



**United Nations**

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

**General Assembly  
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Seventy-seventh Session  
Supplement No. 36**





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A/77/36

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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 activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) from 1 January to 30 June 2022. It highlights activities undertaken under the thematic priorities reflected in the OHCHR management plan for 2022–2023.<sup>1</sup> The report should be read in conjunction with the annual report of the High Commissioner to the Human Rights Council ([A/HRC/50/4](#)), which contains an overview of the activities of OHCHR from 1 July 2021 to 15 March 2022.

2. As at 30 June 2022, OHCHR had 103 human rights field presences worldwide. During the reporting period, the High Commissioner undertook missions to Afghanistan, Bosnia and Herzegovina and China. The High Commissioner, the Deputy High Commissioner and the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights visited Brussels to engage with European Union officials. The Assistant Secretary-General also visited South Sudan and Addis Ababa to engage with African Union officials. Despite the persistent challenges created by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, OHCHR was able to deliver on its mandate. The recent relaxing of measures to counter the COVID-19 pandemic in many countries allowed OHCHR to resume field missions, in-person activities, human rights monitoring, technical assistance and capacity-building support.

3. Against the background of the conflict in Ukraine, which dominated the international agenda over the reporting period, OHCHR continued to actively implement its mandate, including through monitoring and reporting in many countries around the world, including Colombia, Ethiopia, Myanmar, the Sudan, Ukraine and Yemen, and through the delivery of technical assistance, capacity-building, awareness-raising and advocacy.

4. OHCHR continued to promote the implementation of the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights, emphasizing system-wide responsibility for human rights and the importance of ensuring the integration of human rights at the country level. The initiative has brought the United Nations system together in the seven thematic areas<sup>2</sup> and continued to generate genuine commitment across all entities, which developed tools, guidance and advocacy designed to advance policy coherence and concerted action across the system, including at the country level.

5. Echoing the Secretary-General's call for a new social contract, OHCHR has acted as an advocate for universal social protection and access to health and other basic services, as well as for debt management and relief and creating the necessary fiscal space to maintain essential services for people (see [A/HRC/50/4](#)). OHCHR also continued to engage with Governments and relevant stakeholders in promoting and advising on integrating human rights in national legal reforms and economic and social policies to help tackle inequalities and address human rights gaps in efforts to build back better from the COVID-19 pandemic.

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<sup>1</sup> Available at [www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/OMP-2022-2023.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/OMP-2022-2023.pdf).

<sup>2</sup> The thematic areas are: rights at the core of sustainable development; rights in times of crisis; gender equality and equal rights for women; public participation and civic space; rights of future generations, especially climate justice; rights at the heart of collective action; and new frontiers of human rights.

## Chapter II

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

#### A. International human rights mechanisms

##### 1. Treaty bodies

6. The 10 treaty bodies resumed in-person sessions in September 2021. Challenges faced by the treaty bodies owing to restrictions imposed as a consequence of the COVID-19 pandemic resulted in an increased backlog of work. As at 30 June 2022, 426 State party reports and 1,868 individual communications were pending review by the relevant committees. The number of urgent action requests registered by the Committee on Enforced Disappearances increased to 1,513 as at 30 June 2022. Since January 2022, the disappeared persons had been located in 80 of those cases, which underscores the value of the procedure. OHCHR started work on a sustained digital transformation, introducing fit-for-purpose tools that prioritize modernizing the handling of petitions and urgent actions.

7. The Chairs of the treaty bodies held their first in-person meeting since 2019 from 30 May to 3 June 2022 in New York (see [A/77/228](#)). They addressed some of the key recommendations contained in the co-facilitators' report on the process of the consideration of the state of the United Nations human rights treaty body system ([A/75/601](#), annex), including agreeing to establish a predictable eight-year calendar of reviews that covers all treaty body reporting procedures and all State parties.

8. Members of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights took part in three regional consultations, in February, April and May 2022, and a global consultation with children in April 2022 towards the preparation of a draft general comment on sustainable development and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination adopted a statement on the COVID-19 pandemic and its implications under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

##### 2. Human Rights Council

9. Through virtual and hybrid modalities, OHCHR supported the Human Rights Council in the holding of two regular sessions, one urgent debate, and one special session on the deteriorating human rights situation in Ukraine stemming from the Russian aggression.<sup>3</sup> OHCHR supported the efforts of the President of the Human Rights Council to implement existing efficiency measures and to review the extraordinary measures adopted and applied by the Council during the COVID-19 pandemic.

10. The Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the Work of the Human Rights Council facilitated the participation of 11 delegates (four women and seven men). In June 2022, in-person induction courses resumed with delegates travelling to Geneva to participate in the Council's fiftieth session.

11. OHCHR continued to provide support to accountability mandates established by the Human Rights Council in relation to Belarus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Israel, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Libya, Myanmar, Nicaragua, Sri Lanka, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine and

<sup>3</sup> See Human Rights Council resolution [S-34/1](#).

Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), as well as the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.<sup>4</sup>

### 3. Universal periodic review

12. OHCHR supported the adoption by the Council of the outcomes of the universal periodic review in March and June 2022 and the holding of sessions of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review in January/February and May 2022. The participation of 25 Member States in the proceedings was facilitated through the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review.<sup>5</sup> OHCHR assisted Governments, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations and United Nations country teams in the preparation of reports for the universal periodic review, including in Brazil, Indonesia, Israel, Kuwait, Morocco and Tunisia.

### 4. Special procedures

13. OHCHR supported the involvement of 58 special procedures of the Human Rights Council and the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures in various United Nations processes, including relative to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, on peace and security, peacebuilding and prevention, and with regard to the Call to Action for Human Rights and Our Common Agenda. OHCHR supported mandate holders in resuming all mandated activities in person, in particular country visits. The Office also provided support related to special procedures for sending 336 communications and undertaking 24 country visits. The Office supported the Coordination Committee, including for a one-week meeting in Geneva and a one-week meeting in New York to engage with United Nations entities across the three pillars of the United Nations. The Office raised awareness about the impact of special procedures in the annual report submitted to the Council at its forty-ninth session, which described the achievements of the special procedures system in 2021, including facts and figures (A/HRC/49/82 and A/HRC/49/82/Add.1), as well as the report of the Secretary-General on recommendations and conclusions of special procedure mandate holders in 2021 (A/HRC/49/26).

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

14. OHCHR supported Member States in the establishment and strengthening of national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up, including in the Bahamas, the Comoros, Ecuador, Kazakhstan, Kiribati, Malaysia, North Macedonia, the Philippines, Serbia and Togo. OHCHR conducted a redesign of the National Recommendations Tracking Database, a tool that helps Member States to manage and track implementation of recommendations from mechanisms and facilitate the preparation of reports. The redesigned version will be rolled out in 2022.

15. Cooperation continued with Member States and United Nations entities to incorporate recommendations of human rights mechanisms into efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, including through the practical guidance note for heads of United Nations entities entitled “Maximizing the use of the universal periodic review at country level”, available in all languages, and a new repository of United Nations good practices on how the universal periodic review process supports sustainable development, produced jointly by OHCHR and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP). OHCHR, in cooperation with the

<sup>4</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/co-is](http://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/co-is).

<sup>5</sup> Antigua and Barbuda, Eswatini, Greece, Haiti, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Lithuania, Papua New Guinea, Republic of Moldova, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, South Sudan, Sudan, Suriname, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zimbabwe.

Inter-Parliamentary Union and the International Organization of la Francophonie, strengthened the capacities of members of parliament to engage in the universal periodic review process.

16. OHCHR implemented activities to enhance the engagement of national human rights institutions, members of parliament, civil society organizations and United Nations country teams with United Nations human rights mechanisms, including in Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Peru, Senegal, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uruguay, Uzbekistan and Viet Nam. The Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review supported technical cooperation activities in 19 Member States.

## **6. Humanitarian funds**

17. Under the 2022 call for applications, the United Nations voluntary trust fund on contemporary forms of slavery and the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture awarded, respectively, annual grants for 43 projects to assist 13,012 victims in 33 Member States and for 184 projects to assist 46,600 victims in 92 Member States.

## **B. Development**

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

18. In the context of the setbacks brought by COVID-19, compounded by the effects of the conflict in Ukraine, OHCHR increased its country-focused advice to strengthen the integration of human rights and of human rights-based approaches into development policies to support the realization of the 2030 Agenda. From January to June 2022, OHCHR supported United Nations field presences with human rights analysis and policy for 26 common country analyses and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework processes towards greener and more inclusive recoveries.<sup>6</sup>

19. OHCHR and the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions developed a checklist for European national human rights institutions on a human rights-based approach to COVID-19 economic response and recovery for protecting jobs, small and medium-sized enterprises and workers, including in the context of national recovery and resilience plans,<sup>7</sup> which was published in March 2022.

20. OHCHR and UNDP launched a joint project to strengthen the capacities of United Nations country teams and national human rights institutions related to the Sustainable Development Goals and prevention of human rights abuses, including on the four Sustainable Development Goal indicators against which OHCHR reports on progress.<sup>8</sup> OHCHR continued to promote exchanges of good practices on the human rights-based approach to data and supported the signing of memorandums of understanding between national human rights institutions and other relevant

<sup>6</sup> Bahrain, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Central African Republic, Chile, Congo, Egypt, Ghana, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Jordan, Lebanon, Mauritius, Mongolia, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), as well as the Pacific region.

<sup>7</sup> Available at [www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/ENHRI%20OHCHR%20Checklist%20on%20protecting%20jobs%20and%20SMEs.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/ENHRI%20OHCHR%20Checklist%20on%20protecting%20jobs%20and%20SMEs.pdf).

<sup>8</sup> OHCHR reports annually on indicators on discrimination, killings of and other attacks on human rights defenders and journalists, conflict-related deaths and independent national human rights institutions.

stakeholders in Albania, Jordan, Mongolia, the Philippines and the Republic of Moldova with a view to operationalizing United Nations guidance in this area.<sup>9</sup>

## 2. Right to development

21. OHCHR increased its efforts to operationalize the right to development.<sup>10</sup> OHCHR advocacy, collaboration and partnerships focused on international cooperation and solidarity,<sup>11</sup> sustainable finance and investment, access to science, renewable energy<sup>12</sup> and environmentally sound technology,<sup>13</sup> including their women's rights and gender equality dimensions. OHCHR also worked towards integrating the right to development into climate action, biodiversity action and South-South cooperation.

22. In March, OHCHR organized the meeting on mutually beneficial cooperation<sup>14</sup> mandated by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 46/13. In May, OHCHR supported a study visit to Mexico by the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development and organized the twenty-third session of the Intergovernmental Working Group of Experts on the Right to Development, which considered the revised draft Convention on the Right to Development. In addition, OHCHR promoted inclusion of the right to development, human rights and gender equality in the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries.

## 3. International financial institutions

23. OHCHR worked in partnership with multilateral development banks, their independent accountability mechanisms and civil society to strengthen the operational policies, reprisal procedures and accountability processes of multilateral development banks. In June, OHCHR concluded a study on benchmarking development finance institutions' safeguard policies to support social and environmental safeguard policy dialogues.

24. OHCHR continued to engage with the Inter-American Development Bank in relation to the monitoring of human rights risks and the impacts of investment projects supported by development finance institutions in Colombia, Guatemala and Honduras. In view of ongoing negotiations between the International Monetary Fund and Tunisia, OHCHR advocated for economic reforms in the country to be based on a human rights approach, in compliance with economic, social and cultural rights.

## 4. Economic, social and cultural rights

25. OHCHR continued its engagement with authorities and relevant stakeholders to promote and advise on integrating human rights into the making of policy and laws in the areas of health, social protection, adequate food, water and sanitation and education. For example, OHCHR engaged with Governments, national human rights institutions and civil society at the national level in Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Chad, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala,

<sup>9</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/GuidanceNoteonApproachtoData.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/GuidanceNoteonApproachtoData.pdf).

<sup>10</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/development](http://www.ohchr.org/en/development); and [www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/Pages/InformationMaterials.aspx](http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/Pages/InformationMaterials.aspx).

<sup>11</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/greater-global-solidarity-right-development.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/greater-global-solidarity-right-development.pdf).

<sup>12</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/2022-05-22-Renewable-Energy.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/2022-05-22-Renewable-Energy.pdf).

<sup>13</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/2022-05-22-Environmentally-Sound-Technology.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/2022-05-22-Environmentally-Sound-Technology.pdf).

<sup>14</sup> See <https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/49session/Pages/Panel-discussions.aspx> (meeting on enhancing technical cooperation and capacity-building in promoting and protecting the rights of persons in vulnerable and marginalized situations in recovery efforts during and after the COVID-19 pandemic).

Honduras, Jordan, Mexico, Nepal, Serbia, Somalia, Timor-Leste and Ukraine. OHCHR advocated for universal and equitable access to COVID-19 vaccines as a global public good and for universal health coverage as a vital component of the right to health. OHCHR also worked with the United Nations Inter-Agency Task Force on the Prevention and Control of Non-communicable Diseases to promote the integration of human rights into the response to non-communicable diseases. OHCHR submitted a report to the Human Rights Council at its fiftieth session ([A/HRC/50/53](#)) focusing on the targets related to societal enablers adopted by the General Assembly in its Political Declaration on HIV and AIDS: Ending Inequalities and Getting on Track to End AIDS by 2030.

26. In the context of the global food crisis, the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development issued a joint open letter to the twelfth Ministerial Conference of the World Trade Organization, in which they urged Member States to align trade rules with human rights obligations so as to support the realization of the right to adequate food for all.

27. Under the framework of UN-Water, OHCHR led the development of a road map for the integration of the human right to water and sanitation in the context of the efforts by UN-Water to support the accelerated implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 6, on access to water and sanitation for all.

## 5. Business and human rights

28. Guidance from OHCHR in the area of business and human rights helped to shape policy design and practice, in particular in the areas of accountability and access to remedy, as illustrated in its report on the accountability and remedy project and the accompanying addendum ([A/HRC/50/45](#) and [A/HRC/50/45/Add.1](#)). Advisory and advocacy work by OHCHR also further clarified how recent mandatory human rights due diligence initiatives could be better aligned with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.<sup>15</sup> In the framework of the project on business and human rights in technology, OHCHR organized an expert consultation and prepared a report ([A/HRC/50/56](#) and [A/HRC/50/56/Add.1](#)), demonstrating the value and practical application of the Guiding Principles in preventing and addressing adverse impacts on human rights related to technology companies.

29. The work of OHCHR at the regional and national levels enhanced knowledge and understanding of the Guiding Principles by business entities and other stakeholders and increased implementation efforts, including in Argentina, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Panama and Peru.<sup>16</sup> In addition, OHCHR supported four regional forums on business and human rights, convened by the Working Group on business and human rights.

## 6. Environment, climate change and human rights

30. OHCHR has worked closely with the United Nations Environment Programme, UNDP, the United Nations Environment Management Group and other partners to advance the human right to a healthy environment in line with the Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda and his Call to Action for Human Rights. On 28 June, OHCHR organized a panel discussion at the Human Rights Council on climate change and its impacts on the rights of persons in vulnerable situations. The panel had before it the first ever report of the Secretary-General on the impacts of climate change on the human rights of people in vulnerable situations ([A/HRC/50/57](#)).

<sup>15</sup> See, for example, [www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/eu-csddd-feedback-ohchr.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-05/eu-csddd-feedback-ohchr.pdf).

<sup>16</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/business/bhr-africa](http://www.ohchr.org/en/business/bhr-africa); and [www.ohchr.org/en/business/joint-project-responsible-business-conduct-latin-america-and-caribbean](http://www.ohchr.org/en/business/joint-project-responsible-business-conduct-latin-america-and-caribbean).

## **C. Peace and security**

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

31. OHCHR continued to provide substantive and strategic support to human rights components in United Nations peace operations and special political missions. Through its strategic engagement with Security Council members and with other relevant United Nations entities, OHCHR sought to strengthen the consideration of human rights in Security Council resolutions, as well as to support the implementation of human rights mandates in the field through training, technical assistance and the implementation of compliance frameworks.

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

32. OHCHR supported the consistent implementation of the United Nations human rights due diligence policy, including through the adoption and operationalization of related procedures in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Central African Republic, Ethiopia, Georgia, Honduras, Montenegro, Myanmar, Nepal, North Macedonia, Peru, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Ukraine and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), as well as in Kosovo.<sup>17</sup> In United Nations mission settings, efforts related to the human rights due diligence policy focused on identifying and mitigating the political, reputational and human rights risks associated with United Nations support to national security forces.

33. In February 2022, OHCHR, with the European Union and the African Union, commenced a project to support the implementation of the African Union compliance framework, which ensures that peace support operations that are led and authorized by the African Union are planned and conducted in compliance with international human rights and humanitarian law and conduct and discipline standards, with the protection of civilians at their core.

34. OHCHR ensured that human rights remain a priority in the mandatory training materials for military and police personnel in United Nations missions. Pursuant to Security Council resolution [2391 \(2017\)](#), OHCHR continued to support the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel in implementing its human rights and international humanitarian law compliance framework, contributing to the professionalization and operational posture of the Joint Force towards protecting civilians and improving its ability to mitigate and respond to civilian harm.

### **3. Prevention, early warning and emergency response**

35. OHCHR strengthened its information management and data analysis capacity to enhance early warning, prevention, monitoring and response. OHCHR strengthened its prevention work by enhancing open-source analysis, data provenance assessments and technological capacity to absorb, process and link data from various sources. In addition, OHCHR continued to integrate human rights in the African Union's continental early warning system.

36. In Ethiopia, between April and June 2022, OHCHR strengthened the capacity of civil society actors to monitor and report on early warning indicators for the prevention of community-based conflicts that could escalate into human rights abuses and violations. Local early warning networks were subsequently established and are operational in six locations across the country.

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<sup>17</sup> References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution [1244 \(1999\)](#).

#### **4. Peacebuilding**

37. OHCHR strengthened its work supported by the Peacebuilding Fund. As at 30 June 2022, OHCHR had 22 ongoing Peacebuilding Fund-supported projects across all regions. For example, in Honduras, with the support of the Peacebuilding Fund, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and OHCHR launched a project to prevent and manage social conflicts related to access to land in peasant and indigenous communities. In Kyrgyzstan, OHCHR, jointly with UNDP and the United Nations Children's Fund, carried out a project aimed at peacebuilding and promoting social cohesion, which involved 100 members of women's councils and 100 youth representatives in four target communities.

38. In Serbia, OHCHR contributed to the development of the United Nations country team's action plan on social cohesion and building trust, which mapped strategic steps for the United Nations in Serbia to address regional reconciliation and hate speech.

39. OHCHR continued to be a part of the United Nations initiative for peace consolidation in Bolivia (Plurinational State of) and Honduras, which contributed to inter-agency engagement on human rights, institutional strengthening, prevention of conflict and promotion of dialogue.

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

40. OHCHR continued to strengthen the capacity of women's organizations and key stakeholders on sexual and gender-based violence, strategic litigation on sexual and reproductive rights, access to justice and human-rights based investigation of gender-based killings in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Libya, Mali, Mexico, Panama, Paraguay, Peru and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), as well as in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

41. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, OHCHR contributed to the work of the gender committee of the judiciary, including efforts to prevent political violence and promote the protection of children against early marriage. In Haiti, OHCHR developed a protection analysis on sexual violence against women and girls in marginalized areas of Port-au-Prince related to gang criminality. In Mali, OHCHR launched a quick impact project to support and empower 30 vulnerable women and girls exposed to or survivors of sexual and gender-based violence.

42. OHCHR continued to integrate human rights, gender-sensitive and victim-centred approaches within the United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict network, including in joint assessment of the monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence. In January, the High Commissioner addressed the Security Council open debate on protecting participation by addressing violence targeting women in peace and security processes.

#### **6. Humanitarian action**

43. OHCHR continued to mainstream a human rights-based approach in humanitarian settings, including relative to the COVID-19 pandemic in the Africa, Americas, Middle East and Asia-Pacific regions. In Madagascar, OHCHR supported the United Nations country team in conducting a comprehensive human rights-based diagnostic of the structural drivers of the food insecurity situation in the southern region of the country.

44. OHCHR continued to engage in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the Global Protection Cluster, the Global Health Cluster and the United Nations COVID-19 Crisis Management Team. It contributed to the Inter-Agency Standing Committee guidance on bureaucratic and administrative impediments to humanitarian action, the review of the protection policy of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee and the implementation of the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights in crisis contexts.

45. In 2022, OHCHR continued to engage in protection working groups and protection clusters and with humanitarian country teams and humanitarian coordinators, for example in Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Haiti, Mozambique, Somalia, South Sudan and Ukraine, as well as in the Occupied Palestinian Territory. That included mainstreaming the centrality of protection in the United Nations responses in Afghanistan and in relation to the conflict in the Tigray region of Ethiopia and to gang violence in Haiti. OHCHR leads the protection cluster in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and co-leads in Haiti.

46. OHCHR participated in humanitarian planning exercises, including the humanitarian planning cycle in 22 countries and the 2022 global humanitarian overview. The capacity of OHCHR to engage in humanitarian action was strengthened through an online training programme for its staff, including lessons learned from the COVID-19 response and recovery. OHCHR and the Asia Pacific Forum enhanced the capacities of national human rights institutions in the region on humanitarian action through piloting an online training programme.

## **D. Non-discrimination**

### **1. Racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance**

47. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution [43/1](#) and the High Commissioner's report on the promotion and protection of the human rights and fundamental freedoms of Africans and of people of African descent ([A/HRC/47/53](#)), OHCHR continued to take action towards transformative change for racial justice and equality, including by bringing the 20 recommendations presented in the report to the attention of Member States and stakeholders in multiple forums.

48. OHCHR provided technical advice in Montenegro on the implementation of the draft law on the protection of equality and prohibition of discrimination and in Peru on the elaboration of the national policy for Afro-Peruvians (2022–2030). In South Africa, OHCHR produced a social media campaign and supported the production of a short film commemorating the 1960 Sharpeville massacre.

49. Consultations were held with civil society for the appointment in March of five members of the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent. OHCHR supported the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent in its country visits to Portugal and Switzerland and, in May 2022, the holding of its first public session, which was dedicated to children of African descent.

### **2. Migrants**

50. OHCHR continued to provide guidance on migration and human rights issues. It conducted monitoring missions to the Colombia-Panama border and the Gambia, training for border officials in Mauritania and Thailand and in the Middle East and North Africa regions, in addition to workshops on climate change, migration and human rights in the Sahel.

51. In April, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 47/12, OHCHR convened a panel on the human rights of migrants in vulnerable situations.<sup>18</sup> In May, OHCHR published a study on admission practices in 17 Asia-Pacific countries<sup>19</sup> and supported the first International Migration Review Forum of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. With the University of Essex, OHCHR facilitated a consultation on the impact of emerging technologies on migrants' rights at international borders. OHCHR continued efforts to reshape harmful narratives through its "Stand up for migrants" campaign (#StandUp4Migrants).

### **3. Discrimination on the basis of indigenous or minority status**

52. OHCHR pre-launched a guide on the protection of minority rights in anti-discrimination legislation<sup>20</sup> at the World Justice Forum in May and provided guidance to national stakeholders, including in Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Jamaica, Madagascar, Montenegro and the Republic of Moldova.

53. In the context of the Minorities and Indigenous Fellowship Programmes, OHCHR assigned 30 senior fellows from 26 countries (14 women and 16 men) to OHCHR offices in a job-shadowing programme. In May 2022, the programme was expanded to include an intersectionality stream. This new approach allowed the recruitment of five former fellows for placement as senior minority or senior indigenous fellows (intersectionality stream) in United Nations field offices worldwide. The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples supported the participation of 20 indigenous representatives (12 women and 8 men) from 19 countries at the twenty-first session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. In June, the Fund supported eight indigenous representatives (four men and four women) from eight countries to participate in consultations related to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

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

54. In Mexico, OHCHR advocated and provided guidance on sexual and reproductive health and rights, including towards the decriminalization of abortion. In Paraguay, OHCHR published a guide to address gender stereotyping by the judiciary and strengthened the capacities of judicial personnel. In the Sudan, OHCHR strengthened the capacity of the Ministry of Labor and Social Development to address violence against women and girls. In Central America, OHCHR continued to strengthen women's organizations and other stakeholders in strategic litigation on sexual and reproductive health and rights.

55. OHCHR continued the implementation of its Gender Accreditation Programme to enhance integration of gender analysis in monitoring, reporting, programmatic and advocacy work. So far, the Programme has supported six OHCHR field presences and over 240 staff. Offices in Guatemala and the Syrian Arab Republic have been selected for inclusion in the Programme's third round.

### **5. Persons with disabilities**

56. OHCHR supported the organization of a session on community inclusion for persons with disabilities at the Global Disability Summit in 2022. In March, in its

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<sup>18</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/events/events/2022/intersessional-panel-discussion-human-rights-migrants-vulnerable-situations-21](http://www.ohchr.org/en/events/events/2022/intersessional-panel-discussion-human-rights-migrants-vulnerable-situations-21).

<sup>19</sup> Available at [www.bangkok.ohchr.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Pathways-to-migrant-protection.pdf](http://www.bangkok.ohchr.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/05/Pathways-to-migrant-protection.pdf).

<sup>20</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/minorities/minority-rights-equality-and-anti-discrimination-law](http://www.ohchr.org/en/minorities/minority-rights-equality-and-anti-discrimination-law).

resolution [49/12](#), the Human Rights Council requested the High Commissioner to develop guidance on support systems.

57. In Brazil, Georgia, Guatemala, Jamaica, Malawi, Mozambique, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, OHCHR advised on the incorporation of international standards into domestic legal systems and their justiciability. In Ethiopia, OHCHR supported a national dialogue between women with disabilities and state authorities. In Tunisia, OHCHR published a braille version of the report of the Truth and Dignity Commission.

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

58. OHCHR continued advocating the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and other (LGBTIQ+) persons through the Free & Equal campaign and engaged in targeted advocacy, including on the occasion of the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia. OHCHR supported and advised national stakeholders in Brazil, Cabo Verde, the Dominican Republic, Liberia, Mongolia, Montenegro, Nepal, Peru, Serbia, Timor-Leste, Viet Nam and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). In May, OHCHR launched a guide to support engagement with the private sector<sup>21</sup> and an online platform for companies to self-assess compliance with the United Nations standards of conduct for business in tackling discrimination against LGBTI people.<sup>22</sup>

## **7. Older persons**

59. In April, OHCHR supported the twelfth session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing. Within the framework of the Decade of Healthy Ageing 2020–2030, it launched guidance with the World Health Organization and partners.<sup>23</sup> OHCHR also contributed to the fourth review and appraisal of the Madrid International Plan of Action on Ageing, 2002.

## **8. Children and youth**

60. OHCHR continued to partner with the Education Above All Foundation and Silatech and organized six regional consultations to develop a toolkit on the rights of youth and established a youth advisory board. In May, OHCHR co-convened the Asia Regional Dialogue on Climate Justice for Children, Youth and Future Generations. OHCHR also supported Member States with advice pursuant to the High Commissioner's report on the rights of the child and family reunification ([A/HRC/49/31](#)). Engagement on the development of a United Nations-wide guidance note on mainstreaming the rights of the child continues.

## **9. Persons with albinism**

61. OHCHR contributed to the Secretary-General's report on social development challenges faced by persons with albinism ([A/76/769](#)) by including the findings and recommendation of its research on the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. In Madagascar, OHCHR supported the Ministry of Justice to prevent violence and address discrimination against persons with albinism, with technical assistance and awareness-raising.

<sup>21</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/publications/policy-and-methodological-publications/minding-corporate-gap-how-human-rights](http://www.ohchr.org/en/publications/policy-and-methodological-publications/minding-corporate-gap-how-human-rights).

<sup>22</sup> Available at <https://lgbtiq.unglobalcompact.org/>.

<sup>23</sup> See [www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240052550](http://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240052550).

## **E. Accountability**

### **1. Transitional justice**

62. OHCHR provided technical assistance to State institutions and other stakeholders to support the design and implementation of inclusive, context-specific and victim-centred transitional justice processes, including in Burkina Faso, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guatemala, Kenya, Lebanon, Maldives, Mexico, Peru, the Republic of Korea, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Tunisia, in line with the approach presented by the High Commissioner in her 2022 report to the Human Rights Council ([A/HRC/49/39](#)).

63. In Burkina Faso, OHCHR is implementing a Peacebuilding Fund project to support the reconciliation process in the country and is advocating the full compliance of this process with international norms and standards, including those pertaining to transitional justice. In Colombia, OHCHR continued to provide technical assistance to promote gender-sensitive transitional justice mechanisms. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, OHCHR supported the establishment of a civil society working group on transitional justice within the National Joint Committee charged with conducting community-level consultations and the establishment of a provincial Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission in the Kasai region. Together with UNDP, in the Gambia OHCHR is training national stakeholders under the transitional justice and human rights project funded by the Peacebuilding Fund. In the Maldives, OHCHR supported the Ombudsperson's Office for Transitional Justice and provided training to its investigators. In Tunisia, OHCHR supported transitional justice processes through engagement with civil society and victims' organizations and provided technical support to the specialized criminal chamber. In the Syrian Arab Republic, OHCHR continued to work towards the establishment of a mechanism to address the fate and whereabouts of missing persons, including through the implementation of General Assembly resolution [76/228](#), and towards accountability based on its statistical analysis of conflict-related deaths.

### **2. Death penalty**

64. OHCHR continued advocating steps towards the abolition of the death penalty, including in the Central African Republic, Equatorial Guinea, Liberia, Papua New Guinea, Singapore and Zambia.

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

65. OHCHR continued to advocate a human rights-based approach to countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism and provided technical advice on national policies and legislation. In May, OHCHR participated in the High-level International Conference on Human Rights, Civil Society and Counter-Terrorism and co-organized a side event on human rights-based counter-terrorism responses. OHCHR addressed, for the first time, the Counter-Terrorism Committee in a closed briefing in May on comprehensive approaches to countering terrorism and violent extremism conducive to terrorism and the role of civil society and other non-governmental actors. OHCHR remains actively engaged in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact and the Global Compact for United Nations Support on Syrian Arab Republic and Iraq Third Country Returnees, notably in the joint scoping exercise in Iraq and Maldives.

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

66. OHCHR continued to monitor, train and advise State institutions and other national stakeholders to foster accountability and strengthen the administration of justice and the rule of law in Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, the Niger, Peru, the Republic of Korea, South Sudan, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, OHCHR supported the judicial reform initiative led by the Ministry of Justice, including on reparations. In Burundi and Mali, OHCHR provided technical advice for the revision of the Military Justice Code and related policies. In Ecuador, OHCHR and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime provided technical advice for the development of a new prisons policy, including to address overcrowding. In Eswatini, OHCHR, the Standing Police Capacity and UNDP jointly conducted an assessment of the national police service to support reform efforts. In Kenya, OHCHR supported the development of guidelines on the investigation and prosecution of violations by law enforcement officers. In Mexico, OHCHR promoted the creation of an extraordinary forensic identification mechanism to address the backlog in the forensic identification of over 52,000 unidentified human remains. In the Republic of Korea, OHCHR trained officials of the Ministry of Justice and the Ministry of Unification in the documentation and preservation of evidence of crimes against humanity. In Burundi, Haiti, Honduras, Liberia and South Sudan, OHCHR continued to advise authorities on and monitor conditions of detention.

67. OHCHR continued to support the work of the Group of Governmental Experts on Torture-Free Trade, mandated by the General Assembly in its resolution 73/304, including in the context of its third virtual meeting, held in January 2022, and its stakeholder consultations. The Group will present its final report to the Assembly at its seventy-sixth session.

#### 5. Human rights and drug policy

68. In line with the 2018 United Nations system common position on drug-related matters, OHCHR continued advocating the decriminalization of the use of drugs for personal use and in addressing prison overcrowding. OHCHR continued to engage with the United Nations Commission on Narcotic Drugs and participated in its sixty-fifth session,<sup>24</sup> during which it co-organized a virtual side event on the theme “Practical measures for the prohibition of arbitrary detention in the context of drug control measures”.<sup>25</sup> In a statement delivered at the second Brandenburg Forum, held in Geneva, the High Commissioner called for concerted action to put human rights at the centre of policies and decision-making processes related to the world’s drug problems.<sup>26</sup>

<sup>24</sup> See [https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/65\\_Session\\_2022/65CND\\_Main.html](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/65_Session_2022/65CND_Main.html). For the statement by OHCHR, see [www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/65\\_Session\\_2022/general\\_debate\\_statements.html](https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/commissions/CND/session/65_Session_2022/general_debate_statements.html).

<sup>25</sup> See <https://cndblog.org/2022/03/practical-measures-for-the-prohibition-of-arbitrary-detention-in-the-context-of-drug-control-measures/>.

<sup>26</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2022/06/aligning-drug-policies-human-rights](https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2022/06/aligning-drug-policies-human-rights).

## **F. Participation**

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

69. OHCHR continued to support human rights defenders and defenders' networks, including in Southern Africa and the Pacific region, where it worked with the Pacific Human Rights Defenders Network and supported the design of a university course as part of its leadership, governance and human rights diploma programme. OHCHR contributed to advancing protection and promoting women's participation and leadership during the 2022 elections in Kenya.

70. OHCHR continued documenting challenges facing defenders and journalists worldwide, offline and online. With the Iraqi Network for Social Media, it trained 200 defenders on digital rights and online security.

71. OHCHR collaborated with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) in the organization of a closed consultation with women human rights defenders from the Middle East and North African regions. The discussions covered attacks and reprisals, their impact on women's participation in peace and security processes and related protection needs and strategies.

72. In the context of the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights and Our Common Agenda, OHCHR continued to advocate more inclusive and safer civil society participation in all United Nations processes. By supporting the mandate of the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, OHCHR continued to lead United Nations efforts to prevent and address all such acts against those who cooperate with the United Nations, including by engaging with Member States and providing guidance to the United Nations system on the issue.

73. In Chile, OHCHR prepared information materials on international human rights norms relevant to the constitutional review process. OHCHR provided training on the right to participate to government officials, national human rights institutions and youth groups in Mauritius and Uzbekistan. In May 2022, OHCHR held an online consultation with civil society activists of African descent, in which participants shared experiences on their involvement in the design, implementation and evaluation of laws, policies, programmes and processes, and the impact of their underrepresentation in State institutions and other sectors.

### **2. Digital space**

74. As part of the implementation of the Secretary-General's Road Map for Digital Cooperation and the Call to Action for Human Rights, OHCHR continued to develop guidance for United Nations entities on human rights due diligence and the impact of digital technologies. OHCHR intensified its advocacy for rights-based online content governance by directly engaging with Member States, technology companies and multilateral financial institutions, including on the basis of the High Commissioner's report on the human rights impact of Internet shutdowns ([A/HRC/50/55](#)).

75. OHCHR provided advice on human rights standards and principles during the negotiation of a cybercrime convention in the First Committee of the General Assembly and advocated regulations, bans and moratoriums on the sale and export of spyware.<sup>27</sup>

<sup>27</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2021/09/committee-legal-affairs-and-human-rights-parliamentary-assembly-council-europe](http://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2021/09/committee-legal-affairs-and-human-rights-parliamentary-assembly-council-europe).

### **3. Electoral processes**

76. OHCHR monitored human rights and conducted related advocacy in the context of electoral processes, including in Chile, Colombia, the Congo, Ecuador, the Gambia, Honduras, Mexico, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zambia. OHCHR also provided technical assistance to State institutions and civil society on early warning and monitoring. In Honduras, OHCHR implemented monitoring strategies with an emphasis on early warning and prevention. OHCHR published a new version of its handbook on human rights and elections.

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

77. OHCHR continued to strengthen the capacity of national human rights institutions in Algeria, Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Guatemala, Lesotho, Liberia, Morocco, the Niger, Nigeria, Panama, Peru, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Legal advice for the establishment of national human rights institutions that are compliant with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles) was extended in the Bahamas, Cambodia, Eswatini, Kuwait and Sao Tome and Principe, and in Kyrgyzstan for the reform of the legislative framework for national human rights institutions.

### **5. Human rights education**

78. OHCHR continued conducting training and education activities in cooperation with universities and institutes, including in Liberia, Mexico and the Niger. OHCHR also continued to assist in the implementation of the fourth phase (2020–2024) of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, focusing on youth, and supported the Platform for Human Rights Education and Training of the Human Rights Council in a side event on assessing progress in national implementation of the World Programme. In February 2022, OHCHR co-published with the Equitas International Centre for Human Rights Education a guide on good practices in human rights education programming.<sup>28</sup>

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<sup>28</sup> Available at [www.ohchr.org/en/publications/training-and-education-publications/bridging-our-diversities-compendium-good-practices](http://www.ohchr.org/en/publications/training-and-education-publications/bridging-our-diversities-compendium-good-practices).

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## Chapter III

### Management and administration

79. Gender and geographical diversity at OHCHR improved, with overall gender parity at 58 per cent women for regular Professional staff, while efforts continue to achieve gender parity in senior management (45 per cent women). Continuous efforts to recruit staff from less represented regional groups and unrepresented/underrepresented Member States are delivering positive results. In this regard, the Secretary-General's award-winning Global University and youth United Nations Volunteer placements at OHCHR have attracted young and diverse talent in addition to the Young Professionals Programme. A dedicated roster exercise to hasten staff appointments and broaden the diversity of pre-approved candidates for positions at the Professional level is being completed. Improved access to mentoring, self-directed learning and career coaching is now facilitated through a dedicated career support team.

80. As a result of reduced travel and expanded virtual conferencing, OHCHR expects to reduce its 2022 carbon footprint by over 50 per cent compared with 2019.

81. OHCHR launched an office-wide digitalization project and continued to build internal cybersecurity competencies to cope with digital threats. OHCHR continued to coordinate common business operations with other United Nations entities to rationalize the use of resources.

## Chapter IV

### Conclusions

82. The current geopolitical crisis comes on top of other major global threats that continue to be of serious concern. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, including the Omicron surges, climate change, biodiversity loss, financial instability and water, energy and food insecurity, require stepped up efforts towards building resilient societies founded on human rights in order to withstand these and future crises.

83. At the same time, the significant economic impacts of the pandemic, coupled with the global consequences of ongoing conflicts, including in Ukraine, pose major constraints upon the ability to move forward in addressing these urgent challenges.

84. Global challenges require global solutions. In today's increasingly polarized multilateral system, joint efforts to defend the pillars on which the United Nations was established must be accelerated. This includes universal human rights, peaceful settlement of disputes, in conformity with the principles of justice and international law, and international cooperation and solidarity. That is the direction outlined by the Secretary-General in Our Common Agenda and the Call to Action for Human Rights.

85. Investing in human rights requires political will and dedicated efforts, which OHCHR will continue to encourage and to sustain. Through its country and regional presences and in supporting the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including the treaty bodies, the universal periodic review and special procedures, OHCHR will continue to advance engagement and dialogue on human rights in all countries and with all stakeholders.

86. All human rights mechanisms have an inherent preventive and early warning value and capacity that needs to be fully leveraged. To that end, they require adequate resources to implement the mandates given to them by Member States. By agreeing to a predictable eight-year calendar of full reviews of the compliance of State parties with their human rights treaty obligations, the human rights treaty bodies will now need support to be able to put the calendar into practice. This involves moral, political and financial support. Member States are urged to respond favourably.

87. OHCHR faces a growing workload and responds to these demands as effectively as it can, despite continuously limited resources. The Office continues to reassess and evaluate its work with the aim of achieving human rights results that have a real impact in peoples' daily lives. In that regard, in extending its office management plan through 2023, the Office has maintained its overall strategic direction, while placing additional emphasis in areas that are particularly relevant. These include addressing inequalities, leveraging data to promote and protect human rights and the situation of people of African descent.

88. The work of the Office to ensure that human rights are integrated fully into pandemic prevention, preparedness, response and recovery efforts remains essential. Engagement on economic, social and cultural rights, on preserving civic space offline and online, and on the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment deserves particular focus and attention. As the pandemic has set back gender equality and pushed those already marginalized further behind, the work of OHCHR to strengthen the protection of women's rights, operationalize the right to development and accelerate progress on achieving the 2030 Agenda will continue to intensify.

89. The High Commissioner appreciates the trust and support of Member States for the work of the Office. Investment in human rights is an investment in a shared prosperous and peaceful future and in finding solutions to today's complex challenges. This unique mandate, however, remains underresourced. The High Commissioner encourages Member States to acknowledge the importance of this work by allocating resources that match the challenges and through ongoing support for OHCHR.

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