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

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



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*Note*

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## Chapter I

### Introduction

1. The present report, 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) from 1 January to 30 June 2025. The report should be read in conjunction with the annual report of the High Commissioner to the Human Rights Council ([A/HRC/59/20](#)), which contains an overview of the activities of OHCHR from 1 July 2024 to 1 March 2025. During the reporting period, OHCHR continued to advance the global human rights agenda. Through close cooperation with States, national human rights institutions, civil society and the United Nations system, the Office has continued to deliver tangible results on the ground. While the Office continues to pursue every possible means of fulfilling its mandate despite the stark resource constraints imposed by the ongoing liquidity crisis, these results will not be sustained without additional resources.

2. Guided by the principles of the universality and indivisibility of human rights and multilateralism, efforts continue to be firmly aligned with the Pact for the Future (General Assembly resolution [79/1](#)) and the vision statement of the High Commissioner, entitled: “Human rights: a path for solutions”, ensuring that the transformative power of human rights is central to addressing global challenges.

## Chapter II

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

#### A. International human rights mechanisms

##### 1. Treaty bodies

3. The treaty bodies engaged with States, national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations, other United Nations human rights mechanisms, United Nations agencies and regional and other organizations. During the reporting period, they reviewed 48 State Party reports and adopted 54 lists of issues and lists of issues prior to reporting and 210 decisions under individual communication procedures. As at 30 June 2025, 316 State Party reports were pending review and 1,530 individual communications were pending consideration. The Committee on Enforced Disappearances, as at 30 June 2025, had registered a total of 2,030 urgent actions, out of which 1,255 remained open. This backlog is expected to accumulate further given the cancellation of the third treaty body session for 2025 in view of the liquidity crisis.

4. The Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment visited two States. In 2025, 11 grants, totalling \$316,545, were awarded by the Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment to support national torture preventive mechanisms in 10 eligible States.

##### 2. Human Rights Council

5. OHCHR supported the Human Rights Council in holding the fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth regular sessions and the thirty-seventh special session, on the situation of human rights in the east of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

6. 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 enabled the participation of 19 representatives (10 women and 9 men) in the fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions of the Council. In May, the Trust Fund secretariat organized a regional workshop for Africa in Cotonou, Benin, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution [49/32](#), which offered participants a forum for sharing experience and identifying practical courses of actions to be recommended in engaging with the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms. On 4 and 5 June 2025, the Trust Fund secretariat co-organized with the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, and with the support of the Permanent Mission of Singapore to the United Nations in Geneva, a training for Geneva-based diplomats.

7. OHCHR continued to provide operational, methodological and administrative support to the independent investigative bodies established by the Human Rights Council in relation to Belarus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Nicaragua, South Sudan, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), and in relation to the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel. As mandated by the Human Rights Council, OHCHR continued its examination of the human rights situation in Nicaragua and its accountability work regarding the situation in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and in Sri Lanka. Significant funding shortages affected the full implementation of these mandates.

8. OHCHR continued to support the designated experts of the High Commissioner on human rights in Haiti and the Sudan, including through a visit by the designated expert on Haiti in March, and to support the International Independent Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement.

### **3. Universal periodic review**

9. OHCHR supported the adoption by the Human Rights Council of the outcomes of the universal periodic review at its fifty-eighth and fifty-ninth sessions. It also supported two sessions of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, in January and in April and May 2025, including through the drafting of 84 reports. Those sessions saw the participation of over 600 delegates from States under review. Nine delegates from least developed countries and small island developing States participated through the Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review. The Office assisted Governments, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations and United Nations country teams in preparing and following up on reviews including in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cabo Verde, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Fiji, the Gambia, Ghana, Guinea-Bissau, Honduras, Kiribati, Liberia, Malaysia, the Niger, Panama and Senegal.

### **4. Special procedures**

10. OHCHR supported the work of 60 Human Rights Council special procedures mandate holders and the Coordination Committee of Special Procedures. In March 2025, OHCHR presented the annual report on the activities of special procedures mandate holders and the associated facts and figures ([A/HRC/58/70](#) and [A/HRC/58/70/Add.1](#)), offering an overview of the work of mandate holders in 2024. Despite significant financial constraints that led to the holding of only one country visit per mandate per year, the special procedures mandate holders conducted 22 visits to 24 States and engaged across a wide range of human rights issues during the reporting period. They also provided technical advice and engaged in legal processes, contributing to the development of human rights standards and ensuring follow-up on recommendations. They strengthened partnerships with the United Nations system, regional mechanisms and civil society.

### **5. Support for the work of human rights mechanisms**

11. OHCHR supported engagement with human rights mechanisms in 91 countries, working with national human rights institutions, parliaments, civil society organizations and United Nations country teams to strengthen reporting and implement the recommendations of those mechanisms, including through enhanced digital tools such as the National Recommendations Tracking Database, now used in 19 countries.

12. In 2025, through the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review, OHCHR is providing technical assistance to 15 States, namely, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Eswatini, Ghana, Kyrgyzstan, Paraguay, Rwanda, Turkmenistan, Uganda, Uzbekistan and Zambia.

13. Through its treaty body capacity-building programme, OHCHR supported over 50 States Parties. OHCHR supported States in the implementation of pledges made under the Human Rights 75 initiative, leading to 11 additional ratifications of international human rights treaties, by Albania, Bangladesh, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominica, Eritrea, Ireland, Poland, South Africa, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Zambia and Zimbabwe.



## 6. Humanitarian funds

14. During the reporting period, the 45 grants awarded by the United Nations voluntary trust fund on contemporary forms of slavery to support more than 10,500 survivors in 34 countries in 2025 continued to be implemented. The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture awarded 186 annual grants to support an estimated 56,000 survivors in 92 countries, as well as 14 grants through a special call for the Syrian Arab Republic for the delivery of critical services to an estimated 3,300 released prisoners, relatives of persons still forcibly disappeared and other survivors of torture.

## B. Development

### 1. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

15. OHCHR continued to advance the integration of human rights into national development planning and implementation processes. The Office provided technical support and human rights-based analyses, disability inclusion and operational advice for 35 United Nations Sustainable Development Frameworks.<sup>1</sup> Moreover, OHCHR delivered trainings on integrating a human rights-based approach, the principle of “leave no one behind” and gender equality and women’s empowerment into policies and processes in The Bahamas, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Cabo Verde, Chad, Cuba, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guatemala, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Myanmar, North Macedonia, Panama, the Republic of Moldova, Uganda, and the Caribbean.

16. The Office promoted the integration of human rights in national development strategies through its participation in regional sustainable development forums, provided guidance to various stakeholders and supported projects to identify gaps and structural barriers affecting marginalized populations, with a focus on health, social protection and food systems.

17. As the custodian entity for four Sustainable Development Goal indicators, OHCHR continued its global reporting on conflict-related deaths (16.1.2), killings of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists (16.10.1), independent national human rights institutions (16.a.1) and the prevalence of discrimination (10.3.1 and 16.b.1). OHCHR also contributed to the 2025 report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals (A/80/81-E/2025/62) and oversaw the conceptualization of the third global progress report on Goal 16 indicators, to be launched in September 2025.

### 2. Right to development

18. OHCHR promoted the right to development through research, advocacy, constituency-building and capacity-building, including through a pilot project in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, carried out with academic partners, to develop a practical guidance tool on operationalizing the right to development. It convened the eleventh session of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development in April and the twenty-sixth session of the Working Group on the Right to Development in May. The Office supported the Group of Advocates for the Right to Development, which launched the #Youth4RtD campaign. It engaged in the twenty-eighth session of the

<sup>1</sup> Albania, Angola, Armenia, Belarus, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, Caribbean, China, Eswatini, Cuba, Ethiopia, Georgia, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Jamaica, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Malaysia, Maldives, Mexico, North Macedonia, Panama, Senegal, Serbia, South Africa, Sudan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Turkmenistan, Uganda, United Republic of Tanzania and Viet Nam.

Commission on Science and Technology for Development and preparations for the third United Nations Conference on Landlocked Developing Countries, scheduled for August 2025 in Turkmenistan.

### **3. International financial institutions**

19. In line with its vision of a human rights economy, the Office supported efforts to reform the international financial architecture, including through contributions to the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development. As a member of the steering committee under the United Nations-World Bank partnership in fragile and conflict-affected situations, and of an inter-agency working group under that partnership, OHCHR promoted rights-based financing in fragile contexts and provided inputs to the World Bank strategy for fragility, conflict and violence for the period 2025 to 2030.

### **4. Economic, social and cultural rights**

20. OHCHR continued to support States and partners globally in advancing economic, social and cultural rights through legal, institutional and policy reform. In Ethiopia, OHCHR collaborated with the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to address urbanization challenges affecting vulnerable groups. In the Sudan, the Office advocated for a coordinated humanitarian response prioritizing the rights of displaced communities.

### **5. Care and support systems**

21. At the fifty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council, OHCHR presented a report on the human rights dimension of care and support ([A/HRC/58/43](#)). Building on this, it co-organized with the International Federation of Social Workers an online course in March and April 2025 for 500 social workers. On 15 May, OHCHR published a regional report on safeguarding the right to family life in migration policies in the Asia-Pacific region.<sup>2</sup>

### **6. Environment, climate change and human rights**

22. OHCHR continued to advance the right to a healthy environment through engagement in international and regional environmental negotiations. In Africa, OHCHR assessed the impacts of extractive industries on human rights, including the right to a healthy environment, in Chad and Zambia, and supported disability inclusion in the climate policy of Somalia.

23. In the Americas, OHCHR co-hosted the third Forum on Human Rights Defenders in Environmental Matters in Latin America and the Caribbean in Saint Kitts and Nevis and supported environmental licensing system reforms in Honduras.

24. Across Asia and the Pacific, OHCHR supported Thailand in developing a draft climate change bill; co-hosted a capacity-building workshop for Government officials leading the development of the nationally determined contribution of Cambodia in March; contributed to a global climate change dialogue led by the Government of Nepal in May; and supported the implementation plan for the Pacific Regional Framework on Climate Mobility in May.

25. In Europe, OHCHR engaged in the development of the Strategy on the Environment of the Council of Europe and its action plan, ensuring a focus on rights and defenders. OHCHR co-hosted the Right Here, Right Now Global Climate Summit

<sup>2</sup> Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, “Enhancing the human right to family life for migrants and their families in the Asia-Pacific region” (2025).

with Oxford University in June, at which the High Commissioner delivered the Tanner Lecture on Human Values.<sup>3</sup>

## **7. Corruption and human rights**

26. OHCHR continued to support human rights and anti-corruption efforts through dedicated projects at the request of Governments or national institutions. In March, it co-organized a side event on the margins of the fifty-eighth session of the Human Rights Council on countering corruption and repatriating illicit funds. In Madagascar, OHCHR contributed to a five-year anti-corruption strategy adopted in January 2025. In the Niger, it reviewed the functions of an anti-corruption and anti-money-laundering mechanism and advocated for it to be compliant with international human rights standards.

27. OHCHR conducted trainings on anti-corruption and human rights in Egypt and the Gambia, and hosted two regional advocacy workshops, in Lund, Sweden, for Europe in January, and in Banjul, the Gambia, for Africa in April. Between March and May, OHCHR partnered with the National Commission of Integrity of Iraq to conduct dialogues in Baghdad, Basrah, Kirkuk and Anbar.

## **8. Business and human rights**

28. OHCHR continued to promote the effective implementation of the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights through advocacy, technical cooperation and expert engagement. Over 1,400 stakeholders were reached through meetings and webinars, and at least 10 high-level events reinforced the role of OHCHR in agenda-setting across emerging and traditional business and human rights issues.

29. In January, OHCHR released an update to its Accountability and Remedy Project, which featured four multilingual publications with guidance on judicial, non-judicial and non-State-based grievance mechanisms. It contributed to policy dialogues in Paris, Seoul and New York on due diligence and responsible artificial intelligence governance.

30. OHCHR supported the development of national action plans in Côte d'Ivoire, Ghana, Kenya, Malaysia, Senegal and Zambia; legal reform in the mining sector in Guinea; and the organization of a regional forum on business and human rights in Brazil from 9 to 11 April, attended by 700 stakeholders from Latin America and the Caribbean.

## **C. Peace and security**

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

31. OHCHR continued to support human rights components in United Nations peacekeeping operations and special political missions in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Haiti, Iraq, Kosovo,<sup>4</sup> Libya, Somalia and South Sudan. It also supported the integration of human rights into United Nations policies, guidance and training.

<sup>3</sup> Lecture available at [www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2025/06/hc-turk-climate-emergency-clarion-call-new-politics](https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2025/06/hc-turk-climate-emergency-clarion-call-new-politics).

<sup>4</sup> All references to Kosovo should be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

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

32. OHCHR provided support to its field presences, United Nations peace missions and United Nations country teams on the implementation of the United Nations human rights due diligence policy on United Nations support to non-United Nations security forces.

33. In Haiti, OHCHR provided technical assistance and advice to the Multinational Security Support Mission in operationalizing its human rights compliance framework and developing its complaint mechanism. In South Sudan, the Office conducted comprehensive risk analysis and developed mitigation measures in collaboration with the Government and other United Nations entities.

34. OHCHR continued to participate in the African Union and United Nations Joint Task Team on the Operationalisation of Security Council Resolution [2719 \(2023\)](#) to ensure compliance with international human rights and international humanitarian law and the human rights due diligence policy in respect of support provided to African Union peace support operations authorized by the Security Council and financed through United Nations assessed contributions.

## **3. Early warning, protection and emergency response**

35. OHCHR continued to work with the United Nations system, in mission and non-mission contexts, to ensure that human rights analysis informs prevention and protection responses. In January 2025, OHCHR deployed a team to the Syrian Arab Republic to support national efforts and transitional justice processes, while also contributing to early warning and prevention of human rights violations, and the protection of affected populations through sustained monitoring and dialogue. In Colombia, OHCHR updated its 2024 violence impact index, identifying 201 high-risk municipalities. In Burundi, the establishment of an early warning and protection mechanism with OHCHR support has increased the potential for effectively addressing human rights violations. In Ethiopia, OHCHR increased the membership of early warning networks to 273 members and conducted 216 advocacy interventions. OHCHR also tracked and documented 435 developments, trends, situations, risks and incidents related to human rights and geopolitical and humanitarian contexts in 14 Pacific Islands countries, Australia and New Zealand.

36. Across seven regions, the Office's Emergency Response Teams provided human rights risk analysis, informing and strengthening protection and prevention responses by United Nations leadership and partners.

## **4. Peacebuilding**

37. In the context of the 2025 review of the United Nations peacebuilding architecture, and building on the report of the Secretary-General on peacebuilding and sustaining peace ([A/79/552-S/2024/767](#)), OHCHR continued to advocate for human rights to be at the centre of national prevention strategies, to strengthen synergies between peacebuilding and human rights, including through enhanced collaboration between the Peacebuilding Commission and other United Nations bodies, and for increased investment in early action to ensure timely responses.

38. As of mid-2025, OHCHR was co-implementing, with United Nations system partners, 36 Peacebuilding Fund projects across five regions aimed at addressing the root causes of conflict and building resilience. In each country, OHCHR seeks to ensure that peace efforts are inclusive, nationally owned, accountable and grounded in human rights-based approaches and that they promote inclusion, participation and non-discrimination.

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

39. OHCHR continued efforts to prevent and respond to gender-based violence. In South Sudan, it conducted workshops with parties to the conflict and government entities to enhance prevention of and responses to gender-based violence. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the Office continued to promote the Latin American Model Protocol for the Investigation of Gender-related Killings of Women. In Haiti, OHCHR launched a two-year programme to train police and magistrates, raise awareness and operationalize a victim-centred complaints mechanism within the Multinational Security Support Mission.

40. OHCHR enhanced the documentation and reporting of gender-based and conflict-related sexual violence in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Honduras, Iraq, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan and Ukraine, including by developing monitoring tools and trauma-informed interviewing guidelines for survivors.

41. The Office submitted a thematic report to the Human Rights Council with key recommendations on tackling gender-based violence against women in criminal justice detention ([A/HRC/59/31](#)). It also reinforced its zero-tolerance policy on sexual exploitation and abuse through staff briefings and inter-agency collaboration and through the exploration of new models for funding assistance to victims and fostering accountability for such conduct.

## **6. Humanitarian action**

42. OHCHR implemented its renewed humanitarian action strategy globally and at the country level and worked to ensure that all affected individuals remained central to crisis response. OHCHR engaged in humanitarian mechanisms in the Pacific region, Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, the Central African Republic, Chad, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, Madagascar, Mozambique, Myanmar, the Niger, Nigeria, the Republic of Moldova, Somalia, South Sudan, the Sudan, the Syrian Arab Republic, Ukraine, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Yemen. OHCHR leads the protection cluster in the Occupied Palestinian Territory and co-leads it in Haiti.

43. OHCHR deployed surge capacity and provided remote surge support in respect of the Occupied Palestinian Territory and Lebanon to enhance the protection response in view of escalating needs. In Chad, OHCHR opened a sub-office in Abéché to monitor the human rights situation in relation to the influx of refugees arriving from the Sudan.

## **D. Non-discrimination**

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

44. OHCHR continued to support United Nations anti-racism human rights mechanisms. In January, the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action finalized its first reading of the draft declaration on the human rights of people of African descent. In April, the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent held their sessions in New York, both focusing on reparatory justice. The Working Group also conducted a country visit to Suriname.

45. On 21 March, OHCHR marked the sixtieth anniversary of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination with a high-

level panel under the Human Rights Council. Regional consultations on racism in sport in Europe and Latin America were held from March to May. OHCHR contributed to the development of a new European Union anti-racism strategy.

46. In June, OHCHR organized the launch in the Asia-Pacific region of the Second International Decade for People of African Descent. Additional initiatives included, inter alia, policy consultations in Europe and a subregional dialogue in South Africa.

## 2. Migration and displacement

47. OHCHR continued to collaborate with States, national institutions, civil society and other United Nations entities to advance rights-based migration governance and ensure protection for people on the move. At both the global and country levels, it supported capacity-building and advocacy on a range of issues, including deportations, trafficking, missing migrants, the use of digital technologies in border governance, and regular migration pathways, while facilitating engagement with United Nations human rights mechanisms.

48. OHCHR provided technical assistance for the adoption of a protocol and review of policies on access to justice for migrants and refugees in Costa Rica and Panama. In June, OHCHR supported the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights and the Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime in launching the *ASEAN Guideline on the Implementation of the Non-Punishment Principle for Protection of Victims of Trafficking in Persons*. The Office is partnering with the Pacific Islands Forum, the Platform on Disaster Displacement and United Nations entities to implement the Pacific Climate Change Migration and Human Security Programme, which addresses the intersections of climate change, migration and human security. OHCHR strengthened the capacity of border security officials and law and order actors to implement a human rights-based approach to migration in Chad, Côte d'Ivoire and Nigeria.

49. As part of the OHCHR “Stand up for migrants” campaign (#StandUp4Migrants), tools were released to promote rights-based narratives on migration, emphasizing safe and accessible pathways as right-based solutions for migrants and refugees.

## 3. Indigenous Peoples and minorities

50. OHCHR continued to engage with stakeholders globally on developing comprehensive anti-discrimination laws following the launch of its practical guide to developing comprehensive anti-discrimination legislation in 2022.<sup>5</sup> The Office supported legal reform and/or advocacy in Bangladesh, Brazil, Ecuador, the European Union, Indonesia, Nepal, the Republic of Moldova, Thailand and Türkiye.

51. In March, OHCHR and the Equal Rights Trust completed an 18-month global mapping to identify priority countries for equality law reform. Through its Indigenous Fellowship Programme, OHCHR helped to design and launch a national strategy for Twa inclusion in Burundi and strengthened the capacity of local Indigenous and Quilombola activists in Brazil. On 8 April, OHCHR co-launched the Romani Memory Map for the Americas. The Office also provided language training to law enforcement and communities in Kosovo. It supported the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants, including land and justice access in Suriname and Honduras, and assisted Lenca councils on ancestral land titling.

<sup>5</sup> *Protecting Minority Rights: A Practical Guide to Developing Comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Legislation* (United Nations publication, 2023).

52. Ahead of the second Parliamentary Conference on Interfaith Dialogue in June, OHCHR co-hosted four global exchanges between faith-based actors and parliamentarians on countering hatred based on religion or belief and created a pop-up library on the rights of Indigenous Peoples, which is available both online<sup>6</sup> and in print.

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

53. OHCHR continued to support women human rights defenders and movements faced with increased risks of violence and funding shortfalls, including through the development of protection strategies and capacity-building. In February, OHCHR organized a Human Rights Council panel to commemorate the thirtieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform of Action that assessed the progress made and challenges. In June, panels were organized on gender-based violence in conflict, on post-conflict and humanitarian settings, and on overcoming barriers to women's leadership in peace processes as part of the first commemoration of the International Day of Women in Diplomacy at the Human Rights Council.

54. Through its Gender Accreditation Programme, OHCHR advanced women's rights in Cambodia, Colombia, Guatemala, Mauritania, Peru, the State of Palestine, the Syrian Arab Republic and Ukraine. It also contributed to strengthening sexual and reproductive health rights, submitting to the Human Rights Council updated technical guidance on a human rights-based approach to the elimination of preventable maternal mortality and morbidity.

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

55. OHCHR continued to provide technical advice and support to States and other stakeholders in the promotion and protection of disability rights, including in The Bahamas, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burundi, Cambodia, Cameroon, Chad, Chile, Ethiopia, Grenada, Honduras, Jamaica, Kosovo, Mozambique, the Niger, North Macedonia, Panama, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Somalia, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania and Zimbabwe.

56. OHCHR enhanced its disability inclusion efforts through the United Nations Human Rights Management Plan<sup>7</sup> as well as through the integration of disability rights in joint initiatives with other United Nations entities.

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

57. OHCHR supported States, United Nations entities, civil society organizations, businesses and other actors in addressing human rights violations against LGBTIQ+ persons, including through the United Nations Free and Equal campaign, which included the launch of a thematic campaign on the power of communities, in May. It supported country-level work, including in Bhutan, Brazil, Colombia, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Dominican Republic, Fiji, Liberia, Panama, Samoa, Timor-Leste, Vanuatu, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Viet Nam, as well as through support for the implementation of the Secretariat's strategy on protection from violence and discrimination of LGBTIQ+ persons.

58. OHCHR also continued to provide technical support to various stakeholders in a range of areas and to promote follow-up to the recommendations of the human rights mechanisms. In May, OHCHR, along with the Sustainable Stock Exchanges Initiative, the United Nations Global Compact and Kopka, launched the Ring the Bell

<sup>6</sup> See <https://libraryresources.unog.ch/c.php?g=723477>.

<sup>7</sup> OHCHR, United Nations Human Rights Management Plan 2024-2027 (Geneva, 2024).



for LGBTIQ+ Equality initiative. OHCHR also contributed to the International Day against Homophobia, Transphobia and Biphobia across its various field presences.

## **7. Older persons**

59. OHCHR strengthened advocacy, consensus-building and support to States and stakeholders, contributing to the adoption of Human Rights Council resolution [58/13](#) in March, which established an intergovernmental working group to develop a legally binding instrument on the rights of older persons, while simultaneously working to mainstream these rights into national laws and policies and building capacity.

## **8. Children and youth**

60. OHCHR, in partnership with the Education Above All Foundation, continued the implementation of a youth empowerment system, Youth4Yes, guided by a 12-member youth advisory board. This initiative was focused on empowering young people, particularly those living in situations of conflict and insecurity. Related capacity-building activities were carried out in Colombia, Guatemala, Senegal, South Africa and the State of Palestine.

61. OHCHR continued to contribute to the monitoring and reporting mechanism on children and armed conflict. Additional efforts by OHCHR included the monitoring of child detention conditions in Haiti; training police and other officials on child justice and trafficking prevention in the Gambia, Guinea and Senegal; review of draft legislation in Cuba; and support for youth engagement with or on United Nations human rights mechanisms, including through youth-led organizations in the Niger and Panama.

## **9. The right to nationality and stateless persons**

62. On 6 May, OHCHR and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees convened an expert workshop online to showcase best practices in the promotion of equal nationality rights in law and in practice, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution [53/16](#).<sup>8</sup>

# **E. Accountability**

## **1. Transitional justice**

63. OHCHR, together with the Department of Peacekeeping and Political Affairs, co-chaired the Inter-Agency Task Force on Transitional Justice and continued to provide technical assistance to States and other stakeholders on transitional justice and accountability issues, supporting the strengthening of legal frameworks and national mechanisms. In Guinea, OHCHR, in relation to the events that had taken place on 28 September 2009, monitored proceedings, helped to build law enforcement capacity and trained magistrates and lawyers on due administration of justice, fair trial rights and issues of international criminal law.

64. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia and Honduras, OHCHR contributed to the elaboration and/or adoption of national policies and legislation on transitional justice. OHCHR supported the implementation of transitional justice legislation and the operationalization of national accountability mechanisms in Chad, Colombia, the Gambia, Serbia, South Sudan, Thailand, Yemen, and elsewhere, including through consultations with Governments, civil society and victims'

<sup>8</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/ruleoflaw/22042025-conceptnote-expert-workshop-r.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/ruleoflaw/22042025-conceptnote-expert-workshop-r.pdf).



associations. OHCHR held consultations with the Marshallese diaspora in relation to the nuclear legacy in the Marshall Islands.

## **2. Accountability for human rights violations**

65. Regular OHCHR monitoring, documentation and reporting, including jointly with United Nations peace operations, continued to shape global understanding of human rights challenges in conflict and post-conflict contexts, while contributing to efforts to advance accountability.

66. In Bangladesh, at the request of the interim Government, OHCHR conducted an independent fact-finding inquiry into human rights violations and abuses that took place in the course of mass protests between 1 July and 15 August 2024.<sup>9</sup> The findings and recommendations are informing ongoing national reforms and discussions on an expanded OHCHR presence. In March, a start-up team was launched to operationalize the OHCHR fact-finding mission on the situation in the South and North Kivu provinces of the Democratic Republic of the Congo, mandated by the United Nations Human Rights Council. In Haiti, OHCHR supported specialized judicial task forces and trained civil society in human rights monitoring. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo and South Sudan, the Office provided technical and logistical assistance to judicial investigations and mobile courts, aiding in the pursuit of accountability for gross human rights violations. In Ethiopia, the Office's advocacy resulted in the release of 460 detainees.

## **3. Death penalty**

67. OHCHR continued to engage with States to encourage the abolition of the death penalty in Bangladesh, Egypt, Ethiopia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Malawi, Maldives and Singapore and to advocate against its reinstatement in Burkina Faso. The Office also organized the Human Rights Council's biennial high-level panel discussion on the question of the death penalty on 25 February.

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

68. OHCHR continued to raise awareness on the impact of counter-terrorism measures on human rights. In addition, it developed a guidance note on defining terrorism in national criminal legislation.<sup>10</sup>

69. OHCHR also continued to integrate human rights into United Nations advocacy messages, including on foreign fighters and on the impact of the countering of - terrorism financing on civic space.

## **5. Administration of justice and law enforcement**

70. OHCHR monitored, trained and advised State institutions and other actors on strengthening the administration of justice and the rule of law, including in Bangladesh, Barbados, Belize, Benin, Burundi, Cambodia, the Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Fiji, the Gambia, Guatemala, Guinea, Haiti, Honduras, Indonesia, Iraq, Kenya, Madagascar, Mexico, Mongolia, Mozambique, the Netherlands (Kingdom of the), Niger, North Macedonia, Pakistan,

<sup>9</sup> OHCHR, *Fact-Finding Report: Human Rights Violations and Abuses related to the Protests of July and August 2024 in Bangladesh* (Geneva, 2025).

<sup>10</sup> See <https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2025-03/ohchr-guidance-note-defining-terrorism-in-national-legislation.pdf>.

Panama, Peru, the Philippines, the Republic of Moldova, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Uganda, the United Republic of Tanzania, Ukraine, Uruguay and Yemen.

71. Support was focused on strengthening the capacity of justice and law enforcement officials with respect to human rights and gender-based violence, protecting the rights of persons deprived of liberty or affected by states of emergency, and improving legal safeguards during protests. OHCHR also supported the adoption of use-of-force regulations, the development and implementation of State-led programmes, investigations into alleged violations of human rights and the deployment of mobile courts, including to address arbitrary detention.

## **6. Human rights and drug policy**

72. OHCHR, including in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, continued to engage with States, regional organizations and civil society organizations to advance human rights-based drug policies. At the sixty-eighth session of the Commission on Narcotic Drugs, in March 2025, it promoted a human rights approach to drug policy, including through the protection of the right of Indigenous Peoples in the context of drug control; co-organized 20 side events; and submitted a conference room paper on human rights challenges in addressing the world drug problem ([E/CN.7/2025/CRP.11](#)).

73. OHCHR continued to provide technical support and advice to national authorities and other actors to advance human rights-based approaches to drug policies in Brazil, Colombia, Czechia, Pakistan, the Philippines and Sri Lanka. OHCHR also contributed to the Council of Europe expert conference on drug consumption, held in June; briefed the International Narcotics Control Board on recent developments on human rights in relation to drug policy; and organized a side event on the role of the national human rights institutions in advancing human rights in drug control measures, on the margins of the March 2025 annual meeting of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions.

## **F. Participation**

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

74. OHCHR continued to promote meaningful, inclusive and safe civil society participation and protection.

75. The Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights – the senior official leading the United Nations response on reprisals – continued to address reprisals against those cooperating with the United Nations. OHCHR advanced its efforts to strengthen the protection of civil society actors globally, including in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Colombia, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Haiti, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, the Syrian Arab Republic and the Sudan. OHCHR supported the forum on the participation of non-governmental organizations, held in hybrid format in Banjul on 29 and 30 April, ahead of the eighty-third ordinary session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, held from 2 to 22 May.

76. In April, in Thailand, OHCHR trained 25 human rights defenders, strengthening their capacity in human rights monitoring, documentation and engagement with national protection systems and international human rights mechanisms.

### **2. Digital space**

77. OHCHR led advocacy for human rights-based artificial intelligence governance and regulation through engagement with States, technology companies and United

Nations partners. OHCHR collaborated with civil society and social media companies on human rights-compliant laws and policies. In Kosovo, the Office delivered training to journalists on addressing online hate speech and disinformation. In Zambia, recommendations from OHCHR were incorporated into the Cyber Crimes Act, enacted in April, which provides for, inter alia, the protection of children online.

78. The Office contributed to United Nations processes and multi-stakeholder forums on artificial intelligence, data-protection and content governance, including in the context of negotiations for the Global Digital Compact. It engaged with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the draft guidelines for the use of artificial intelligence in courts and tribunals.

### **3. Electoral processes**

79. OHCHR monitored and engaged in advocacy on human rights in the context of electoral processes in Burundi, Cameroon, the Comoros, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the Federated States of Micronesia, Gabon, Haiti, Honduras, Iraq, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Mozambique, Serbia, South Africa, Togo, Vanuatu and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of). Awareness-raising activities on human rights standards, early warning, monitoring and reporting were held in Botswana, Côte d'Ivoire, Chad, the Comoros, Ghana, Liberia, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia and South Sudan. In Cameroon, Chad, Guyana, Senegal and Trinidad and Tobago, OHCHR enhanced media capacity to counter hate speech, misinformation and disinformation.

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

80. OHCHR supported the establishment and/or strengthening of national human rights institutions through legal advice, needs assessments and capacity-building in Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Botswana, Bangladesh, Belize, Burundi, the Central African Republic, the Comoros, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Dominica, Ecuador, Egypt, Eswatini, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, the Gambia, Georgia, Guinea-Bissau, Indonesia, Jordan, Kyrgyzstan, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, the Marshall Islands, Montenegro, Namibia, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Peru, the Republic of Moldova, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Sao Tome and Principe, Senegal, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Turkmenistan and Ukraine.

81. OHCHR facilitated the participation of 64 national human rights institutions in sessions of United Nations human rights mechanisms and continued to organize the fellowship programme for staff of "A" status institutions from Cameroon, El Salvador, Ethiopia, the Gambia, Thailand and Uruguay. With OHCHR support, commitments were made by the Marshall Islands and Sao Tome and Principe to establish human rights institutions. As secretariat of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and its Subcommittee on Accreditation, OHCHR supported the review of nine institutions.

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

82. OHCHR continued to support human rights education, focusing on the inclusion and empowerment of children and young people. In Ghana, the Niger, the Republic of Moldova and Senegal, OHCHR conducted briefings on human rights for youth organizations and within schools.

83. In the context of the fifth phase of the World Programme for Human Rights Education, which is dedicated to children and young people, OHCHR has increased its partnerships with relevant global networks, such as the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions and those focusing on formal and non-formal education.

Together with the Council of Europe, the Office is co-organizing a global forum on practices, challenges and the future of human rights education for young people, scheduled for December.

## Chapter III

### Management and administration

84. The Office continued to implement the outcomes of its organizational effectiveness review, initiated in March 2023, to ensure that OHCHR is fit for the future. Implementation of the change management programme has also positioned OHCHR to follow through on the implementation of action 46 of the Pact for the Future.

85. During the reporting period, OHCHR maintained gender parity among regular staff in the professional and higher categories, with ongoing efforts to improve geographical diversity, particularly from underrepresented and unrepresented States. The Office promoted an organizational culture that created a sense of equality, fairness, dignity and belonging for all across its operations. It acted to ensure non-discrimination and equal opportunity internally and enhanced its support to staff through dedicated services.

86. Operational effectiveness was strengthened through the continued implementation of the delegation of authority initiative, streamlining administrative processes across 50 field offices. OHCHR also began developing an Umoja analytics dashboard to enhance the monitoring, oversight and accountability of transactions. In May, the Office initiated an internal operational review of its regional and country-level presences.

87. The Office also enhanced the provision of expertise in data, analytics and statistics, both at headquarters and at the country level. Efficiency gains were achieved through the integration of artificial intelligence and automation, enhancing both the analytical and the functional capacities of the Office. A new intranet and knowledge hub was launched in June 2025 to enhance internal communication, collaboration and knowledge-sharing across the Office. Risk treatment and response plans for the “high” and “very high” risk categories were implemented and integrated across project planning, country programmes and annual workplans.

88. During the reporting period, two governance audits were completed: one by the Board of Auditors, which reviewed the Office’s cooperation with other entities of the United Nations system and undertook two field visits in that context, and another by the Office of Internal Oversight Services, which audited one regional office and reported on the adequacy and effectiveness of the framework and control processes for the management of administrative functions and services in that office.

## Chapter IV

### Conclusions

89. The global human rights landscape continues to face significant challenges. Democratic governance and the rule of law are under strain, civic space is shrinking, and hateful and divisive rhetoric is increasingly weaponized to polarize societies. Marginalized racial and ethnic groups continue to face racial discrimination, exclusion and, in some cases, violence. Widening inequalities are exacerbating instability and injustice, while persistent disregard for international human rights law and international humanitarian law continues to perpetuate cycles of violence, repression and impunity. These trends are further compounded by the weakening of multilateralism and international cooperation. The rapid advancement of artificial intelligence presents both opportunities and risks, requiring a rights-based approach to ensure ethical and equitable governance.

90. Within this fragile context, the United Nations' liquidity crisis and funding shortfalls threaten the continuity and effectiveness of the human rights architecture. The suspension and/or reduction of activities of the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms and of the treaty bodies, alongside equally severe disruptions to OHCHR operations, particularly at the regional and country levels, undermine the international human rights system's ability to fulfil its mandate. That mandate includes, inter alia, engaging in constructive dialogue, technical cooperation and capacity-building, monitoring of violations and abuses, support for accountability and the advancement of human rights for all.

91. The UN80 Initiative launched by the Secretary-General and the OHCHR organizational effectiveness process, including its operational review of field presences, offer critical opportunities to enhance the Office's impact and reach. However, these efforts require adequate, predictable and sustained financial resources. The acute shortfall in both regular budget and extrabudgetary resources significantly jeopardizes the Office's ability to deliver on its mandate, respond to crises and safeguard hard-won human rights gains.

92. In this regard, the High Commissioner calls on Member States to prioritize investment in the human rights pillar, including through strengthened support for its regional hubs. Reinforcing regional human rights capacity is essential to ensuring proximity to affected communities and enhancing agility and responsiveness, and facilitates the building of trust, networks and partnerships. The High Commissioner reiterates his call for a global cross-regional alliance in support of human rights for everyone, everywhere, anchored in solidarity, shared responsibility and the universal values enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations.

