



General Assembly

Distr.: General
17 February 2021

Original: English

Human Rights Council

Forty-sixth session

22 February–19 March 2021

Agenda item 10

Technical assistance and capacity-building

Report of the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights*, **

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 18/18, in which the Council invited the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights to present a comprehensive report on the Board's work on an annual basis, starting from the twentieth session of the Council. Pursuant to Council resolution 36/28, the present report is submitted to the Council at its forty-sixth session, in March 2021. It provides an update on the work of the Board of Trustees of the Fund since the previous report of the Chair of the Board (A/HRC/43/68).

* The present report was submitted after the deadline in order to reflect recent developments.

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



I. Introduction

A. Background

1. The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, established by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1987/38, receives voluntary contributions from Governments, organizations and individuals. The objective of the Fund is to provide financial support for technical cooperation aimed at building and strengthening national and regional institutions, legal frameworks and infrastructure that will have positive long-term impacts on the implementation of international human rights standards.

2. The Board of Trustees has been operational since 1993, and its members are appointed by the Secretary-General for a three-year term, renewable once. The mandate of the Board is to assist the Secretary-General in rationalizing and improving the technical cooperation programme. It meets twice a year and reports on its work to the Secretary-General and the Human Rights Council. Its current members are Morten Kjaerum (Denmark), Esi Sutherland-Addy (Ghana) (Chair), Valeriya Lutkovska (Ukraine), Santiago Corcuera-Cabezut (Mexico) and Azita Berar Awad (Islamic Republic of Iran). Ms. Berar Awad was nominated in March 2020 to replace the seat vacated by Lin Lim (Malaysia). The position of Chair is held on a rotational basis, covering at least two sessions of the Board and an annual Human Rights Council oral update.

B. Mandate

3. The Board of Trustees continued its refocused approach, as set out in the annual report of the Secretary-General to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/16/66). The support provided through resources of the Fund to assist States in developing their national capacities to promote the effective implementation of human rights obligations continued to be appreciated, as reflected by national partners on the ground with whom the Board met and in Council resolution 45/32. In 2020, the Board continued to provide advice to OHCHR on ways to strengthen technical cooperation in the areas identified as priorities in the Office's programme of work for 2018–2021 and designed with partners.

4. The sessions of the Board were affected, throughout 2020, by travel restrictions imposed to contain the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic. As visits and discussions with field presences and national and regional partners continued to be key tools for providing sound policy advice on the technical cooperation programmes at the country and regional levels, the Board decided to focus one session on the work of human rights advisers deployed to United Nations resident coordinators' offices and United Nations country teams. The secretariat of the Board applied innovative approaches to overcoming the challenges posed by the ongoing travel restrictions, including by organizing online sessions to enable the Board to hold discussions with key partners in all world regions.

5. As members also of the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review, the Board continued to offer policy guidance to enhance the effectiveness of technical assistance and financial support to States in implementing the recommendations made in the context of the universal periodic review and other international mechanisms. On the advice of the Board, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) continued to strengthen the strategic use of the resources under the Voluntary Funds to maximize their impact, especially in the areas of capacity-building and advisory services on the ground, placing particular emphasis during 2020 on the engagement of and support by the United Nations country teams to Member States.

6. The Board's components on good practices in the context of technical cooperation presented to the Human Rights Council in its annual reports are facilitating the sharing of good practices and encouraging States to approach and partner with OHCHR to receive advisory services and technical assistance in the field of human rights (see A/HRC/37/79). There has been an increased demand for OHCHR in-country presence, as well as for the

deployment of human rights advisers to United Nations resident coordinators' offices. The Board is encouraged by the fact that, at the sessions of the Council, States are increasingly underscoring the importance of soliciting and receiving technical cooperation and advisory services from OHCHR, based on the results of analyses of situations on the ground and made with a view to proposing the best possible programmes, in close cooperation with national partners. The Board is very concerned about the impact of COVID-19 on the general human rights situation. Attempts to stem the spread of the virus have posed challenges in respect of a wide range of human rights and had profound socioeconomic consequences that have widened both economic and other forms of inequalities. The Board will, within the scope of its mandate, follow up on how OHCHR and States enhance partnerships, in the aftermath of the pandemic, to strengthen the protection of all human rights, including economic, civil, cultural, political and social rights, through technical cooperation.

II. Activities of the Voluntary Fund and the Board of Trustees

7. The Board of Trustees held its fiftieth session online on 20 May 2020. At the session, the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, the United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights and relevant senior OHCHR staff focused on the implications of the COVID-19 pandemic for OHCHR programmes, the adjustments that were being made and the resources that the Fund could provide to continue to support measures aimed at minimizing any disruptions to the implementation of programmes on the ground and to funding. The fifty-first session was held online on 17 and 18 November 2020. At that session, the Deputy High Commissioner, experts and partners reviewed the activities implemented by OHCHR across all regions in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic. Particular attention was paid to the work of human rights advisers in the field.

8. The sessions were chaired by Ms. Sutherland-Addy. The Board reviewed the status of implementation of the workplan and cost plan for the Voluntary Fund, reviewed in detail the proposed programmes to be covered by the Fund in 2021 and formally endorsed them. During the sessions, the Board heard different perspectives and learned of good practices identified by OHCHR. In particular, discussions were held on the relevance and importance of the support provided by OHCHR in areas identified as emerging human rights concerns ("frontier issues"): climate change, the digital space and emerging technologies, corruption, inequalities and people on the move. The Board considers these issues to be critical, as demonstrated by the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, and that it is crucial for OHCHR to continue to guide the development of policies and practices that are in line with international human rights standards. This is particularly important in the context of efforts to address inequalities and promote the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights, in particular the rights to health, water and sanitation, food and education.

A. Fiftieth session

9. The Board had planned to hold its fiftieth session in New York, at the same time as the development segment of the annual session of the Economic and Social Council, in order to synergize stocktaking of the good experiences of the previous 20 years for the promotion and protection of human rights. The challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic and the measures taken to contain it, however, obliged the Board and its secretariat to hold its two 2020 sessions online. The Board hopes to soon have the opportunity to organize one of its sessions concurrently with the annual session of the Economic and Social Council.

10. The fiftieth session was held just as an unprecedented global health crisis was peaking in many countries. The need to protect and promote human rights principles was being flagged as more important than ever, and the United Nations and international partners were strengthening and adjusting their support to States in their responses to the pandemic and in the development of future plans for recovery. The Board was briefed about coordination efforts across the United Nations system, under the Secretary-General's leadership, to facilitate the provision of coherent and coordinated messages and support. The timely launch by the Secretary-General of "The highest aspiration: a call to action for human rights" (24 February 2020) set an ambitious agenda for all to strengthen and mobilize the United Nations

and the international community to ensure that respect for human rights becomes a reality for every person in every country.

11. COVID-19 has had a negative impact on multiple layers of the population and deepened pre-existing inequalities and vulnerabilities. The Board learned about actions and innovative approaches taken to align programmes aimed at supporting States at this critical juncture. This is an important achievement, since the pandemic has also placed an unprecedented strain on the entire United Nations system's response capacity and resources, with considerable consequences for stakeholders and partners involved in cooperation programmes on the ground. In a very short time, OHCHR undertook a mapping exercise of the challenges being reported in coping with such a pandemic around the world. As at the time of the session, over a quarter of a million people had died and economies were being devastated. Countries were entering a more complex period, with some countries beginning to open after lockdowns, while others were seeing their infection and death rates starting to soar for the first time.

12. The Board is impressed by the way OHCHR has been able to enhance its information management capacities to quickly collect factually verifiable information in order to provide sound advocacy support, policy advice and technical cooperation. As emphasized by the Board on several occasions, this work continues to be essential to enhance the already solid monitoring capacities of OHCHR in supporting States and the entire United Nations system.

13. As mentioned above, the pandemic, associated health hazards and their wide-ranging socioeconomic consequences have widened both economic and status inequalities. The overall impact on lives and economies in a context of already deep inequalities has clearly been catastrophic. Neglecting the economic and social rights of parts of the population in the end affects everyone. Given the depth of the ravages of this pandemic, responses should continue to be agile and based on a complete reset of policy approaches rather than on a mere adjustment to the crisis. The Board concurs with the High Commissioner that it is critical to fully integrate human rights in order to put people and their rights back at the centre of responses and efforts to build back better. This links very clearly with the Secretary-General's call to action for human rights and his call for a new social order in which outcomes are more sustainable, powerful and effective.

14. Throughout 2020, OHCHR played an active role in ensuring worldwide visibility of the human rights dimension of the crisis and its implications, as well as in specific policy actions to address various complex aspects. Guidance and advice have been provided across regions to ensure that human rights are protected, in line with international standards, considering the extraordinary challenges that States have been facing. All 92 OHCHR field presences, including the 53 covered through the Voluntary Fund, have been extending their valuable technical expertise. OHCHR efforts have focused on the following six main priority areas, which the Board has found to be fully in line with the challenges and needs: supporting vulnerable people/groups; promoting participation and inclusion; increasing access to information; supporting the United Nations system's response by integrating human rights in programmes and responses; engaging on economic and social rights; and ensuring respect for all human rights in the context of the COVID-19 crisis and supporting the engagement by the United Nations human rights mechanisms in responses to COVID-19.

15. The Board notes with appreciation the promptness and the high standards of professionalism that have characterized the OHCHR response, which has involved adapting and putting forward adequate mechanisms for fully understanding the situation from a human rights perspective and extending important and relevant support to countries across all regions. From the onset of the crisis, the High Commissioner has been raising the alert on the tremendous challenges requiring urgent attention. The guidance provided on the adoption and implementation of states of emergency and other exceptional measures, on the need to protect the health and safety of people in detention and other closed facilities, on the risks of violence against women and children, and on the difficult situations faced by migrants are particularly underscored.

16. As already noted, OHCHR operations were affected during the reporting period by the generalized and repeated lockdowns in many States and by uncertainty about resources. In this challenging context, the Board appreciates and supports the efforts deployed by the

committed and courageous staff of OHCHR and the adequate and timely responses provided by management. OHCHR faced the impact of the pandemic with an already complicated cash-flow situation. Yet, its staff around the world adapted quickly to working remotely by using online technologies and OHCHR managed to remain operational.

17. In summary, the Board has found that OHCHR has, throughout this challenging period, demonstrated once again the essential guiding role it can and is better placed to play in supporting a broader and better understanding of the need to fully implement human rights and achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

B. Fifty-first session

18. In accordance with its practice of holding one of its two sessions each year in a State where OHCHR has a field presence or where it is working with key partners in support of its overall programme, the Board planned to hold its fifty-first session in Lund, Sweden. Lund was the first human rights city in Sweden and is home to the Raoul Wallenberg Institute of Human Rights and Humanitarian Law, a world-renowned player in the promotion of human rights. Due to the continuing travel restrictions and health crisis, however, the session was held online.

19. The main purpose of the session was to continue to assess the impact on the ability of OHCHR to deliver technical cooperation across the regions in view of the challenges posed by the global health crisis and to learn about adjustments made to contain that impact. During the session, the Board learned about experiences in the context of the frontier issues identified by OHCHR and, in particular, about the efforts to address inequalities and obstacles to the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights. The Board paid particular attention to the integration of human rights in United Nations programmes, policies and practices at the country level through the work of United Nations resident coordinators and country teams. Emphasis was placed this time on the support and expertise provided on the ground by human rights advisers to both the United Nations and State partners.

20. Jomo Kwame Sundaram, a renowned economist, was invited to participate in the session to provide an overview of the current global situation and the challenges and opportunities involved in addressing inequalities both before and after the pandemic. He noted that the many victims of COVID-19 had not come randomly from all areas of society. Existing inequalities had amplified the costs of the pandemic and further widened gaps. It was important to include social perspectives in interventions to address the pandemic and the many opportunities that could emanate from the crisis should not be ignored, as the Board had reiterated. These opportunities included optimizing the possibilities for ensuring a more meaningful integration of human rights in policies and practices.

21. The United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights stated that the consequences of the pandemic might still be felt 10 years hence, by which time the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development should have been implemented. COVID-19 may just act as an enabler, promoting a more critical look at established models of development and the identification of the obstacles preventing the pursuit of the deep transformations that were necessary for achieving development that was sustainable. For that reason, United Nations country teams should be provided with the best means possible to achieve that objective, whether through policies, guidance tools or direct support. OHCHR, with its institutional technical capacity, played and would continue to play a critical role that should, in the view of the Board, be strengthened and financially supported.

22. The Assistant Secretary-General for Development Coordination stressed that human rights were a core part of the transformation under way and that realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development required linking development outcomes with the human rights obligations and commitments of States. To tackle the roots of inequity and vulnerability it was critical, in addition to improving access to basic essential social services, opportunities and social protection, to empower those discriminated against and excluded to claim their rights by increasing accountability and effective good governance. The United Nations expertise available across the different constituent parts of the system, including OHCHR itself, is extraordinary. That expertise, which is effectively and easily accessible through

coordinated action, should be an asset employed to strengthen efficiently the support provided to States on the ground. The reinvigorated independent resident coordinator system is well placed to draw on the experience, skills and knowledge that existed across the system to deliver collective responses to national needs and ensure country-level, system-wide accountability, to foster coherent and strategic engagement on and the pursuance of countries' human rights obligations and to promote the values, standards and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. In that area, OHCHR is the main reference entry point and its role should be strengthened and further supported. The renewed programmatic tools and guidance of the United Nations, including the new generation of United Nations sustainable development cooperation frameworks, are key vehicles to ensure integration. Those tools were framed around the international normative commitments of States, addressing the structural causes of inequality and discrimination and translating the analysis into collective country team responses through joint results and joint programmes. The technical capacities to integrate human rights into the different areas of the work on the ground had been strengthened through the deployment of five core staff members to the Resident Coordinator's Office and through the expansion of the network of human rights advisers.

23. Building partnerships with different actors across all regions was more crucial than ever. The Director General of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Carin Jämtin, stressed the critical role that OHCHR played, both at this critical juncture and in relation to the mainstreaming of human rights in the work of the United Nations. The Board was very encouraged by the support that Sweden and many other States provided to technical cooperation and by the support extended to all national government and State partners that participated in the sessions of the Board. Despite the many new priorities that had emerged in connection with the current health crisis, OHCHR continued to carry out its vital human rights work.

24. The Board's discussions with resident coordinators and United Nations country teams, as well as States and national partners, revealed that the technical advice from OHCHR was well recognized and highly appreciated, as repeatedly underscored during the session by the resident coordinators in Argentina, Nepal, Peru, Republic of Moldova and Uruguay, invited to share their experiences. They presented good examples of results achieved by them and their United Nations country teams in responding to request for technical cooperation support from national partners.

25. The discussions with resident coordinators, representatives from United Nations country teams, human rights advisers and national and international partners during the fiftieth and fifty-first sessions provided an excellent opportunity for the Board to continue to build a better understanding of the type of technical cooperation in the field of human rights that could be provided under the guidance of OHCHR and through joint United Nations efforts. The physical presence of human rights technical experts was enabling the expansion of opportunities to engage actively with key partners, working closely with all actors on the ground, establishing the trust necessary to gather the evidence-based information needed to provide relevant advice to State entities and other key actors on effective policies and programmes supported by the entire United Nations system.

26. During its fifty-first session, the Board learned from resident coordinators and human rights advisers about the type of support provided and the results achieved in Argentina, Azerbaijan, Belize, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Madagascar, Malawi, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, the Republic of Moldova, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste. Human rights advisers were deployed in 43 countries (see para. 48 below). The deployments were operated by OHCHR and were the result of a joint effort by the entire United Nations system under the United Nations Sustainable Development Group.

27. In Argentina, the United Nations, with the support of human rights advisers and humanitarian partners such as the International Humanitarian Network of Argentina, assisted in the preparation of a plan for responding to the sociomedical emergency in the region of Salta, which had affected, in particular, indigenous Wichi children. In the plan, areas requiring support were identified, such as access to clean water, adequate sanitation and hygiene; food insecurity, which determines the nutritional status; limitations in accessing health services; and participation of indigenous communities in policies and programmes.

The provincial government and local communities were thereby being supported through a thorough and well-coordinated process. In Ecuador, in the context of the elections, technical support was provided to expand understanding of the rights of specific groups, in particular lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex individuals and communities, and of ways to engage in processes aiming at supporting the promotion and protection of their rights.

28. In Uruguay, as part of the technical support on human rights provided by the United Nations to academic institutions, a human rights adviser supported the Strategic Litigation Clinic of the University of the Republic by strengthening understanding of applicable international standards and jurisprudence on the right to adequate housing. The Clinic presented a case involving *amparo* proceedings and in which immediate protection measures had been demanded to uphold the right to adequate housing of a family whose house was at the point of collapse. It was the first time that *amparo* proceedings to secure the right to housing had been admitted by a Uruguay court, that the Ministry for Housing, Territorial Planning and the Environment had agreed to provide a house to the claimant's family within 24 hours and that the Ministry of Social Development had agreed to ensure access to essential services as part of the recognition of the human right to adequate housing. In Nepal, technical assistance had been provided to support victims of the conflict in preparing their first-ever submission to the universal periodic review. In the submission, they highlighted the stalled transitional justice process and demanded a victim-centric approach to amending the transitional justice law. They also called for the adoption of a comprehensive transitional justice strategy that was in line with the international legal obligations and national laws of Nepal. During the third cycle of the universal periodic review, held at thirty-seventh session of Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, several States recommended that Nepal revise its legislation on its commissions on truth and reconciliation and on the investigation of disappeared persons, in line with victims' demand and consistent with international law.

29. In Kenya, an analysis had been carried out of the impact on human rights of the crisis in informal urban settlements, of the challenges experienced by those living in such settlements in accessing services, in particular water, adequate housing and health, and of the prevalence of gender-based violence and excessive use of force by the police in enforcing emergency measures. The results of the analysis had served to support the inclusion of information on the human rights situation and of appropriate responses in the United Nations emergency appeal and the COVID-19-related socioeconomic response plan. In Malawi, since the presidential elections held in May 2019 and the protests held in 2020, technical advisory services had been provided to prevent serious human rights violations and encourage peaceful solutions to the unrest. An analysis of the situation from a human rights perspective had identified weaknesses and gaps in the human rights protection system, as well as a number of human rights-related root causes of the civil unrest. That had resulted in technical cooperation and coordinated engagement, for example, between the United Nations and the police, civil society and the national human rights institution.

30. The support and technical expertise provided by human rights advisers was recognized and appreciated by United Nations agencies and programmes and by national partners. The technical capacity and advisory services that they provided was critical to ensuring a rights-based perspective in the work of the United Nations on the ground. Placing human rights at the centre of efforts to address entrenched inequalities, which act as a barrier to development, was critical. The Board was pleased to note the positive impact achieved through the OHCHR "surge initiative", which aimed to enhance economic expertise with a human rights perspective and to foster partnerships among Governments at various levels, United Nations entities and local human rights advocates. Through the initiative, national efforts to support the implementation of recommendations from human rights mechanisms, including the universal periodic review, which require particular human rights-based and socioeconomic expertise, have also been expanded.

31. Also at its fifty-first session, the Board had the opportunity to follow up on the recommendations made at its forty-first session, held in Phnom Penh from 9 to 11 February 2015 and in Bangkok on 12 and 13 February. The Board noted that OHCHR had made efforts to strengthen the capacities of its Regional Office for South-East Asia in Bangkok and was grateful for the voluntary contributions received in support of the work done by OHCHR in Cambodia and Thailand, in particular in important thematic areas such as treaty body

capacity-building and in some areas of work that were new for the Regional Office and that included early warning and prevention, climate change and environmental rights, human rights in development, digital space as it related to fundamental freedoms and civic space, and business and human rights. This strengthened capacity allowed for increased technical cooperation opportunities in critical emerging issues in the region and the enhancement and expansion of OHCHR partnerships in the region. The Board also noted, with satisfaction, that the Regional Office had invested in and developed its tools for enhanced multidisciplinary analytical work, which had strengthened its capacities to provide human rights technical cooperation and advisory services based on sound analyses of the situation on the ground.

32. When OHCHR was given opportunities and financial resources to work directly in-country, closer to the realities on the ground, trust and reliance on its expertise developed very quickly, as the Board had observed from the discussions with national actors. The Board also observed, during its sessions and when meeting United Nations partners on the ground, that OHCHR was often in a difficult position because it was not represented at the same high level as other United Nations entities. OHCHR efforts to expand expertise should be fully supported through an increased proportion of the regular budget and access to unearmarked funding that would ensure an adequate level of representation and support management in the regions. The Board welcomed efforts in that direction and stressed that it was becoming even more relevant to address the issue given the reforms of the United Nations development system.

33. The physical presence of OHCHR through its country office in Cambodia had enabled OHCHR to enhance the value of its unique mandate by engaging actively with key partners and building solid trust and support in the region. That comparative and collaborative advantage was evident in the bridges and spaces for dialogue and cooperation that it had been able to establish. Based on the views of its partners, the Board concluded that the country office in Cambodia was one of the main and most valued international actors working for human rights promotion and protection in the country. During more than 27 years in Cambodia, OHCHR had responded in a timely fashion to a range of challenges by proposing sound technical cooperation programmes and by supporting national efforts to investigate and provide reparations for human rights violations in very difficult circumstances.

34. The Board was pleased to observe that OHCHR was recognized as a critical member of the United Nations system in the country. That engagement and constant support had built the foundation for the solid trust enjoyed by the OHCHR country office. The support that the office could continue to provide should be further reinforced by the Secretary-General's call to action for human rights. The continued presence of OHCHR in the country, as demonstrated with the renewed agreement, was highly relevant to meeting human rights challenges and opportunities in the country. The support provided towards the alignment of the State's human rights obligations and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was particularly relevant. The Board was particularly encouraged by the actions that the country office had taken to adjust to the evolution and progress in the country. The implementation of the programme and the proposals for adaptation to continue to support the State in the most meaningful way, fully in line with the OHCHR mandate, was welcome and fully supported by the Board.

35. In its capacity also as the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review, the Board continued to gather information on good examples of engagement in the universal periodic review and follow-up to the recommendations arising from that process, through technical cooperation and as requested by States. The Board continued to offer policy guidance in order to maximize the effectiveness of the technical assistance and financial support available to States in implementing the recommendations arising from the universal periodic review and other international mechanisms. The practical guidance recently developed on the basis of the Secretary-General's call to action for human rights provides advice on how United Nations entities at the country level can engage in supporting progress by Member States on human rights, starting with the implementation of the accepted recommendations arising from the universal periodic review and of measures to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

36. As it had done at previous sessions, the Board met with interested Member States and supported technical cooperation programmes in all regions, in close cooperation with the OHCHR Donor and External Relations Section. During its fifty-first session, the Board explored the possibility of engaging also with foundations and the private sector, in line with the mandate of the Fund.

37. The Board was of the firm view that OHCHR, given its expertise, experience and capacity to respond to complex situations, as proven most recently in the context of the COVID-19 global health crisis, was the strongest possible reference point for guiding partners on the ground, including the United Nations system, on human rights. Its key normative role in providing the critical advice that States required to ensure that their efforts to explicitly integrate human rights into all policies and practices were fully in line with the international human rights framework should be further strengthened with financial and political support.

III. Technical cooperation

A. Technical cooperation in the field of human rights: key components of sound technical cooperation programmes

38. In 2012, the Board brought to the attention of the Human Rights Council seven components for ensuring the effectiveness of the technical cooperation efforts of OHCHR and other United Nations entities. The value of those components has since become all the more evident as the Board has gained greater experience in overseeing the management of the programmes financed through the Voluntary Funds and in providing overall policy advice on technical cooperation. The context of the components has been elaborated in detail in each of the annual reports and in the oral presentations of the Chair of the Board to the Council.

39. These components of technical cooperation and the identification of good practices have been noted with appreciation by the Human Rights Council, most recently in its resolution 42/32. During 2020, the Board continued, with OHCHR, to expand awareness of the components, including in thematic panel discussions held during the sessions of the Council. One such example was the annual thematic panel discussion on technical cooperation and capacity-building held on 15 July 2020 on the theme “Upholding the human rights of prisoners, including women prisoners and offenders: enhancing technical cooperation and capacity-building in the implementation of the Nelson Mandela Rules and the Bangkok Rules”. The Board is satisfied about the fact that the components continue to guide discussions and the sharing of good practices on technical cooperation.

40. In preparation for the annual thematic panel discussion to be held during the forty-seventh session of the Human Rights Council pursuant to Council resolution 45/32, on the theme “Technical cooperation to advance the right to education and ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and lifelong learning for all”, the Board invites States to take into account the components of technical cooperation while sharing experiences and practices.

41. Technical cooperation programmes must be based on the universality and indivisibility of all human rights – economic, civil, cultural, political and social rights – and must include both elements for the protection and the promotion of human rights. In this context, the protection and promotion of the right to education is pivotal. Effective technical cooperation should focus on building and strengthening national frameworks and institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights. A robust education system addressing effectiveness, availability, accessibility, acceptability and adaptability is very much needed, in particular given the impacts of the current global health crisis and the measures being put in place to address the COVID-19 pandemic.

42. One reason why the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals, is a transformative development framework is that it is based on human rights. Technical cooperation should reflect national development objectives to ensure the highest levels of ownership and sustainability and to respond to genuine national interests, commitments and efforts in the promotion and protection of human rights.

Education is a fundamental human right and a vehicle for development that is sustainable. Education is key in preventing human rights abuses and achieving peace. Every Sustainable Development Goal requires the realization of all the elements of the right to education in order to empower people with the knowledge, skills and values to fully enjoy all human rights and, more importantly, to dismantle the barriers of inequality and exclusion (see general comment No. 13 (1999) of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights).

43. Technical cooperation programmes should be formulated and implemented with the broadest possible participation of all elements of society and, where relevant, should also be linked with regional and subregional human rights mechanisms. In the case of the development of education policies and programmes, such inclusion is essential for ensuring effective results. The international human rights mechanisms have been issuing numerous recommendations and observations to States to this effect. Technical cooperation should indeed be linked to the follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations and concluding observations made by international human rights mechanisms. The thematic panel discussion and the preparations for it could be an important opportunity to present examples of how States have, with technical support from United Nations agencies and programmes, including OHCHR, benefited from engagement with international human rights mechanisms to enhance policy and practice.

44. When all the United Nations agencies and programmes work together and integrate human rights in their programmes, support to national efforts for the promotion and protection of human rights is strengthened and effective. OHCHR establishes programmatic priorities that serve to put at the disposal of all partners resources, guidance and advisory services with the aim of supporting efforts to enhance compliance with policies and programmes adhering to established international standards. This includes, for example, efforts to protect and promote the right to education together with other key United Nations partners to support States in addressing educational inequalities, paying particular attention to girls and to children in the most vulnerable and disadvantaged situations.

B. Measuring the results of technical cooperation and the response of the Office of the High Commissioner

45. The OHCHR performance monitoring system has continued to prove to be relevant and timely, as have the evaluations and assessments of OHCHR programmes, which draw on lessons learned to strengthen the overall work of OHCHR. The Board has corroborated that its views and policy advice have been taken into account by OHCHR in evaluation plans and that outcomes of evaluations and assessments are enhancing the strategic quality of support on the ground. The Board has benefited, in particular, from the frank discussions held on specific challenges and from the ability of programmes to adapt to the challenging circumstances that have characterized 2020. The Board encourages OHCHR to continue to support innovation and “dynamic knowledge initiatives”, for example initiatives to share knowledge and experiences regarding the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development within the OHCHR community of practice.

IV. Status of funding and donors

46. At its fiftieth and fifty-first sessions, the Board was provided with updates on the overall financial status of the Voluntary Fund. It discussed and analysed the status of implementation of the workplan for the Voluntary Fund for 2020. It endorsed the plans for 2021. An analysis of funding trends between 2008 and 2020 (see annex I) continued to show an increase in 2020. The increase, which follows the trend recorded in 2019, continues to be a good reflection of the strategic vision and enhanced capacity of OHCHR to communicate the crucial results achieved in supporting States. Increased financial resources have been highly welcomed by the Board, as they are much needed, in particular to continue to strengthen and expand the capacities of OHCHR, including in respect of the network of regional offices. The Board has stressed that unearmarked funds provide OHCHR with the flexibility and predictability it needs for stability and to expand thematic expertise in view of

the demands of the human rights situations on the ground. For this reason, the Board continues to call for an increase in unearmarked resources for OHCHR.

47. The total expenditure of the Voluntary Fund as at 31 December 2020 was \$15,801,485 against a predefined estimated cost plan in the amount of \$22,835,453. The cost plan increase in 2020 is due to the increase in voluntary contributions received by the Office in 2020, in particular related to the expansion of the coverage of the human rights advisers deployed under the United Nations Sustainable Development Group strategy launched in 2012, as well as increased contributions from States to the technical cooperation work of OHCHR. As at 31 December 2020, the Fund had received a total of \$23,020,096 in contributions. The balance between contributions and expenditures as at 31 December 2020 is due to late receipt of contributions, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on a number of planned activities and the need to secure an adequate level of reserves to ensure continuity of work into 2021. The Board recognizes the efforts made by OHCHR and the strategic decision taken to ensure an adequate level of funding for the initial quarter of 2022. The Fund has followed the trend of the past few years in respect of its reserves (according to the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, trust funds must ensure a reserve of 15 per cent of projected expenditure). The Board continues to call upon States to increase their contributions in support of the technical cooperation work of OHCHR in general and not to tightly earmark them to specific projects, with a view to securing the required degree of flexibility to adequately cover programmes across regions.

48. The Voluntary Fund provided resources for technical cooperation programmes designed to build strong human rights frameworks at the national level in 53 regions, countries and territories, through 42 human rights advisers and human rights mainstreaming projects, in Argentina, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Montenegro, Nepal, the Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, the Republic of Moldova, the Republic of North Macedonia, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Zimbabwe, as well as the South Caucasus region (Georgia); seven human rights components of peace missions, in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Libya, Somalia and the Sudan (Darfur); and four country and stand-alone offices, in Chad, Mauritania, Mexico and the State of Palestine.

49. Through the Voluntary Fund, in-country human rights expertise has continued to expand, in particular through the joint United Nations Sustainable Development Group framework for the deployment of human rights advisers and in response to an increased demand for OHCHR country presences. OHCHR has continued to facilitate national efforts to incorporate international human rights standards into national laws, policies and practices. During the past year, it has paid particular attention to the human rights dimensions of the global health crisis and to supporting policies and practices aimed at addressing inequalities. Emphasis continued to be placed on follow-up to the recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms and on the expansion of the online work of the mechanisms to facilitate such follow-up.

50. The technical cooperation and advisory services provided to support States' efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development have been strengthened as a consequence of the global health crisis and the difficulties in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Some programmes supported by the Voluntary Fund have benefited from the enhanced technical capacity that OHCHR has provided through its surge initiative. In numerous countries, OHCHR has, through the Voluntary Fund, also contributed to the establishment and strengthening of national structures, institutions and capacities to ensure adherence to international human rights standards. Activities to strengthen the administration of justice (including support to enable more individuals and groups facing discrimination and exclusion to seek justice), to promote gender equality and women's rights and to combat inequalities have continued featuring prominently. Detailed information on income and expenditure under the Voluntary Fund, its financial status in 2020 and a list of donors and contributors are contained in annexes to the present report (see annexes II–IV).

51. The challenges posed by the measures put in place to address the impact of the pandemic have also had an impact on the Board's efforts to enhance opportunities, in line with its mandate, to promote and solicit contributions and pledges to the Voluntary Funds through outreach events. Despite the situation and through its online sessions in 2020, the Board has continued to cooperate with the OHCHR External Outreach Service to maximize these opportunities. Outreach events provide a useful way for the Board to communicate its views and observations and engage partners to expand the donor base of the Funds. From the feedback received by the Board from national partners, there is growing interest on the ground in the Board's findings and suggestions regarding engagement with OHCHR for technical cooperation. During its fifty-first session, for example, the Board and the OHCHR External Outreach Service organized the first-ever meeting with foundations across regions and the private sector to raise awareness of United Nations human rights programmes.

V. Main findings and recommendations

52. The dramatic socioeconomic effects of the COVID-19 pandemic continue to affect millions of people around the world and to have a major impact on human rights. The far-reaching and disproportionate consequences on the most disadvantaged groups, including low-income households, indigenous peoples, racial and ethnic minorities, and women and girls, will continue to pose crucial challenges to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The crisis is eroding the social fabric and increasing risks of instability in many countries worldwide. Human rights must be placed at the centre of recovery efforts to build back better. Indeed, a human rights-based framework provides, as demonstrated during this very challenging year, the answers and the guidance to effectively make the transformations required to safeguard democracy, good governance and respect for the rule of law.

53. The Board welcomes the adoption on 21 December 2020 of General Assembly resolution 75/233, in which the entities of the United Nations development system are called upon, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, to achieve and work towards building back better and a sustainable inclusive and resilient recovery which is people-centred, gender-sensitive and respects human rights. In that resolution, Member States stressed the importance of focusing on the poorest, most vulnerable and those furthest behind and the need to achieve universal health coverage by 2030. All entities of the United Nations development system were also called upon to assist Governments upon their request in their efforts to respect and fulfil their human rights obligations and commitments under international law, as a critical tool to operationalize the pledge to leave no one behind. In that context, the technical guidance resulting from the thematic expertise and support provided by OHCHR through all its programmes and, in particular, through all its field presences is essential. The expertise that exists in United Nations resident coordinators' offices and United Nations country teams through the deployment of human rights advisers in the framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development System, under the operational leadership of OHCHR, has been shown to be key to support States at this critical juncture. The Board welcomes the excellent cooperation between OHCHR and the Development Cooperation Office in expanding the deployment of human rights advisers in 2020 and 2021 under the interagency framework of the United Nations Sustainable Development Group.

54. The Board has been particularly pleased to observe how OHCHR has been able to shift and adapt quickly in response to the pandemic and its impacts, without negatively affecting its work on long-term questions, many of which have actually worsened in the wake of the pandemic. The indivisibility and interdependence of human rights has become ever more evident during this challenging year, in every country across the world. One set of rights cannot be enjoyed fully without the other. Not respecting or jeopardizing economic, social and cultural rights can negatively affect many other rights, including civil and political rights. This reality has once again been underscored by the examples presented to the Board, at its fiftieth and fifty-first sessions, of the work done and the results achieved. The Board therefore welcomes the increased capacity of OHCHR to advise field offices and other United Nations agencies on a human rights-based approach to economic issues such as State budgeting,

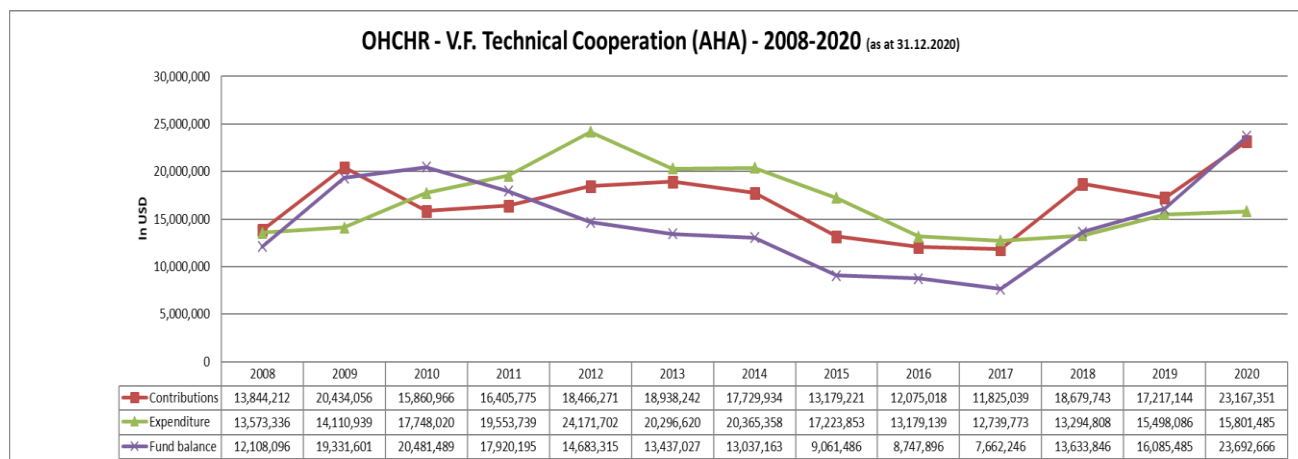
corruption and inequality, on the challenges being faced owing to the use and often misuse of personal data, and on the constraints imposed on civic space.

55. The Board is grateful for the leadership shown by OHCHR under the High Commissioner in its advocacy messages on the key questions requiring prompt action while at the same time offering its professional expertise to provide sound responses across all sets of rights. These issues and the realization of human rights are key even while efforts continue to be made to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the Sustainable Development Goals.

56. The Board notes with appreciation the acknowledgement by the Human Rights Council and States of the usefulness of its contributions. It is also encouraged by the increasing interest of States approaching OHCHR for in-country support, in particular the requests from Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burkina Faso and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and the requests from the United Nations country teams in Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Sierra Leone and Zambia.

57. The Board welcomes the increase in contributions achieved through the various financial instruments managed by OHCHR in 2020, including the Voluntary Funds. It continues to emphasize the importance of ensuring sustainability, predictability and flexibility of resources while also underscoring the need to expand the funding basis for OHCHR so that it has the flexibility and adaptability necessary to cover the overall OHCHR programme. The Board has recommended that support be provided, through the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, for the regional offices of OHCHR, whose capacity and funding remain very limited and have been affected by cash flow difficulties with the regular budget of the United Nations. OHCHR regional offices play a critical role in the provision of technical cooperation and advisory services and in linking these with the results of its analyses to increase understanding of the human rights situations, challenges and opportunities. Once again, the Board calls upon States to support an increase in the proportion of regular budget resources that the United Nations human rights programme, through OHCHR, should receive so that it is commensurate with the important and critical role of OHCHR as one of the pillars upholding the aims and values the Organization as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

Annex I

Contributions to the Voluntary Fund and expenditure trends
(2008–2020)

Annex II


Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation cost plan for 2020

Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation (AHA)

Project Number	Field Operations & Technical Cooperation Division	Number of staff	Cost Plans 2020				Expenditure USD at 31.12.2020
			Staff costs (CP 2020)	Activities (CP 2020)	PSC (CP 2020)	Total USD	
	(a) HR Advisers/HR Mainstreaming (42 countries):						
	<u>Europe and Central Asia (7 countries)</u>						
SB-009371.05	- Belarus */	1	240,336	-	16,824	257,160	252,934
SB-010245	- Belarus (National Action Plan)	n/a	110,835	270,300	49,548	430,683	172,867
SB-009371.22	- Macedonia */	1	66,126	13,670	5,586	85,382	57,662
SB-002068	- Moldova	4	158,550	98,070	33,361	289,981	192,927
SB-009371.15	- Moldova */	1	170,349	-	11,924	182,273	195,999
SB-009371.14	- Montenegro */	1	155,888	11,900	11,745	179,533	218,803
SB-002067.01	- Russian Federation	6	336,961	499,950	108,798	945,709	494,750
SB-009371.27	- Southern Caucasus, Georgia */	1	211,260	-	14,788	226,048	232,609
SB-002065	- Southern Caucasus, Georgia & Azerbaijan	5	266,296	210,165	61,940	538,401	312,838
SB-014319	- Georgia (National Action Plan) */	1	45,953	54,800	7,053	107,806	106,484
SB-009371.23	- Serbia */	1	95,184	-	6,663	101,847	83,653
SB-002365	- Serbia	1	265,464	132,450	51,729	449,643	252,886
	<u>Africa (10 countries)</u>						
SB-009371.18	- Burkina Faso */	2	321,724	15,000	23,571	360,295	337,581
SB-009371.26	- Burundi */	1	239,916	-	16,794	256,710	-
SB-002085	- Rwanda	2	40,296	152,700	25,089	218,085	54,698
SB-009371.10	- Rwanda */	1	200,160	-	14,011	214,171	183,079
SB-002063	- Kenya	4	343,388	393,650	95,815	832,853	655,213
SB-009371.25	- Kenya */	1	232,528	-	16,277	248,805	266,769
SB-009371.21	- Lesotho */ (from 1/07/2020)	1	101,040	-	7,073	108,113	1,717
SB-009734.04	- Malawi */	1	230,188	-	16,113	246,301	239,742
SB-002066	- Niger	1	217,456	204,350	54,835	476,641	313,559
SB-009734.01	- Nigeria */	1	266,848	18,000	19,379	304,227	311,364
SB-002077	- Madagascar	3	52,181	112,999	21,473	186,653	137,141
SB-009371.09	- Madagascar */	1	226,600	-	15,862	242,462	274,128
SB-009371.02	- Zimbabwe */	1	198,652	-	13,906	212,558	215,501
	<u>MENA (1 country)</u>						
SB-009371.04	- Jordan */	1	248,248	-	17,377	265,625	181,148
	<u>Americas (15 countries)</u>						
SB-009575	- Argentina, Barbados, Brasil, Peru, Ecuador, Uruguay, Belíze, Trinidad&Tobago, Paraguay, Guyana, Bolivia (nationals) */	11	969,131	100,827	74,897	1,144,855	727,580
SB-009371.20	- Costa Rica */	1	176,400	-	12,348	188,748	135,833
SB-009371.28	- Dominican Republic	1	126,590	-	8,861	135,451	1,708
SB-009734.02	- Jamaica */	1	267,668	19,400	20,095	307,163	327,967
SB-002072	- Paraguay	2	108,928	21,500	16,956	147,384	(49,781)
	<u>Asia & Pacific region (9 countries)</u>						
SB-009371.03	- Bangladesh */	1	299,086	10,000	21,636	330,722	231,421
SB-009558.02/03	- Mongolia/Nepal (nationals) */	2	107,428	-	7,520	114,948	(6,702)
SB-009371.12	- Maldives */	1	284,290	20,734	21,352	326,376	246,669
SB-009371.19	- Malaysia */	1	190,019	-	13,301	203,320	8,362
SB-002064	- Papua New Guinea	2	187,990	275,950	60,312	524,252	262,519
SB-009371.08	- Papua New Guinea */	1	266,700	-	18,669	285,369	276,226
SB-007555	- Philippines	1	251,128	10,000	18,279	279,407	276,540
SB-002083	- Sri Lanka	3	164,764	92,900	33,496	291,160	168,385
SB-009371.24	- Sri Lanka */	1	215,060	-	15,054	230,114	241,048
SB-009371.07	- Timor Leste */	1	220,921	-	15,464	236,385	205,355
SB-002099	- Timor Leste	3	143,982	97,982	31,455	273,419	215,824
	<u>Overall HRAs' other costs</u>						
SB-009371.31	- Support to HRAs - HQ cost recovery */	1	250,000	-	17,500	267,500	244,227
SB-009371.17	- HRM/HRBA & CLP workshops */	n/a	-	186,500	13,055	199,555	42,037
56%	Total HRA costs to be covered by MPTF-UNDP-DTF	41	6,624,293	450,831	494,698	7,569,822	5,840,903
44%	Total HRA costs to be covered by OHCHR	37	2,648,219	2,572,966	663,086	5,884,271	3,410,367
	sub-total HR Advisers:	78	9,272,512	3,023,797	1,157,784	13,454,093	9,251,271
	(b) Human Rights Components of UN Peace Missions (7)						
SB-006018	- Afghanistan (UNAMA)	n/a	48,230	177,995	29,409	255,634	203,946
SB-007199	- Somalia (UNSOM)	n/a	66,324	377,400	57,684	501,408	331,921.34
SB-007197	- Sudan Darfur (UNAMID)	n/a	-	78,500	10,205	88,705	80,971
SB-006152	- Guinea Bissau (UNIOGBIS)	n/a	10,150	88,500	12,825	111,475	35,130
SB-007195	- Central African Republic (MINUSCA)	n/a	-	87,000	11,310	98,310	(31,555)
SB-002088	- Haiti	5	654,066	25,800	88,383	768,249	371,084
SB-002092	- Libya	n/a	-	169,000	21,970	190,970	6,548
	sub-total Peace Missions:	5	778,770	1,004,195	231,786	2,014,751	998,044
	(c) Country/Standalone Offices (4)						
SB-002089	- Chad	9	836,132	301,600	147,905	1,285,637	1,147,718
SB-002069	- Mauritania	12	734,856	421,734	150,357	1,306,947	1,132,355
SB-002062	- State of Palestine	7	1,322,075	516,620	239,030	2,077,725	1,256,318
SB-013558	- Mexico (National Law on Disappearances / MacArthur F.)	n/a	129,204	14,000	18,617	161,821	112,456
SB-002059	- Mexico	26	1,666,924	575,978	291,577	2,534,479	1,930,014
	sub-total Country /Standalone Offices:	54	4,689,191	1,829,932	847,486	7,366,609	5,578,861
	<i>Accounting adjustments related to closed projects</i>						(26,691)
	Total (including programme support costs)	137	14,740,473	5,857,924	2,237,056	22,835,453	15,801,485
	<i>Footnotes: */ Funding from MPTF-UNDP-DTF</i>			22,835,453			69%
	<i>**/ Negative figure resulting from adjustments to prior year commitments/ expen</i>						



Annex III



Financial status of the Voluntary Fund (2020)

 <div>United Nations Human Rights OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS</div>		PSMS/FBS/Reporting Trust Fund: AHA Prepared on: 14/01/2021	
<div>United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation (AHA)</div> <div>Financial report of Income and Expenditure for the period 01 January - 31 December 2020</div>			
I - Income			USD
Contributions received for 2020			
- Voluntary Contributions received for 2020 - Earmarked to the VFTC			10,091,228.14
- Voluntary Contributions received for 2020 - Earmarked to specific projects			6,764,995.35
- UNDP contributions received for 2020 - Earmarked to specific projects			106,019.91
- MPTF contributions received for 2020 - Earmarked to specific HRAs projects			6,054,915.00
- UN Women contribution received for 2020 (Kenya project)			89,673.30
- Gain/(loss) on exchange (on contributions 2020)			(86,734.78)
- Gain/(loss) on exchange (on prior year pledges paid)			(0.13)
Pledges received for 2020			
- Voluntary Contributions earmarked to specific projects	R1-32AHA-000179	un-paid	147,253.72
Pledges received for future period			
- Voluntary Contributions earmarked to specific projects (CAD \$125,000 for 2021)	R1-32AHA-000183	un-paid	n/a
Interest and miscellaneous income			178,417.99
Total Income (I)			23,345,768.50
II - Expenditure */			Total Expenditure
Category			USD
CL010 - Staff costs	113,820.35	10,695,357.86	10,809,178.21
CL010 - Other Personnel costs (consultants' fees)	177,272.32	479,407.73	656,680.05
CL160 - Travel of Staff & Consultants	(7,589.87) **/	282,321.53	274,731.66
CL160 - Travel of Representatives/Participants to seminars	(36,177.01) **/	171,364.37	135,187.36
CL120 - Contractual Services	10,627.17	191,083.29	201,710.46
CL125 - General Operating & Other Direct Costs (include seminars organisation costs)	170,433.24	1,623,777.30	1,794,210.54
CL130 - Supplies, Commodities & Materials	331.46	51,444.17	51,775.63
CL135 - Equipment, Vehicle & Furniture	66,173.69	133,206.71	199,380.40
CL140 - Transfers and Grants to Implementing Partners (>\$50,000)	212,500.32	(50.75)	212,449.57
CL145 - Grants out (<\$50,000) & Fellowships	(81,167.99) **/	8,299.95	(72,868.04)
CL155 - Programme Support (Indirect) Costs	n/a	1,539,048.78	1,539,048.78
	626,223.68	15,175,260.94	
Total Expenditure (II)			15,801,484.62
*/ Actual disbursements and firm commitments - **/ Adjustments of prior year commitments			
Net excess/(shortfall) of income over expenditure (I-II)			7,544,283.88
III - Opening balance			
Opening balance (01.01.2020) with unpaid pledges 2018/2019			16,085,485.58
IV - Other adjustments			
Accounting adjustments - (Prior period / closed projects)			113,595.66
Refunds to donors / Write-off			(50,698.73)
Outstanding contributions receivable (prior period 2018/2019)			(169,999.40)
Outstanding contributions receivable (for 2020)			(147,253.72)
Available Funds Balance (I+III+IV-II) without pledges			23,375,413.27
Available Funds Balance (I+III+IV-II) with pledges			23,692,666.39
Contributions and pledges received to the Voluntary Fund for Technical Assistance (AHA) are managed as pooled funding to cover the activities, and financial transactions are recorded on an accruals basis. Contributions are used on a first in first out (FIFO) basis, thus any unspent contributions balance at the end of a calendar year normally relates to the last contributions received, or to donors' voluntary contributions who normally have not put in writing a specific implementation end date, nor have objected to funds carried forward to subsequent years to cover the trust fund on going activities.			
This is to certify that the above statement of income and expenditure is materially correct and that the expenditure was incurred in connection with the approved projects for which the contributions were received.			

Annex IV

Donors and contributors (2020)

 UN Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation (VFTC) 							
Voluntary contributions in 2020							
Donor	Pledge USD\$	Paid USD\$	Gain/loss on exchange	Unpaid pledge USD\$	Division	Branch	Additional Information
Denmark	4,119,464.47	4,224,258.47	104,794.00	0.00	AHA VFTC	VFTC non-specific	VFTC non-specific for Allocations
Denmark	1,604,878.83	1,641,049.34	36,170.51	0.00	AHA VFTC	VFTC non-specific	VFTC non-specific for Allocations
Finland	2,575,587.91	2,613,636.36	38,048.45	0.00	AHA VFTC	VFTC non-specific	VFTC non-specific for Allocations
Germany	341,296.93	335,946.25	-5,350.68	0.00	AHA VFTC	VFTC non-specific	VFTC non-specific for Allocations
India	200,000.00	200,000.00	0.00	0.00	AHA VFTC	VFTC non-specific	VFTC non-specific for Allocations
Russia	100,000.00	100,000.00	0.00	0.00	AHA VFTC	VFTC non-specific	VFTC non-specific for Allocations
United States of America	1,150,000.00	1,150,000.00	0.00	0.00	AHA VFTC	VFTC non-specific	VFTC non-specific for Allocations
(a) total contributions earmarked to VFTC	10,091,228.14	10,264,890.42	173,662.28	0.00			
Australia	110,864.75	113,602.73	2,737.98	0.00	AHA VFTC	ASIA PAC-HRAs	HRA in Timor Leste
Australia	110,864.75	113,602.73	2,737.98	0.00	AHA VFTC	ASIA PAC-HRAs	HRA in PNG
Australia	188,394.88	180,762.49	-7,632.39	0.00	AHA VFTC	ASIA PAC-HRAs	HRA in Philippines
Belgium	1,194,743.13	1,194,743.13	-0.00	0.00	AHA VFTC	MENA	OPT
Canada	454,545.45	451,054.83	-3,490.62	0.00	AHA VFTC	ASIA PAC-HRAs	HRA in Sri Lanka
Denmark	147,253.72	0.00	0.00	147,253.72	AHA VFTC	AFRICA	HRPG's civic space activities in Somalia
France	82,938.39	82,352.94	-585.45	0.00	AHA VFTC	AFRICA	Mauritania
France	71,090.05	70,588.24	-501.81	0.00	AHA VFTC	AFRICA	Chad
Germany	79,635.95	78,387.46	-1,248.49	0.00	AHA VFTC	ASIA PAC	Sri Lanka
Mac Arthur Foundation	140,000.00	140,000.00	0.00	0.00	AHA VFTC	AMERICAS	Mexico
Norway	359,625.99	314,282.11	-45,343.88	0.00	AHA VFTC	AMERICAS	Haiti
Norway	719,251.98	628,564.22	-90,687.76	0.00	AHA VFTC	AFRICA	OHCHR work in Sahel Region - Chad
Norway	119,875.33	104,760.70	-15,114.63	0.00	AHA VFTC	AFRICA	OHCHR work in Sahel Region - Niger
Norway	299,688.32	261,901.76	-37,786.56	0.00	AHA VFTC	AFRICA	OHCHR work in Sahel Region - Mauritania
Norway	503,476.38	439,994.95	-63,481.43	0.00	AHA VFTC	MENA	OPT
Russia	590,000.00	590,000.00	0.00	0.00	AHA VFTC	ECA	HR Master Programme and Ombudsperson in Russia/Business and HR
Russia	200,000.00	200,000.00	0.00	0.00	AHA VFTC	ECA	Russia-2020-Belarus
Saudi Arabia	200,000.00	200,000.00	0.00	0.00			OPT
UNDP	106,019.91	106,019.91	0.00	0.00	AHA VFTC	ECA	National HR Strategy & New Action Plan in Georgia
UNDP/MPTF	1,240,079.00	1,240,079.00	0.00	0.00	AHA VFTC	HRAs	HRAs deployment
UNDP/MPTF	3,700,000.00	3,700,000.00	0.00	0.00	AHA VFTC	HRAs	HRAs deployment
UNDP/MPTF	254,981.00	254,981.00	0.00	0.00	AHA VFTC	ASIA PAC-HRAs	HRA Dominican Republic
UNDP/MPTF	243,809.00	243,809.00	0.00	0.00	AHA VFTC	ECA-HRAs	Bosnia Herzegovina
UNDP/MPTF	348,546.00	348,546.00	0.00	0.00	AHA VFTC	ASIA PAC-HRAs	Guinea-Bissau
UNDP/MPTF	267,500.00	267,500.00	0.00	0.00	AHA VFTC	HRAs	MPTF HRA Cost-Recovery
UN Women	89,673.30	89,673.30	0.00	0.00	AHA VFTC	AFRICA-HRAs	Fin.Supp.Joint Activities SGBV Kenya
United States of America	40,000.00	40,000.00	0.00	0.00	AHA VFTC	MENA	PMS in Libya
United States of America	800,000.00	800,000.00	0.00	0.00	AHA VFTC	AMERICAS	CO in Mexico
United States of America	200,000.00	200,000.00	0.00	0.00	AHA VFTC	AMERICAS	Haiti
United States of America	300,000.00	300,000.00	0.00	0.00	AHA VFTC	AFRICA	CO in Chad
(b) total contributions earmarked to specific projects	13,162,857.28	12,755,206.50	-260,397.06	147,253.72			
Unearmarked funds allocated from HCA to VFTC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
(c) total unearmarked funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00			
TOTAL (a) + (b) + (c)	23,254,085.42	23,020,096.92	-86,734.78	147,253.72			

 UN Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation (VFTC) 					
Voluntary contributions in 2019					
Donor	Pledge USD\$	Paid USD\$	Gain/loss on exchange	Unpaid pledge USD\$	Earmarking
UNDG/MPTF	828,183.00	660,723.00	0.00	167,460.00	HRA Burkina Faso, Malaysia and Costa Rica
UNDP/UNCT-Bangladesh	139,762.00	0.00	0.00	139,762.00	Bangladesh
UNDP/UNCT-Malawi	83,263.00	63,263.60	0.00	19,999.40	HRA in Malawi
UNDP/DOCO	260,000.00	260,000.00	0.00	0.00	HRA in Maldives
	201,800.00	201,800.00	0.00	0.00	HRA in Montenegro
	201,800.00	201,800.00	0.00	0.00	HRA in Moldova
	139,100.00	139,100.00	0.00	0.00	HRA in Trinidad and Tobago
	71,900.00	71,900.00	0.00	0.00	HRA in Guyana
	70,000.00	70,000.00	0.00	0.00	HRA in Nepal
	227,500.00	227,500.00	0.00	0.00	HRA in Madagascar
	24,504.00	24,504.00	0.00	0.00	HRAs general operating costs
UNDP/DOCO	181,901.00	181,901.00	0.00	0.00	HRAs general operating costs
	264,504.00	264,504.00	0.00	0.00	HRA Nigeria
	215,712.00	215,712.00	0.00	0.00	HRA Jamaica
	137,388.00	137,388.00	0.00	0.00	HRA Malawi
	159,558.00	159,558.00	0.00	0.00	HRA Bangladesh
	107,203.00	107,203.00	0.00	0.00	HRA Belarus
	169,458.00	169,458.00	0.00	0.00	HRA Jordan
	223,374.00	223,374.00	0.00	0.00	HRA Zimbabwe
	228,064.00	228,064.00	0.00	0.00	HRA Timor Leste
	260,515.00	260,515.00	0.00	0.00	HRA in PNG/Rwanda/Nigeria
	629,956.00	629,956.00	0.00	0.00	National HR Officer in Americas
	66,736.00	66,736.00	0.00	0.00	National HR Officer in Asia/Pacific
USA	24,300.00	0.00	0.00	24,300.00	PMS in Lybia
	151,200.00	151,200.00	0.00	0.00	HRA in Srilanka
(b) total contributions earmarked to specific projects	9,610,344.86	9,056,713.05	18,632.18	572,263.99	
Unearmarked funds allocated to VFTC	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
(c) total unearmarked funds	0.00	0.00	0.00	0.00	
TOTAL (a) + (b) + (c)	17,283,781.07	16,550,051.13	11,034.05	744,763.99	