 13 men) in both sessions of the Human Rights Council, and OHCHR organized two in-person induction courses for delegates.

11. OHCHR continued to provide support to the independent investigative mechanisms established by the Human Rights Council in relation to Belarus, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nicaragua, South Sudan, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic,

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<sup>3</sup> Available at [tinternet.ohchr.org/\\_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCHAIRPERSONS%2FCWP%2F36%2F36783&Lang=en](https://tinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2FCHAIRPERSONS%2FCWP%2F36%2F36783&Lang=en).

Ukraine and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), as well as in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel. OHCHR continued to provide support to the designated Experts of the High Commissioner on human rights in Colombia<sup>4</sup>, Haiti and the Sudan.

12. As mandated by the Human Rights Council, OHCHR continued its examination of the human rights situation in Nicaragua and its accountability work on the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Sri Lanka. The Office supported the wind-down of the examination of the human rights situation in Belarus and the operationalization of the new mandate of the Group of Independent Experts on the Situation of Human Rights in Belarus.

13. OHCHR continues to provide methodological, legal, operational and administrative support to 11 commissions of inquiry, fact-finding missions and similar investigative bodies mandated by the Council.

### **3. Universal periodic review**

14. OHCHR supported the adoption by the Human Rights Council of the outcomes of the universal periodic review and the holding of two sessions of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review during the reporting period. Since its establishment in 2007, the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review has facilitated the participation of representatives of 119 States in the proceedings. OHCHR also provided technical assistance to civil society organizations, United Nations country teams and other stakeholders with regard to participation in and submission of reports for the Universal Periodic Review.

### **4. Special procedures**

15. OHCHR supported the work of 60 special procedure mandate holders of the Human Rights Council and the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures, including with regard to preparations for the Summit of the Future. Owing to the liquidity crisis affecting the United Nations, OHCHR could not convene the thirtieth annual meeting of special procedure mandate holders and had to limit certain core activities of the special procedure mandate holders, notably the frequency of country visits and other travel. OHCHR continued efforts to more widely disseminate information on work of the special procedures, including by facilitating an informal conversation in April among the Coordination Committee and States, civil society and other stakeholders on the impact of their work.<sup>5</sup> In March, OHCHR produced three new leaflets on the work of special procedures.<sup>6</sup>

### **5. Support for the work of human rights mechanisms**

16. OHCHR carried out activities in 60 countries to enhance the engagement of national human rights institutions, parliaments, civil society organizations and United Nations country teams with United Nations human rights mechanisms, to strengthen reporting and to implement the recommendations of those mechanisms.

17. In 2024, OHCHR, through the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review, will provide

<sup>4</sup> The mandate of the designated Expert of the High Commissioner on human rights in Colombia ended in early April 2024.

<sup>5</sup> A/HRC/55/19, A/HRC/55/69 and A/HRC/55/69/Add.1.

<sup>6</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/special-procedures/resources/sps-thematic-activities.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/special-procedures/resources/sps-thematic-activities.pdf), [www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/special-procedures/resources/sps-hrc.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/special-procedures/resources/sps-hrc.pdf) and [www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/special-procedures/resources/sps-country-visits.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/special-procedures/resources/sps-country-visits.pdf).

technical assistance to 15 States to support their implementation of recommendations emanating from the universal periodic review.

18. OHCHR, through its treaty body capacity-building programme, supported 14 States parties across all regions in their engagement with the treaty bodies. OHCHR also supported States in the implementation of pledges made under the Human Rights 75 initiative and followed up on the related ratification campaign, leading to 13 additional ratifications of international human rights treaties by Bhutan, the Congo, Côte d'Ivoire, Kazakhstan, South Africa, South Sudan, Thailand and Tuvalu during the reporting period.

## **6. Humanitarian funds**

19. During the reporting period, the United Nations voluntary trust fund on contemporary forms of slavery awarded 45 grants to support more than 10,800 survivors in 35 countries. The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture awarded 183 grants to support more than 49,000 survivors in 93 countries, as well as 7 annual capacity-building grants and 3 emergency grants for delivery of critical services to an estimated 1,170 survivors of torture and their family members.

## **B. Development**

### **1. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals**

20. OHCHR continued to strengthen the integration of human rights into development plans and policies, as part of its efforts to resume progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. During the reporting period, OHCHR, including through its human rights advisors, supported United Nations country teams with human rights analyses and operational advice for 19 common country analyses and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks,<sup>7</sup> and it organized training activities in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Indonesia and Rwanda. In May, OHCHR, in cooperation with the United Nations System Staff College and other United Nations entities,<sup>8</sup> rolled out the second edition of the e-course for United Nations country teams on integrating human rights, gender equality and other guiding principles in development frameworks.

21. As custodian entity for four Sustainable Development Goal indicators, OHCHR continued its global reporting on the prevalence of conflict-related deaths (16.1.2), killing of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists (16.10.1), existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles (16.a.1) and the prevalence of discrimination (10.3.1 and 16.b.1).

### **2. Right to development**

22. In May, the Office organized the ninth session of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development in New York, at which participants assessed the progress made in the implementation of its mandate. The session was enriched by insights from recent and ongoing negotiations in various forums, including the third South Summit, the Financing for Development Forum, the International Conference on Small Island

<sup>7</sup> Argentina, Botswana, Colombia, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Eswatini, Guatemala, Indonesia, Lesotho, Liberia, Mali, Myanmar, Namibia, Paraguay, Rwanda, Sierra Leone and Zimbabwe.

<sup>8</sup> Development Coordination Office, United Nations Children's Fund, United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and United Nations Population Fund.

Developing States and the United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries. Also in May, the Office organized the twenty-fifth session of the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development in Geneva. OHCHR continued its efforts to mainstream the right to development into inter-agency mechanisms.

23. OHCHR, in collaboration with the University for Peace, completed an analysis entitled “Good practices in operationalizing the right to development in South-South cooperation”. In addition, the Office and the University of Notre Dame co-organized an event at the fourth International Conference on Small Island Developing States on the theme “Realizing the rights to development and to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment in global and local climate actions affecting small island developing States”. The presentation built on the Office’s contribution to a study conducted by the University.

### **3. International financial institutions**

24. In support of the efforts of Member States and the Secretary-General to reform the international financial architecture towards a more inclusive, equitable and effective international system, OHCHR contributed to various intergovernmental processes, including the development of a United Nations framework convention on international tax cooperation. One of its contributions was an official submission on human rights considerations in international tax rules in advance of the first session of the Ad Hoc Committee to Draft Terms of Reference for a United Nations Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation.

25. OHCHR also contributed to consultations on the revised environmental and social safeguard policies of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Asian Development Bank and FinDev Canada. In January, OHCHR announced an exchange of letters with the Central American Bank for Economic Integration to enable OHCHR to deliver specialized technical assistance, with a view to promoting the exchange of experiences and training to support the implementation of business and human rights standards in the Bank’s norms, practices and procedures.

### **4. Economic, social and cultural rights**

26. Following the High Commissioner’s call in 2023 for a human rights economy, OHCHR has intensified its engagement with stakeholders, including governments, civil society and national human rights institutions, on the realization of economic, social and cultural rights.

27. OHCHR, through its surge initiative and drawing on its vision for reinforcing its work in promoting and protecting economic, social and cultural rights ([A/HRC/54/35](#)), rolled out 18 new country projects covering a wide range of issues, such as the intersection between the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment and the right to health, greater fiscal space for human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals, and unlocking digital transformation for inclusive and sustainable social protection. The projects are anchored in the outcomes of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit and the six transitions<sup>9</sup> launched in its follow-up.

28. On 8 April, as part of the framework of cooperation between OHCHR and the World Health Organization (WHO), the High Commissioner and the Director-General of WHO, Tedros Adhanom Ghebreyesus, convened a high-level dialogue that was attended by Member States, civil society organizations and other stakeholders. The

<sup>9</sup> United Nations Sustainable Development Group, “Six transitions: investment pathways to deliver the SDGs”, September 2023.

dialogue was aimed at conveying a strong message about health as a human right and how to better protect the right to health and other human rights.

## **5. Care and support systems**

29. OHCHR contributed to the drafting of a United Nations system policy paper coordinated by the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) on transforming care systems in the context of the Sustainable Development Goals and Our Common Agenda. The policy paper is to be released in July. The Office presented a report on good practices of support systems enabling community inclusion of persons with disabilities ([A/HRC/55/34](#)) at the fifty-fifth session of the Human Rights Council.

## **6. Environment, climate change and human rights**

30. The Office promoted such as issues the integration of human rights in biodiversity, climate change and plastic negotiations at the sixth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly, at which the right to a healthy environment was included in five of the resolutions adopted.

31. OHCHR supported various legal actions, including ongoing judicial cases, relating to the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. In Honduras, OHCHR supported the development of Decree No. 18-2024, adopted on 21 February, to ensure the protection and conservation of national parks and water producing areas and prohibit mining.

## **7. Corruption and human rights**

32. OHCHR has continued to support a multipronged approach that includes providing support to the Human Rights Council and engaging with duty bearers and rights holders through dedicated projects at the request of governments or national institutions. In February, OHCHR held an expert meeting to address legal, practical and institutional barriers to the repatriation of funds of illicit origin to the countries of origin and their impact on the enjoyment of human rights. The main elements of a human rights-based approach to eliminating existing barriers were highlighted during the meeting.

## **8. Business and human rights**

33. As part of the B-Tech Project, OHCHR continues to convene stakeholder groups to foster the use of resources for preventing and addressing human rights risks relating to generative artificial intelligence. In May, OHCHR co-hosted a workshop on artificial intelligence and human rights risk assessments in conjunction with the holding of the “WSIS+20” Forum High-level Event and the Artificial Intelligence for Good Global Summit. OHCHR conducted knowledge and capacity-building activities on business and human rights and the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights at the regional and national levels, including through the Business and Human Rights Africa Project<sup>10</sup> and the “Responsible business conduct in Latin America and the Caribbean” project,<sup>11</sup> implemented with the International Labour Organization and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

34. OHCHR convened and supported multi-stakeholder dialogues in Argentina, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ethiopia and Zambia. In March, OHCHR engaged with

<sup>10</sup> Implemented in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Mozambique and Zambia.

<sup>11</sup> Implemented in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Mexico, Panama and Peru.

European institutions in the implementation of new business and human rights policies and legislation, including through the European Union-United Nations Dialogue on Business and Human Rights. In April, OHCHR published an interpretive guide entitled “Access to remedy in cases of business-related human rights abuse”.<sup>12</sup> In May, OHCHR organized the first North-East Asia regional multi-stakeholder workshop on business and human rights, which took place in Mongolia.

## **C. Peace and security**

### **1. Support to peace missions**

35. OHCHR continued to support human rights components in United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions, including in transition contexts, and it also supported the integration of human rights into United Nations policies and guidance. OHCHR sought to strengthen or preserve the inclusion of human rights in Security Council resolutions on the mandates of peace operations in Afghanistan, Iraq and South Sudan.

### **2. Human rights due diligence and compliance frameworks**

36. OHCHR provided support to its field presences, United Nations peace missions and United Nations country teams on implementation of the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces.

37. OHCHR, in partnership with the African Union and the European Union, continued supporting implementation of the African Union Compliance and Accountability Framework. OHCHR provided support to the African Union to fast-track norm-setting by its policymaking bodies through the adoption by the African Union of a policy on protection of civilians and a policy on screening and selection for peace support operations. In addition, the Office reviewed the rules of engagement and directives on the use of force for the military and police components of the African Union Transition Mission in Somalia. OHCHR also provided support to six training centres of excellence accredited to the African Union to ensure the integration of compliance and accountability into their training programmes.

38. OHCHR is planning to support implementation of Security Council resolution [2719 \(2023\)](#) to ensure thorough application of the human rights due diligence policy in respect of support provided to African Union peace support operations authorized by the Security Council and financed through United Nations assessed contributions, as well as to ensure that these operations are planned and conducted in compliance with international human rights and humanitarian law.

### **3. Early warning, prevention, protection and emergency response**

39. OHCHR is working to incorporate strategic foresight and behavioural science to identify and address potential human rights risks. Data and analytics inform the strategic engagement of OHCHR in national, regional and global processes, including the Secretary-General’s prevention platform and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee. This area of work aligns with the Secretary-General’s vision for the United Nations 2.0 quintet of change initiative ([A/77/CRP.1/Add.10](#)) and is underpinned by the New Agenda for Peace ([A/77/CRP.1/Add.8](#)).

40. The Office continued to support the African Union in integrating human rights into its early warning system. In addition, OHCHR designed and delivered training

<sup>12</sup> Available at [www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/business/access-to-remedy-bhr-interpretive-guide-advance-version.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/business/access-to-remedy-bhr-interpretive-guide-advance-version.pdf).

modules on integrating human rights into early warning and conflict prevention. It also deployed surge teams to Cambodia, Ecuador, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Senegal, Sierra Leone and the Caucasus region, as well as to the Occupied Palestinian Territory. To further implementation of the Secretary-General's call to action for human rights in the field, OHCHR has continued to support in-country United Nations leadership in holding regular system-wide country dialogues on human rights in order to identify needs and gaps and analyse existing and potential programming and advocacy opportunities.

41. The Secretary-General and the High Commissioner launched the Agenda for Protection in February. Work is under way within OHCHR to support its implementation across the United Nations system.

42. OHCHR furthered its own work with regard to the protection of civilians in armed conflict, including documentation and verification of conflict-related incidents that cause harm to civilians; monitoring and analysis of the conduct of hostilities under relevant legal frameworks; promoting accountability; technical support to host States to fulfil their responsibilities to protect civilians; and human rights-based approaches to humanitarian service provision, with a focus on most vulnerable groups.

#### **4. Peacebuilding**

43. As at mid-June, OHCHR was actively involved in the implementation of 25 projects supported by the Peacebuilding Fund across all regions.

44. In May, the Centre for Policy Research of the United Nations University launched a report entitled "2024 PBF thematic review: synergies between human rights and peacebuilding in PBF-supported programming".<sup>13</sup> The report's authors focus on the synergy between human rights and peacebuilding and highlight best practices from projects across 45 countries. In addition, the authors suggest that human rights perspectives and tools complement and enhance conflict prevention and peacebuilding strategies. The report was commissioned by the Peacebuilding Support Office of the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs, in partnership with OHCHR and Switzerland.

#### **5. Combating sexual and gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, trafficking and related exploitation**

45. The Office integrated human rights-based, gender-responsive and victim-centred approaches in the work of the inter-agency group on United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict. In May, the Central Asia office of OHCHR started a baseline assessment and elaboration of recommendations for its strategic interventions in relation to sexual and gender-based violence. In South Sudan, OHCHR, the Women's Protection Advisory Unit of the United Nations Mission in South Sudan and the Department of Peace Operations provided training on preventing and responding to conflict-related sexual violence.

46. OHCHR continued to follow up on allegations of sexual exploitation and abuse perpetrated by non-United Nations security forces authorized by a Security Council mandate in the Central African Republic. OHCHR provided advice on protection from sexual exploitation and abuse to the United Nations inter-agency networks for protection from sexual exploitation and abuse in Burkina Faso, Iraq and Mozambique, as well as in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, while OHCHR field offices provided such support in Cambodia and Honduras.

<sup>13</sup> Available at [www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/human\\_rights\\_and\\_peacebuilding\\_TR](http://www.un.org/peacebuilding/content/human_rights_and_peacebuilding_TR).

47. In March, OHCHR, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and UN-Women published an advocacy brief entitled “Gender-based violence against women and girls in Southern Africa: key policy trends”, in which they provide an overview of the trends in gender-based violence, as a human rights violation, in the subregion. The brief includes an analysis of legislation, information on national policies, action plans and root causes of gender-based violence, as well as recommendations to States.

48. The Office strengthened documenting, analysis and reporting gender-based violence, including conflict-related sexual violence, by OHCHR and mandated bodies, including in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka and Ukraine.

49. OHCHR continued the work mandated by the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly on harmful practices, including in relation to cross-border and transnational female genital mutilation. The Office also continues to expand understanding of and drawing greater attention to the other forms of gender-based violence and harmful practices, beyond child marriage and female genital mutilation.

## **6. Humanitarian action**

50. OHCHR strengthened its engagement in humanitarian action at the global and country levels, including through a renewed humanitarian action strategy. Across humanitarian operations, OHCHR supported responses to human rights violations and inclusion of human rights in policy development and tools.

51. OHCHR continued to engage in protection working groups, protection clusters and humanitarian country teams in Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, Madagascar, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria, the Republic of Moldova, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Yemen, as well as in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and States in the Pacific. OHCHR led the protection clusters in Haiti and in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, where it strengthened protection coordination and response to meet the continuing massive humanitarian needs.

## **D. Non-discrimination**

### **1. Combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance**

52. OHCHR continued to support the mandates of the United Nations anti-racism mechanisms. In April, OHCHR supported the organization of the third session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent. Active listening and two-way dialogue with people of African descent remained central to the work of OHCHR with regard to racial justice and equality, notably through in-person and virtual consultations with experts and civil society actors of African descent from around the world.

53. In March, OHCHR, the Development Coordination Office and the United Nations Population Fund jointly organized a high-level virtual event under the theme “Pursuing racial justice for sustainability: a way forward for people of African descent in Latin America and the Caribbean”. In Honduras, OHCHR supported the drafting and adoption of an executive decree for the establishment in April of a high-level intersectoral commission for the implementation of Inter-American Court of Human Rights judgments in favour of the Garifuna people.

## 2. Migration and displacement

54. OHCHR provided technical assistance to States and other stakeholders in designing and implementing human rights-compliant migration governance measures, and it conducted monitoring missions to several border regions, including the Ecuador-Peru border. OHCHR further advanced activities on the human rights protection of migrants, including in Bangladesh, Costa Rica, India, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Mauritania, Panama and Thailand, as well as in the context of its engagement with the European Union and its member States.

55. OHCHR continued to be part of several inter-agency coordination platforms for refugees and migrants, and it supported the monitoring and reporting capacity of national human rights institutions, including in Costa Rica, Morocco and Panama. OHCHR also released a video to illustrate how pathways for regular migration serve to prevent and address vulnerabilities in migration.<sup>14</sup>

56. On 15 May, OHCHR organized a Human Rights Council intersessional panel discussion on avenues to prevent and address human rights violations and abuses of migrants in transit and to ensure access to justice for victims and their family members.

## 3. Indigenous Peoples and minorities

57. OHCHR continued to engage with stakeholders globally on developing comprehensive antidiscrimination laws as part of the roll-out of the practical guide to the development of comprehensive antidiscrimination legislation,<sup>15</sup> which was launched in 2022. OHCHR was also involved in other minority inclusion policy matters in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Guatemala, Nicaragua, the Philippines and Ukraine and launched, with partners in North and South America, the Romani Memory Map in the Americas, a crowdsourced initiative mapping Romani community memory points.<sup>16</sup>

58. OHCHR promoted the implementation and translation into Indigenous languages of general recommendation No. 39 of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women on the rights of Indigenous women and girls.

59. As a result of meetings co-organized in May by OHCHR with the American University of Paris, Anglia Ruskin University and Bridging Spiritual Cultures, several academics and civil society actors from Australia, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, France, Lebanon, Maldives, Nigeria, Norway, Tunisia, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the United States of America created an inter-universities Faith for Rights framework.<sup>17</sup>

## 4. Gender equality and women's human rights

60. In March, at the sixty-eighth session of the Commission on the Status of Women, OHCHR participated in the ministerial round table and in side events on women's poverty and strengthening institutions and financing for gender equality. On International Women's Day, OHCHR focused on the crucial role of women's and girls' leadership and participation for peace, and drew attention to the work of women human rights defenders, peacebuilders and feminists around the world.

<sup>14</sup> Available at [www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUXNvOhafv4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=vUXNvOhafv4).

<sup>15</sup> *Protecting Minority Rights: A Practical Guide to Developing Comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Legislation* (United Nations publication, 2023).

<sup>16</sup> OHCHR, "Romani memory map in the Americas", 8 April 2024.

<sup>17</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/faith-for-rights](https://www.ohchr.org/en/faith-for-rights).

## 5. Persons with disabilities

61. OHCHR supported States to mainstream disability rights in intergovernmental processes. In that context, the Office worked on preparations for the Summit of the Future, the Declaration for Future Generations and the Second World Summit for Social Development. It also collaborated with the United Nations Youth Office to better integrate the rights of young people with disabilities into the work of the Youth Office. In May, OHCHR participated in the Wilton Park retreat on the future of disability rights, which was co-hosted by Mexico and the United Kingdom.

## 6. Sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics

62. OHCHR continued to work towards ensuring the protection of LGBTIQ+ persons and respect for their rights. In May, the Free & Equal campaign launched a new thematic campaign on the International Day against Homophobia, Biphobia and Transphobia aimed at exploring how allies can contribute to equality for LGBTIQ+ people in their communities, featuring champions from Brazil, Cabo Verde and India.<sup>18</sup>

63. OHCHR supported States, United Nations entities, civil society organizations, business and other stakeholders to increase awareness and support for the equal rights of LGBTIQ+ persons, analyse draft legislation, support legal and policy reform and advance follow-up to the recommendations of human rights mechanisms.

## 7. Older persons

64. OHCHR supported the work of the fourteenth session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing, held in New York in May, including through the submission of two working papers.<sup>19</sup> The Office, together with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, continues to support the promotion and protection of the rights of older persons within the United Nations system through the secretariat of the Working Group.

65. In June, OHCHR organized an expert meeting to discuss challenges and gaps in international human rights law and mechanisms concerning violence, abuse and neglect of older persons in all settings, including private, public and institutional settings, as well as in specific contexts, such as armed conflicts, natural disasters and pandemics.

## 8. Children and youth

66. OHCHR continued strengthening youth leadership and promoting the human rights of young people. In April, in partnership with Education Above All, OHCHR started the new phase of a project aimed at empowering and mobilizing young people to stand up for their human rights. In 2025, OHCHR will organize a youth rights academy and work with young people around the world to build their capacities. The Office is also promoting a youth rights advocacy toolkit.<sup>20</sup> OHCHR and the non-governmental organization Education Above All have established the Youth Advisory Board to ensure meaningful engagement of young people in the design and implementation of project activities.

67. OHCHR, in follow-up to the children's vision on human rights,<sup>21</sup> strengthened its engagement with children through mandated activities, including the Human

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<sup>18</sup> See [www.unfe.org/en/what-we-do/our-campaigns/alliesinaction](http://www.unfe.org/en/what-we-do/our-campaigns/alliesinaction).

<sup>19</sup> A/AC.278/2023/CRP.2 and A/AC.278/2024/CRP.4.

<sup>20</sup> See [youth4yes.com](http://youth4yes.com).

<sup>21</sup> OHCHR, "Children's vision for human rights", December 2023.

Rights Council annual full-day meeting on the rights of the child on inclusive social protection in March.

## **E. Accountability**

### **1. Transitional justice**

68. Implementation of the Secretary-General's guidance note entitled "Transitional justice: a strategic tool for people, prevention and peace",<sup>22</sup> which was issued in October 2023, was initiated through a series of strategic briefings for a diverse set of stakeholders and the creation of a standing United Nations inter-agency transitional justice task force.

69. OHCHR continued to provide technical assistance to States and other stakeholders on transitional justice processes and accountability for violations in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ethiopia; the inclusion, for the first time, of enforced disappearances in the formulation of public policy in Colombia, together with an action plan linked to the national system for the search for missing persons; and inputs to the final draft transitional justice strategy for Kosovo.<sup>23</sup> OHCHR, in consultation with relevant stakeholders, continued to lead the work of the start-up team for the Independent Institution on Missing Persons in the Syrian Arab Republic.

### **2. Death penalty**

70. OHCHR engaged with Member States to encourage the abolition of the death penalty. In this context, the Office raised individual cases with the de facto authorities in Afghanistan and with the authorities in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Nigeria, Singapore and the United States of America.

### **3. Counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism**

71. OHCHR continued to work on ensuring the integration of human rights in State actions to prevent and counter terrorism and violent extremism. During the reporting period, OHCHR extended technical advice to Member States on national counter-terrorism policies and legislation.

72. In May, OHCHR participated in the fifth Counter-Terrorism Coordination Meeting of Parliamentary Assemblies co-organized by the United Nations Office of Counter Terrorism, highlighting recurrent human rights concerns in counter-terrorism measures and the role of parliamentarians in addressing these gaps. Also in May, OHCHR launched a practical toolkit on strengthening human rights in counter-terrorism strategy and policy for government officials and decisionmakers.<sup>24</sup>

### **4. Administration of justice and law enforcement**

73. OHCHR continued to monitor, train and advise State institutions and other actors to strengthen the administration of justice and the rule of law, including in Costa Rica, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, the Gambia, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine.

74. OHCHR participated in the thirty-third session of the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice in Vienna, from 13 to 17 May. An OHCHR

<sup>22</sup> Available at [www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/transitionaljustice/sg-guidance-note/2023\\_07\\_guidance\\_note\\_transitional\\_justice\\_en.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/transitionaljustice/sg-guidance-note/2023_07_guidance_note_transitional_justice_en.pdf).

<sup>23</sup> References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

<sup>24</sup> OHCHR, "Strengthening human rights in counter-terrorism strategy and policy: a toolkit", 2024.

representative delivered a statement highlighting concerns regarding the negotiations on the draft United Nations convention against cybercrime (crimes committed through the use of an information and communications technology system), as well as concerns regarding facial recognition and mass surveillance technology, predictive policing models, online custody hearings and the potential impact of neurotechnology on interrogations.

75. On 17 May, under the agenda item on contributions by the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice to the work of the Economic and Social Council, including follow-up to and review and implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, an OHCHR representative delivered a statement highlighting that implementation of Sustainable Development Goal target 16.3.2 on the reduction of “unsentenced detainees” is severely behind schedule, and noting that the mandatory nature of pretrial detention is not only contributing to prison overcrowding, but also undermining efforts to address prison conditions and ensuring justice.

## **5. Human rights and drug policy**

76. In line with the 2018 United Nations system common position on drug-related matters, OHCHR continued to engage with Member States to encourage human rights-based drug policies. In February, OHCHR organized a panel discussion on human rights challenges in addressing and countering all aspects of the world drug problem. In March, the High Commissioner delivered an opening statement at the high-level segment of the sixty-seventh session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, held in Vienna, in which he welcomed the renewed commitment to human rights in the high-level declaration on drug policy adopted by the Commission and urged transformative change in global drug policy.

77. OHCHR continued to provide specific support to national authorities and other stakeholders to encourage human rights-based approaches to drug policies in Brazil, Colombia, Jordan, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

## **F. Participation**

### **1. Enhancing and protecting civic space and people’s participation**

78. By supporting the mandate of the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, the senior official designated by the Secretary-General to lead the system-wide response on reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations, OHCHR continued to support the work of the United Nations system to prevent and address intimidation and reprisals against those who cooperate with the United Nations. In that connection, OHCHR worked with other United Nations entities to make the avenues for civil society participation in United Nations meetings and forums safer and more inclusive.

79. In the context of the launch of the Agenda for Protection, the Office continued its efforts to strengthen protection for civil society actors. In April, OHCHR regional offices in Central America and South America, OHCHR country presences in Colombia, Guatemala and Mexico, and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights held a regional meeting with human rights defenders, victims, public prosecutors, judicial operators and international experts to strengthen cooperation and support regional cooperation and the development of public policies for the protection of human rights defenders.

80. OHCHR, as part of its first regional programme in the Micronesian region, is facilitating inclusive dialogues and decision-making with government ministries and

local stakeholders in the Federated States of Micronesia, Nauru and Palau, with a view to strengthening social cohesion following the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. The programme is being jointly implemented with UNDP and partners, with the support of the United Nations trust fund for human security.

## 2. Digital space

81. OHCHR continued to be involved in United Nations system-wide discussions on disinformation, hate speech and online content governance and Internet shutdowns, with a view to ensuring that human rights considerations are taken into account when taking measures with regard to those issues. OHCHR strengthened its advocacy for rights-based online content governance and governance of artificial intelligence, and it engaged with States, technology companies and the Office of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Technology with regard to those issues. OHCHR continued to engage with civil society and social media companies regarding content moderation in conflict situations, including in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

82. OHCHR contributed to and participated in intergovernmental and multi-stakeholder forums on Internet governance, digital cooperation, new technologies and human rights, providing support to Member States and other stakeholders to engage on human rights issues related to digital technologies. It also contributed to the draft United Nations Global Principles for Information Integrity being developed by the Department of Global Communications.

83. OHCHR engaged actively, through consultations, analysis and submissions, with Member States and other stakeholders in negotiations regarding the draft United Nations convention against cybercrime.<sup>25</sup>

## 3. Electoral processes

84. OHCHR monitored human rights and conducted related advocacy in the context of electoral processes, including in Cambodia, the Comoros, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominica, Fiji, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mexico, Nicaragua, Serbia, Sierra Leone, South Africa and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). OHCHR deployed surge teams to monitor human rights in electoral processes in Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone. OHCHR also raised awareness with regard to human rights standards, early warning, monitoring and reporting in the context of elections in Chad, Eswatini, Mozambique, Senegal and South Sudan.

85. In May, OHCHR produced an information note on hate speech in the electoral context, to assist in differentiating between lawful speech, unlawful hate speech and incitement to hatred, as well as appropriate responses thereto.<sup>26</sup>

## 4. Support for national human rights institutions and regional mechanisms

86. OHCHR provided legal advice, capacity and needs assessment, and capacity-building in relation to the establishment or strengthening of national human rights institutions in Algeria, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Chad, Djibouti, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, the Republic of Moldova, Morocco, Nepal, North Macedonia, Oman, Panama, the Philippines, Thailand, the Russian Federation, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. OHCHR supported the participation of 91 national human rights institutions in the work of the Human Rights Council, the universal periodic review and the treaty bodies, and facilitated their

<sup>25</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/documents/tools-and-resources/human-rights-and-draft-cybercrime-convention](http://www.ohchr.org/en/documents/tools-and-resources/human-rights-and-draft-cybercrime-convention).

<sup>26</sup> OHCHR, "Hate speech and incitement to hatred in the electoral context", information note, 2024.

interaction with those bodies. OHCHR organized a fellowship programme for staff of national human rights institutions that had been accredited with “A” status, including the institutions of Cameroon, El Salvador, Indonesia, Kenya, the Philippines and the State of Palestine.

87. OHCHR, UNDP and Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, in the context of their tripartite partnership, provided support to 13 national human rights institutions to strengthen their capacities on human rights monitoring, business and human rights, environmental protection, women’s human rights and gender equality, early warning and prevention, and strategic planning.<sup>27</sup>

## **5. Human rights education**

88. In the context of the Economic and Social Council youth forum, which was held in New York in April, OHCHR, UNESCO and the United Nations Youth Office co-organized a participatory all-youth event on human rights education facilitated by members of the SDG4Youth Network and the Young Leaders for the Sustainable Development Goals initiative. OHCHR also led a dynamic expert consultation on the draft plan of action for the fifth phase (2025–2029) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education that brought together representatives of United Nations entities and civil society organizations and networks, as well as children and young people. The final draft will be submitted to the Human Rights Council for adoption.

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<sup>27</sup> In the Comoros, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Georgia, Jordan, Malawi, Maldives, the Republic of Moldova, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Peru, Timor-Leste and Ukraine.

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## Chapter III

### Management and administration

89. OHCHR advanced the delegation of authority initiative, enhancing the operational capabilities of its field offices to manage such processes as travel, procurement, low-value acquisitions, consultants and individual contractors, asset management and grantor management under headquarters oversight. More than 200 users have been integrated into the Umoja system and field offices now interact directly with United Nations service providers, which has improved transaction handling and responsiveness and streamlined service delivery.

90. OHCHR continued to modernize its digital infrastructure. The “Events” platform effectively manages oral and written statements, side events, digital drawing of lots and advance submission of questions for the Human Rights Council. The Office also delivered the initial module of a digital solution for managing individual complaints submitted under the complaint procedures of the treaty bodies and the Human Rights Council, with a view to enhancing accessibility and efficiency.

91. The commitment of OHCHR to increasing organizational effectiveness included a comprehensive review of global operations aimed at assessing core capacity needs, eliminating duplication, ensuring cost-effective implementation and refreshing vision, culture and approaches of OHCHR to resource mobilization and partnerships. In addition, the Office focused on integrating the United Nations 2.0 quintet of change initiative, including data, innovation and strategic foresight. The proposals emerging from this review contain building blocks to continuously increase impact and achieve efficiencies that will accrue in the years ahead.

## Chapter IV

### Conclusions

92. In the past year, conflicts have intensified, and the risks of a wider outbreak of violence and war have heightened. The adverse effects of climate change are already having massive impacts on the enjoyment of human rights, and inequalities within and among nations are mounting.

93. The killing and injuring of civilians and the destruction of vital infrastructure have become a daily occurrence in many conflict-afflicted areas. This is being fuelled by hateful, divisive and dehumanizing rhetoric. Parties to conflict in many countries have been responsible for human rights violations and are undermining the normative international framework.

94. Human rights violations occur with impunity. Every new act of violence adds to the risk that our tolerance level increases, fuelling the prospect of even more human suffering. In an increasingly polarized world, trust vis-à-vis national and international governance structures is diminishing, as is the space for dissent and dialogue.

95. The human rights lens remains the best tool for early warning and prevention. OHCHR is strengthening prevention and early warning systems to address the drivers and root causes of tensions, violence and conflict. The Agenda for Protection provides the framework to respond effectively and ensure better protection for people and the fulfilment of their rights.

96. Internationally and domestically, human rights need to be at the centre of all peacebuilding and prevention work. They also need to be front and centre in climate negotiations as part of environmental action. This requires a collective effort that must be supported by all stakeholders.

97. The climate emergency and climate-related disasters disproportionately affect the world's poor and some of the most marginalized populations, who have contributed the least to them yet suffer their effects the most – notably in small island developing States, least developed countries and landlocked developing countries.

98. The effects of climate disasters are often compounded by pre-existing inequalities, such as food insecurity and discrimination, as well as by limited resources owing to unsustainable debt levels, lack of fiscal space for public spending and barriers to accessing concessional financing. Seeking accountability for environmental harm, including through appropriate use of criminal law, will contribute to making the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment a reality on the ground.

99. The Office continues to encourage Member States to put human rights at the centre of all aspects of economic decision-making, including trade treaties, investment agreements, environmental policies, business regulation and development frameworks. A human rights economy is a lever for social justice. It promotes equal opportunities, meaningful participation and investment in essential services. It helps forge trust in public institutions, fostering a durable social contract. This also has consequences for the reform of the international financial architecture.

100. Inequality is a multidimensional reality. Far-reaching demographic changes, decreasing and ageing populations in high-income countries and growing and increasingly young populations in low- and middle-income countries, pose new challenges to the enjoyment of human rights. The intersectionality of all forms of discrimination, exclusion and marginalization, including the digital divide, must inform policies and programmes in order to realize the promise made in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to leave no one behind.

101. Systemic racism against people of African descent is exacerbated by the legacies of colonialism and enslavement. It manifests in many ways, from socioeconomic inequalities to the ways in which law enforcement and criminal justice systems interact with people of African descent in a discriminatory manner. Much work remains to be done and the Office continues its work to address this scourge in collaboration with a range of partners.

102. No country can take progress in women's human rights for granted. Everyone must be vigilant and steadfast in countering attacks on the rights of women and girls. The Office continues to challenge harmful narratives, embrace inclusivity and respect the rights and dignity of everyone, everywhere. More work is also needed to stem ongoing discrimination and exclusion based on sexual orientation and gender identity. Hate speech in any form is unacceptable, dangerous for social cohesion and a harbinger of worse to come.

103. OHCHR continues to protect and uphold the rights of human rights defenders, journalists and others who are increasingly under attack for seeking to shed light on violations and abuses. There has also been an increasing and worrying trend of aggressive verbal attacks, threats and reprisals, as well as virulent social media campaigns, against international institutions and mechanisms, including OHCHR and special procedures mandate holders.

104. The commemoration of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights last December demonstrated the strength of global commitment to the universality and indivisibility of human rights. Almost 800 pledges from Member States, United Nations entities, intergovernmental organizations, national human rights institutions, parliaments, civil society, businesses and others were made to advance economic, social and cultural rights, the right to development, the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, and civil and political rights. Many have already been acted upon, and the Office will continue to follow up on these pledges.

105. The High Commissioner also welcomes the growing mobilization of people around the world, including young persons, demanding change to uphold human rights, equality, and justice. This movement includes people who are taking extensive personal risk and are up against numerous barriers. Human rights provide the solid ground on which such movements can stand.

106. OHCHR strives to be fit for the future. Through a reinvigorated leadership model, new partnerships and the use of behavioural science, data analytics, innovation and strategic foresight to identify and address potential human rights risks, the Office will deliver as both a trusted partner and a leading authority, advancing all human rights for everyone, everywhere. This drive flows from what the Office learned through the Human Rights 75 initiative and aligns with the broader United Nations 2.0 quintet of change initiative, as well as Our Common Agenda. Effective implementation of those initiatives will require strengthening of the human rights system.

107. A strong and effective human rights system is key to effective multilateral cooperation and building a better future for people and planet. The Summit of the Future and the Pact for the Future, including the Declaration on Future Generations and the global digital compact, represent a crucial opportunity to present a vision for a future world that is grounded in dignity, justice and all human rights for all. The High Commissioner urges all States to ensure that our common commitment to human rights is well integrated in the Pact for the Future and its annexes.

