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**ADVISORY SERVICES AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION
IN THE FIELD OF HUMAN RIGHTS**

Report of the Secretary-General

Summary

This report is submitted in accordance with Commission on Human Rights resolution 2002/87. This year, the report focuses on two important developments which are expected to have an impact on the policy orientation of the Technical Cooperation Programme of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR): the Secretary-General's programme of reform and the external global review of the programme. The document also reflects the serious financial situation of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights: the dramatic increase in expenditures by the Fund - more than double those of the previous biennium - has not been accompanied by a parallel increase in contributions.

As in previous years, the report provides an overview of the OHCHR's Technical Cooperation Programme's procedures, implementing modalities and main substantive areas. A list of ongoing projects is annexed.

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I. INTRODUCTION

1. In its resolution 2002/87, the Commission on Human Rights requested the Secretary-General to submit a further analytical report to the Commission at its sixtieth session on the progress and concrete achievements made, as well as obstacles encountered in the implementation of the programme of advisory services and technical cooperation in the field of human rights and on the administration of the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights. The present report is submitted pursuant to that request.

II. THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION PROGRAMME IN 2003

A. Policy orientation

2. The Technical Cooperation Programme of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) supports countries in promoting and protecting all human rights by providing technical assistance and advisory services for the incorporation of international human rights standards in national laws, policies and practices, and by building or strengthening sustainable national capacities to implement these standards and ensure respect for human rights and the rule of law, and the promotion of a human rights culture.

3. The Programme is carried out at the request of the Government concerned. Projects are formulated and implemented with the broadest possible participation of all segments of society, including civil society and national institutions, as well as the judicial, legislative and executive branches of the Government. The Programme is implemented in the context of the pursuit of national development objectives, and national programmes and assistance coordinated by the United Nations system in support of these objectives. Recommendations of human rights treaty bodies and special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights are at the core of the Programme.

4. Two major developments in the last two years have had a major impact on the policy and functioning of the Programme: the Secretary-General's programme of reform and the global review of the OHCHR Technical Cooperation Programme.

5. In 2002, in his report "Strengthening of the United Nations: an agenda for further change" (A/57/387 and Corr.1), the Secretary-General stated that "the emplacement or enhancement of a national protection system in each country, reflecting international human rights norms, should ... be a principal objective of the Organization". In so doing, the Secretary-General made the mandate of the OHCHR Technical Cooperation Programme an integrated mandate of the United Nations country teams (UNCTs). Under action 2 of his agenda, the Secretary-General requested OHCHR to develop and implement a plan, in cooperation with the United Nations Development Group and the Executive Committee for Humanitarian Affairs, to strengthen human rights-related United Nations actions at the country level. Under this plan, OHCHR has pledged to strengthen its support to United Nations country teams by:

- Appointing OHCHR human rights advisers as members of the United Nations country teams;

- Increasingly providing technical assistance through United Nations cooperative arrangements;
- Facilitating consideration of human rights issues during the preparation of the common country assessment (CCA), the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF), the Consolidated Appeal Process and the Common Humanitarian Action Plans.

6. In 2003, OHCHR undertook a global review of its Technical Cooperation Programme to improve future interventions with a view to a more strategic approach to the Programme. It was based on a combination of findings from thematic and country studies and was carried out by the Netherlands Institute for Human Rights (SIM) in partnership with Mede European Consultancy, selected by public contest. The review concluded that OHCHR “as the United Nations expert organization in the field of human rights is recognized, acknowledged and valued by governments and NGOs as well as other members of the United Nations family” and identified the need to respond to growing expectations while continuing to develop expertise within limited resources as the major challenge for the Programme. In order to respond to this challenge, the authors of the review identified the following recommendations:

- There is a need to change from an output-driven to a policy-driven strategy; the focus should be on policy issues and the definition of vision and strategies;
- There is an urgent need to develop and use “entry criteria” to enhance priority setting and focus;
- Follow-up to the recommendations of human rights treaty bodies and special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights should be explicitly included in the process of project design;
- Priority should be given to compilations of best practice;
- The use of project cycle management tools should be enforced; project management procedures and practices should be further developed and updated, with special emphasis on stakeholders’ analysis and on monitoring and evaluation procedures, currently found to be weak.

7. The findings of the global review were shared with Member States at briefings held in Geneva, and the synthesis report of the review entitled “From Development of Human Rights to Managing Human Rights Development”, was made available on the Internet (<http://www.unhchr.ch/html/menu2/techcoop.htm>).

8. The Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation (see paragraph 50 below) and the heads of OHCHR field presences held a joint one-day meeting in Geneva, on 20 November 2003, to discuss the implications of action 2 and the global review for the OHCHR Technical Cooperation Programme. The discussion focused on three main issues: (a) human rights treaty bodies, special procedures and technical cooperation; (b) interface between CCA/UNDAF and OHCHR technical cooperation; and (c) the changing roles of the UNCTs and OHCHR technical cooperation.

9. On the first issue, the Board of Trustees noted that human rights treaty bodies and the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights represented OHCHR “value added” and were the backbone of the United Nations human rights programme. However, the Board concluded, the OHCHR Technical Cooperation Programme could not limit itself to the follow-up to the recommendations of those mechanisms, as not all countries had ratified or reported on all treaties. In order to strengthen the link between the OHCHR Technical Cooperation Programme and the recommendations of treaty bodies and special procedures, the Board suggested starting small, but aiming at sustainable structural change; the “friendly packaging” of the numerous recommendations; the undertaking of follow-up missions by mandate holders and committee members, which could be considered under specific technical cooperation projects; and the prioritization by the High Commissioner of the large number of recommendations.

10. On the second and third issues, the Board of Trustees noted that the interface between CCA/UNDAF and the UNCTs is a must for OHCHR. On the one hand, it represents an opening and an opportunity for the human rights programme. Despite the difficulties encountered, OHCHR needs to adopt an active and constructive approach in this area. On the other hand, the Board of Trustees pointed out the risk of diluting human rights through mainstreaming and stressed the importance of keeping the door open for OHCHR to act on its own as a member of the UNCT. The Board concluded that it was necessary, albeit difficult, for the Programme to find its niche in the new international context. The Programme could play a catalytic role by empowering others to carry the human rights message, while playing a key role in areas where other actors might not feel comfortable, such as protection.

B. Project identification, formulation, appraisal and approval

11. The Technical Cooperation Programme of OHCHR is developed through established procedures, which include the following phases: request, needs assessment, project formulation, appraisal, approval, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

12. Request. Technical cooperation projects at the national level are initiated by a formal request by the Government concerned.

13. Needs assessment. Following receipt of a request, the feasibility of the project is studied, taking into account relevant recommendations by United Nations human rights bodies and mechanisms, especially the Commission on Human Rights, as well as the availability of resources. Should the outcome of this process be positive, a needs assessment mission is then usually fielded to define priority areas for a possible human rights project, in most cases in cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). The assessment team meets with all interested parties, both governmental and non-governmental, and United Nations and other agencies and organizations engaged in human rights-related areas, and collects all available relevant documentation and legislation. The report contains an analysis and assessment of the needs identified and proposals for action. Such an assessment is essential for tailoring projects to the specific needs of the requesting country as well as to ensure coordination with other actors and avoid duplication. In line with the Secretary-General’s programme for reform, consideration is being given to ways of integrating OHCHR needs assessments in CCAs.

14. Project formulation. The formulation of a technical cooperation project is an outcome of the identification of priorities and the availability of resources. The Programme seeks to establish a partnership for positive change. Through dialogue, the project is defined within the limits of the Programme's mission, goals and objectives, priorities, and limited financial resources. If additional information is necessary, or further discussions are needed to refine the project strategy, a project formulation mission may take place. Technically, projects are based on the Logical Framework Method for project formulation, including a clear identification of the country's human rights context and background; the human rights needs/problems to be addressed; solutions offered by the project; target beneficiaries (direct and indirect); long-term and immediate objectives of the project, results, outputs, activities, inputs and risks; and identification and development of indicators for measuring its impact.

15. Internal appraisal. In December 1998, the Project Review Committee was established as a subcommittee of the Senior Policy Committee, and is the mechanism through which OHCHR, at senior level, monitors performance, provides guidance and exercises internal control of its action-oriented activities. It assesses new projects, with the aim of providing guidance on: (a) the relevance of the proposed objectives, activities and underlying assumptions of the project to the mandates and priorities of OHCHR and its possible impact on the issues the project intends to address; (b) the suitability and effectiveness of project management, and institutional and implementation arrangements; (c) the soundness of financial requirements, according to the Office's priorities and actual resources; and (d) the possible special interest of the project to OHCHR in terms of policy implications, innovations and risks.

16. The Activities and Programmes Branch of OHCHR has introduced a pre-screening process with the aim of facilitating the work of the Project Review Committee and ensuring inter-branch consultations regarding project proposals. The pre-screening process has resulted in better prepared proposals reaching the Committee and ensured that internal consultations take place at an earlier stage of the project preparation.

17. External appraisal. Projects are also subject to an external appraisal by the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund. The establishment of the Project Review Committee as the internal oversight and appraisal committee (a measure recommended by the Board of Trustees) allows the Board to devote more time to other components of its broad mandate (Commission resolution 1993/87) on long-term programming and overall orientation of the OHCHR Technical Cooperation Programme.

18. Approval. Final approval rests with the High Commissioner, on behalf of OHCHR, and the Government concerned, and is formalized through the signature of the project document.

C. Implementation modalities

1. Working with and through others

19. OHCHR implements its technical cooperation projects at the national, regional and global levels in close cooperation with other United Nations agencies and programmes, such as UNDP, the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA),

the United Nations Development Fund for Women (UNIFEM), the Division for the Advancement of Women of the Secretariat (DAW), the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, the United Nations System Staff College and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR).

20. Close cooperation is particularly significant with UNDP, based on the memorandum of understanding in force between the two agencies. One example is the joint programme HURIST (Human Rights Strengthening), which provides support to the implementation of UNDP policy on human rights as presented in the policy document "Integrating Human Rights with Sustainable Human Development". Its primary purposes are to test guidelines and methodologies and to identify best practices and learning opportunities in the development of national capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights and in the application of a human rights approach to development programming. During the year 2003, HURIST has been active in some 20 countries.

21. The ACT (Assisting Communities Together) project is another joint OHCHR-UNDP project aimed at providing financial support to human rights initiatives carried out by NGOs at the grass-roots level through a system of grants which are small in scale but have an important impact. OHCHR, in partnership with UNDP, launched in October 2003, the fourth phase of the ACT project which should be completed by the end of 2004, during which about 150 activities will be supported. This phase is marked by increased cooperation with UNDP country offices, through the allocation of additional funds on their part; the ACT project is thus implemented in a larger number of countries than in previous phases. In 2002, a brochure was produced in English, French and Spanish, presenting the ACT project and its achievements. It is distributed both as information and as a promotional tool.

2. Regional approach and regional frameworks

22. Strengthening national capacities is decisive for any progress in the promotion and protection of human rights. However, OHCHR does not have the capacity to be present in all countries that are interested in technical cooperation projects. Therefore, OHCHR has developed a regional/subregional approach to support national efforts effectively. Initiatives at this level create the opportunity to draw on the expertise and best practices of countries in comparable situations, generate cooperation between neighbours, and allow for utilization of international resources in a concentrated, and thus more efficient manner. Developing regional/subregional frameworks for the promotion and protection of human rights involves governmental agencies, parliaments, civil society, international organizations (in particular, organizations and bodies of the United Nations system), international financial institutions and regional organizations.

23. In this context, agreements have been made with the regional commissions of the United Nations to host regional human rights representatives. By the end of 2003, such representatives had been deployed in Addis Ababa, Bangkok, Beirut and Santiago. The offices based in Addis Ababa (eastern Africa), Pretoria (southern Africa) and Yaoundé (central Africa) facilitate the implementation of activities at the subregional level.

24. The Technical Cooperation Programme seeks to work with major regional partners such as the African Union, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights, the United Nations Latin American Institute for the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders and the League of Arab States.

3. Technical cooperation projects at national level

25. Projects covering one or a few substantive areas or those to be carried out in a short time are implemented by the OHCHR Desk in Geneva alone or with a minimum of administrative support from a UNDP country office. Projects of a more complex nature or requiring a longer period of implementation are often carried out with assistance of human rights field presences, acting as offices of OHCHR or components of larger United Nations operations.

26. The Office's technical cooperation activities at the country level could be classified according to four different categories, depending on the modalities of implementation:

(a) Projects managed by OHCHR technical cooperation offices. In 2003, OHCHR had technical cooperation offices in Azerbaijan, Croatia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Mexico, Solomon Islands, Somalia, the Sudan, and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, as well as Palestine. These projects are funded by the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation;

(b) Projects managed by OHCHR field presences, combining a monitoring and a technical cooperation mandate. In 2003, OHCHR field presences were operating in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Serbia and Montenegro. These projects are funded by a trust fund for support activities of OHCHR;

(c) Projects and activities in collaboration with the human rights components of United Nations peace missions. In 2003, OHCHR was providing support to United Nations peace missions in the following countries: Afghanistan, Angola, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Georgia (Abkhazia), Guinea-Bissau, Iraq, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Tajikistan and Timor-Leste. Such activities are funded either by the Voluntary Fund (Timor-Leste), by the United Nations peace missions themselves (Abkhazia, Georgia), or by voluntary funds specially created for this purpose (Afghanistan);

(d) Advisory services provided by Senior Human Rights Advisers to UNCT or UNDP resident representatives. In 2003, human rights advisers were deployed in Mongolia, Nepal and Sri Lanka. As envisaged in the plan of action to implement action 2, these advisers are funded either by the Voluntary Fund or by UNCTs.

D. Project monitoring, evaluation and lessons learned

27. Project monitoring. Progress in project implementation is assessed on an ongoing basis by desk officers, the Project Review Committee, and through project monitoring missions involving broad consultations with all national and international counterparts. Project monitoring involves examination of the strategy pursued by the project and ensures that any adjustment needed to meet the project objectives and the human rights needs of the country will be made.

28. Evaluation. The final evaluation assesses the effectiveness and efficiency of the project activities. It also aims at assessing the sustainability of the project, in particular in terms of the impact on the human rights situation of the country concerned, with specific regard to the sectors and problems addressed by the project. The Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation and external consultants play an increasingly important role in project evaluation.

29. Lessons learned. Evaluation results provide documented evidence on the experience gained from past action to improve the future work of the OHCHR Technical Cooperation Programme. Lessons learned are the ultimate expression of evaluation results and should highlight the strengths and weaknesses in project identification, design and management that affected the performance and impact. Thus, they should form the basis for policy recommendations. This crucial part of the project cycle could benefit from further development. Part of the problem is the recognized difficulty of measuring the direct impact of technical cooperation projects and programmes on the implementation of human rights.

E. Substantive areas

30. Building strong national human rights promotion and protection systems has been identified by the Secretary-General as a principal objective of the United Nations. Although such systems may vary from country to country, some essential elements can be identified:

- (a) A constitutional and/or legislative human rights framework that reflects international human rights standards;
- (b) Institutions to promote and protect human rights (courts, parliaments and national institutions); and
- (c) Procedures ensuring effective implementation, including avenues of redress for victims of human rights violations.

31. In addition, effective national human rights promotion and protection systems require a certain level of knowledge of human rights on the part of State officials and rights holders; human rights information and education are therefore needed.

32. The Technical Cooperation Programme offers assistance in the areas summarized below.

1. Assistance for constitutional and legislative reform

33. Assistance is provided with a view to ensuring consistency of national legislation with international human rights standards. This assistance may take the form of advisory services provided by experts, organization of conferences, provision of human rights information and documentation, assistance in drafting laws, or support for public information campaigns to ensure the involvement of all sectors of society in law-making. This component of the Technical Cooperation Programme includes assistance with respect to constitutional law, penal codes and codes of criminal procedure, prison regulations, laws regarding minority protection, laws

affecting freedom of expression, association and assembly, immigration and nationality laws, laws on the judiciary and legal practice, security legislation and, in general, any law that might have an impact, directly or indirectly, on the realization of internationally protected human rights.

2. Administration of justice

34. The Programme provides training courses for judges, lawyers, prosecutors and prison officials, as well as law enforcement officers. Such courses are intended to familiarize participants with international human rights standards relevant to the administration of justice; to facilitate the examination of humane and effective techniques for the performance of penal and judicial functions in a democratic society and to teach trainers to include this information in their own training activities. Topics offered in courses for judges, lawyers, magistrates and prosecutors include: international systems of human rights protection; the independence of judges and lawyers; human rights standards applicable in criminal investigations, arrest and pre-trial detention; elements of a fair trial; juvenile justice; protection of the rights of women in the administration of justice; and human rights under a state of emergency.

35. Similarly, the training courses for law enforcement officials cover a variety of topics, including the following: relevant international human rights standards; the duties and principles of a code of conduct for police in democracies; the use of force and firearms by law enforcement agencies; protection against torture and other inhuman treatment or punishment; effective methods of legal and ethical interviewing; human rights during arrest and pre-trial detention; and the legal status and the rights of the accused.

36. In this area, the global review noted the need to go beyond training to address institutional development. It recommended stronger emphasis on legislative drafting and less focus on support to universities and law schools, and emphasized the need to involve local expertise in the development of training materials in order to take into account local legislation and practice.

3. National parliaments

37. Projects developed in cooperation with national parliaments address, inter alia, the ratification of international human rights instruments, the provision of information on comparative national human rights legislation, the role of parliamentary human rights committees and, in general, the role of parliament in promoting and protecting human rights.

4. National human rights institutions

38. An important objective of the Technical Cooperation Programme is to consolidate and strengthen the role that national human rights institutions can play in the promotion and protection of human rights. To this end, information materials and a manual have been developed for those involved in the establishment and functioning of national human rights institutions. In addition, a number of seminars and workshops have been conducted to provide government officials with information and expertise on the structure and functioning of such bodies. These events have also served as forums for exchange of information and experience concerning the establishment and operation of national human rights institutions. Direct

cooperation in establishing or strengthening national human rights institutions has been offered, often in collaboration with UNDP, in some 30 countries. More detailed information is contained in the report of the Secretary-General to the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/2004/101).

5. National plans of action

39. In the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action adopted in June 1993, the World Conference on Human Rights recommended that the Centre for Human Rights, through its advisory services and technical assistance activities, assist States in the preparation of plans of action at the national level. In accordance with that recommendation, the Technical Cooperation Programme can make available expert assistance in the elaboration of such plans, and in their implementation. An OHCHR Handbook on National Human Rights Plans of Action is available on-line.

40. On this area, the global review of the Technical Cooperation Programme recommended that OHCHR develop a comprehensive strategy considering national human rights action plans as the backbone of national human rights capacity-building. It further noted the need for OHCHR to develop and assess essential criteria for engaging in activities under such plans and to clarify the division of labour between UNDP and OHCHR as well as between HURIST and the Voluntary Fund.

6. Human rights education and awareness-raising

41. As part of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education, OHCHR has continued to develop its series of training manuals and handbooks, for use by both instructors and participants. OHCHR training materials support all training activities implemented within the framework of global, regional and national technical cooperation programmes. Training manuals are tailored for specific audiences and thus focus on the relevant substantive aspects of human rights protection and appropriate pedagogical techniques. In addition to their role in training, these manuals are also a valuable resource for organizations and individuals involved in human rights education at all levels.

42. The Professional Training Series of publications is designed primarily to provide support to the training activities carried out by the OHCHR Technical Cooperation Programme and to assist other organizations involved in human rights education for professional groups.

43. OHCHR works in close cooperation with relevant experts and organizations in developing these materials. More information on the training packages is contained in the report of the High Commissioner for Human Rights on the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education to the Commission (E/CN.4/2004/92).

44. Strengthening civil society is one of the aims of the Programme. Accordingly, country activities of projects may include assistance to NGOs, by involving them in seminars and training courses and supporting appropriate projects they have developed. Thus, NGOs are not only beneficiaries of technical cooperation projects but are also increasingly becoming partners in their implementation, for example in the Russian Federation. This empowers civil society and increases the potential of the Programme.

45. In this area, the global review of the Technical Cooperation Programme recommended the development of an overall strategy to make the goals and constituent components (raising public awareness, training of professional groups, education for the schooling sector) explicit. It noted that activities in this area require a long-term commitment in order to be effective and stressed the need for OHCHR to take the lead in building strategic alliances in human rights education, both at the international and national level.

7. Treaty reporting

46. The Programme regularly organizes training activities for government officials responsible for the reports due under international human rights treaties to which their State is a party. Such assistance is provided at national and regional levels. The fellowship programme facilitates participation in the training, which includes workshops with experts from various treaty-monitoring bodies, as well as specialized OHCHR staff. An OHCHR *Manual on Human Rights Reporting* is available.

F. Integration of a gender dimension and economic, social and cultural rights in the Technical Cooperation Programme

47. OHCHR has adopted a gender mainstreaming strategy in follow-up to the “Beijing + 5” review and to further integrate gender analysis into OHCHR policies and practices. It has also developed a draft checklist to facilitate integration of a gender perspective into technical cooperation projects.

48. The global review of the Technical Cooperation Programme concluded that although gender components are usually included in every project, there was little evidence of a gender mainstreaming strategy. In order to ensure a gender strategy, the review recommended the development of a compilation of best practice and the establishment of procedures to allow for the exchange of experiences. It also highlighted the importance of including gender in the regular review and evaluation of the design and implementation of projects.

49. In the area of economic, social and cultural rights, the review acknowledged that there was increased attention being paid to these categories of rights in the context of technical cooperation projects, but noted that the approach was not yet consistent. The review stressed that the ultimate objective should be to ensure that rights are enjoyed equally by all rather than to achieve balance in addressing categories of rights.

G. Management, administration and financing

50. A new Project Management and Technical Cooperation Unit was established in 2003 within the Activities and Programmes Branch to further improve the quality of project management at OHCHR. The Unit provides support in training staff on project management including planning, implementation and evaluation, and develops methodologies and tools for facilitating the management of project activities.

51. The Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation was set up in 1993 pursuant to Commission resolution 1993/87, to advise the Secretary-General on the administration and operation of the Fund and to encourage contributions to it. A new Board was appointed by the Secretary-General in 2003 for a period of three years. The Board is composed of the following members: Ms. Ligia Bolívar Osuna (Venezuela); Ms. Mary Chinery-Hesse (Ghana); Mr. Thomas Hammarberg (Sweden); Mr. Vitiit Muntarhorn (Thailand) and Mr. Marek Nowicki (Poland). Unfortunately, Mr. Nowicki passed away in September 2003. A new member will be appointed by the Secretary-General. The Coordinator of the Voluntary Fund serves as secretary to the Board.

52. The Board held its nineteenth and twentieth sessions from 28 to 30 July and from 20 to 22 November 2003, respectively. During these sessions, the Board reviewed the regional activities of the Technical Cooperation Programme; discussed thematic issues, methodologies and procedures of the Programme; examined financial and administrative matters concerning the Fund; and discussed fund-raising efforts. As usual, the Board held a briefing for Member States during each session. At its twentieth session, the Board held a one-day joint meeting with the heads of OHCHR field presences (see paragraph 8 above).

53. Technical cooperation activities are funded mainly by the Voluntary Fund, and partly from the United Nations regular budget for technical cooperation in the field of human rights. Financial information concerning the Voluntary Fund is provided in annex II. Status reports on activities and contributions are prepared by the secretariat of the Voluntary Fund and are available upon request.

54. Over the last few years, the technical cooperation activities of OHCHR have increased significantly, both in number and size. As of November 2003, there were 37 ongoing projects. From US\$ 8.8 million in the 2000-2001 biennium, expenditures have risen to US\$ 19.3 million in the 2002-2003 biennium (as at October 2003). This dramatic increase in expenditure was made possible by the balance carried over from previous years and not by a paralleled increase in contributions, which only amounted to US\$ 15.7 million for the biennium. In 2003, a very limited carry-over and late arrival of contributions seriously affected the implementation of the Programme in the first quarter of the year and obliged the Office to suspend all new projects. The financial situation of the Fund continues to be a subject of serious concern for the Office.

55. As part of its fund-raising strategy, OHCHR has developed a global Annual Appeal. The Annual Appeal for the year 2004, launched in December 2003, provides a thorough presentation of the planned activities and hopefully will encourage more predictable and timely funding and permit longer-term planning of activities. The Annual Appeal includes projects to be funded by the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation. The Annual Reports of the OHCHR, published for the first time in 2001, are a further step towards enhanced management of projects and improved transparency and accountability.

Annex I

TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES IN 2003^a

A. Projects completed

The following projects were completed during 2003:

Global (GLO/01/AH/31). National Institutions Web site

African Region

Democratic Republic of Congo (PRC/01/AH/25). Renforcement des capacités dans le domaine de la promotion et de la protection des droits de l'homme en République du Congo

Guinea Bissau (GBS/01/AH/26). Soutien au renforcement des capacités nationales en matière des droits de l'homme en Guinée Bissau

Mauritania (MAU/00/AH/11). Renforcement des capacités du Commissariat aux Droits de l'Homme à la lutte contre la Pauvreté et à l'Insertion, dans le domaine des droits de l'homme en vue de l'élaboration d'un Plan National d'Action

Rwanda (RWA/01/AH/42). Capacity-building of the Rwanda Human Rights Commission (second phase of RWA/00/AH/14)

Sierra Leone (SIL/01/AH/24). Interim Secretariat for the Sierra Leone Truth and Reconciliation Commission

Somalia (SOM/00/AH/17). Senior Human Rights Advisor for human rights mainstreaming/UNDP Somali Civil Protection Programme

Asian-Pacific Region

Mongolia (MON/02/AH/12). Human rights strengthening in Mongolia - Phase I

Philippines (PHI/96/AH/23). Protecting the rights of children in conflict with the law

Solomon Islands (SOL/01/AH/11). Human Rights support to the Peace Process in the Solomon Islands

Latin American and Caribbean Region

Nicaragua (NIC/98/AH/14). Right to security: preventive police-community and human rights actions

B. Projects under implementation

Eliminating Trafficking and Protecting the Rights of Trafficked Persons
(**GLO/01/AH/21**): (previously GLO/99/AH/25)

Strategy for the Strengthening of OHCHR's Capacity to Support United Nations Country Teams to Integrate Human Rights in Development (**GLO/01/AH/07**)

Support to the Implementation of the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (**GLO/00/AH/20**)

Human Rights Training for Police and Military Peacekeepers (**GLO/02/AH/05**)

Strengthening OHCHR Capacity on Human Rights and Terrorism (**GLO/02/AH/09**)

African Region

Regional Africa (RAF/02/AH/13). Strengthening the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the EU, OAU and East African region

Regional Africa (RAF/02/AH/17). Renforcement des capacités de la société civile en matière des droits de l'homme en Afrique centrale

Regional Africa (RAF/02/AH/19). Regional Programme Office for Southern Africa

Sierra Leone (SIL/02/AH/14). Comprehensive Programme of Assistance to Sierra Leone

Sudan (SUD/00/AH/12). Assistance to Sudan in the Field of Human Rights

Asian-Pacific Region

Regional Asia (RAS/01/AH/36). OHCHR/Asia Pacific Forum - Cooperating to Establish and Strengthen National Human Rights Institutions

Regional Asia (RAS/02/AH/26). Implementation of the 2002-2004 Programme of Action for the Asia-Pacific Framework for Regional Cooperation for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights

Regional Asia (RAS/03/AH/04). Promotion and protection of human rights in Asia-Pacific - Regional Representative

Afghanistan (AFG/02/AH/10). Preliminary human rights assistance activities for Afghanistan

China (CPR/01/AH/37). The Programme of Technical Cooperation Activities in 2002, second phase of the MOU between OHCHR and China

Mongolia (MON/01/AH/35). Capacity Development of National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia

Mongolia (MON/03/AH/01). Human rights strengthening in Mongolia - Phase II

Solomon Islands (SOL/03/AH/03). Strengthening national human rights institutional capacity in the Solomon Islands

Sri Lanka (SRL/02/AH/21). Human Rights Support to the United Nations Country Team in Sri Lanka

Timor-Leste (ETI/02/AH/23). Strengthening Human Rights National Capacities in Timor-Leste

Arab Region

Regional Arab (RAB/01/AH/15). Strengthening Capacities of Arab Non-Governmental Organizations in the Field of Human Rights

Regional Arab (RAB/02/AH/01). Renforcement des capacités de la société civile pour une meilleure promotion des droits de l'homme dans la région (Arab Insitute)

Regional Arab (RAB/03/AH/07). Strengthening regional capacities in human rights in the Arab Region

Morocco (MOR/98/AH/08). Centre de documentation, d'information et de formation en matière des droits de l'homme

Palestine (PAL/02/AH/07). Programme for Strengthening of National Infrastructure in Human Rights

Latin American and Caribbean Region

Regional Latin America and Caribbean (RLA/01/AH/40). Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Latin American Region and the Caribbean Regional (Regional Representative)

Regional Latin America and Caribbean (RLA/01/AH/30). Promoting and protecting reproductive rights of women through the work of national institutions

El Salvador (ELS/01/AH/39). Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in El Salvador

Guatemala (GUA/01/AH/10). Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in Guatemala

Mexico (MEX/02/AH/06). Second phase of the Technical Cooperation Programme for Mexico

European and North American Region

Regional Europe and North America (RER/02/AH/28). South-eastern Europe Sub-regional Strategy

Azerbaijan (AZE/03/AH/02). Strengthening capacities in infrastructures for the promotion and protection of human rights

Croatia (CRO/02/AH/27). Human Rights Centre in Croatia

Macedonia (MAC/99/AH/18). Human Rights Education in Primary and Secondary Schools, Phase I

Macedonia (MAC/02/AH/02). Comprehensive Technical Cooperation Programme in FYR of Macedonia

Russia (RUS/97/AH/03). Human Rights Education Capacity Development

Russia (RUS/01/AH/13). Human Rights Education in Russia - Experience from the Past, Lessons for the Future

C. New requests received

The following national requests for technical cooperation have been received from the:

African Region:

Equatorial Guinea and Ethiopia

Arab Region:

Qatar and Yemen

European and North American Region:

Turkmenistan

Latin American and Caribbean Region:

Bolivia, Guyana, Mexico and Paraguay

No national request for technical cooperation has been received from the Asia and Pacific region.

Note

^a Detailed information on specific OHCHR technical cooperation projects in the field of human rights is available from the OHCHR web site (<http://www.unhchr.ch>). More detailed information is available in the files of the secretariat of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights.

Annex II

**BALANCE SHEET FOR THE UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY
FUND FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION IN THE FIELD OF
HUMAN RIGHTS**

As of 30 November 2003*

Biennium 2002-2003	US\$
1. Income	
Beginning balance, 1 January 2002	9 819 409
Income received in 2002-2003 (30.11.03) including interest (\$466 752) and miscellaneous income (\$33 365)	16 854 393
Refund to donors (European Commission, \$30 562 + \$151 397)	(181 959)
Prior period adjustments, savings from prior period obligations, transfers	866 654
Total income	27 358 497
2. Commitments	
Total allotments issued for projects	19 322 801
United Nations 13% programme support costs based on allotments issued	2 488 505
Total commitments	21 811 306
3. Estimated balance of funds (gross)	5 547 191
4. Fund reserves	
Operating cash reserve (15% of 2002 expenditures)	(1 734 506)
5. Estimated net fund balance available for future activities (subject to United Nations 13% programme support costs)	3 812 685

* Based on UNOG Financial Statements as at 30 November 2003.
