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Annual report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and reports of the Office of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General

Follow-up to and implementation of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action

National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights

Report of the Secretary-General*

Summary

The present report is submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 45/22, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the resolution at its fifty-first session, including examples of best practices among national human rights institutions.

The report covers the period from August 2021 to July 2022. It contains information on: the activities undertaken by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to establish and strengthen national human rights institutions; support provided by the United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to national human rights institutions; cooperation between such institutions and the international human rights system; and support provided by OHCHR to the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and relevant regional networks.

* The annexes to the report are being circulated in the language of submission only.



I. Introduction

1. The present report is submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 45/22, in which the Council requested the Secretary-General to report on the implementation of the resolution at its fifty-first session, including examples of best practices among national human rights institutions. The report outlines activities undertaken during the period from August 2021 to July 2022.
2. The Human Rights Council, in the preamble to its resolution 45/22, reaffirmed the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, including the important and constructive role played by national human rights institutions, in particular in their advisory capacity to the competent national authorities, and in their role in preventing, remedying and assisting victims to find remedies to human rights violations and abuses, as well as in the dissemination of human rights information and education.
3. In the same resolution, Human Rights Council recognized the important role of national human rights institutions in highlighting the human rights implications of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including in offering guidance to States in ensuring a human rights-compliant response to the pandemic. The Council also flagged the role of human rights institution in monitoring, reporting and raising public awareness, including the provision of accurate and timely information in order to protect groups in vulnerable situations and cooperate with civil society, rights-holders and other stakeholders. It also encouraged States to cooperate with their national human rights institutions and to ensure that they can effectively and independently discharge their mandates and functions, including by ensuring the allocation of adequate resources.
4. In the same resolution, the Human Rights Council encouraged all Member States and national human rights institutions to continue to take appropriate steps to maintain legislative or policy frameworks compliant with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (Paris Principles). The Council also urged Member States to promote cooperation, exchange information, share experiences and disseminate best practices concerning the establishment and effective operation of national human rights institutions, including the contributions of human rights institutions to the establishment and maintenance of inclusive societies and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

II. Support of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to national human rights institutions

A. Advisory services

5. The National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section is the focal point within the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) for the coordination of activities to establish and strengthen national human rights institutions. Together with OHCHR field presences, other United Nations entities, in particular the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), and regional networks of national human rights institutions, OHCHR assists Governments in establishing national human rights institutions and contributes to building their capacity. In that context, OHCHR works closely with regional intergovernmental organizations, academic institutions, civil society organizations and other stakeholders.
6. OHCHR provides technical and legal assistance to national authorities and national human rights institutions, in particular regarding constitutional and legislative frameworks relating to the establishment, nature, functions, powers and responsibilities of such institutions. It also conducts and supports comparative analysis, technical cooperation projects, needs assessments and evaluation missions to establish national human rights institutions and to strengthen their capacities to discharge their mandates effectively.

7. During the period under review, OHCHR provided advice and assistance in the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions in Afghanistan,¹ Albania, Algeria, Australia, the Bahamas, Bangladesh, Benin, Belgium, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, the Dominican Republic, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, the Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, the Niger, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Panama, the Philippines, Qatar, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Suriname, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, the United Republic of Tanzania, Uruguay, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Zambia, and Zimbabwe. In some cases, assistance was provided jointly with other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes and other partners.

1. Africa

8. During the period under review, OHCHR, through its regional offices for Central, East, Southern and West Africa and its country offices in Chad, Guinea, Liberia, Mauritania, the Niger, the Sudan and Uganda, the human rights advisers to the United Nations country teams in Burkina Faso, Burundi, Equatorial Guinea, Eswatini, the Gambia, Guinea-Bissau, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Zambia and Zimbabwe and the human rights components of the United Nations peace missions in the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Mali, Somalia, South Sudan and the Sudan (Darfur), provided advice on and assistance in the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions.

9. OHCHR provided legislative advice to the authorities in the Congo, Eswatini, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Mozambique and the Sudan on the establishment of national human rights institutions in line with the Paris Principles.

10. In August and October 2021, OHCHR, jointly with the Independent National Human Rights Commission and the Ministry of Justice of Burundi, organized two capacity-building courses on human rights in public procurement for State attorneys and officials of the Ministry of Justice. The courses focused on ensuring transparency, non-discrimination, equality and accountability of businesses during public tenders and management.

11. In October 2021, OHCHR organized a workshop for the National Human Rights Commission of the Gambia on human rights protection in the context of elections. The workshop aimed at increasing the capacity of the Commission to monitor human rights before and during the presidential elections held on 4 December 2021.

12. In October 2021, OHCHR provided financial and technical support to the Independent National Commission on Human Rights of Liberia to carry out a national stakeholders' conference on the ratification of the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Older Persons in Africa. In December 2021, OHCHR conducted a workshop for the Commission on report writing and monitoring in the context of elections, demonstrations and the administration of justice. In the same month, OHCHR provided technical support to the Commission for the organization of a three-day workshop for 50 representatives of the Commission and the LGBTIQ+ community on combating discrimination against LGBTIQ+ people and human rights defenders in Liberia.

13. In October 2021, OHCHR supported the Ministry of Justice of the Sudan in organizing a two-day consultative workshop aimed at the second draft law on the National Human Rights Commission of the Sudan. The consultation was attended by over 150 representatives from civil society organizations and academia, as well as lawyers, human rights defenders and journalists. OHCHR distributed a booklet with materials and relevant human rights standards to the participants.

¹ On 27 April 2022, the de facto authorities of Afghanistan issued Order No. 212 regarding the abolishment of six State bodies, including the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission.

14. In October 2021, OHCHR conducted a training session for staff and commissioners of the not yet accredited National Human Rights Commission of Mozambique on human rights monitoring in situations of armed conflict, with a focus on children, internally displaced persons, persons with disabilities, older persons and women. In March 2022, OHCHR held a training session for commissioners dedicated to the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.
15. In October 2021, OHCHR, jointly with the National Human Rights Commission of Chad, organized a capacity-building course on human rights monitoring and reporting in the electoral context for 67 representatives from civil society and human rights organizations. The purpose of the course was to strengthen the capacity of human rights observers to promote and protect human rights during elections.
16. In October 2021, OHCHR, jointly with the National Human Rights Commission of the Niger, organized visits to prisons in Daikaina, Koutoukalé, Ouallam, Filingué, Boboye and Kollo to monitor the living conditions of persons deprived of their liberty and the working conditions of prison officers.
17. In November 2021, OHCHR conducted a workshop for 35 staff members of the Human Rights Commission of Uganda, the Uganda Bureau of Statistics and the National Planning Authority on integrating a human rights-based approach into statistics and indicators. OHCHR also provided technical and financial support to the Commission to draft its submission for the stakeholders' report for the universal periodic review. In March 2022, OHCHR and the Commission conducted a field mission to monitor business-related human rights violations in the Albertine region.
18. OHCHR continued to provide financial and technical support to the National Commission on Human Rights of Kenya for the development of a methodology to monitor indicator 16.10.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals with regard to attacks against journalists and human rights defenders. OHCHR also supported the Commission in planning advocacy activities on prevention and response to electoral-related sexual violence.
19. OHCHR provided technical support to the Human Rights Commission of Zimbabwe in drafting its contribution to the stakeholders' report for the universal periodic review.
20. OHCHR organized two advocacy meetings with relevant ministries and departments of Lesotho, as well as with the National Assembly, on the establishment of a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles. As a result, an eleventh amendment to the constitution on entrenching the human rights commission within the constitution and a relevant draft law were approved by Cabinet for presentation before the National Assembly.
21. In November 2021, OHCHR and the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission jointly published an investigative report on alleged violations of international human rights, humanitarian and refugee law committed by all parties to the conflict in the Tigray region. The joint investigation found that serious violations and abuses were committed by all parties to the conflict and provided 59 recommendations to various actors, advocating for effective remedies. In February 2022, OHCHR and the Commission trained 48 senior investigators and prosecutors with regard to the violations of international human rights law and refugee law committed during the conflict. In March 2022, OHCHR and the Commission organized a follow-up consultation meeting with representatives of the Government, international organizations and civil society to support the implementation of recommendations contained in the investigative report.
22. In December 2021, OHCHR organized a workshop for commissioners and staff of the National Commission for Human Rights of Rwanda on tools for monitoring and reporting human rights violations.
23. OHCHR held high-level consultations with the Government and Parliament of Djibouti regarding the consideration and adoption of a revised draft law on the functioning of the National Commission of Human Rights to ensure its compliance with the Paris Principles. In March 2022, OHCHR and the Commission conducted a two-day training for 28 civil society representatives on basic skills for human rights monitoring, reporting and advocacy.

24. OHCHR provided technical support to the not yet accredited Human Rights Commission of South Sudan to conduct field missions in the States of Lakes and Warrap to investigate alleged human rights violations in relation to extrajudicial executions.

2. Americas and the Caribbean

25. During the period under review, OHCHR, through its regional offices for South and Central America and its country offices in Colombia, Guatemala, Honduras and Mexico, the human rights advisers to the United Nations country teams in Argentina, Barbados, Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guyana, Jamaica, Paraguay, Peru, Suriname, Trinidad and Tobago and Uruguay and the human rights component of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti, provided advice and assistance in strengthening national human rights institutions.

26. In August and September 2021, OHCHR, jointly with the United Nations Population Fund and the World Health Organization, provided technical assistance to the Office for the Protection of Citizens of Haiti for the conduct of a public awareness campaign on the right to health. In May and June 2022, OHCHR provided technical and financial support to the Office for the Protection of Citizens to conduct a public awareness campaign and capacity-building courses for its staff on supporting accountability for crimes, atrocities and human rights violations in Haiti.

27. In October 2021, OHCHR conducted training for the Office of the Ombudsman of Panama on monitoring the human rights situation of migrants. In November 2021, OHCHR and the Ombudsman conducted joint field missions to monitor the human rights situation of migrants in border areas.

28. OHCHR provided technical support to the Office of the Human Rights Advocate of El Salvador to elaborate a manual on the investigation of extrajudicial executions and torture based on the Minnesota Protocol on the Investigation of Potentially Unlawful Death and on the Istanbul Protocol on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

29. OHCHR provided technical support to the National Human Rights Institution and the Ombudsman of Uruguay on the establishment of an online platform to monitor the country's international commitments on economic, social, cultural and environmental rights, launched in December 2021.

30. OHCHR continued to cooperate with the Ombudsman of Colombia on a two-year project financed by the European Union on the prevention of violence against human rights defenders, which was initiated at the beginning of 2021. The project seeks to strengthen the early prevention system of the Ombudsman, ensuring access to redress and remedy for human rights defenders who have been victims of human rights violations. The findings of the Ombudsman will be reflected in a report on the situation of human rights defenders.

31. In October 2021, OHCHR conducted two online training sessions for staff of the Human Rights Advocate of Guatemala on addressing international human rights standards under a gender-based approach.

32. In November 2021 and March 2022, OHCHR conducted two capacity-building sessions for staff of regional offices of the Office of the Ombudsperson of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela in Maturín and Valera. The activities were focused on the Paris Principles, monitoring and reporting and advocacy strategies, with a particular focus on economic, social, cultural and environmental rights.

33. In October 2021, OHCHR and the Commissioner for Human Rights of Honduras developed a strategic plan to monitor cases of human rights violations and designed an early warning mechanism allowing the Commissioner to adopt urgent actions to prevent serious human rights violations during electoral processes. The development of the early warning system was focused, in its first stage, to operate in the electoral context, to be extended later to economic, social and cultural rights, with the purpose of being permanently used by the Commissioner as a tool for the prevention of human rights violations.

34. OHCHR advocated for the replacement of the national preventive mechanism under the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or

Degrading Treatment or Punishment from the Ministry of Justice to the Ombudsman of the Plurinational State of Bolivia. This was done in September 2021.

3. Asia and the Pacific

35. During the period under review, OHCHR, through its regional offices for South-East Asia and for the Pacific and its country offices in Cambodia and in Seoul, for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the human rights advisers to the United Nations country teams in Bangladesh, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Timor-Leste and the human rights component of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, provided advice on and assistance for the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions.

36. In August 2021, OHCHR conducted a workshop for the National Commission on Human Rights of Indonesia on engaging with the international human rights mechanisms. In September 2021, the Commission engaged with the Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences to discuss tools for addressing gender-based violence against women.

37. From August 2021 to March 2022, OHCHR conducted several training sessions for staff of the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand on a wide range of human rights issues, including on documenting cases of torture and promoting economic, social and cultural rights.

38. OHCHR supported the Provedoria for Human Rights and Justice of Timor-Leste in conducting capacity-building courses for the army and the police on human rights protection in times of crisis and during arrests, the use of force and protection from torture. OHCHR also supported the submission by the Provedoria of information for the stakeholders' report for the country's third cycle report for the universal periodic review, undertaken in January 2022, as well as of a shadow report to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women in October 2021. In February 2022, OHCHR conducted two training sessions for 32 staff of the Provedoria on monitoring human rights in the context of elections.

39. OHCHR continued advocating for the adoption of a law for the not yet accredited Cambodian Human Rights Committee. In November 2021, OHCHR supported the Committee in conducting a series of consultative workshops and meetings to discuss the content of the draft law with different stakeholders, including lawyers and representatives from civil society organizations, trade unions, institutions of higher education.

40. In January 2022, OHCHR organized training for 15 staff of the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines and 10 representatives from civil society on the Berkeley Protocol on Digital Open Source Investigations. In the same month, OHCHR and the Commission organized a virtual workshop for civil society organizations on the country's fourth cycle report for the universal periodic review.

4. Europe and Central Asia

41. During the reporting period, OHCHR, through its regional offices for Europe and for Central Asia, the human rights monitoring mission in Ukraine, the human rights advisers for the South Caucasus, the United Nations country teams in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia and Tajikistan, the joint OHCHR-Russian Federation project and the human rights component of the United Nations Interim Administration Mission in Kosovo,² continued to provide advice on and assistance in the establishment and strengthening of human rights institutions.

42. OHCHR continued providing technical advice to Belgium on the establishment of a national human rights institution in compliance with the Paris Principles.

43. OHCHR provided technical and financial advice to the Protector for Human Rights and Freedoms of Montenegro to strengthen its mandate for monitoring the rights of persons with disabilities. OHCHR support aims to assist the Protector to function as an independent

² All references to Kosovo should be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

monitoring mechanism, in line with article 33 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

44. In September and October 2021, OHCHR jointly with UNDP, held a three-day training session for 20 staff of the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human on international human rights mechanisms and reporting to treaty bodies, with particular attention to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women. OHCHR also launched an online course on tackling hate speech with the Commissioner and conducted periodic seminars on the topic.

45. In October 2021, OHCHR organized a workshop on international human rights mechanisms for newly appointed regional human rights commissioners in the Russian Federation. OHCHR and the federal Commissioner for Human Rights of the Russian Federation conducted joint advocacy activities in the fields of human rights education, gender-based violence and the 2030 Agenda.

46. In December 2021, OHCHR and the Office of the People's Advocate of the Republic of Moldova organized a public lesson for 200 students on access to information and participation of young people as a precondition for reducing inequalities and advancing human rights.

47. OHCHR continued to advocate with the Senate of Kazakhstan for amendments to the law on the Commissioner for Human Rights of Kazakhstan, to be adopted in line with the relevant recommendations of the Subcommittee on Accreditation.

48. In November and December 2021, OHCHR conducted a three-day training for staff of the Ombudsman of the Republic of Uzbekistan on international standards for monitoring places of detention.

5. Middle East and North Africa

49. During the reporting period, OHCHR, through its Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa, the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region, the OHCHR offices in the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia, Yemen and the State of Palestine, the human rights adviser to the United Nations country team in Bahrain and Jordan, the joint OHCHR-Saudi Arabia project and the human rights components of the United Nations Assistance Mission for Iraq and the United Nations Support Mission in Libya, continued to provide advice on and assistance in the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions.

50. In November 2021, OHCHR conducted a workshop on operationalizing a human rights-based approach to data and indicators for the National Council for Human Rights of Egypt, the national statistical office and other stakeholders.

51. In January 2022, OHCHR conducted training for staff of the High Commission for Human Rights of Iraq on humanitarian law. In March and May 2022, OHCHR conducted training sessions for the Commission to strengthen its capacity in human rights monitoring.

52. OHCHR continued to advocate for the strengthening of the not yet accredited National Commission for Human Rights of Lebanon.

53. In March 2022, OHCHR and the National Human Rights Council of Algeria organized a workshop on the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review, with a focus on engaging civil society organizations and national human rights institutions.

54. In March 2022, OHCHR organized a workshop on the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review of Morocco for 31 staff of the National Human Rights Council and 17 representatives of civil society organizations.

55. OHCHR continued to provide technical advice to the government of Tunisia on the establishment of a national human rights institution, in compliance with the Paris Principles.

B. Support to regional and subregional initiatives by national human rights institutions

1. Africa

56. As part of a joint programme with the African Union and the World Bank, OHCHR undertook a mapping of existing conflict prevention, early warning and data-collection systems of national human rights institutions in Africa. The outcome of the assessment was shared with participants from national human rights institutions during an experience sharing workshop in October 2021. Based on the outcomes of the assessment, OHCHR has been engaging with the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions, with a view to increasing the participation of national human rights institutions in early warning and conflict prevention.

57. In November 2021, OHCHR organized a regional workshop in Gabon for the strengthening and establishment of national human rights institutions in accordance with international standards. The workshop gathered representatives from national human rights institutions and the Governments and Parliaments of Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, the Central African Republic, the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe.

2. Americas and the Caribbean

58. From May 2021 to January 2022, OHCHR contributed to the new protocol on migrants of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen.

59. In September 2021, OHCHR conducted a training session for 26 members of the national human rights institutions of Colombia, Ecuador and Peru on monitoring the human rights of migrants.

60. In October 2021, in the context of the sixth regional forum on business and human rights for Latin America and the Caribbean, OHCHR, jointly with the Network of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights in the Americas, the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions organized a preparatory meeting to discuss on best practices and lessons learned in the framework of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

3. Asia and the Pacific

61. In October 2021, OHCHR, jointly with the Cambodian Human Rights Committee, organized a virtual workshop to exchange experiences on the establishment of national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles. The workshop was attended by commissioners from the Human Rights Commission of Malaysia and the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines, as well as by members of the Intergovernmental Commission for Human Rights of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) and the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions. Discussions focused on the importance of a transparent and participatory selection process and the need for cooperation between Government and civil society.

62. In November 2021 OHCHR, together with the Asia-Pacific Forum for National Human Rights Institutions, convened a consultation for national human rights institutions on the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. The meeting included 18 participants from the national human rights institutions of Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, Kazakhstan, the Republic of Korea, Mongolia, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste. The participants discussed the role of national human rights institutions in shaping public discourse on migration and monitoring migrant's rights.

4. Europe and Central Asia

63. In October 2021, OHCHR participated in the fifth international scientific and practical conference on the exchange of best practices of ombudsmen in the Europe and Central Asia region, held in the Russian Federation. The conference was dedicated to the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities and environmental human rights. The event gathered more than 250 participants from ombudsman institutions, international organizations and non-governmental organizations.

64. In November 2021, OHCHR conducted training for European national human rights institutions on a human rights-based approach to national recovery and resilience plans for the period after the COVID-19 pandemic. A key result of the training was the creation of a checklist that provides the national human rights institutions with a step-by-step approach and tools for applying a human rights-based approach in their work to protect jobs, workers and small and medium-sized enterprises.

65. In March 2022, OHCHR and the Ombudsman of North Macedonia organized a regional conference on strengthening national human rights institutions as independent monitoring mechanisms for the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. More than 120 participants, including representatives from national human rights institutions, international organizations and civil society organizations from the Western Balkan region and other European countries, shared experiences, good practices and initiatives on the existing monitoring frameworks.

5. Middle East and North Africa

66. In May 2022, OHCHR participated in the nineteenth regular session of the Independent Permanent Human Rights Commission of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation, held in Saudi Arabia. The session was focused on the role of national human rights institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights in the member States of the Organization of Islamic Cooperation.

C. Contributions to international initiatives supporting national human rights institutions

1. Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions

67. Article 6 of the statute of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions provides that general and Bureau meetings, meetings of the Subcommittee on Accreditation and international conferences of the Global Alliance are to be held under the auspices of, and in cooperation with, OHCHR. In this regard, OHCHR provided financial and substantive support, as well as secretariat services, for the annual meetings of the Global Alliance, convened virtually from 8 to 10 March 2022, which included its Bureau meeting, as well as for two sessions of the Subcommittee on Accreditation held online from 18 to 29 October 2021 and from 14 to 25 March 2022.

2. Subcommittee on Accreditation

68. OHCHR continued to provide substantive support, including technical advice and secretariat services, to the Subcommittee on Accreditation. The substantive and advisory role of OHCHR as the secretariat of the Subcommittee enhances the credibility of the accreditation process. The presence of OHCHR during the decision-making process in the Subcommittee continued to ensure its compliance with the established general observations and rules of procedure and contributed to its transparency, impartiality, fairness and rigour.

69. At its session held in October 2021, the Subcommittee on Accreditation reviewed 13 institutions,³ at its session in March 2022, the Subcommittee reviewed 16 institutions.⁴

³ Independent Human Rights Commission of Afghanistan; the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission; the National Human Rights Commission of the Republic of Korea; the National Human Rights Commission of Mongolia; the National Human Rights Commission of Nepal; the Human Rights Commission of Northern Ireland; Office of the Ombudsman of Panama; the National Human Rights Committee of Qatar; the Office of the Ombudsman of Samoa; the Protector of Citizens of Serbia; the Human Rights Commission of Sri Lanka; the National Human Rights Institution and Ombudsman of Uruguay; and the Independent Commission for Human Rights of the State of the Palestine.

⁴ Independent Human Rights Commission of Afghanistan; Australian Human Rights Commission; the Austrian Ombudsman Board; the Human Rights Commission of Benin; the Ombudsman of Ecuador; the National Human Rights Commission of Gambia; the German Institute for Human Rights; the Commissioner for Fundamental Rights of Hungary; the National Centre for Human Rights of Jordan; the Consultative Human Rights Commission of Luxembourg; the Independent National Human Rights Commission of Madagascar; the National Human Rights Commission of Mali; the National Human

3. Fellowship programme for staff of A status national human rights institutions

70. In the period under review, OHCHR continued to carry out its fellowship programme for staff of A status national human rights institutions. The programme is designed to provide beneficiaries with a better understanding and appreciation of the international human rights system and to familiarize them with the work of OHCHR. The programme therefore helps national human rights institutions and their staff to better implement their mandate in line with international norms and standards. During the period under review, staff from the national human rights institutions of Afghanistan, Kenya, Nigeria, the Philippines and Qatar participated in the programme.

71. The fellowship programme has been identified by participants as being both important and useful in strengthening their professional knowledge and the capacity of their institutions. Participants have expressed the need for the programme further progressive development, including systematic peer-to-peer learning, exchange of experiences, best practices and lessons learned, as well as direct interaction with their colleagues in other A status institutions at the country level. Therefore, it would be highly beneficial if the scope of the fellowship programme could be expanded to include study tours to other national human rights institutions. This much needed expansion of the programme cannot be achieved without additional resources, which are currently unavailable.

III. Best practices among national human rights institutions

72. The Human Rights Council, in its resolution 45/22, requested the Secretary-General to submit a report to its fifty-first session on the implementation of the resolution, including examples of best practices among national human rights institutions.

73. Consequently, on 1 March 2022, OHCHR requested national human rights institutions to provide input on their best practices by 1 May 2022. Contributions were received from the national human rights institutions of Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Mexico, the Philippines, South Africa, Ukraine and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, as well as the not yet accredited National Human Rights Commission of Lebanon.

74. The Australian Human Rights Commission, at the request of the Government, conducted an independent review of the Commonwealth parliamentary workplaces in respect of bullying, sexual harassment and sexual assault. The review resulted in a final report, with 28 recommendations to ensure that parliamentary workplaces are safe and respectful and that the Parliament reflects best practices in prevention and response to bullying, sexual harassment and sexual assault.

75. The Ombudsman of Bosnia and Herzegovina received complaints regarding the COVID-19-related restrictions imposed by the Government of Tuzla Canton, which were limiting citizens' fundamental rights and freedoms, including freedom of movement, the right of access to public spaces and services, the right to protection of personal data and the right to protection from discrimination. Thanks to the recommendations issued by the Ombudsman to apply human rights standards, those restrictions were lifted.

76. The Ombudsman of Croatia continued to participate in drafting processes on public policy and legislation, including a draft bill on the protection of whistle-blowers, a draft bill on social welfare and a draft national plan to combat poverty and social exclusion.

77. The Ethiopian Human Rights Commission developed an electronic case management system with the support of UNDP to receive, track and manage complaints related to human rights violations. The Commission is also customizing the national database for tracking the implementation of recommendation for its own use in monitoring the implementation of international human rights recommendations by the State.

78. The National Human Rights Institution of Finland conducted a study on the current state of the Finnish human rights framework, aimed at producing comprehensive information

Rights Commission of Mexico; the Human Rights Commission of New Zealand; the Office of the Human Rights Advocate of El Salvador; and the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand.

on current fundamental and human rights structures in order to avoid overlaps and gaps in the mandates of actors working in the field of human rights.

79. The National Consultative Commission on Human Rights of France has advised the Government on the implementation of human rights policies, including the development of the Marianne Initiative for Human Rights Defenders, which is aimed at facilitating the settlement of foreign human rights defenders in France.

80. The Institute for Human Rights of Germany submitted a third-party intervention in a case before the Federal Constitutional Court, stressing the need for Parliament to legislate to ensure that persons with disabilities are protected in triage situations, in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

81. The Equality and Human Rights Commission of Great Britain, through its human-rights tracker, continued to monitor governmental progress in meeting its international human rights obligations.

82. The National Human Rights Commission of Mexico has cooperated with several non-governmental organizations on the promotion and dissemination of human rights. They have jointly held forums, workshops and seminars on specific human rights instruments, including the Manual on the Effective Investigation and Documentation of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (the Istanbul Protocol) and the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance globally.

83. The Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines advocated for increased access to mental health services for all individuals and conducted a nationwide survey on mental health in the Philippines.

84. The Human Rights Commission of South Africa set up an internal committee to ensure the effectiveness of protections for its staff and accessibility to citizens in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

85. The Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights continued to conduct regular visits to places of detention to monitor the observance of human and civil rights of detainees.

86. The National Human Rights Commission of Lebanon continued to monitor the implementation of the anti-torture law in Lebanon, receiving and investigating complaints of alleged cases of torture.

IV. Support provided by the United Nations Development Programme and other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes to national human rights institutions

87. During the reporting period, UNDP supported the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions in organizing its thirteenth biannual conference, held in November 2021, which resulted in the adoption of the Harare Declaration and action plan, which provide a common reference framework on the role of national human rights institutions in offering a human rights-based approach to national strategies and plans for a better and sustainable recovery to the COVID-19 pandemic.

88. In Africa, UNDP supported the following national human rights institutions:

(a) The National Commission on Human Rights of Kenya in strengthening its advisory and monitoring role on the implementation of the treaties of the African Union;

(b) The Commission for Human Rights and Good Governance of the United Republic of Tanzania to strengthen its capacities for the implementation of the Marrakech Declaration on the protection of human rights defenders;

(c) The National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms of Cameroon in strengthening its capacities to increase its role in peacebuilding and recovery.

89. In the Americas, UNDP supported the Office for the Protection of Citizens of Haiti in developing a set of training tools on the rights of detainees, including video clips on police

custody, due process and legal assistance, as well as a guide on filing complaints and referring legal cases to proper authorities.

90. In the Asia and the Pacific region, UNDP, jointly with the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions, conducted online courses for the national human rights institutions of Australia, Bangladesh, Fiji, India, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, New Zealand, the Philippines, Sri Lanka, Thailand and Timor-Leste on the promotion and protection of human rights relating to sexual orientation and gender identity.

91. In Europe and Central Asia, UNDP and OHCHR organized regional consultations for the national human rights institutions of Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Uzbekistan to share experiences on linking human rights recommendations to the Sustainable Development Goals. UNDP also supported the Human Rights Defender of Armenia on the implementation of the national preventive mechanism recommendations.

92. In the Middle East and North Africa, UNDP supported the National Centre for Human Rights of Jordan in developing a road map for accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

V. Cooperation between United Nations human rights mechanisms and national human rights institutions

93. From 3 to 20 May 2022, OHCHR, the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research delivered their annual training session for staff members of national human rights institutions on the international human rights system. In total, representatives of 17 national human rights institutions participated in the virtual course.

A. Human Rights Council

94. In coordination with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, OHCHR continued to support the engagement of national human rights institutions with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms.

95. During the forty-eighth, forty-ninth and fiftieth sessions of the Human Rights Council, and in accordance with the rules of procedure of the Council, which enable the participation of national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles, 28 national human rights institutions delivered 89 statements (23 in writing and 66 by video), submitted documentation, participated in general debates, organized parallel events and interacted with special procedures mandate holders (see annex I).

1. Universal periodic review

96. Following the provisions of Human Rights Council resolution 16/21 and General Assembly resolution 65/281, the stakeholders' report under the universal periodic review includes a section dedicated to contributions from A status national human rights institutions. Contributions from other national human rights institutions are included in other parts of the stakeholders' report.

97. In November 2021, six A status national human rights institutions submitted written statements to the thirty-ninth session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review. In January and February 2021, at the fortieth session of the Working Group, six "A" status institutions and one "B" status institution submitted written statements (see annex II).

98. OHCHR continued to encourage the participation of national human rights institutions in the universal periodic review process, given the important role they can play in the follow-up and the development of tools to monitor and assess the implementation of universal periodic review recommendations.

2. Special procedures

99. Subsequent to the provisions of Human Rights Council resolution 16/21 and General Assembly resolution 65/281, A status national human rights institutions are entitled to

intervene immediately after the State concerned during the interactive dialogue between the Council and the special procedures mandate holders, following the presentation of a country mission report by the latter. In addition, national human rights institutions may nominate candidates as special procedures mandate holders.

100. During country visits, national human rights institutions support special procedures mandate holders by sharing independent analysis and information on issues relevant to the mandate and on the situation of the persons and groups concerned. They also facilitate contacts and convene meetings with civil society and, in some cases, host press conferences of the mandate holders at the end of the visit. When preparing reports, many special procedures mandate holders request input from national human rights institutions.

101. Thematic and country reports by special procedures mandate holders regularly highlight the key role that national human rights institutions play in protecting and promoting human rights.

3. Open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights

102. In October 2021, one national human rights institution participated through oral intervention in the seventh session of the open-ended intergovernmental working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprises with respect to human rights.

B. United Nations treaty bodies

103. During the period under review, OHCHR continued to support the engagement of national human rights institutions with United Nations treaty bodies. OHCHR, as the secretariat of the treaty bodies and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions in Geneva, maintained liaison with national human rights institutions of States under review to encourage them to provide written or oral information and to attend sessions of the treaty bodies. Moreover, the National Institutions and Regional Mechanisms Section of OHCHR transmitted relevant recommendations and concluding observations of treaty bodies to national institutions. The section also continued to draft briefing notes on the activities of national human rights institutions for the attention of treaty bodies.

104. During the reporting period, the treaty bodies reviewed information submitted by 77 States parties that have national human rights institutions. In total, 49 institutions submitted written information and 28 provided briefings to the treaty bodies (see annex III).

105. Compared with the previous reporting period, there was an increase of 104 per cent in the number of submissions by national human rights institutions of information to treaty bodies and an increase of 250 per cent in the number of briefings.

106. Treaty bodies continued to provide national human rights institutions with informational notes, advice and tools to facilitate their effective engagement and invited representatives of those institutions to their meetings.

C. Other United Nations mechanisms and processes

107. From 30 November to 1 December 2021, the Working Group on business and human rights held its tenth annual forum on business and human rights virtually. The forum included a session on the role of national human rights institutions in facilitating access to remedy. Representatives from national human rights institutions provided examples of facilitating direct access to remedies, including through receiving complaints and investigating abuses, conducting hearings, initiating civil proceedings before courts and advocating for compensation.

108. In April 2022, 25 national human rights institutions participated in the twelfth session of the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing.

VI. Cases of reprisal or intimidation against A status national human rights institutions

109. Both the General Assembly, in its resolution 74/156, and the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 39/17, recognized the important role that national human rights institutions play in preventing and addressing instances of reprisals as part of their support for the cooperation between States and the United Nations and encouraged all relevant United Nations mechanisms and processes to further enhance the participation and contribution of national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles.

110. The Human Rights Council and the General Assembly also stressed that national human rights institutions, their members and staff should not face any form of reprisal or intimidation, including political pressure, physical intimidation, harassment or unjustifiable budgetary limitations, as a result of activities undertaken in accordance with their mandates, including when taking up individual cases or when reporting on serious or systematic violations. They also called upon States to promptly and thoroughly investigate cases of alleged reprisal or intimidation against members or staff of national human rights institutions or against individuals who cooperated, or sought to cooperate, with them, and to bring perpetrators to justice.

111. Since A status national human rights institutions are more visible before the international human rights system, they are at higher risk of reprisals and other acts of intimidation than other human rights institutions, including in relation to their cooperation with United Nations mechanisms and processes.

112. The Public Defender's office of Georgia reported that, in November 2021, its staff and leadership were subjected to verbal attacks from influential politicians owing to the institution's work in monitoring places of detention, including its attention to the health conditions of high-profile detainees.

VII. Conclusions

113. During the period under review, the number of national human rights institutions increased around the world. Before the reporting period, in July 2021, 86 institutions were accredited with A status and 32 with B status: by the end of the period, 90 institutions were accredited with A status and 30 with B status. By developing a large variety of activities, as described above, OHCHR has played a key role, in some cases jointly with other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, in establishing and strengthening these institutions in line with the Paris Principles and the general observations of the Subcommittee on Accreditation.

114. National human rights institutions increased their participation in the international human rights system during the reporting period. Compared with the previous reporting period, there was an increase of 104 per cent in the number of submissions by national human rights institutions to treaty bodies and an increase of 250 per cent in the number of briefings, as well as an increase of 3 per cent in the number of submissions to the Human Rights Council. Thus, the international human rights bodies benefited, for their decision-making, from credible and authoritative human rights monitoring and reporting from these independent State bodies. National human rights institutions were also instrumental in following up on recommendations stemming from international and regional human rights mechanisms.

VIII. Recommendations

A. Recommendations to Member States

115. Member States are encouraged to establish national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles and to strengthen the structures and independence of existing institutions to enable the effective fulfilment of their mandates, taking into

account the recommendations of the Subcommittee on Accreditation of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and the advice of OHCHR.

116. By establishing national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles, Member States make their contribution to the achievement of indicator 16.a.1 of the Sustainable Development Goals. In this regard, Member States are invited to seek technical support and advice from OHCHR in the process of drafting the founding legislation for national human rights institutions, as well as building and strengthening the capacity of these institutions.

117. Member States should ensure that national human rights institutions are provided with a broad mandate to protect and promote all human rights, including economic, social and cultural rights, and are granted adequate powers of investigation into allegations of human rights violations, including the competency to visit places of deprivation of liberty.

118. Member States should continue to provide financial contributions to OHCHR to ensure the continuation of high-quality support for the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions. Additional resources are needed, inter alia, for the continuation and expansion of the fellowship programme currently offered by OHCHR to staff of A status national human rights institutions to include further activities, including study tours aimed at the peer-to-peer exchange of knowledge and experience with A status national human rights institutions at the country level.

119. Member States are encouraged to take the necessary measures to protect the staff of national human rights institutions and individuals who cooperate or seek to cooperate with them against threats and harassment. Any cases of alleged reprisals or intimidation should be promptly and thoroughly investigated and the perpetrators brought to justice.

B. Recommendations to national human rights institutions

120. National human rights institutions should continue to engage and closely cooperate with OHCHR at the country level, as well as through their regional and global associations, through human rights-based activities, drawing from examples and practices described in the present report. Institutions are encouraged to seek advisory services and technical cooperation from OHCHR to enhance their capacity, with a view to performing their mandates in line with the Paris Principles and the general observations of the Subcommittee on Accreditation.

121. National human rights institutions should seek regular and constructive cooperation with relevant State bodies to promote the inclusion of human rights in legislation, policies and programmes.

122. National human rights institutions should develop, formalize and maintain cooperation with civil society organizations and strengthen their capacity to participate meaningfully in the promotion and protection of human rights. National human rights institutions should contribute to preventing and addressing cases of reprisals and establish protective measures and mechanisms for human rights defenders.

123. National human rights institutions should continue to engage with international and regional human rights mechanisms, as well as with relevant State bodies to promote the inclusion of human rights issues in legislation, policies and programmes.

124. National human rights institutions should continue to engage with international and regional human rights mechanisms and to promote the implementation of their recommendations and should continue to advocate for their independent participation in relevant United Nations mechanisms and processes, including in actions to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Annex I

Submissions from national human rights institutions to the Human Rights Council (submitted between August 2021 and July 2022)

<i>Country/Institution</i>	<i>Segment</i>	<i>Date</i>
National Human Rights Commission of Nepal	Agenda item 3 Interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights – country visit to Nepal (video statement)	June 2022
Seimas Ombudsmen Office of Lithuania	Agenda item 6 Universal periodic review outcome of Lithuania (video statement)	June 2022
Ethiopian Human Rights Commission	Agenda item 4 Interactive dialogue on the oral briefing of the International Commission of Human Rights Experts on Ethiopia (video statement)	June 2022
Human Rights Defender of Armenia	Agenda item 3 Interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions (video statement)	June 2022
Independent National Human Rights Commission of Burundi	Agenda item 3 Interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children (video statement)	June 2022
Independent National Human Rights Commission of Burundi	Agenda item 3 Interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers (video statement)	June 2022
Independent National Human Rights Commission of Burundi	Agenda item 3 Interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences (video statement)	June 2022
Human Rights Defender of Armenia	Agenda item 3 Interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association (video statement)	June 2022
Independent National Human Rights Commission of Burundi	Agenda item 3 Interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the rights to freedom of peaceful assembly and of association (video statement)	June 2022
Independent National Human Rights Commission of Burundi	Agenda item 3 Interactive dialogue with Working Group on discrimination against women and girls (video statement)	June 2022
Independent Commission for Human Rights of the State of Palestine	Agenda item 2 Interactive dialogue with the independent international commission of inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and in Israel (video statement)	June 2022

<i>Country/Institution</i>	<i>Segment</i>	<i>Date</i>
Independent National Human Rights Commission of Burundi	Agenda item 3 Interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons, especially women and children (written statement)	June 2022
Independent National Human Rights Commission of Burundi	Agenda item 3 Interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers (written statement)	June 2022
Independent National Human Rights Commission of Burundi	Agenda item 3 Interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur on violence against women, its causes and consequences (written statement)	June 2022
Independent National Human Rights Commission of Burundi	Agenda item 3 Interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the rights freedom of peaceful assembly and of association (written statement)	June 2022
Independent National Human Rights Commission of Burundi	Agenda item 3 Interactive dialogue with Working Group on discrimination against women and girls (written statement)	June 2022
Independent Commission for Human Rights of the State of Palestine	Agenda item 2 Reports of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General (written statement)	June 2022
Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions	Urgent debate on Ukraine (video statement)	March 2022
Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights	Urgent debate on Ukraine (video statement)	March 2022
Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights	Agenda item 10 Interactive dialogue on High Commissioner's oral updates on Ukraine (video statement)	March 2022
Independent Commission for Human Rights of the State of Palestine	Agenda item 7 General debate (video statement)	March 2022
Human Rights Commission of New Zealand	Agenda item 6 Universal periodic review general debate – mid-term report of New Zealand (video statement)	March 2022
Irish Human Rights and Equality Commission	Agenda item 6 Universal periodic review outcome of Ireland (video statement)	March 2022
Office of the Ombudsman of Samoa	Agenda item 6 Universal periodic review outcome of Samoa (video statement)	March 2022
National Human Rights Council of Morocco	Panel on public policies on COVID-19 (video statement)	March 2022
Human Rights Commission of Malaysia	Agenda item 4 Interactive dialogue on the report of High Commissioner on Myanmar (video statement)	March 2022

<i>Country/Institution</i>	<i>Segment</i>	<i>Date</i>
National Human Rights Council of Morocco	Agenda item 3 Interactive dialogue with Special Representative of the Secretary-General for Children and Armed Conflict (video statement)	March 2022
National Human Rights Commission of India	Agenda item 3 Interactive dialogue with Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children (video statement)	March 2022
Independent National Human Rights Commission of Burundi	Agenda item 3 Interactive dialogue with Special Representative of the Secretary-General on violence against children (video statement)	March 2022
Ombudsman of Croatia (on behalf of the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions)	Agenda item 3 General debate on the thematic reports of the High Commissioner (video statement)	March 2022
National Human Rights Council of Morocco	Annual debate on the rights of persons with disabilities (video statement)	March 2022
Independent National Human Rights Commission of Burundi	Agenda item 3 Interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities (video statement)	March 2022
National Human Rights Commission of India	Agenda item 3 Interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities (video statement)	March 2022
National Human Rights Commission of India	Agenda item 3 Interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the right to food (video statement)	March 2022
National Human Rights Council of Morocco	Agenda item 3 Interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders (video statement)	March 2022
Human Rights Commission of Malaysia	Agenda item 6 Interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders (video statement)	March 2022
National Human Rights Council of Morocco	Agenda item 3 Interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur on torture (video statement)	March 2022
National Human Rights Council of Morocco	Agenda item 3 Interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment (video statement)	March 2022
Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions	Agenda item 3 Interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur on human rights and the environment (video statement)	March 2022
National Human Rights Council of Morocco	Agenda item 3 Panel on access to COVID-19 vaccines (written statement)	March 2022
National Human Rights Council of Morocco	Agenda item 3 Interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur on sale and sexual exploitation of children (video statement)	March 2022

<i>Country/Institution</i>	<i>Segment</i>	<i>Date</i>
National Human Rights Commission of India	Agenda item 3 Interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights (video statement)	March 2022
Commission for Human Rights of Honduras	Agenda item 2 Report of High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in Honduras (video statement)	March 2022
Human Rights Advocate of Guatemala	Agenda item 2 Report of High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in Guatemala (written statement)	March 2022
Office of the Ombudsman of Colombia	Agenda item 2 Report of High Commissioner on the situation of human rights in Colombia (written statement)	March 2022
Ethiopian Human Rights Commission	Agenda item 2 Interactive dialogue on the oral update of High Commissioner on the situation in Tigray (video statement)	March 2022
Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission	Agenda item 2 Interactive dialogue on report of High Commissioner on the situation in Afghanistan (video statement)	March 2022
National Human Rights Commission of India	Meeting on technical cooperation during COVID-19 (video statement)	March 2022
Independent National Human Rights Commission of Burundi	Meeting on technical cooperation during COVID-19 (video statement)	March 2022
Independent Commission for Human Rights of the State of Palestine	Interactive dialogue on report of High Commissioner on the human rights situation in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (A/HRC/49/25) (video statement)	March 2022
Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions	General segment (video statement)	March 2022
Independent Commission for Human Rights of the State of Palestine	Agenda item 7 General debate (written statement)	March 2022
Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines	Panel on access to COVID-19 vaccines (written statement)	March 2022
Human Rights Advocate of Guatemala	Agenda item 2 Report of High Commissioner on the human rights situation in Guatemala (written statement)	March 2022
Office of the Ombudsman of Colombia	Agenda item 2 Report of High Commissioner on the human rights situation in Colombia (written statement)	March 2022
Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines	Meeting on technical cooperation during COVID-19 (written statement)	March 2022
Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines	Agenda item 10 Country reports of the High Commissioner and the Secretary-General and oral updates (Philippines) (video statement)	October 2021

<i>Country/Institution</i>	<i>Segment</i>	<i>Date</i>
Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights	Agenda item 10 Interactive dialogue on oral update of High Commissioner on Ukraine (video statement)	October 2021
Independent Commission for Human Rights of the State of Palestine	Agenda item 7 General debate (video statement)	October 2021
Independent Commission for Human Rights of the State of Palestine	Agenda item 7 Interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Occupied Palestinian Territories (written statement)	October 2021
Ombudsman of the Republic of Latvia	Agenda item 6 Universal periodic review outcome of Latvia (video statement)	September 2021
Danish Institute for Human Rights	Agenda item 6 Universal periodic review outcome of Denmark (video statement)	September 2021
National Human Rights Council of Morocco	Panel discussion on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of peaceful protests (video statement)	September 2021
Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions	Agenda item 5 Interactive dialogue on the report of the Secretary-General on reprisals (video statement)	September 2021
National Human Rights Commission of India	Agenda item 5 Interactive dialogue on the report of the Secretary-General on reprisals (video statement)	September 2021
National Human Rights Council of Morocco	High-level panel discussion on the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training (video statement)	September 2021
Commissioner for Human Rights in the Russian Federation	High-level panel discussion on the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training (video statement)	September 2021
National Human Rights Commission of India	High-level panel discussion on the implementation of the United Nations Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training (video statement)	September 2021
National Human Rights Commission of India	Annual discussion on integration of a gender perspective (Council resolution 6/30) (video statement)	September 2021
Independent National Human Rights Commission of Burundi	Agenda item 4 Interactive dialogue with Commission of Inquiry on Burundi (video statement)	September 2021
Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions	Agenda item 3 General debate (video statement)	September 2021
French National Consultative Commission on Human Rights	Agenda item 3 General debate – right to a healthy environment (video statement)	September 2021

<i>Country/Institution</i>	<i>Segment</i>	<i>Date</i>
National Human Rights Commission of India	Agenda item 3 Interactive dialogue with Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons (video statement)	September 2021
Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines	Agenda item 3 Interactive dialogue with Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons (video statement)	September 2021
National Human Rights Commission of India	Agenda item 3 Interactive dialogue with Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development (video statement)	September 2021
Northern Ireland Human Rights Commission	Agenda item 3 Interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparations and guarantees of non-recurrence (video statement)	September 2021
National Human Rights Committee of Qatar	Agenda item 6 Report of the Special Rapporteur on the negative impact of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights – visit to Qatar (video statement)	September 2021
National Human Rights Commission of India	Agenda item 3 Interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation (video statement)	September 2021
Australian Human Rights Commission (on behalf of the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions)	Agenda item 2 General debate on High Commissioner's oral updates – Afghanistan (video statement)	September 2021
Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission	Agenda item 2 General debate on High Commissioner's oral updates – Afghanistan (video statement)	September 2021
National Human Rights Commission of India	Agenda item 2 General debate on High Commissioner's oral updates (video statement)	September 2021
Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines	Agenda item 5 Interactive dialogue on the report of the Secretary-General on reprisals (written statement)	September 2021
Equality and Human Rights Commission of Great Britain and the Scottish Human Rights Commission	Agenda item 5 Panel discussion on the protection and promotion of human rights in the context of peaceful protests (written statement)	September 2021
Equality and Human Rights Commission of Great Britain and the Scottish Human Rights Commission	Agenda item 3 Half-day panel discussion on deepening inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic (written statement)	September 2021
Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines	Agenda item 3 Half-day panel discussion on deepening inequalities exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic (written statement)	September 2021

<i>Country/Institution</i>	<i>Segment</i>	<i>Date</i>
Equality and Human Rights Commission of Great Britain and Scottish Human Rights Commission	Agenda item 3 General debate – report of High Commissioner on the right to privacy in the digital age (A/HRC/48/31) (written statement)	September 2021
Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions	Agenda item 3 Interactive dialogue with Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons (written statement)	September 2021
Equality and Human Rights Commission of Great Britain and Scottish Human Rights Commission	Agenda item 3 Interactive dialogue with Independent Expert on the enjoyment of all human rights by older persons (written statement)	September 2021
Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions	Agenda item 3 Interactive dialogue with Special Rapporteur on the right to development (written statement)	September 2021

Annex II

Engagement of national human rights institutions in the third cycle of the universal periodic review (2021–2022)

Fortieth session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (2022)

<i>State (in order of review)</i>	<i>Written contribution for summary (as used)^a</i>	<i>Oral statement to the Human Rights Council during the adoption of the outcome of the universal periodic review of the country concerned (A status national human rights institutions only)</i>
Togo	Yes (A status)	No statement made
Syrian Arab Republic		No speaking rights
Iceland		No speaking rights
Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela	Yes (B status)	No speaking rights
Zimbabwe	Yes (A status)	No statement made
Lithuania	Yes (A status)	Agenda item 6 (fiftieth session of the Human Rights Council) Universal periodic review of Lithuania
Uganda	Yes (A status)	No statement made
Timor-Leste	Yes (A status)	No statement made
Republic of Moldova	Yes (A status)	No statement made
South Sudan		No speaking rights
Haiti		No statement made
Sudan		No speaking rights

^a “Yes” appears only where institutions made written contributions.

Thirty-ninth session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review (2021)

<i>State (in order of review)</i>	<i>Written contribution for summary (as used)^a</i>	<i>Oral statement to the Human Rights Council during the adoption of the outcome of the universal periodic review of the country concerned (“A” status national human rights institutions only)</i>
Greece	Yes (A status)	No statement made
Suriname		No speaking rights
Samoa	Yes (A status)	Agenda item 6 (forty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council) Universal periodic review of Samoa
Hungary	Yes (A status)	No statement made
Sudan		No speaking rights
Saint Vincent and the Grenadines		No speaking rights
Papua New Guinea		No speaking rights
Tajikistan		No speaking rights

<i>State (in order of review)</i>	<i>Written contribution for summary (as used)^a</i>	<i>Oral statement to the Human Rights Council during the adoption of the outcome of the universal periodic review of the country concerned (“A” status national human rights institutions only)</i>
United Republic of Tanzania	Yes (A status)	No statement made
Eswatini		No speaking rights
Antigua and Barbuda		No speaking rights
Trinidad and Tobago		No speaking rights
Thailand	Yes (A status)	No statement made
Ireland	Yes (A status)	Agenda item 6 (forty-ninth session of the Human Rights Council) Universal periodic review of Ireland

^a “Yes” appears only where institutions made written contributions.

Annex III

Engagement of national human rights institutions in the work of the treaty bodies (August 2021–July 2022)

<i>Committees</i>	<i>Number of States parties reviewed</i>	<i>Number of States parties with a national human rights institution</i>	<i>Submission of information</i>	<i>Briefing</i>
Committee against Torture ^a	12	10	8	8
Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination ^b	11	8	7	8
Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ^c	11	8	5	2
Human Rights Committee ^d	15	11	7	6
Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women ^e	26	19	9	3
Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families ^f	5	3	2	1
Committee on the Rights of the Child ^g	17	9	6	0
Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ^h	7	4	3	0
Committee on Enforced Disappearances ⁱ	6	5	2	0
Total	110	77	49	28

^a Seventy-second session (November–December 2021) and seventy-third session (April–May 2022).

^b One hundred and fourth session (August 2021), one hundred and fifth session (November–December 2021) and one hundred and sixth session (April 2022).

^c Seventieth session (September–October 2021), sixty-ninth pre-session working group (October 2021), seventy-first session (February–March 2022) and seventieth pre-session working group (March 2022).

^d One hundred thirty-third session (October–November 2021), one hundred thirty-fourth session (February–March 2022) and one hundred thirty-fifth session (June–July 2022).

^e Eightieth session (October–November 2021), eighty-first session (February 2022), eighty-third pre-session working group (February–March 2022) and eighty-second session (June–July 2022).

^f Thirty-third session (September–October 2021) and thirty-fourth session (March–April 2022).

^g Eighty-eighth session (September 2021), ninetieth pre-session working group (September–October 2021), eighty-ninth session (January–February 2022) and ninetieth session (May–June 2022).

^h Twenty-fifth session (virtual) (August–September 2021), twenty-sixth session (March 2022) and fifteenth pre-session working group (March–April 2022).

ⁱ Twenty-first session (September 2021) and twenty-second session (March–April 2022).