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Report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

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Note

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Chapter I

Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution [48/141](#) and contains an overview of the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Geneva and New York and in the field between 1 December 2018 and 30 June 2019.¹ It highlights activities undertaken under the thematic priorities reflected in the OHCHR management plan for 2018–2021.²

2. As at 30 June 2019, OHCHR had 77 human rights field offices worldwide. During the reporting period, the High Commissioner undertook missions to Cameroon, Canada, Ethiopia (for the African Union summit), Germany, Luxembourg, Morocco, Mexico, the Netherlands, Panama, Portugal, Sweden, Tunisia, the United States of America and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of); the Deputy High Commissioner visited Fiji, Iran (Islamic Republic of), New Zealand and South Africa; and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights visited Burkina Faso, Kenya, Mauritania, the Niger, Senegal and Yemen.

3. In 2018, OHCHR implemented a global year-long campaign to celebrate the seventieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The campaign was successfully implemented in more than 75 countries worldwide. It was largely relayed on social media through the official hashtag #StandUp4HumanRights; an estimated 608 million social media users were reached and 897,000 engagements were generated on Human Rights Day in 2018.

¹ The present report should be read in conjunction with the report presented by the High Commissioner to the Human Rights Council at its fortieth session ([A/HRC/40/3](#)).

² Available at www2.ohchr.org/english/OHCHRReport2018_2021/OHCHRManagementPlan2018-2021.pdf.

Chapter II

Activities of the Office of the High Commissioner

A. International human rights mechanisms

1. Treaty bodies

4. OHCHR substantively supported the 10 treaty bodies in fulfilling their respective mandates. It facilitated the review of State party reports, inquiries and visits, the adoption of decisions and the granting of interim measures, which have an impact on the lives of rights holders worldwide. It assisted in the improvement of the working methods of the treaty bodies and facilitated greater coordination between the treaty bodies and other mechanisms to ensure coherence, as mandated in resolution [68/268](#).

2. Human Rights Council

5. OHCHR supported the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, providing advice, when appropriate, in shaping the mechanisms and tools established to address human rights issues and violations, including for prevention.

6. OHCHR supported efforts led by the President of the Human Rights Council and the Bureau members to implement the President's statement of 10 December 2018 on enhancing the efficiency of the Council, including by addressing financial and time constraints. It supported consultations on the review of the Council's status pursuant to resolution [65/281](#).

7. OHCHR supported the independent commissions of inquiry on Burundi and the Syrian Arab Republic; the Group of Eminent International and Regional Experts on Yemen; the team of independent experts on the Kasai region, Democratic Republic of the Congo; the independent international fact-finding mission on Myanmar; the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan; and the independent international commission of inquiry to investigate all violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, particularly in the occupied Gaza Strip.

3. Universal periodic review

8. OHCHR continued to facilitate the review of Member States by the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review. The voluntary trust fund for participation in the universal periodic review, administered by OHCHR, benefited 13 of the 28 Member States reviewed during the reporting period. To facilitate follow-up to recommendations upon the completion of reviews, the High Commissioner continued to address letters to ministers for foreign affairs, offering support.

9. The voluntary fund for financial and technical assistance in the implementation of the universal periodic review, administered by OHCHR, continued to be used to respond to requests for assistance from Member States. Following its eleventh session, the Board of Trustees encouraged OHCHR to use the fund to support the implementation of the programmes of United Nations country teams, the establishment and strengthening of national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up and the strengthening of parliamentary capacity for implementation. In that context, OHCHR conducted workshops for francophone parliamentarians and members of parliamentary human rights committees.

10. Worldwide, OHCHR supported Governments, civil society and United Nations country teams in the preparation of their State reviews and the implementation of recommendations, including in 47 countries.

4. Special procedures

11. OHCHR continued to support the work of 56 country-specific and thematic special procedures mandates. The annual report on the special procedures (A/HRC/40/38 and A/HRC/40/38/Add.1) contains an overview of the activities and achievements of mandate holders. In May 2019, OHCHR assisted at the first meeting of the Coordination Committee, including an informal meeting with Member States in Geneva, in identifying good examples of the impact of the work and the challenges facing the system.

5. Follow-up to the work of human rights mechanisms

12. Through the treaty body capacity-building programme and the technical cooperation programme, OHCHR provided training courses and other capacity-building activities in around 40 countries. These activities contributed to the establishment and strengthening of national mechanisms, the piloting of the National Recommendations Tracking Database to enhance implementation and reporting, the development of tools to track the Sustainable Development Goals, the implementation of national human rights action plans and the capacity of States and civil society to engage with human rights mechanisms. Activities resulted, for instance, in the establishment of national mechanisms in Kenya, Lebanon and Zambia.

13. OHCHR supported the publication and dissemination of a Russian translation of its publication *Human Rights Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation*.

6. Humanitarian funds

14. The United Nations voluntary trust fund on contemporary forms of slavery and the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, both administered by OHCHR, awarded grants to 29 projects in 25 countries to support rehabilitation for victims of contemporary forms of slavery and 160 grants to provide assistance to victims of torture in 80 countries, respectively. The Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture also issued emergency grants to respond to cases occurring in human rights and humanitarian crises. The Special Fund of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment received 16 project proposals from six national preventive mechanisms, nine civil society organizations and one State authority to be implemented in countries in Africa, the Americas and Europe.

B. Development

1. Sustainable Development Goals

15. OHCHR provided support for a human rights-based implementation, monitoring and reporting of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals. OHCHR engaged in the United Nations development system reform. It co-led the preparation and piloting of the new draft operational guide for United Nations country teams on leaving no one behind.³

16. In the run-up to the 2019 high-level political forum on sustainable development, OHCHR contributed to regional forums on sustainable development, including the

³ Developed by the United Nations Sustainable Development Group to strengthen United Nations development system support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Available at <https://undg.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/04/Interim-Draft-Operational-Guide-on-LNOB-for-UNCTs.pdf>.

Economic Commission for Africa regional preparatory workshop for the voluntary national review of African countries. OHCHR supported events at the Asia-Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development and led discussions on how to strengthen the inclusion of human rights in the voluntary national reviews. In collaboration with partners, it supported events at the regional forums, focusing on the role of national human rights institutions, data-driven policies and empowering the most marginalized, including with regard to the right to development. It contributed to the expert group meetings convened as part of the high-level political forum preparatory process, notably on Sustainable Development Goals 10, 13 and 16, and worked with States, national human rights institutions and civil society in the organization of expert meetings, for instance on implementing the principle of leaving no one behind, climate justice, civic space and economic inequalities. OHCHR engaged with the United Nations System Task Team on the High-level Political Forum to support a common narrative for the sustainable development-related summits and mandated high-level meetings during the high-level week of the seventy-fourth session of the General Assembly.

17. OHCHR provided technical assistance on the interlinkages between the 2030 Agenda and human rights, including on leaving no one behind, to Member States, resident coordinators and United Nations country teams and civil society in Angola, Argentina, Belarus, Burkina Faso, El Salvador, Ghana, Guinea, Jordan, Lebanon, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Serbia, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Ukraine, Uruguay, Uzbekistan and Zimbabwe. It provided technical support to Eswatini, Lesotho, Mauritius and South Africa in the preparation of their voluntary national reviews.

2. Right to development

18. OHCHR advocated for the right to development through the dissemination of resource materials and through outreach on social media platforms.

19. The High Commissioner prioritized engagement on the environment and climate change. In March 2019, OHCHR supported the negotiations on a resolution on women's rights and gender equality at the fourth session of the United Nations Environment Assembly and other elements of the work of the For All Coalition towards the integration of human rights and gender equality in all multilateral environmental agreements. The participation of the High Commissioner at the twenty-fourth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, held in Poland, marked the first time that a High Commissioner attended climate negotiations. This included speaking at a special event on human rights and events on adaptation and just transition. OHCHR continues to work with partners and Member States to promote the integration of human rights into climate policies, including in the context of climate negotiations, planning for the Secretary-General's Climate Action Summit in September 2019 and the preparation of their revised nationally determined contributions.

20. OHCHR deployed its first dedicated climate change teams to its regional offices in Bangkok and Suva. It conducted workshops with civil society in Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of) and Palau to identify the negative impacts of climate change on individuals' and communities' human rights and increase their participation in the design of government policies and programmes to mitigate the harmful effects of climate change in the Pacific.

21. Corruption and associated illicit financial flows are among the gravest challenges to sustainable development; they strip societies of vital and scarce resources, which are indispensable to the exercise of human rights, including the right to development. OHCHR organized an expert round table on the human rights aspects

of the repatriation of funds of illicit origin, with a view to elaborating human rights principles and guidelines for the repatriation and use of stolen assets.

3. International financial institutions

22. The High Commissioner participated in several high-level events at the annual meetings of the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund and opened a safeguard policy dialogue with the Inter-American Development Bank. OHCHR contributed technical submissions in relation to the proposed Environmental and Social Policy, Access to Information Policy and Project Accountability Policy of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development. OHCHR supported multilateral development banks in developing policies on reprisals against environmental and human rights defenders and held a consultation meeting with their independent accountability mechanisms.

23. Ahead of the launch of the African Continental Free Trade Area, OHCHR built on its previous technical support to stakeholders to consider the human rights implications of trade systems in Africa. In partnership with the Economic Commission for Africa and the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung, OHCHR finalized the publication entitled *Digital Trade in Africa: Implications for Inclusion and Human Rights*. OHCHR successfully advocated the inclusion of informal trade, as a significant form of cross-border trade involving mainly women and youth, into this process.

4. Economic, social and cultural rights

24. OHCHR expanded its work on integrating economic, social and cultural rights into early warning and conflict prevention frameworks, based on the analytical framework developed in 2016 (see [E/2016/58](#)). OHCHR convened a consultation to examine the impact of inequality on the enjoyment of human rights and its contribution to social unrest and conflict.

25. To enable the adjudication of economic, social and cultural rights in courts, OHCHR held training workshops for the Administrative Tribunal in Tunisia. In Uganda, it supported the Judicial Training Institute in launching a resource book for judicial officers and court users and capacity-building for judicial officers. In Madagascar, OHCHR supported the training of human rights lawyers from the Malagasy Bar Association to support communities in protecting their economic, social and cultural rights.

26. In Argentina, Chile and Uruguay, OHCHR promoted the use of human rights indicators to measure the implementation of the States' obligations related to economic, social and cultural rights.

27. In follow-up to the signature of the Framework of Cooperation between the World Health Organization and OHCHR, the two entities finalized a joint workplan that provides a strategic opportunity to deliver on a common vision of health and human rights for everyone everywhere.

28. OHCHR engaged in addressing forced evictions and demolitions, including those related to land and natural resources, affecting rural and indigenous communities. This included advocacy, mediation, technical assistance and capacity-building for civil society and communities, including in Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras, Liberia and Mexico.

29. OHCHR supported the global campaign for World Water Day under the theme "Leaving no one behind", holding a high-level inter-agency event in Geneva to launch the *World Water Development Report 2019*. In partnership with the United Cities and

Local Governments, OHCHR convened, for the first time, a strategic meeting with local governments to share challenges and explore areas of collaboration.

5. Business and human rights

30. OHCHR provided technical support for the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the creation of national action plans, including in Argentina, Chile, Honduras, Kenya and Peru, facilitating dialogue and capacity-building with business enterprises. In Cambodia, the dialogue focused on agribusiness and land rights and explored measures that businesses could adopt to enhance respect for human rights. In Fiji, OHCHR strengthened the capacity of civil society and United Nations agencies to monitor and report on the impact of business on the rights of affected communities. In Indonesia and Thailand, OHCHR conducted a peer-learning workshop to identify linkages between business and human rights, migration and the environment. Through the voluntary fund for financial and technical assistance in the implementation of the universal periodic review, OHCHR co-organized a consultation with the Government of Mongolia to implement a road map to develop its first national action plan on business and human rights. In Cameroon and Liberia, OHCHR supported the implementation of a draft national action plan and a road map for the elaboration of the national action plan, respectively. In Senegal, OHCHR supported the National Observatory for Human Rights in the Extractive Sector in undertaking a study on the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

31. OHCHR started the global consultation on the third part of the accountability and remedy project, focused on enhancing the effectiveness of non-State-based grievance mechanisms for access to remedy in cases of business-related rights abuses. OHCHR held eight consultations and expert meetings, including to explore the interconnectedness of different types of grievance mechanisms and the ways in which States could develop a legal and regulatory environment that enables grievance mechanisms to make a positive contribution to accountability and remedy.

32. OHCHR initiated a global project on business and human rights in technology to advance the embedding of respect for human rights in business practices relating to the development and application of digital technology.

C. Peace and security

1. Support to peace missions

33. OHCHR supported the Secretary-General's Action for Peacekeeping initiative. It strengthened the integration of human rights into peace operations and enhanced the performance of uniformed components and implementation of mission mandates.

34. To strengthen human rights integration into United Nations peace operations, OHCHR supported strategic planning and provided operational support to the human rights components of United Nations peace operations, working with the Department of Peace Operations and the Department of Political and Peacebuilding Affairs. OHCHR contributed to the work on enhancing the implementation of missions' mandates and the performance of uniformed components, particularly with regard to the protection of civilians. OHCHR participated in the strategic assessments of the United Nations peace operations in Darfur and Haiti.

35. OHCHR supported the African Union Commission in the development of compliance architecture for African Union peace operations, which contributed to the strengthening of human rights and conduct and discipline compliance structures.

2. Human rights due diligence and compliance frameworks

36. OHCHR contributed to strengthening the implementation of the human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces. It provided technical assistance, including capacity-building, to United Nations country teams and non-United Nations military personnel in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Guinea-Bissau, Lebanon, Libya, Mali and Ukraine. Pursuant to Security Council resolution [2391 \(2017\)](#), OHCHR continued to support the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel in the implementation of the human rights and international humanitarian law compliance framework in the context of military and counter-terrorism operations. It assisted efforts to enhance the professionalism of the troops, including by developing partnerships with the Sahel Defence College, the Joint Force, army commands and technical partners. OHCHR provided guidance on the development of rules and regulations, a code of conduct and standard operating procedures. It developed and disseminated specialized training modules within the Joint Force and army commands. OHCHR, the Joint Force and the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali co-hosted a workshop to finalize the status-of-forces agreement, in partnership with the Ecole de maintien de la paix Alioune Blondin Beye. It supported the Joint Force in integrating human rights and the protection of civilians into the planning and conduct of military operations, including through the conduct of after-action reviews involving the Joint Force and civilian populations. OHCHR seconded a human rights adviser within the Group's Permanent Secretariat to support human rights activities under the four pillars of action of the Group, namely defence and security, governance, resilience and infrastructure.

3. Prevention, early warning and emergency response

37. OHCHR supported the implementation of the Secretary-General's priority focus on prevention, including the prevention platform. In response to requests from Member States and intergovernmental organs, OHCHR provided information and analysis on the impact of human rights violations and abuses on peace and security in specific situations.

38. OHCHR continued to support the implementation by the United Nations of the Secretary-General's Human Rights Up Front initiative. It engaged in the roll-out of the Organization-wide review process aimed at considering risks in situations of concern and at ensuring that the Organization undertakes early action to mitigate such risks. OHCHR shared human rights information to ensure that discussions and measures are rights-focused. OHCHR led multidisciplinary light teams in the Comoros and Malawi.

39. OHCHR strengthened its use of data and analysis in support of early warning, prevention, monitoring and investigations. It developed tools (including to make satellite imagery more readily available), systems and capacity to assist field operations in effectively leveraging data and information to increase early responses from United Nations partners. OHCHR established an emergency response team in its West Africa Regional Office.

40. The emergency response team in the Regional Office for Southern Africa provided technical cooperation to United Nations country teams, Governments and civil society in the Comoros, Lesotho, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe in integrating human rights into early warning and prevention. In Burundi, OHCHR supported an early warning group comprising civil society, international organizations and the diplomatic community to track human rights cases and prevent their escalation. In Guinea, OHCHR established a platform involving representatives

of the Government, United Nations partners, the national human rights institution and civil society to make recommendations for prevention and response.

41. OHCHR responded to emerging human rights situations by dispatching teams to Sri Lanka to assist the Human Rights Adviser and to Burkina Faso to provide human rights capacity to the Resident Coordinator. OHCHR remotely monitored the situation in Nicaragua and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). OHCHR was initially granted access to the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in March 2019, when a technical team visited the country in preparation for the visit of the High Commissioner. In June 2019, during the first ever visit of a High Commissioner to the country, the High Commissioner met government and opposition representatives, civil society and approximately 200 victims. The visit enabled OHCHR to strengthen its engagement with State authorities, civil society and victims of human rights violations, including through the deployment of two OHCHR staff in Caracas. In collaboration with the national human rights institution in Nigeria, OHCHR deployed human rights monitors in the Middle Belt and in the north-east and built the capacity of community-based organizations, underscoring the protection needs of refugees and displaced persons, especially women and children. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 38/18, OHCHR assisted the rapporteurs in the organization of a first intersessional seminar with Member States. It was followed by a one-week mission to New York in June 2019, and a second seminar is scheduled in October 2019.

42. OHCHR, with support from the World Bank, and the African Union deepened their collaboration to refine the use of human rights indicators in the continental early warning system, which provides information and analysis to the African Union Peace and Security Council. In partnership with other United Nations entities, OHCHR and the African Union developed guidelines related to refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons to mainstream the rights of displaced women into Africa's governance and peace and security architectures. OHCHR supported regional consultations under the African Union Youth for Peace Africa Programme to incorporate gender and youth perspectives into conflict prevention. It also supported the Women's Network for Peace and Security in West Africa in establishing national women's groups in the Gambia, Liberia, Nigeria and Sierra Leone.

4. Sexual and gender-based violence, trafficking and related exploitation

43. OHCHR conducted online multi-stakeholder consultations at the global and regional levels to develop response strategies for the prevention of and protection from gender-based violence against women human rights defenders facilitated by technology. OHCHR and Legal Action Worldwide held a workshop on the use of technology to address sexual violence.

44. OHCHR promoted the Latin American Model Protocol for the Investigation of Gender-related Killings of Women. In partnership with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women), the Spotlight Initiative of the United Nations and the European Union is being implemented in El Salvador and Mexico. In these countries, OHCHR supported the Office of the Attorney General in the elaboration of national protocols for the investigation of femicide cases. In Panama and Uruguay, OHCHR built the capacity of the judiciary to address gender stereotyping.

45. OHCHR developed guidance and briefed commissions of inquiry mandated by the Human Rights Council on the integration of a gender perspective into human

rights investigations. This contributed to strengthening gender analysis in United Nations inquiries.⁴

46. OHCHR contributed to enhancing gender analysis in the second preparatory meeting for the Fifth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty through its participation in a side event on gender-based violence in the context of arms trade and transfer, organized by the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom.

47. In Saudi Arabia, OHCHR organized workshops for the Government on applying a human rights-based approach to human trafficking, which led to the establishment of a national referral mechanism for victims of trafficking.

48. In Ukraine, OHCHR and UN-Women assisted the Office of the Deputy Prime Minister for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration in developing a national strategy and a road map for the prevention of and response to conflict-related sexual violence, which has been endorsed by the Deputy Prime Minister.

5. Humanitarian action

49. OHCHR engaged in the work of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and the Global Protection Cluster. It participated in the Joint Steering Committee to advance humanitarian and development collaboration. OHCHR pursued its commitment to strengthening the inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action, including by contributing to the development of Inter-Agency Standing Committee guidelines. OHCHR contributed to humanitarian action in Afghanistan, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, the Comoros, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Libya, Myanmar, Nigeria, Somalia, Ukraine, Yemen and the Pacific. It continued to lead the protection cluster in the State of Palestine, co-lead it in Guatemala and provide technical advice to the humanitarian leadership in the Syrian Arab Republic through the deployment of human rights advisers within the offices of the Regional and Deputy Humanitarian Coordinators. It continued to participate in the work of protection clusters in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Ukraine. In the aftermath of cyclones Idai and Kenneth, OHCHR supported the humanitarian country teams in the Comoros, Malawi, Mozambique and Zimbabwe in integrating a human rights-based approach in their response. OHCHR provided human rights inputs to the post-disaster needs assessments for Malawi and Mozambique and participated in the operational peer review of the response to Cyclone Idai in Mozambique. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, OHCHR monitored allegations of human rights violations and sensitized the police and the army to respect international human rights law and international humanitarian law in the country's Ebola response.

50. OHCHR worked with the Asia-Pacific Forum to implement a pilot project to strengthen the capacity of national human rights institutions to integrate human rights in humanitarian action.

51. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution [39/10](#), in May 2019 OHCHR organized an expert meeting to discuss good practices, gaps and challenges in the application of a human rights-based approach to reduce preventable maternal mortality and morbidity in humanitarian settings.

⁴ The independent international commission of inquiry on the protests in the Occupied Palestinian Territory documented the gendered impact of the violations reported (see [A/HRC/40/74](#) and [A/HRC/40/CRP.2](#)), and the Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan analysed the prevalence of sexual violence as a tactic of war in South Sudan (see [A/HRC/40/69](#) and [A/HRC/40/CRP.1](#)).

D. Non-discrimination

1. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

52. OHCHR contributed to the United Nations Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech to address the causes and drivers of hate speech and enable effective responses against it.

53. Pursuant to resolution [73/262](#), OHCHR initiated a consultation on the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent, which was attended by representatives of Governments, United Nations entities and civil society, including representatives of people of African descent.

54. As part of its implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, OHCHR, together with the European Network of People of African Descent and the Organization for the Rights of People of African Descent, with support from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belgium, organized a round table on the role of parliamentarians in the implementation of the programme of activities for the International Decade for People of African Descent. OHCHR supported the launch of the International Decade in Belgium and conducted human rights training for young activists of African descent from the European Union. OHCHR and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean prepared a study proposing specific indicators to measure inequalities faced by people of African descent in Latin America and the Caribbean.

55. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution [34/17](#), in April 2019 OHCHR organized a workshop in Egypt with African regional and subregional human rights mechanisms to strengthen their role in the combat against racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and in the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action. Best practices and lessons learned were shared and new avenues for cooperation between regional mechanisms and the human rights mechanisms were explored.

56. In Tunisia, OHCHR supported the implementation of legislation against racial discrimination through the establishment of a legal clinic for victims. In Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan, it provided technical assistance on the drafting of an anti-discrimination law and on developing anti-discrimination legislation in line with international human rights standards. OHCHR strengthened the capacity of legal professionals, law enforcement agents and the judiciary to address discrimination in Kyrgyzstan. In Belarus, OHCHR trained the police in the context of sporting events prior to the European Games held in June 2019.

57. In June 2019, OHCHR participated at the RightsCon summit in Tunis. It hosted a panel discussion on good practices in countering online hate speech, in cooperation with the Human Rights, Big Data and Technology Project of the University of Essex.

2. Migrants

58. As a member of the Executive Committee of the United Nations Network on Migration, OHCHR contributed to inter-agency efforts to support Member States in the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

59. With the Office of Counter-Terrorism, OHCHR developed training courses for border officials on the Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders and delivered a training-of-trainers course for OHCHR and the Office.

60. OHCHR conducted missions to Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico and Peru to monitor the situation of refugees and migrants, including at the

borders. In Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico, OHCHR provided support to migrant shelters and civil society in the context of large migrant flows (caravans). It undertook nine missions to interview Venezuelan migrants and refugees in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Chile, Ecuador, Mexico, Peru and Spain (see [A/HRC/41/18](#)) and conducted a mission to Austria focusing on the rights of migrants in the context of returns. With European Union institutions, OHCHR advocated search-and-rescue operations in the Mediterranean and the non-return of migrants to Libya, and cautioned against the criminalization of solidarity. It continued to monitor the human rights situation of migrants and refugees in Libya.

61. In Kiribati, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia (Federated States of) and Palau, OHCHR provided advice on the drafting of legislation in the context of migration. In Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Lebanon, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger, Senegal and Tunisia, OHCHR supported capacity-building on the rights of migrants for Governments, national human rights institutions and civil society. In Côte d'Ivoire, the Gambia, Mali, Mauritania, the Niger and Senegal, OHCHR, in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), administered grants to civil society to integrate human rights into legislative frameworks related to migration.

3. Discrimination on the basis of indigenous or minority status

62. OHCHR advocated the development of truth and reconciliation efforts to acknowledge the historical injustice against Roma communities, pursuant to the European Parliament resolution of 25 October 2017 on fundamental rights aspects in Roma integration in the EU: fighting anti-Gypsyism. In the European Union, OHCHR advocated a rights-based European Union programme for national Roma integration strategies beyond 2020. It developed strategies with stakeholders to address the human rights situation of Roma communities in the Americas, including through a workshop at Harvard University. In Iraq, OHCHR engaged with government and minority representatives to facilitate the issuance of identity cards to the Roma community.

63. To implement the Rabat Plan of Action on the prohibition of advocacy of national, racial or religious hatred that constitutes incitement to discrimination, hostility or violence ([A/HRC/22/17/Add.4](#), appendix) and the Beirut Declaration on Faith for Rights ([A/HRC/40/58](#), annex I), OHCHR undertook research to identify the causes of discrimination faced by ethnic and religious groups in the Middle East and North Africa. In Ukraine, OHCHR provided advice on harmonizing the law on the status of the Ukrainian language with international human rights standards in relation to the protection of minority languages.

64. In Cambodia, OHCHR continued promoting land titling and monitoring forced evictions affecting indigenous peoples. In Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico, it provided technical assistance to ensure respect for free, prior and informed consent in decisions affecting indigenous and tribal communities. In Colombia, it supported the inclusion of indigenous rights in the country's national development plan, which resulted in the adoption of a protocol to regulate inter-jurisdictional coordination between the Special Jurisdiction for Peace and the indigenous justice system. In Guatemala, continued OHCHR assistance to indigenous midwives led to a landmark ruling of the Constitutional Court concerning maternal health and non-discrimination.

4. Gender equality and women's rights

65. OHCHR organized an expert meeting to discuss the implementation of human rights norms, and measures taken by State and non-State actors, to prevent female

genital mutilation in communities and in the context of migration and humanitarian assistance.

66. In the United Republic of Tanzania, OHCHR collaborated with the Center for Reproductive Rights and the Tanzania Women Judges Association to conduct a dialogue on sexual and reproductive health rights and the role of the judiciary in eliminating gender stereotyping in the justice system. In Chile, OHCHR, with the Supreme Court, organized capacity-building for the judiciary.

67. OHCHR engaged in technical cooperation with Governments and civil society in Afghanistan, Jamaica, Lebanon, Liberia and Saudi Arabia to promote gender equality and women's rights. In the Middle East and North Africa, it raised awareness of the inequalities related to nationality rights, which led to advocacy by the National Commission for Lebanese Women to amend legislation to promote gender equality. In Guinea, following technical support provided by OHCHR, legislation on parity regarding electoral mandates was adopted. In Kosovo,⁵ OHCHR assisted in refurbishing the first regional shelter for survivors of gender-based violence. OHCHR, UN-Women and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided technical assistance to Liberia to ensure that draft legislation on domestic violence meets international human rights standards. In Paraguay, OHCHR provided technical assistance in the drafting and adoption of legislation on a minimum salary for domestic workers.

68. OHCHR continued its #IStandWithHer global campaign to promote women human rights defenders, movements and their stories, including highlighting the work of sexual and reproductive health and rights activists and women indigenous leaders. In the European Union, OHCHR supported victims of sexual harassment at the European Parliament in the #MeTooEP movement, presenting how the United Nations has tackled this scourge.

5. Persons with disabilities

69. OHCHR was involved in the development of the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, a transformative strategy to effectively mainstream disability throughout the pillars of United Nations work.

70. OHCHR enhanced the capacity of Governments, the judiciary and civil society to protect the rights of persons with disabilities, including by integrating disability in national legislation in compliance with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, in Belarus, Burundi, Cameroon, Guatemala, Paraguay, Timor-Leste, Tunisia, Saudi Arabia, Serbia and Uganda. Following the receipt of technical assistance from OHCHR, North Macedonia adopted legislation on discrimination against persons with disabilities. In Uruguay, OHCHR embarked on a United Nations project to strengthen social protection instruments and the impact of public policy interventions in relation to persons with disabilities.

6. Sexual orientation and gender identity

71. OHCHR continued to raise awareness of the human rights concerns of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) community. It led the United Nations Free and Equal campaign and raised awareness of global equality standards for LGBTI persons in the business community. OHCHR supported the work of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity.

⁵ References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

72. OHCHR launched a subregional campaign raising the visibility of LGBTI persons in Central American countries and fostering adequate public policies and legislation to address discrimination and violence against this population. It conducted national campaigns in Honduras and Timor-Leste.

73. In Colombia, OHCHR presented an amicus curiae brief for a case addressing the rights of same-sex couples to form a family and marry. In Tunisia, OHCHR supported the legal establishment of a civil society organization working on LGBTI issues.

7. Children and youth

74. OHCHR worked on the implementation of the United Nations Strategy on Youth through the deployment of youth officers in the field to engage with youth platforms and student movements.

75. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 37/20, OHCHR conducted a consultation process to gather input from stakeholders on the rights of the child, including from children. OHCHR supported the Independent Expert for the global study on children deprived of liberty.

76. OHCHR advocated amendments to legislation concerning the rights of the child, which led to revisions of laws in Kazakhstan. In Senegal, OHCHR supported child victims of abuse and forced begging and the Government in building their capacity to protect and promote child rights.

8. People with albinism

77. OHCHR pursued advocacy to promote and protect the rights of people with albinism, including in the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Uganda. In Guinea, it supported the drafting of legislation to protect people with albinism, which was subsequently adopted. In Malawi, OHCHR supported the implementation of a national plan of action for persons with albinism. In Uganda, OHCHR and the Equal Opportunities Commission launched a publication entitled *Enhancing Equality and Countering Discrimination against Persons with Albinism in Uganda*.

E. Accountability

1. Transitional justice

78. OHCHR supported States in the design and implementation of transitional justice processes aimed at addressing the causes and structural drivers of violations, such as inequalities and social exclusion.

79. With the partners of the Working Group on Transitional Justice and SDG16+, OHCHR co-authored the report entitled “On solid ground: building sustainable peace and development after massive human rights violations”, exploring how transitional justice contributes to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals.

80. OHCHR supported conferences on the fight against impunity in the Middle East and North Africa and in the Great Lakes region. Both conferences resulted in specific recommendations to stakeholders in these regions.

81. OHCHR continued to support accountability and transitional justice initiatives, including in Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Côte d’Ivoire, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guinea, Lebanon, Liberia, Mali, Mexico, Nepal, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Togo and Tunisia. In the Gambia, OHCHR and its partners supported a national strategy for transitional justice and provided technical assistance to the Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission. OHCHR

participated in the eighth justice, reconciliation, law and order sector peer review retreat in Rwanda, which focused on the role of the justice, reconciliation, law and order sector in promoting and protecting human rights. In Liberia, OHCHR supported the Law Reform Commission with legislative reforms to advance reconciliation and the Independent National Commission on Human Rights in organizing a national colloquium to implement the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission.

82. OHCHR supported the Truth and Dignity Commission of Tunisia. In Sri Lanka, it provided technical assistance to the Office of Missing Persons.

83. In Colombia, OHCHR remained a key partner in the implementation of the Comprehensive System for Truth, Justice, Reparation and Non-Recurrence, established under the peace agreement between the Government and the Revolutionary Armed Forces of Colombia. OHCHR supported the adoption of a special protocol to regulate inter-jurisdictional coordination between the Special Jurisdiction for Peace and the indigenous justice system to enhance indigenous people's access to justice.

84. The High Commissioner engaged in high-level private and public advocacy to avert the adoption of proposed amnesty legislation in El Salvador, Guatemala and Nicaragua.

2. Death penalty

85. OHCHR continued advocating with States for the establishment or maintenance of moratoriums on the use of the death penalty, pursuant to resolution [67/176](#). It also advocated the protection of those facing the death penalty, including in Bahrain, Barbados, Brunei Darussalam, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malawi, Malaysia, Mauritania, Pakistan, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka and the United States of America.

86. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolutions [26/2](#) and [36/17](#), OHCHR organized the biennial high-level panel discussion on the question of the death penalty, which addressed the human rights violations related to the use of the death penalty, in particular with respect to the rights to non-discrimination and equality.

3. Counter-terrorism and prevention of violent extremism

87. OHCHR and UNODC conducted joint regional workshops on protecting human rights while countering terrorism for the judiciary, police and national human rights institutions of Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and the Niger.

4. Administration of justice and law enforcement

88. Through technical assistance, OHCHR supported accountable and human rights-based national law enforcement and criminal justice institutions worldwide, including in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, Lebanon, Lesotho, Madagascar, Mauritania, Sierra Leone, Tunisia and Uganda. For example, in Cambodia, OHCHR hosted a national conference for judges, lawyers and prison officials to improve transparency and communication in the judicial system. In Timor-Leste, OHCHR and the national human rights institution delivered capacity-building programmes for the judiciary, the police and the army. In Guatemala, OHCHR, with the police, developed internal protocols on the adequate use of force.

89. In Georgia, OHCHR contributed to the development of the law creating the Office of the State Inspector, mandated to independently investigate allegations of human rights violations by law enforcement officers such as deprivation of life or torture. In Ethiopia, OHCHR provided technical advice on the reform of legislation

and policies for the security forces. In Mexico, it contributed to constitutional amendments to create the National Guard.

90. In West Africa, OHCHR, UNODC and UN-Women developed country action plans for national interlocutors in Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone to improve women's access to legal aid. In Tunisia, it supported the creation of a legal aid unit for civil society and the Bar Association of Tunisia to address human rights violations. In Uganda, OHCHR provided advice on the drafting of a citizen's handbook on the administration of justice.

91. In Iraq and Thailand, OHCHR observed trials and investigations, including of human rights defenders and political activists, to assess compliance with fair trial guarantees. In Nepal, OHCHR provided technical advice on the 17 laws on fundamental rights to ensure compliance with international human rights standards.

92. In several countries, including Afghanistan, Guinea, Iraq and Mauritania, OHCHR visited detention facilities to assess the conditions and treatment of detainees. In Guinea-Bissau, advocacy by OHCHR and partners led to the release of individuals who had been arbitrarily detained.

93. In Uganda, OHCHR supported the Office of the Director of Public Prosecutions to develop internal witness protection guidelines.

5. Human rights and drug policy

94. At the Commission on Narcotic Drugs in Vienna, OHCHR engaged with Member States and other stakeholders advocating the implementation of the human rights commitments made in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the General Assembly in 2016. In April 2019, the High Commissioner participated in the 26th Harm Reduction International Conference, which was held in Portugal by Harm Reduction International and Agência Piaget para o Desenvolvimento under the patronage of the President of Portugal. In her keynote address, she concluded that principled and comprehensive policies which respect dignity, human rights and justice will reduce both demand and supply; protect health; and, as envisaged in the outcome document of the thirtieth special session of the Assembly, contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

95. OHCHR contributed to the development of international guidelines on human rights and drug control launched during the sixty-second session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs. OHCHR and UNDP held a joint consultation meeting with experts from human rights treaty bodies and special procedures mandate holders on the guidelines.

96. During the Geneva Drug Policy Week, with support from the Government of Switzerland, OHCHR and Harm Reduction International organized an event to discuss Human Rights Committee general comment No. 36 (2018) on the right to life in relation to drug policy.

97. OHCHR provided technical advice on human rights and drug policy to resident coordinators in Bangladesh, Belarus, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. In Belarus, briefings with parliamentarians and government officials resulted in a joint project with the Government to assess the effectiveness of national drug policies.

F. Participation

1. Enhancing and protecting civic space and people's participation

98. OHCHR pursued the promotion of participation to protect or enhance civic space. This included advice on laws and policies that expand or encroach on civic

space, and comments on States' response to protests, including in Guatemala, Nicaragua and the Sudan.

99. OHCHR continued to address acts of intimidation and reprisals against those who cooperate with the United Nations on human rights, including through the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights.⁶ OHCHR organized a regional consultation with civil society representatives from nine countries and regional defenders networks in East Africa to identify protection gaps and make recommendations to improve responses to intimidation and reprisals.

100. OHCHR provided capacity-building for 35 indigenous young people from 26 countries through the OHCHR Indigenous Fellowship Programme.

101. OHCHR facilitated the participation of indigenous representatives in United Nations meetings. The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples supported the participation of 45 grantees to attend the eighteenth session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, 15 to the consultation of the President of the General Assembly with indigenous peoples, 6 to the sessions of the human rights treaty bodies and 6 to the Human Rights Council and the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review.

102. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 39/11, OHCHR disseminated the guidelines on the effective implementation of the right to participate in public affairs, including at the Economic and Social Council Youth Forum.

103. In Mongolia, OHCHR provided technical advice on draft legislation to protect human rights defenders. In Ethiopia, it was part of the technical committee providing advice on the reform of legislation regulating civil society.

104. In Afghanistan, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Lebanon, Liberia, Mauritania, Mexico, Paraguay, Serbia, Syria, Timor-Leste and Uganda, OHCHR strengthened the capacity of parliamentarians and civil society, including human rights defenders and journalists, to monitor and report on human rights violations and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. In Guatemala and Peru, OHCHR provided technical assistance for the adoption and implementation of a protocol on investigating violations against human rights defenders and issued a joint study with the national human rights institution on the situation of human rights defenders in Guatemala.⁷

105. In Tunisia, OHCHR signed a memorandum of understanding with the Ministry of Religious Affairs on developing a human rights education programme and a legal framework on the rights of imams.

106. In Nigeria, OHCHR collaborated with the Office of the Resident Coordinator to establish a human rights and documentation centre at the Faculty of Law at the University of Nigeria with a contribution of over 400 publications to advance human rights education.

2. Electoral processes

107. To implement the Plan of Action on Human Rights and Election Standards, adopted by OHCHR and the Carter Center in 2017, OHCHR and the Carter Center, with support from the Permanent Mission of Romania, organized a workshop for

⁶ The senior official designated to lead efforts within the United Nations system, the Assistant Secretary-General continued to engage with States, including by collecting information on good practices to address reprisals.

⁷ Available at www.oacnudh.org.gt/images/CONTENIDOS/ARTICULOS/PUBLICACIONES/Informe_personas_defensoras.pdf.

national human rights institutions and the electoral community to share good practices and explore areas of cooperation.

108. In the context of the European Parliament elections, OHCHR, in collaboration with United Nations entities, launched a 10-point pledge focused on leaving no one behind, which was signed by 37 outgoing European Parliament members. The pledge was presented to newly elected members to secure their commitment to defending human rights, the rule of law and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

109. In the Comoros, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Guatemala, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritania and Senegal, OHCHR supported the United Nations country teams, the national human rights institutions and civil society with human rights monitoring in the context of elections. It advocated the release of political prisoners and built the capacity of national partners to monitor human rights in electoral contexts. In Sierra Leone, OHCHR, with the National Human Rights Commission and the Sierra Leone Police, implemented training for law enforcement officers on the application of human rights standards in policing post-election conflicts.

3. Support to national human rights institutions and regional mechanisms

110. OHCHR continued to assist Member States in establishing or strengthening national human rights institutions. During the reporting period, OHCHR provided legislative advice to States and strengthened the capacity of national human rights institutions, including in Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Haiti, Guinea, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Mongolia, the Republic of the Congo, Serbia and Tunisia.

111. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution [34/17](#), OHCHR continued to host a fellowship programme for staff from the regional mechanisms to enhance their capacity and strengthen cooperation. Currently, OHCHR is hosting three fellows from the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, the East African Court of Justice and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights.

4. Digital space

112. OHCHR strengthened partnerships with a range of actors to advance human rights as a basis for regulation, policies and practice by States and technology companies. It signed a collaborative agreement with the World Economic Forum Centre for the Fourth Industrial Revolution and advocated with several global companies for human rights-respecting policies and practices. The High Commissioner engaged with senior technology executives and leaders from civil society, academia and government during a mission to Silicon Valley, advocating for States and companies to employ a human rights-based approach in developing and using new technologies.

113. OHCHR continued to flag content on Facebook that may signal incitement to violence, discrimination or hatred, and advocated with Facebook, Twitter and Google for improved approaches to content moderation.

114. OHCHR collaboration with the University of California, Berkeley, Human Rights Center contributed directly to United Nations investigations and monitoring in the Occupied Palestinian Territories and the Central African Republic and to the drafting of an international protocol on open-source investigations.

115. OHCHR participated in two preparatory meetings in Silicon Valley and Paris to provide input to the Christchurch Call of the Prime Minister of New Zealand, Jacinda Ardern, and the President of France, Emmanuel Macron, to eliminate terrorist and violent content online.

Chapter III

Management and administration

116. In a rapidly changing world, innovation is an essential element of successful knowledge management. The OHCHR management plan for 2018–2021 makes a commitment to fostering innovative ideas by establishing non-hierarchical settings and offering creative incentives.

117. The Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network, composed of 18 Governments, assessed the performance of OHCHR and made recommendations to strengthen the capacity of the Office. As highlighted in the assessment, “the Office has come a long way, despite the fact that its relatively limited resources are constantly stretched – across functions, themes and regions”.⁸

⁸ The full assessment is available at www.mopanonline.org/assessments/ohchr2017-18/index.htm.

Chapter IV

Conclusions

118. OHCHR continued to engage with a diverse range of stakeholders to inspire everyone to stand up for human rights. Building upon the success of the celebrations of the seventieth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, OHCHR promoted several global campaigns, including for the elimination of racial discrimination and for gender equality.

119. As highlighted in the assessment of the Multilateral Organization Performance Assessment Network, “human rights violations are on the rise, and the fundamental principles that underpin their universality, indivisibility, interdependency and interrelations are being contested by [United Nations] Member States themselves. Furthermore, the gap between the Office’s mandate and resourcing is increasing, and funding is becoming less predictable.”

120. OHCHR continues to be a global voice for equality and non-discrimination and for all human rights for all everywhere. It must be assisted in responding to conflict and crisis situations, as well as emerging global, regional and national challenges, such as those relating to climate change, gender inequalities, digital space and new technologies, civic space, civil society and human rights defenders, all with a view to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

121. The High Commissioner hopes that Member States and other stakeholders will extend to OHCHR all possible assistance to enable it, in partnership with United Nations system and regional mechanisms, to implement its mandate effectively in support of duty bearers and rights holders worldwide.
