



Human Rights Council**Fifty-third session**

19 June–14 July 2023

Agenda item 2

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

1. The present report, submitted pursuant to General Assembly resolution 48/141, contains an overview of the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in Geneva and New York and in the field from 1 July 2022 to 1 March 2023. As of March 2023, OHCHR had 101 human rights field presences worldwide. The adjusted length of the reporting period is the result of the change in the annual programme of work of the Human Rights Council.¹ The report should be read in conjunction with the report of the High Commissioner to the General Assembly,² which contains an overview of the activities of OHCHR from 1 January to 30 June 2022.

2. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Michele Bachelet, ended her tenure on 31 August 2022. Volker Türk assumed the role of High Commissioner on 17 October 2022. During the reporting period, Ms. Bachelet undertook missions to Bangladesh and Peru, and Mr. Türk undertook missions to Colombia, Ecuador, Haiti, the Republic of Moldova, the Sudan, Ukraine and the Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). The Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights visited Austria and Egypt. The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights visited the Central African Republic, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Kenya.

3. The progressive lifting of measures to counter the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic throughout the world enabled OHCHR to resume the full scale of its activities, including field missions, and in-person activities. OHCHR continued to actively implement its global mandate, including through monitoring and reporting in many countries around the world.

4. The United Nations system's efforts to implement the Secretary-General's call to action for human rights have been further advanced by the common agenda, including through what the Secretary-General envisions for multilateral governance, namely, reaffirming the centrality of human rights to the collective work of the United Nations system and its partners. Implementing the call to action across the system, OHCHR has achieved

* Agreement was reached to publish the present report after the standard publication date owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.

¹ See Human Rights Council President's statement OS/16/1.

² [A/77/36](#).



considerable impact, in particular at the country level, in working as a collective, speaking with a common voice and placing people and their rights at the centre of its work.

II. Activities of the Office

A. International human rights mechanisms

1. Treaty bodies

5. During the reporting period, the treaty bodies carried out 97 reviews of the reports of States parties to the human rights treaties and adopted 200 decisions under individual communication procedures. The backlog of reports pending review by the treaty bodies, which had been exacerbated by the COVID-19 crisis, increased. As at 1 March 2023, 426 reports of States parties and 1,835 individual communications were pending review. The number of urgent action requests registered by the Committee on Enforced Disappearances was 1,568 as at 1 March 2023. Since July 2022, the disappeared persons concerned had been located in 43 cases, underscoring the value of the procedure. OHCHR continued working on a sustained digital transformation and on a plan to implement the proposals of the Chairs of the human rights treaty bodies for strengthening the treaty body system.³

6. The treaty bodies finalized several general comments and recommendations, as well as statements, including general comment No. 26 (2022) on land and economic, social and cultural rights of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, general recommendation No. 39 (2022) on the rights of Indigenous women and girls of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and general comment No. 8 (2022) on the right of persons with disabilities to work and employment of the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Committee on Enforced Disappearances adopted a statement on non-State actors in the context of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances and, with the Committee on the Rights of the Child, the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances and three special procedure mandate holders, adopted a joint statement on international illegal adoptions.

7. The Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment visited five States parties to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, namely, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Ecuador, South Africa and Türkiye, supported the establishment and functioning of national preventive mechanisms and provided detailed recommendations to advance efforts for the prevention of torture in all regions, and the Committee on Enforced Disappearances conducted a visit to Iraq.

8. Through its treaty body capacity-building programme, OHCHR supported the engagement with the treaty bodies of parties to the human rights treaties, including representatives of the Bahamas, the Cook Islands, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gabon, the Gambia, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lesotho, Malaysia, Panama, Samoa, Senegal, Slovenia, South Africa, the State of Palestine, the Sudan, Tajikistan and Togo. A peer learning exchange on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women was organized in the Pacific region.

2. Human Rights Council

9. Through hybrid modalities, OHCHR supported the Human Rights Council in the holding of three regular sessions, one urgent debate on the situation of the human rights of women and girls in Afghanistan and the thirty-fifth special session, on the deteriorating situation of human rights in the Islamic Republic of Iran, especially with respect to women and children.⁴ OHCHR also supported the efforts of the President of the Human Rights

³ See [A/77/228](#).

⁴ See Human Rights Council resolution S-35/1.

Council to implement existing efficiency measures and to obtain a decision from the Council on appropriate support for its work.⁵

10. The Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the Work of the Human Rights Council supported the participation of 39 delegates (19 women and 20 men). The Trust Fund organized three in-person induction courses for the delegates prior to the regular sessions of the Human Rights Council.

11. OHCHR continued to provide support to independent investigative and accountability mechanisms established by the Human Rights Council, in relation to Belarus, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Israel, Libya, Nicaragua, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem.⁶ The accountability-based work of those mechanisms includes issuing public reports, verifying violations of international human rights law, identifying those responsible and providing recommendations. The assistance provided by OHCHR included the recruitment of staff, the provision of guidance and advice, legal support and training and the integration of gender perspectives into the implementation of mandates. The scope of the mandates expanded, with an increased focus on international criminal law and the collection and preservation of evidence.

3. Universal periodic review

12. OHCHR provided support to the Human Rights Council in the context of the adoption of the outcomes of the universal periodic review, at its fiftieth session, held from 13 June to 8 July 2022, and in the holding of two sessions of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, its forty-first session, held from 7 to 18 November 2022, and its forty-second session, held from 23 January to 3 February 2023. The forty-first session marked the start of the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review. The participation of representatives of 14 States in the proceedings was facilitated through the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review. OHCHR assisted Governments, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations and United Nations country teams in the preparation of reports for the universal periodic review.

4. Special procedures

13. OHCHR supported the involvement of 59 special procedure mandate holders and the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures in various United Nations processes, including those relative to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to peace and security, peacebuilding and conflict prevention, and to the Secretary-General's call to action for human rights and common agenda. The Office supported the communications and country visits of special procedure mandate holders, provided an induction briefing for new mandate holders and provided support to the Coordination Committee and its meetings. OHCHR continued making information on special procedure mandate holders and their achievements more visible, including by publishing more information on their impact on a web page dedicated to how they are making a difference⁷ and by organizing events in New York and Geneva on their prevention role and their contributions to the mainstreaming of human rights. OHCHR also enhanced the visibility of the coherent approaches taken by special procedure mandate holders relative to cross-cutting thematic issues,⁸ such as the Sustainable Development Goals, climate change, migration, new technology and the response to the COVID-19 pandemic on the OHCHR website and in the report of the Secretary-General on the conclusions and recommendations of special procedures.⁹ The OHCHR website also contains a dedicated page for compiling all

⁵ See Human Rights Council decision 51/101.

⁶ See www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/co-is.

⁷ See www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures-human-rights-council/making-difference-special-procedures-human-rights-council.

⁸ See www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures-human-rights-council/cross-cutting-thematic-issues.

⁹ [A/HRC/52/19](http://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures-human-rights-council/cross-cutting-thematic-issues).

calls for input and the themes of upcoming reports to be presented by special procedure mandate holders in the year to come.

5. Support to the work of human rights mechanisms

14. OHCHR supported States in the establishment and strengthening of national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up, including in the Comoros, the Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Honduras, Kyrgyzstan, Maldives, Mozambique, the Philippines, Tajikistan, Togo, Tonga and the United Republic of Tanzania. OHCHR launched the redesigned National Recommendations Tracking Database,¹⁰ a tool that helps States to manage and track the implementation of recommendations emanating from mechanisms and to prepare reports. The tool has been rolled out in countries, including Egypt, Kenya, Malaysia and the Philippines.

15. OHCHR implemented activities to enhance the engagement of members of national human rights institutions, parliament, civil society organizations and United Nations country teams with United Nations human rights mechanisms, and in the implementation of recommendations emanating from them, including in the Bahamas, Barbados, Costa Rica, Djibouti, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, Jamaica, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malawi, Montenegro, Panama, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Samoa, Senegal, Suriname, Tajikistan, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Tonga, Uzbekistan and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

16. Through the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review, OHCHR supported 23 States in the implementation of the recommendations emanating from the mechanism, including Bhutan, Chad, the Comoros, Costa Rica, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guyana, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Serbia, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Tunisia, Uzbekistan and Uruguay.

17. The treaty bodies published periodic reports on follow-up to concluding observations and provided guidance to States on the implementation of recommendations. Together with the Committee on Enforced Disappearances, OHCHR, including its country office in Mexico, took part in various activities with civil society organizations and State institutions to promote the implementation of the recommendations contained in the Committee's visit report.¹¹

18. OHCHR launched a campaign for the ratification of human rights treaties, as part of the celebration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, with two regional conferences, held in Dakar and Beirut in January 2023, to promote the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

19. The Committee on Enforced Disappearances and OHCHR developed activities to promote the ratification of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance, including a meeting held virtually with 27 States. The Committee also developed a video, together with the Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances, to promote the ratification of the Convention.

20. OHCHR supported the work of the seventy-seventh session of the General Assembly, in particular the Third Committee of the Assembly, which considered 98 reports supported by OHCHR and held 73 interactive dialogues with human rights mechanisms and the High Commissioner.

6. Humanitarian funds

21. The United Nations voluntary trust fund on contemporary forms of slavery awarded annual grants for 38 projects, assisting 7,000 victims in 32 States, and the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture awarded grants for 184 projects, assisting 53,000 victims in 90 States. They also received 139 and 310 applications, respectively, for projects

¹⁰ See <https://nrt.d.ohchr.org/en>.

¹¹ See [CED/C/MEX/VR/1](#) (Findings) and [CED/C/MEX/VR/1](#) (Recommendations).

to be implemented in 2024, representing a 24 per cent increase compared with applications for 2023.

B. Development

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

22. In the context of the setbacks brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, compounded by the effects of the conflict in Ukraine, the food and energy crises and the effects of climate change, OHCHR continued increasing the provision of country-focused advice to strengthen the integration of human rights and of human rights-based approaches into development plans and policies, as part of its efforts to resume progress towards the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

23. In that regard, from 1 July 2022 to 1 March 2023, OHCHR supported United Nations field presences with human rights analyses and advice for 17 common country analyses and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework processes.

24. In line with the Secretary-General's call to action for human rights, OHCHR and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) led the development of a United Nations system guidance note on human rights and voluntary reviews, launched at the 2022 session of the high-level political forum for sustainable development, which was aimed at supporting States in integrating recommendations of the human rights mechanisms into voluntary national reviews. OHCHR prioritized the provision of support and guidance to countries including Bahrain, Burkina Faso, the Comoros, Fiji, Kuwait, Maldives, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and the United Republic of Tanzania.

25. Nineteen countries received advice on mainstreaming the application of human rights and Sustainable Development Goal indicators into United Nations common country analyses and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks. OHCHR, in coordination with United Nations country teams and resident coordinator's offices, facilitated the work of collaborative platforms, including national human rights institutions, national statistical offices and other stakeholders, in Kenya, the Republic of Moldova and the Philippines, as well as in the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

26. Jointly with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), UNDP, the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) and regional economic commissions, OHCHR organized webinars on Sustainable Development Goal 16 indicators in several regions. OHCHR also supported the work of the Task Team on Non-Discrimination and Inequality of the Praia Group.

2. Right to development

27. OHCHR trained 200 people on operationalizing the right to development in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, bringing the total number trained to date to 928 people, from 150 countries, and launched a workshop on mainstreaming the right to development into voluntary national review reporting for realizing the Goals. The Office also organized the biennial panel discussion convened by the Human Rights Council on the right to development.¹²

28. In September, OHCHR organized the fourth session of the expert drafting group supporting the Chair-Rapporteur of the Working Group on the Right to Development in preparing the second revised text of the draft convention on the right to development. In November, the Office supported the sixth session of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development, including discussions on the right to development of Indigenous Peoples and in least developed countries. The Office also led a study-visit of the Expert Mechanism to Lesotho in January. OHCHR organized the high-level meeting of the Human Rights Council

¹² See www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2022/09/biennial-panel-discussion-right-development-35-years-policy-pathways.

commemorating the thirty-fifth anniversary of the Declaration on the Right to Development, held on 28 February and 1 March.¹³

3. International financial institutions

29. In February 2023, OHCHR published the final version of its benchmarking study on the safeguard policies of development finance institutions. OHCHR provided technical advice to the international climate initiative of the Government of Germany, helping to develop best practices for aligning the safeguard policy with the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. OHCHR participated in consultations on the revised safeguard policies of the Asian Development Bank. OHCHR continued to support the implementation of its publication *Remedy in Development Finance: Guidance and Practice*, including in connection with the proposed new approach to remedial actions of the International Finance Corporation. OHCHR participated in a knowledge silo-breaker on human rights in operation, organized by the World Bank, to discuss approaches to human rights and transforming economies.

4. Economic, social and cultural rights

30. In the framework of a human rights-based economy, OHCHR continued its engagement with relevant stakeholders to promote and advise on integrating human rights into policymaking in several economic and social sectors. OHCHR engaged with governments, national human rights institutions and civil society in Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Barbados, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Chad, Colombia, El Salvador, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Jordan, Mexico, Nepal, Serbia, Somalia, the Sudan, Timor-Leste, Uganda, Ukraine and Venezuela (the Bolivarian Republic of).

31. Building on the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, OHCHR continued its advocacy of and engagement in ensuring access to medicines and vaccines. That included organizing an expert workshop and the preparation of a compendium of good practices. The High Commissioner continued his advocacy for COVID-19 vaccines to be considered global public goods and called for stronger legal frameworks grounded in human rights to ensure an effective global pandemic response in the future.

32. Further advocacy is being conducted, within the framework of the intergovernmental negotiating body to draft and negotiate a World Health Organization convention, agreement or other international instrument on pandemic prevention, preparedness and response, for the integration of human rights into the draft currently under negotiation at the World Health Assembly. In its submission to the negotiating body, OHCHR urged the States members of the World Health Assembly to ensure and facilitate the meaningful, inclusive and safe participation of the public, civil society organizations and those representing the most excluded groups in both the negotiations and the work of the drafting group, irrespective of whether they may have pre-existing official status with the World Health Organization.

5. Business and human rights

33. In the framework of its project on business and human rights in technology, OHCHR hosted a series of consultations between September 2022 and February 2023 to inform the development of a guidance tool to help policymakers to align relevant regulations and policies with the Guiding Principles. In addition, a new project was launched to advance the uptake of the Guiding Principles across the African continent with regard to rights-respecting business conduct in the technology sector.

34. The work of OHCHR at the regional and national levels enhanced knowledge and stakeholders' understanding of the Guiding Principles. In Latin America, OHCHR, together with the Konrad Adenauer Foundation and national institutional partners in eight countries, convened 10 workshops on the relevance of the Guiding Principles in judicial decision-making, which involved over 300 judges, 30 prosecutors and 30 public defenders. In July, OHCHR organized the seventh Regional Forum for Latin America and the Caribbean on Business and Human Rights, held in Colombia. In Africa, OHCHR supported the

¹³ See www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/hrc/regular-sessions/session52/regular-session.

development and implementation of policies on business and human rights and the building of the capacity of governments, businesses, civil society and national human rights institutions for the implementation of the Guiding Principles, especially in Liberia, Mozambique and Uganda. OHCHR also supported regional forums on business and human rights convened by the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, including the first African Forum on Business and Human Rights, held in Accra in October 2022.

6. Environment, climate change and human rights

35. OHCHR worked closely with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UNDP, the United Nations Environment Management Group and others to advance the human right to a healthy environment, in line with the Secretary-General's call to action for human rights and the common agenda. The advocacy of OHCHR contributed to the integration of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment in the outcomes of the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity. In January 2023, OHCHR, UNEP and UNDP released a joint information note on the right to a healthy environment¹⁴ to guide States, businesses, rights holders and others in the implementation of the right to a healthy environment.

C. Peace and security

1. Support for peace missions

36. OHCHR continued to provide substantive and strategic support to human rights components in United Nations peace operations and special political missions. Through its strategic engagement with Security Council members and other United Nations entities, OHCHR sought to strengthen or preserve the consideration of human rights in Security Council resolutions, including on the mandates of the United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia and the United Nations Interim Security Force for Abyei.

2. Human rights due diligence and compliance frameworks

37. OHCHR supported the implementation of the United Nations human rights due diligence policy, including through the provision of advice, advocacy and the strengthening of decision-making and coordination mechanisms. The support was provided in Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Georgia, Honduras, Kazakhstan, Lebanon, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Montenegro, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Peru, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, the Sudan, Tajikistan, Togo, Tunisia, Türkiye, Ukraine, Uzbekistan, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Yemen. Since 2022, OHCHR, with the European Union and the African Union, has supported the implementation of the compliance and accountability framework of the African Union,¹⁵ which is aimed at ensuring that peace support operations of the African Union are planned and conducted in compliance with international human rights and humanitarian law and conduct and discipline standards.

38. OHCHR continued to ensure that human rights remained a priority in mandatory training materials for military and police personnel in United Nations missions. Pursuant to Security Council resolution 2391 (2017), OHCHR continued to support the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel in implementing its human rights and international humanitarian law compliance framework, contributing to the professionalization and

¹⁴ See www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/climatechange/information-materials/2023-01-06/r2heinfofinalweb.pdf.

¹⁵ See www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2022/11/african-union-eu-un-partnership-project-launched-support-au-peace-support.

operational posture of the Joint Force towards protecting civilians and improving its ability to mitigate and respond to cases of civilian harm.

3. Prevention, early warning and emergency response

39. OHCHR strengthened its production of human rights-based risk analysis, through improved information management and data analysis capacity. The analysis, which is focused on socioeconomic and discrimination aspects and builds on information from the human rights mechanisms, forms the basis for the strategic engagement of OHCHR in early warning and prevention in national, regional and global processes, including the Secretary-General's prevention platform and the Inter-Agency Standing Committee early warning early and action readiness process. OHCHR continued to integrate human rights into the early warning system of the African Union and designed and delivered training modules on integrating human rights into early warning and conflict prevention.

40. OHCHR deployed surge teams to Burkina Faso, the Gambia, Haiti, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Peru, Sao Tome and Principe, Tajikistan, Tunisia and Ukraine. OHCHR field presences in Colombia, Ecuador, Honduras and the Occupied Palestinian Territory implemented specific early warning interventions which led to conflict prevention achievements.

41. OHCHR launched a project aimed at strengthening the evidence base on the relationship between human rights and conflict, and to create a pilot conflict risk tool, which draws upon the work of the United Nations, including OHCHR, to develop human rights indicators, methodologies on the assessment and use of data and methodological guidance on early warning analysis.

4. Peacebuilding

42. OHCHR strengthened its work supported by the Peacebuilding Fund. As at 1 March 2023, OHCHR was contributing to the implementation of 20 Fund-supported projects across all regions. For example, in Mauritania, OHCHR is implementing a project aimed at lifting obstacles to women's access to land and, in the Republic of Moldova, the Office is supporting a process to reduce intercommunity tensions through improved access to social services and by addressing divisive narratives and misinformation.

5. Combating sexual and gender-based violence, sexual exploitation and abuse, trafficking and related exploitation

43. OHCHR continued to integrate human rights-based, gender-sensitive and victim-centred approaches within the United Nations action against sexual violence in conflict network, including in the joint assessment of monitoring, analysis and reporting arrangements on conflict-related sexual violence, including in Guatemala, the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine, and in international investigative bodies on Belarus, Ethiopia, Libya and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). It supported United Nations efforts to prevent and respond to conflict-related sexual violence, including through the development of a training course on conflict-related sexual violence for peace mission operations, in the context of the work of OHCHR within the inter-agency group United Nations Action against Sexual Violence in Conflict.

44. OHCHR supported the first Human Rights Council panel discussion on violence against women and girls in the context of climate change. It continued its mandated work on harmful practices, in line with the Human Rights Council and General Assembly agendas, including by organizing expert consultations on harmful practices related to accusations of witchcraft and ritual attacks and on forced marriage. The Office expanded understanding and raised awareness of other forms of gender-based violence and harmful practices, beyond child marriage and female genital mutilation.

45. In the Latin America and Caribbean region, OHCHR, in partnership with UNODC, supported the establishment of a network of civil society organizations specialized in the provision of legal assistance to victims of trafficking in persons among migrants.

6. Humanitarian action

46. OHCHR continued to mainstream a human rights-based approach into humanitarian settings by engaging in protection working groups, protection clusters and humanitarian country teams in Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, Mozambique, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen and the Occupied Palestinian Territory. That included mainstreaming the centrality of protection into the efforts of the United Nations in relation to the refugee response in the Republic of Moldova, the drought in Somalia, the armed conflict in Mozambique and gang violence in Haiti. OHCHR leads the protection cluster in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, where it began work to strengthen disability inclusion. It leads the protection sector in Haiti, jointly with the national Office of the Ombudsman. OHCHR organized rapid deployments to Haiti to support the humanitarian response to communities living in gang-controlled areas.

47. OHCHR continued to engage in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, the Global Protection Cluster, the Global Health Cluster and the United Nations COVID-19 crisis management team. It contributed to the review of protection policy of the Standing Committee, its compact on diversity equality and inclusion and the its global report on law and policy on internal displacement. OHCHR also attended meetings of the Working Party on Humanitarian Aid and Food Aid and engaged with key humanitarian agencies and coordination structures, including the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs of the Secretariat and the Global Protection Cluster.

48. OHCHR participated in humanitarian planning exercises, including the humanitarian planning cycle, in more than 19 countries, and in the preparation of *Global Humanitarian Overview 2023* of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, with an article on the situation in Ukraine.

49. The capacity of OHCHR staff to engage in humanitarian action continues to be strengthened, notably through training.

D. Non-discrimination

1. Combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance

50. OHCHR held consultations with human rights defenders of African descent from South America and Europe, with a focus on racial justice and equality. In December 2022, the Office launched a guide on developing legislation that promotes minority rights¹⁶ and, jointly with the Equal Rights Trust, organized briefings to promote it.

51. Jointly with the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the International Institute on Race, Equality and Human Rights, OHCHR supported the engagement of Brazilian civil society organizations with the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination, ahead of its dialogue with Brazil in the context of the review of its periodic report under the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination, in November 2022. In Uruguay, jointly with the national human rights institution and members of academia, OHCHR supported the elaboration of indicators of discrimination of persons of African descent. In Lebanon, OHCHR and the Office on Genocide Prevention and the Responsibility to Protect organized a regional conference on the role of religious leaders and actors in countering hate speech.

52. OHCHR supported the International Independent Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement in the preparation of its annual report to the Human Rights Council,¹⁷ in its country visit to Sweden and in its regional consultations on

¹⁶ See www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/publications/2022-11-28/OHCHR_ERT_Protecting_Minority_per cent20Rights_Practical_Guide_web.pdf.

¹⁷ [A/HRC/51/55](https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/iaegme).

South America, held in Santiago. In December 2022, OHCHR also supported the organization of the first session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent.¹⁸

2. Migrants

53. OHCHR released guidance on human rights monitoring in the context of migration. It conducted monitoring missions, including to the Gambia, the Colombia-Panama border, the Dominican Republic-Haiti border, northern Central America, the Panama-Costa Rica border and the northern border of Chile. It also supported the visit of the Central American Network of Ombudspersons to the Colombia-Panama border to monitor the human rights situation of migrants in transit. In West and North Africa, OHCHR extended its actions to Algeria, Burkina Faso, Chad, Libya, Morocco, Nigeria and Tunisia, to promote human rights-based migration governance, including in the context of combating trafficking and smuggling. The Office also released a report on advancing a rights-based approach to climate change resilience and migration in the Sahel.¹⁹

54. Since July 2022, OHCHR has been helping to shape a more inclusive humanitarian response for Ukrainian refugees in North Macedonia and the Republic of Moldova.

3. Indigenous Peoples and minorities

55. OHCHR provided guidance on the protection of minority groups to national stakeholders and financial support to United Nations country teams, including in Argentina, Armenia, Cameroon, the Dominican Republic, Kyrgyzstan, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Madagascar, Montenegro, Panama, the Republic of Moldova and Sri Lanka. In September, OHCHR organized, jointly with the Office of the President of the General Assembly, the high-level commemorative event on the thirtieth anniversary of the Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities, with the participation of the Secretary-General, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, the President of the General Assembly and the Special Rapporteur on minority issues. As a Chair of the United Nations network on racial discrimination and protection of minorities, OHCHR rolled out guidance on intersectionality, in September, and convened a high-level event on racial discrimination and the protection of minorities in the context of peace and security, in December.²⁰

56. Also in December, jointly with the Equal Rights Trust, OHCHR published *Protecting Minority Rights: a Practical Guide to Developing Comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Legislation*, a tool for developing comprehensive anti-discrimination law at the national level, in line with the commitments of the common agenda.²¹

57. In the context of its Indigenous and Minorities Fellowship Programmes, OHCHR assigned 32 former Indigenous and minority fellows to 27 OHCHR field presences, United Nations country teams and its headquarters in Geneva, as part of a job-shadowing programme. In March 2023, the Office launched a Portuguese-speaking component of the Indigenous Fellowship Programme.

58. The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples supported the participation of 145 Indigenous representatives (80 women and 60 men) in 13 United Nations meetings and processes, and OHCHR supported the mandate of the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples and the development of the Global Action Plan of the International Decade on Indigenous Languages for the period 2022–2032, which was launched in December 2022, under the coordination of UNESCO.

4. Gender equality and women's rights

59. OHCHR promoted the advancement and enjoyment of sexual and reproductive health and rights standards, including by advocating for and supporting legislative and policy changes at the national level. In Mexico, OHCHR provided human rights-based and gender-

¹⁸ See www.ohchr.org/en/permanent-forum-people-african-descent.

¹⁹ See www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-11/Climate-Change-migration-Sahel-report.pdf.

²⁰ See www.ohchr.org/en/minorities/un-network-racial-discrimination-and-protection-minorities.

²¹ See www.ohchr.org/en/minorities/minority-rights-equality-and-anti-discrimination-law.

sensitive psychosocial support to special antifemicide units in the Office of the Attorney General's Office, and, in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, OHCHR built the capacity of civil society organizations on the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, OHCHR documented the human rights situation of women deprived of liberty, in particular Indigenous women, and, in Liberia, OHCHR continued its engagement with women's rights groups, strengthening their capacity in the areas of human rights monitoring, reporting and advocacy. In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, OHCHR provided training for the Independent Commission for Human Rights on gender-based discrimination, and remained one of the only international actors to carry out visits to women's detention facilities in the West Bank and Gaza.

60. OHCHR worked towards the integration of women's human rights and gender equality in United Nations development and peace and security processes and continued the implementation of its gender accreditation programme to enhance the integration of gender analysis into monitoring, reporting, programmatic and advocacy work. To date, the programme has supported OHCHR field presences in Cambodia, Colombia, Guatemala, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine and the Occupied Palestinian Territory.

5. Persons with disabilities

61. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 49/12, OHCHR submitted a report on support systems to ensure community inclusion of persons with disabilities, including as a means of building forward better after the COVID-19 pandemic to the Council.²² In the context of the "Human rights 75" initiative, in February 2023, OHCHR also focused its thematic spotlight on care and support systems for persons with disabilities and others.

62. In Georgia, Guatemala, Honduras, Malawi, Mozambique, North Macedonia, the Republic of Moldova, Trinidad and Tobago and Ukraine, OHCHR provided advice to Governments and other actors on the incorporation of international standards into domestic legal systems and their justiciability. In Saudi Arabia, with the national human rights commission, OHCHR organized a dialogue on disability inclusion in sports clubs. In Somalia, OHCHR supported the national disability agency to conduct its first disability needs assessment survey. In Saint Kitts and Nevis, a national survey on the situation of persons with disabilities was carried out, with OHCHR support.

6. Sexual orientation, gender identity and sex characteristics

63. OHCHR continued to advocate for the human rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex, queer and other persons through the "United Nations free and equal" campaign. OHCHR supported national stakeholders in Albania, Brazil, Cabo Verde, Chile, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Fiji, Ghana, Guyana, Honduras, Liberia, Mongolia, Montenegro, Nepal, Panama, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Timor-Leste, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Uruguay, Viet Nam and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). OHCHR worked with the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, the United Nations Global Compact, the World Economic Forum Partnership for Global LGBTI Equality, the private sector and civil society to advance implementation of the United Nations standards of conduct for business on tackling discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people.²³

7. Older persons

64. OHCHR influenced global debates and contributed to the understanding of the human rights protection gaps concerning older persons. In August, OHCHR convened the first multi-stakeholder meeting on the human rights of older persons. A report on the panel discussion,²⁴ containing recommendations on the way forward, was presented to the Human Rights Council.

²² [A/HRC/52/52](#).

²³ See <https://lgbtiq.unglobalcompact.org/>.

²⁴ [A/HRC/52/49](#).

8. Children and youth

65. OHCHR continued to partner with the Education Above All Foundation and Silatech and finalized the development of the youth rights advocacy toolkit. The interactive toolkit, whose development was informed by six regional consultations with young people and a youth advisory board, is intended to build the capacity of young people to advocate for their rights. Engagement on the development of a United Nations system-wide guidance note on mainstreaming the rights of the child continued.

E. Accountability

1. Transitional justice

66. OHCHR continued to lead, in partnership with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, the interagency revision process of the Secretary-General's guidance note on the United Nations approach to transitional justice. OHCHR also provided technical assistance to States and other stakeholders to support transitional justice processes, including in Burkina Faso, the Central African Republic, Colombia, Chad, El Salvador, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Lebanon, Mexico, Peru, the Republic of Korea, South Sudan, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and Yemen, as well as in the Western Balkan region.

67. In Colombia, OHCHR assisted in disseminating the final report of the Truth Commission and provided technical assistance during the regional hearing process of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace. In the Central African Republic, OHCHR provided technical support that led to the establishment of six local branches of the Truth, Justice, Reparation and Reconciliation Commission. The United Nations also continued to support transitional justice processes in Chad, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea, the Syrian Arab Republic, Tunisia and other countries. In the Syrian Arab Republic, it worked to advance accountability for missing persons and casualties in the 10 years of conflict, by undertaking its first-ever assessment of casualties, and supported the preparation of the Secretary-General's report on missing persons.²⁵ OHCHR also recorded conflict-related deaths in several other States, and it is preparing a report on their impact on human rights for the fifty-third session of the Human Rights Council.

2. Death penalty

68. OHCHR continued advocating for the abolition of the death penalty in all circumstances. It supported the abolition of the death penalty in the Central African Republic, Chad and Zambia and the abolition of capital punishment for ordinary crimes in Equatorial Guinea. The Office also supported the Secretary-General's advocacy and interventions with regard to the abolition of the death penalty.

3. Counter-terrorism efforts and prevention of violent extremism

69. OHCHR continued to advocate for a human rights-based approach to countering terrorism and preventing violent extremism and provided technical advice on national policies and legislation. At the first Global Congress of Victims of Terrorism, held in New York in September, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights delivered a keynote address, stressing the importance of ensuring that victims of terrorism be active partners in processes that affect them. OHCHR continued to engage in the work of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Coordination Compact, chairing its Working Group on Promoting and Protecting Human Rights, the Rule of Law and Fundamental Freedoms and Supporting the Victims of Terrorism.

4. Administration of justice and law enforcement

70. In Belize, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Burundi, Cambodia, Chad, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Honduras, Kenya, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritania, Mexico, the Niger, Peru, the Republic of Korea, South Sudan, Tajikistan,

²⁵ [A/77/245](#).

Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), OHCHR continued to monitor, train and advise members of State institutions and other actors to strengthen the administration of justice and the rule of law. In Honduras, OHCHR provided assistance for a new legal framework for the election of Supreme Court judges. OHCHR also continued advocating for the implementation of the United Nations system common position on incarceration; in Ecuador, OHCHR provided technical advice for the development of legislation on the use of force and trained 100 law enforcement officers on the legislation.

71. In Burundi, the Comoros, Haiti, Honduras, Liberia and South Sudan, OHCHR advised authorities and monitored the conditions of detention. In Belize, OHCHR provided technical assistance to the police department, with a human rights component being integrated into the police training academy's training course on use of force policy. In Georgia, OHCHR worked with the police academy on a training course for police officers on the rights of persons with disabilities.

72. In October, in cooperation with the Palestinian police and the national human rights institution, OHCHR conducted a training course for police on the prohibition of torture. In Mexico, OHCHR issued a report on accountability for victims of torture. In North Macedonia, a law adopted in November on compensation for victims of violent crime was drafted with the support of OHCHR.

5. Human rights and drug policy

73. In line with the United Nations system common position on drug-related matters, of 2018, OHCHR continued advocating for the decriminalization of the use of drugs for personal use. In collaboration with the Global Commission on Drug Policy, OHCHR organized a high-level event in Geneva on taking a human rights-based approach to drug policy, and it organized a regional implementation dialogue on the international guidelines on human rights and drug policy in sub-Saharan Africa, in collaboration with UNDP, the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and other stakeholders. OHCHR also organized a national dialogue on the guidelines in Ghana, in collaboration with the Government of Ghana and other stakeholders, and provided support for taking human rights-based approaches to drug policy in Colombia and the Philippines.

6. Corruption and human rights

74. OHCHR strengthened its engagement with relevant stakeholders to promote anti-corruption efforts and to ensure that responses were victim-centred and consistent with human rights obligations. The Office prioritized the investigation of the negative effects of corruption on human rights. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, OHCHR prepared reports to the Human Rights Council on the panel discussion on the challenges and good practices in the prevention of corruption, and the impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights²⁶ and on the panel discussion on good governance in the promotion and protection of human rights during and after the COVID-19 pandemic.²⁷

F. Participation

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

75. OHCHR supported the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of human rights mechanisms. During the Human Rights Council's fifty-first and fifty-second sessions, OHCHR accommodated 150 side events organized by non-governmental organizations and received 613 written statements of non-governmental organizations. OHCHR supported the organization of 17 informational meetings during the forty-first and forty-second sessions of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, and the Office provided briefings and training courses to civil society actors to support their engagement with human rights mechanisms, including in Burundi, Cabo Verde, Costa Rica,

²⁶ [A/HRC/51/14](#).

²⁷ [A/HRC/52/43](#).

Guatemala, El Salvador, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malawi, Malaysia, Senegal and the Cook Islands.

76. OHCHR supported the work of human rights defenders, including in Liberia, Mozambique, Togo and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). In the Republic of Moldova, OHCHR developed a course on human rights for the social work faculty of Moldova State University. In the Latin America and the Caribbean region, OHCHR supported the use of international human rights mechanisms by human rights defenders' networks working with refugees and migrants from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, and, in Kenya, it contributed to promoting women's participation and leadership during the 2022 elections.

77. In Bosnia and Herzegovina, OHCHR published a report on the safety of journalists and access to information. In the Occupied Palestinian Territory, OHCHR built the capacities of women human rights defenders on digital safety and security, with the Ministry of Women's Affairs. In Iraq, OHCHR conducted 18 dialogues held virtually with 150 women journalists and young influencers, to enhance understanding of the gender-related challenges that they faced. In Honduras, the OHCHR monitoring and documentation system focusing on attacks against human rights defenders, journalists and others increased the Office's capacity for early warning and action, resulting in the release of 44 detained human rights defenders.

78. OHCHR supported women human rights defenders and journalists through capacity development in Thailand and Kenya, and it undertook advocacy efforts to advance feminist holistic protection, as defined by women human rights defenders, including through the "I stand with her" campaign.²⁸ Together with UN-Women, the Office organized a closed consultation with women human rights defenders from the Middle East and North African regions on attacks and reprisals, protection needs and strategies.

79. OHCHR continued to support the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights in her role as the senior United Nations official designated by the Secretary-General to lead United Nations efforts to prevent and address intimidation and reprisals against those who cooperate with the United Nations, including by engaging with States and providing guidance to the United Nations system on the issue. Issued in September, the annual report of the Secretary-General to the Human Rights Council contained reports on global trends and allegations of reprisals for cooperation with the United Nations in 42 countries, as well as on good practices by States. For the first time, the annual report was presented to the Third Committee of the General Assembly.

80. In Chile, OHCHR prepared informational materials on international human rights norms relevant to the process of drafting a new constitution, and, in Lesotho, Maldives and South Africa, OHCHR provided training courses for government officials, civil society and youth groups on the right to participation. In Mexico, OHCHR, in collaboration with the Ministry of the Interior, published a compilation of human rights standards on the right to protest. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, OHCHR assisted the Government in the elaboration of a national public policy on reparations, and, in Colombia, the Office supported the development and implementation of a new government emergency plan to protect human rights defenders.

2. Digital space

81. As part of the implementation of the Secretary-General's road map for digital cooperation and the call to action for human rights, OHCHR continued to develop guidance for United Nations entities on human rights due diligence and the impact of digital technology. OHCHR intensified its advocacy for rights-based online content governance by engaging with States and technology companies, including on the basis of the High Commissioner's report on the right to privacy in the digital age.²⁹

²⁸ See www.standup4humanrights.org/i-stand-with-her/en/.

²⁹ [A/HRC/51/17](https://www.ohchr.org/en/docid/3241171.pdf).

82. At a meeting of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001) concerning counter-terrorism, held in Mumbai in October, OHCHR delivered a statement³⁰ on the importance of international human rights law as the foundation for responses to the use of technology to commit acts of terrorism. As requested by the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 47/23, OHCHR convened an expert consultation, in February 2023, to discuss the relationship between human rights and technical standard-setting processes for new and emerging digital technology. The discussion, the first of its kind mandated by the Council, brought together standard-setting bodies, companies, civil society and other experts to explore how to integrate human rights concerns into technical standard-setting processes.

3. Electoral processes

83. OHCHR monitored human rights and conducted related advocacy in the context of electoral processes, including in Brazil, Cambodia, Chile, the Congo, Dominica, Ecuador, the Gambia, Guatemala, Honduras, Kenya, the Niger, Peru and Somalia. OHCHR also provided training courses on human rights standards, early warning and reporting in the context of elections in Guinea-Bissau, Lesotho, Nepal and Nigeria. In Brazil, OHCHR implemented monitoring strategies with a focus on attacks against human rights defenders and journalists, in particular women, lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people and people of African descent. In Honduras, with support from the Peacebuilding Fund, OHCHR assisted the Office of the Attorney-General with the development of a manual and protocol on the investigation of electoral violence, and, in November, OHCHR organized the fourth session of the Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law. A summary of the session³¹ is contained in the report of the Chair of the Forum.³²

4. Support for national human rights institutions and regional mechanisms

84. OHCHR assisted with the establishment or strengthening of national human rights institutions in Argentina, Azerbaijan, Bangladesh, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, Colombia, the Comoros, the Congo, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ecuador, Egypt, Equatorial Guinea, Germany, Haiti, Honduras, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mauritius, Republic of Moldova, Mexico, New Zealand, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Peru, the Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Slovakia, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uruguay and Uzbekistan. In Kazakhstan, the advocacy of OHCHR led to the adoption of a constitutional law on the ombudsperson.

5. Human rights education

85. The work of OHCHR on human rights education continued to be focused on youth, in line with the World Programme for Human Rights Education. The Office partnered closely with UNESCO and the Office of the Envoy of the Secretary-General on Youth in several events and reinforced its collaboration with the World Organization of the Scout Movement. OHCHR organized five conversations, jointly with young people, on human rights education, in connection with the development of documentaries on the work of young human rights educators from Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Morocco, Samoa, Serbia and South Africa. The documentaries are part of a multimedia tool that OHCHR and its partners in the project, Amnesty International and Soka Gakkai International, are developing.

III. Conclusions

86. **The human rights challenges facing the world today are immense and interconnected. The climate crisis, which is threatening the very survival and the future of generations to come, cannot be ignored. The international community cannot turn a**

³⁰ See www.un.org/securitycouncil/ctc/sites/www.un.org.securitycouncil.ctc/files/scott_campbell.pdf.

³¹ See www.ohchr.org/en/events/forums/2022/fourth-session-forum-human-rights-democracy-and-rule-law.

³² [A/HRC/52/72](#).

blind eye to ongoing conflict, violence and humanitarian crises, such as in Afghanistan, Haiti, Myanmar, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine, which have caused untold casualties, suffering and displacement, nor can it neglect the need for social justice and human dignity, which are essential for peace and development.

87. While, thanks to the introduction of vaccines and effective treatments, the COVID-19 pandemic has waned, in numerous countries doses remain scarce and treatment can be difficult to access. There is still a risk of mutation into new variants, which could increase the transmissibility and severity of the disease. The pandemic has also had a devastating impact on many children and young people, and the road to recovery from the economic devastation caused by the COVID-19 pandemic in many sectors will be long and difficult. The pandemic has disrupted every aspect of human life, from health and education to economy and security. It has also exposed and exacerbated the deep inequalities which plague the world.

88. Pushback on women's rights and gender equality has been on the rise and is affecting all spheres of women's lives. There has also been an increase in attacks on the rights of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. In some cases, discourse against gender equality is intertwined with anti-migrant, racist, xenophobic, transphobic and homophobic sentiments and narratives. This trend is undermining the universality, and the fundamental principles, of human rights, including non-discrimination and gender equality. The rights of women and girls, in all their diversity, must be upheld, and their full and equal participation in decision-making must be advanced.

89. It is a critical moment in terms of the unprecedented scale of progress in the digital world, with grave risks for the enjoyment of human rights. Technological breakthroughs are occurring every day. Progress in artificial intelligence is evolving at breathtaking speed, technology capable of reading and manipulating the mind is no longer far-fetched science fiction, hate speech and misinformation continue to thrive, especially online, and augmented and virtual reality technology is improving. With these trends, the human rights challenges will only grow more acute. It is time to incorporate the common language of human rights into the way that new and emerging technology is regulated, managed, designed and used. Safeguards to protect human rights must be firmly in place at the conception phases of technology and throughout its entire life cycle. These guardrails are a sine qua non for technology that serves humanity and advances the common good.

90. Human rights are not a luxury or a privilege. They are universal values that emerged from the ashes of the Second World War, from a determination to prevent such atrocities from ever happening again. They are legal obligations that bind States to respect, protect and fulfil the rights of all people without discrimination. They are a moral compass that guides everyone towards a more humane and sustainable world.

91. In the year 2023, marking the seventy-fifth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, there is an opportunity to reinvigorate the worldwide consensus on human rights that led to the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and to build on the solid achievements made since then. In its "Human rights 75" initiative, OHCHR seeks to promote the universality and the indivisibility of human rights, to look to the future and to bolster the human rights ecosystem, in 2023. The Office will continue to amplify and engage strategically with the human rights mechanisms, ensure the integration of the outcomes of their processes into analysis, programming and advocacy at the country and regional levels and explore how to make better use of the mechanisms' contributions in prevention and protection and in sustaining peace, development and security.

92. Investing in human rights is not only a duty, it is also a wise choice, for the health, security, prosperity, the environment and, ultimately, the well-being of all. OHCHR plays a vital role in promoting and protecting human rights across the globe, in partnership with States, civil society, international organizations and other stakeholders. The Office also supports the mainstreaming of human rights within the

United Nations system, rendering it more coherent and effective in addressing the complex challenges facing the world. The growing demand for the Office's engagement, including for technical cooperation by States and for support and assistance by mechanisms of the Human Rights Council, reflects its relevance and impact in advancing human rights for all.

93. OHCHR responds to these demands as effectively as possible, within its limited resources and capacity. The Office has continued to assess and evaluate its work, with the aim of achieving results that have a positive impact on the human rights of all people everywhere.

94. The High Commissioner deeply appreciates the support of States for the work of the Office and for their recognition of its growing workload. Human rights work remains significantly underfunded, however, and OHCHR requires more resources and greater political will to meet the increasing challenges facing the world. The High Commissioner urges States to recognize the value of investing in human rights by providing the Office with resources that correspond to the gaps identified at the national, regional and global levels and by strengthening their support for the work of OHCHR.
