



High Commissioner's Strategic Management Plan 2008-2009



United Nations
Human Rights

OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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Mission statement

The mission of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is to work for the protection of all human rights for all people; to help empower people to realize their rights; and to assist those responsible for upholding such rights in ensuring that they are implemented. In carrying out its mission OHCHR will:

- Give priority to addressing the most pressing human rights violations, both acute and chronic, particularly those that put life in imminent peril;
- Focus attention on those who are at risk and vulnerable on multiple fronts;
- Pay equal attention to the realization of civil, cultural, economic, political, and social rights, including the right to development; and
- Measure the impact of its work through the substantive benefit that is accrued, through it, to individuals around the world.

OHCHR, a part of the United Nations Secretariat, is guided in its work by the mandate provided by the General Assembly in resolution 48/141, the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and subsequent human rights instruments, the 1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document.

Operationally, OHCHR works with governments, legislatures, courts, national institutions, civil society, regional and international organizations, and the United Nations system to develop and strengthen capacity, particularly at the national level, for the protection of human rights in accordance with international norms.

Institutionally, OHCHR is committed to strengthening the United Nations human rights programme and to providing it with the highest quality support. OHCHR is committed to working closely with its United Nations partners to ensure that human rights form the bedrock of the work of the United Nations.

Foreword by the High Commissioner



I am very pleased to present the second Strategic Management Plan of my Office, which will cover 2008-2009. Much has changed during the previous biennium. What was just a reform blueprint for the human rights machinery at the end of 2005 has become a reality in 2006-2007 with the creation of the Human Rights Council in June 2006 and the growth and consolidation of OHCHR's work.

The Human Rights Council, which replaced the Commission on Human Rights, has already laid the foundations for its institutional procedures. My Office has assisted the Council along each step of this endeavour. Servicing this new body has been a challenging experience which has placed increased demands on OHCHR's human and financial resources. This work will continue to expand as the Council embarks on the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), an ambitious exercise through which all UN Member States will be examined periodically for their human rights records. The UPR is potentially the first universal tool for monitoring the application of the principles expressed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the 60th anniversary of which falls on 10 December 2008. OHCHR has already played a significant role in helping to set up the review mechanism and is preparing to support the process throughout its successful implementation.

Events in the previous biennium have affected OHCHR in many other ways, as we tackled the challenges to the enjoyment of human rights that I had identified in my 2005 Plan of Action, namely impunity, poverty and global inequalities, discrimination, armed conflict and violence, and democratic deficits and weak institutions. We will stay the course in our work, in line with the strategies we have pursued in 2006 and 2007 – country engagement, leadership, partnerships and work with UN human rights mechanisms – which will continue to be the basis for our activities in 2008-2009. OHCHR equipped itself for this effort by strengthening its planning, monitoring and evaluation capacity with the creation of a section dedicated to policy, planning, monitoring and evaluation; by reinforcing management systems; by increasing staff by 45 per cent between the end of 2005 and September 2007; by expanding field presences, which were located in 47 countries by the end of 2007; by creating a fully-fledged communications section, as well as four new units – rapid response, women's human rights and gender, civil society, and right to development; by more visible leadership; as well as by enhancing partnerships with UN agencies and civil society. With better planning and a stronger focus on results, we are confident that we will make the most of our resources to achieve our objectives and meet the expectations of our stakeholders and partners.

OHCHR receives significant funding from the UN regular budget, and the 2005 World Summit made a commitment to a doubling of OHCHR's share of the UN regular budget within five years. Although the Office's share of the regular budget has grown in recent years, the amount it receives covers only approximately one third of its overall funding needs. OHCHR needs additional support to carry out its full programme of work. Donors' generosity has allowed us to expand our programmes, including by bolstering our field presences, which are almost completely financed by voluntary contributions. In 2008-2009, OHCHR faces the challenge of sustaining further growth in voluntary contributions. We will also reach out to new donors in an effort to broaden our funding base. During 2008, I would like to appeal to all Member States to contribute to OHCHR.

The 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights represents an opportunity for all in the United Nations family to commit with renewed vigour to the principles and standards embodied in it and to support the mechanisms, including OHCHR, that are mandated to facilitate this task. Helping to make justice and equality a reality for all must be our pre-eminent objective if we truly are to honour the spirit and the letter of the Declaration and the commitments to human rights reiterated at the 2005 World Summit. By taking full advantage of, and investing in, the mechanisms at our disposal, we can pursue our responsibility to protect and empower rights-holders with the urgency and sense of priority that their rights and needs deserve.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Louise Arbour', written in a cursive style.

Louise Arbour
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

About OHCHR

The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has lead responsibility for implementing the United Nations human rights programme. The international community has given OHCHR a mandate to promote and protect human rights around the world. Headed by the High Commissioner for Human Rights, a position established by the UN General Assembly in 1993, OHCHR works to build awareness of and respect for human rights – empowering individuals to claim their rights and assisting States to uphold them. OHCHR, a part of the United Nations Secretariat, is headquartered in Geneva.

MANDATE OF THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights is mandated by General Assembly resolution 48/141 to be the United Nations official with “principal responsibility” for United Nations human rights activities, with the mandate:

- To promote and protect all human rights for all
- To make recommendations to the competent bodies of the United Nations system for improving promotion and protection of all human rights
- To promote and protect the right to development
- To provide technical assistance for human rights
- To coordinate United Nations human rights education and public information programmes
- To play an active role in removing obstacles to the realization of human rights
- To play an active role in preventing the continuation of human rights violations
- To engage in dialogue with governments with a view to securing respect for all human rights
- To enhance international cooperation
- To coordinate human rights promotion and protection activities throughout the United Nations system
- To rationalize, adapt, strengthen and streamline the United Nations human rights machinery

METHOD

High Commissioner Louise Arbour, who was appointed in July 2004, established her Office’s priorities in a key strategic document – the 2005 Plan of Action, the implementation of which is detailed in consecutive two-year strategic management plans. Key priorities include greater country engagement, which involves working closely with OHCHR’s partners at the regional, country and local levels in order to ensure that international human rights standards are implemented on the ground; a stronger leadership role for the High Commissioner; closer partnerships with civil society and UN agencies; and greater synergy with UN human rights bodies.

OHCHR’s method of work focuses on three dimensions: human rights standard setting, monitoring, and implementation on the ground. OHCHR works to offer the best expertise and substantive and secretariat support to the various UN human rights bodies as they discharge their standard-setting and monitoring duties. In the first instance, OHCHR serves as the Secretariat of the Human Rights Council. The Council, composed of State representatives, is the key UN intergovernmental body responsible for human rights. It addresses violations, reviews States’ human rights records, works to prevent human rights abuses, responds to emergencies, serves as an international forum for human rights dialogue, and makes recommendations to the General Assembly for the further development of international human rights law. OHCHR also supports the work of the special procedures of the Council to monitor human rights in different countries or in relation to specific issues. OHCHR assists these independent experts as they conduct visits to the field, receive and consider complaints from victims of human rights violations, and appeal to governments on behalf of victims.

Another example of the standard-setting and monitoring dimensions of OHCHR’s work is the legal research and secretariat support it provides to the core human rights treaty bodies. These committees are composed of independent experts and monitor States parties’ compliance with their treaty obligations. They meet regularly to examine reports from States parties and issue recommendations. Some of these committees, such as the Human Rights Committee, which monitors implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, also consider individual complaints against violations of treaty provisions. These decisions help to build jurisprudence on international human rights law. The general comments issued by treaty bodies also form part of the body of interpretations of international human rights treaties.

Over the years, OHCHR has increased its presence in the field, reaching out to the people who need protection the most. OHCHR's field offices and presences play an essential role in identifying, highlighting and developing responses to human rights violations in close collaboration with governments, the UN system and civil society. Such responses include implementing projects, such as providing technical training and support in the areas of administration of justice, legislative reform, human rights treaty ratification, and human rights education. These programmes are designed in cooperation with Member States.

STRUCTURE

Headquartered in Geneva, OHCHR has an office at the United Nations in New York, and a global network of country and regional offices (see map on pages 10-11). Under the guidance of the Executive Office of the High Commissioner, and supported by a number of units and sections that report to the Deputy High Commissioner, the substantive work of OHCHR is undertaken by four divisions: the Treaties and Council Division, which

provides substantive secretariat support to the Human Rights Council, the treaty bodies and various working groups; the Special Procedures Division, which supports the work of the Council's independent experts assigned different thematic or country-specific mandates (special procedures mandate-holders); the Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division, responsible for overseeing and implementing OHCHR's work in the field; and the Research and Right to Development Division, which carries out thematic research on human rights issues and provides expert advice. For a current organization chart, please refer to page 115.

STAFF

To implement its comprehensive mandate, by November 2007 OHCHR employed more than 920 staff – 53 per cent of whom worked in 11 country offices and nine regional offices around the world. It also supported an additional workforce of over 420 international human rights officers serving in UN peace missions, and 13 human rights advisers in UN Country Teams in the field.

HISTORY

The United Nations human rights programme has grown considerably since its modest beginnings some 60 years ago. Organizationally, it started with a small division in the United Nations Secretariat in New York in the 1940s. The division later moved to Geneva and was upgraded to the Centre for Human Rights in the 1980s. At the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993, the international community decided to establish a more robust human rights institution with stronger institutional support. Member States of the United Nations thus created the mandate of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights by a General Assembly resolution in 1993. At the 2005 UN World Summit, Heads of State from around the world committed themselves to an historic expansion of the UN human rights programme and recognized the importance of ensuring a human rights approach in all aspects of the work of the UN system.

The growth in UN human rights activities reflects the increasing strength of the international human rights movement since the General Assembly adopted the Universal Declaration of Human Rights on 10 December 1948. Drafted as "a common standard of achievement for all peoples and nations", the Declaration sets out basic civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights that all human beings should enjoy. Over time, this unprecedented affirmation of human rights has become widely accepted as the standard to which all governments should adhere. Indeed, 10 December is observed worldwide as International Human Rights

Day. The Universal Declaration, together with the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and its two Optional Protocols, and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, form the International Bill of Human Rights.

Along with the development of international human rights law, a number of UN human rights bodies were established to respond to changing human rights challenges. These bodies, which rely on OHCHR for substantive and secretariat support, can be either Charter-based (political bodies composed of State representatives with mandates established by the United Nations Charter) or treaty-based (committees composed of independent experts, established by international human rights treaties and mandated to monitor States Parties' compliance with their treaty obligations). The United Nations Commission on Human Rights, which was established in 1946 and reported to the Economic and Social Council, was the key UN intergovernmental body responsible for human rights until it was replaced by the Human Rights Council in 2006. In addition to assuming the mandates and responsibilities previously entrusted to the Commission, the newly created Council, which reports directly to the General Assembly, is also charged with making recommendations to the General Assembly to develop international human rights law and undertaking a Universal Periodic Review of each State's adherence to its human rights obligations and commitments. OHCHR provides substantive and secretariat support to the Human Rights Council.

OHCHR at a glance







PART 1

OHCHR'S STRATEGIC PRIORITIES



OHCHR'S STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

INTRODUCTION

In 2005, the Secretary-General's report, *In Larger Freedom*, set out the basis for reforming the United Nations, putting human rights as a fundamental prerequisite for achieving development and security. As called for in the report, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) presented its Plan of Action for the following five to six years. Building on the Secretary-General's assertion that much more needs to be done by the international community to address threats to human rights, the Plan presented a strategic vision for the future direction of the Office. It made the case for greater involvement not just in setting international human rights norms but also in ensuring that they are actually implemented on the ground – both through more widespread monitoring and public reporting of human rights violations and through providing sustained technical assistance and advice to governments and others at the country level. The integration of human rights into United Nations development, peace and humanitarian activities is an important element of the Plan.

The Plan of Action also identified the main issues that posed a challenge to the full realization of human rights throughout the world – impunity, poverty and global inequities, discrimination, armed conflict and violence, democratic deficits and weak institutions. In addition, it highlighted the main gaps in implementing human rights on the ground: knowledge, capacity, commitment and security. The Plan also outlined the strategic priorities guiding the work of the Office in addressing these challenges and gaps and fulfilling the objectives of protecting people and empowering them to realise their rights: greater country engagement; enhanced leadership role for the High Commissioner; closer partnerships with others within and outside the UN system; providing strong, high-calibre support for UN human rights mechanisms; and strengthening OHCHR's internal management.

At the 2005 World Summit, Heads of State took note of the High Commissioner's Plan of Action and committed themselves to the expansion of the United Nations human rights programme. To support the implementation of the Plan, the General Assembly approved the doubling, over five years, of the funding the Office receives from the United Nations' regular budget.

The SMP for 2006-2007 articulated, for the first time in a single document, the full range of OHCHR strategies and interventions, and presented indicators against which

the Office's performance could be measured. During the past biennium OHCHR put a strong emphasis on strengthening its capacity to carry out its comprehensive mandate, as reflected in the Office-wide expected accomplishments and planned outputs for 2006-2007. Thus, the Office increased its staffing by 45% (from 639 to 927 people), resulting in a significant expansion of its presence in the field, stronger thematic expertise, and ability to link up with other institutions, including those of civil society, to advance the human rights agenda. It also significantly developed its communication, planning and administration capacity, with the creation of dedicated sections and units.

With an enhanced technical and managerial capacity to discharge its broad mandate, and building on the lessons learned from the first two years of implementation of its Plan of Action, the work of OHCHR over the next biennium will be characterized by

- continuity in its overall strategic direction;
- sharpening the operationalization of the strategies that guide its work in order to achieve greater efficiency, taking into account the changes that have occurred in the United Nations and the global human rights environment;
- focusing on implementing, monitoring and reporting on the results expected to be achieved at the national, regional and global levels, with increased coherence and consistency across the Office.

During the two-year period of this SMP, OHCHR will therefore

- continue to demonstrate its **leadership** through advocacy and the generation of debate within the UN system, as well as with governments and civil society on the benefits of integrating human rights into efforts to achieve development, peace and security. In this regard, the campaign on the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights initiated by the Secretary-General and supported by the Office, in which all UN agencies, funds and programmes will participate to promote the rights relevant to their respective mandates, will be an important tool to advance the human rights agenda worldwide;
- focus on a better articulation of its **country engagement** strategy with a clearer definition of the roles, complementarity and coordination between the different types of field presences and with Headquarters;

- strengthen the **partnerships** it has forged with UN agencies and Country Teams, on the basis of the lessons drawn from the evaluation of human rights mainstreaming scheduled in late 2007 and early 2008, and create new partnerships with civil society and state institutions, to leverage additional resources and results;
- reinforce its interaction with **UN human rights mechanisms**, placing special emphasis on the upcoming Universal Periodic Review of all countries by the Human Rights Council as an opportunity to improve the implementation of human rights throughout the world on the basis of solid human rights analysis, and lend it all its support and assistance to ensure the success of the exercise.

Further organizational development will require upgrading the Office's management structure with the creation of new divisions and branches that reflect organizational priorities; further improving processes and working methods, especially in terms of in-house coordination; reinforcing the Office's staff administration and recruitment capacity; and the generation and recording of evidence to inform decision-making through a strengthened monitoring and evaluation function.

The Strategic Management Plan for 2008-2009 consists of three main parts. Part One introduces OHCHR's strategic priorities, with due account of the changes in the global context, the challenges, the key achievements and lessons learned, and presents the Office-wide expected accomplishments and strategies. Part Two introduces OHCHR's programme of work for the biennium, in terms of its work with UN human rights bodies and organs, thematic fact-finding procedures, human rights mainstreaming, right to development and research and analysis, and advisory services and technical cooperation. Part Two also presents the work of the field presences, an essential piece in the Office's country engagement strategy. A description of how the programme will be supported by sound management principles and a focus on results is also included. Finally, Part Three presents the Office's total budget and funding requirements for the biennium.

CHANGES IN THE GLOBAL AND ORGANIZATIONAL CONTEXT – OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES FOR OHCHR

Since the formulation of the High Commissioner's Plan of Action, important gains in human rights have been achieved. Member States have proclaimed a global "responsibility to protect" and acknowledged that human rights are integral to development, peace and security. They have also mandated the mainstreaming of human rights throughout the United Nations and underscored the central place of human rights in efforts to combat terrorism and address other national and transnational issues of concern. OHCHR embraced these changes and, thanks to increased financial and political support, embarked on a process of expansion and consolidation in order to respond effectively to the new demands placed on it.

Reform of the United Nations has continued, touching upon management systems and structures, field operations and partnerships, governance, and relations with civil society, thus paving the way for further integration of human rights into the daily work of the whole organization. A new Peacebuilding Commission was established to aid States emerging from conflict in their transition towards sustainable peace, while UN peace missions have come to integrate a human rights component under the dual supervision of the Head of Mission and the High Commissioner for Human Rights. OHCHR participates in inter-agency forums and UN executive bodies, and has strengthened partnerships and coordination with UN agencies, funds and programmes both at Headquarters and in the field.

A parallel reform has been undertaken since 2005 to improve the response to humanitarian crises by ensuring greater predictability, accountability and partnership. Protection, understood as "all activities aimed at ensuring full respect for the rights of the individual in accordance with the letter and the spirit of the relevant bodies of law", has become the main cross-cutting issue to be addressed in all humanitarian activities. OHCHR is the inter-agency focal point for the prevention of and response to human rights violations. The Office co-chairs the Protection Cluster Working Group in humanitarian emergencies resulting from natural disasters or in those conflict-related situations that do not involve large-scale displacement.

The reforms proposed by the High-level Panel on System-wide Coherence put forward a vision for more coherent, effective and efficient UN operations that are responsive to national priorities and owned by the countries themselves. They also presented challenges as well as opportunities to OHCHR. The High-level Panel advocated that the UN system should test ways to "deliver as one", in order to overcome fragmentation at country level and increase its efficiency and impact. In line with OHCHR's country engagement and partnership strategies, the Office intends to pursue partnerships with

UN actors in the field in order to build strong human rights protection systems, strengthen existing ones, and ensure strong links between governments, civil society and UN teams and UN human rights mechanisms.

Nonetheless, it is within the UN human rights machinery that the most sweeping changes have taken place in the past biennium.

Further to the outcome of the 2005 World Summit, General Assembly Resolution 60/251, adopted in March 2006, replaced the Commission on Human Rights with the Human Rights Council, and made the Council a subsidiary body of the General Assembly. The Human Rights Council has a higher status than the previous Commission and consists of 47 Member States instead of 53. New standards for membership of the Council include election by secret ballot and by the majority of members of the General Assembly; no possibility of immediate re-election after two consecutive terms; and voluntary pledges and commitments of candidates to the promotion and protection of human rights. The Council meets more frequently than the Commission, and can hold special sessions at the request of one third of its membership.

At the centre of the new intergovernmental body is the "Universal Periodic Review" (UPR), a new mechanism by which all States will be assessed with regard to the fulfillment of their human rights obligations and commitments. OHCHR hopes to see the development of the UPR as a vital instrument to promote and protect human rights in a universal, country-specific and authoritative way, which will form a critical part of regular reporting on

the human rights situation in every country. The analyses and conclusions emerging from the UPR will be essential in designing strategies for capacity building and technical cooperation to countries by various partners.

In addition, new treaty bodies have been created, or will be created once the conventions giving birth to them enter into force. The Sub-committee on Prevention of Torture of the Committee against Torture, established by the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT), started sessions in early 2007. The OPCAT creates a system, at the international and national levels, aimed at preventing torture and other forms of ill-treatment in all places of detention. Three new human rights treaties – the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance – are now open for signature, accession and ratification, and new treaty bodies are expected to be established to monitor their implementation. Furthermore, OHCHR will, from 2008, service the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which has been transferred from New York to Geneva.

Support to the Council and its new features, including the UPR mechanism, as well as the expanding work in assisting treaty monitoring bodies, offer opportunities for OHCHR to better articulate and coordinate its support to countries in relation to monitoring and implementation of human rights standards, as well as for mobilizing partnerships to ensure compliance with international law.



Adoption of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the first 21st Century human rights treaty. © UN Photo/Paulo Filgueiras

HUMAN RIGHTS CHALLENGES

Many advances have been made in recent years in the development of legal human rights standards, in enhanced awareness and commitment of the international community, and in the increasing recognition that respect for human rights is a precondition for development, peace and security. However, the obstacles to the full realization of human rights identified in OHCHR's Plan of Action – impunity, poverty, discrimination, armed conflict and violence, democratic deficits and weak institutions – remain pervasive.

Furthermore, the universality of human rights has increasingly come under attack, as a resurgence of xenophobia, racism and religious intolerance, as well as disparities in income, opportunity and access to justice, education and basic services, make the need for justice and equality for all, without distinction, all the more pressing.

Combating impunity

OHCHR has made combating impunity and strengthening justice its major Office-wide priority in the year that marks the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

While progress has been made in addressing gross human rights violations through the adoption of new standards and the creation of legal institutions and international criminal courts, impunity for perpetrators of gross human rights violations persists in all regions of the world and poses a serious challenge to the pursuit of justice. In post-conflict situations, ongoing impunity makes it difficult to stamp out abusive practices even after peace is restored.

The fight against impunity requires a comprehensive approach centred around a system of justice that is able to investigate past human rights abuses and that brings perpetrators to account. Such a system must also provide effective remedies and reparations to victims, and uphold the right to the truth about the violations they suffered. The broad participation of civil society, and particularly of victims, in the process of establishing or strengthening justice systems is crucial if such an approach is to succeed.

Through its technical cooperation, advisory and advocacy activities, OHCHR has led international efforts in the fight against impunity and support to national protection systems through a variety of means – support to fact-finding or investigation missions, treaty bodies and special procedures mandate-holders. The Secretary-General's November 2006 Policy Committee decision on the rule of law entrusted OHCHR with leading UN initiatives on transitional justice, both in the field and

at the international level. Thus, in 2008 and 2009, emphasis will be placed by the Office on its work on the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms as an essential component in the fight against impunity.

Poverty and global inequities

Poverty is frequently both a cause and a consequence of human rights violations. It erodes or nullifies economic and social rights, such as the right to health, adequate housing, food, safe water and the right to education, as well as civil and political rights, such as access to justice, and the rights to a fair trial, political participation and security of the person.

As the UN focal point for human rights, democracy and the rule of law, OHCHR has promoted recognition of the connection between human rights and poverty. The Office has deepened its expertise and committed its substantive support to human rights mechanisms and other bodies dealing with these issues, including the High Level Task Force and Open-ended Working Group on the Right to Development. OHCHR has also issued major publications on poverty and a human rights-based approach to development. Through advocacy, strengthened partnerships and capacity-building activities, it has helped to advance knowledge and capacities to deal with these issues. The challenge for the international community is how to ensure that poverty-reduction strategies integrate this human rights understanding in order to foster inclusive and sustainable economic growth that guarantees equal opportunities and rights for all.

The fight against poverty and global inequities requires the concerted efforts of many actors. OHCHR has worked with the full range of UN human rights mechanisms in this regard, such as the Independent Expert on extreme poverty; the Independent Expert on the effects of economic reform policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights; the Ad hoc Working Group on the implementation of existing human rights norms and standards in the context of the fight against extreme poverty; and the Social Forum. OHCHR has also collaborated with UN sister agencies and programmes, as well as with States, to integrate human rights-based approaches into poverty-reduction strategies and programmes. Much has been done to ensure the right to development at the national and international levels, and OHCHR's presence on the ground has facilitated the adoption of human rights-based approaches in different programming and planning frameworks.

Still, much more needs to be done in terms of developing OHCHR's work in these areas, particularly at the field level, where further expertise and resources are needed. Poverty reduction, economic policy-making and national

budget processes are inherently complex and the human rights implications and entry points frequently difficult to determine. Unpacking the conceptual challenges is a work-in-progress, as is forging broader and more effective partnerships across inter-disciplinary bounds and developing clear common understandings of opportunities, risks and division of labour. These latter challenges are quintessentially context-specific in nature, and must be undertaken strategically while respecting OHCHR's core mandate and comparative advantages. Finally, while recent outputs of human rights mechanisms on issues connected with poverty and the right to development are increasingly operational in orientation, continuing efforts are needed to maintain consensus at the political level and strengthen the commitment and buy-in of duty-bearers at both international and national levels.

Discrimination

Poverty, underdevelopment, marginalization, social exclusion and economic disparities are intrinsically linked with discrimination. As discrimination leads to economic deprivation, poverty increases discrimination and exclusion.

A marked characteristic of virtually all communities living in extreme poverty is that they do not have access, on equal footing, to the government institutions and services that protect and promote human rights. This inequality of access makes it difficult to seek redress against injustice, participate in public life, and influence policies.

However, it is not only the poor who suffer as a result of discrimination. People can be discriminated against on multiple grounds, including race, colour, descent, national or ethnic origin, gender, language, religion, political or other opinion, social origin, property, disability, birth or other status. The combination of different forms of discrimination renders certain groups particularly more vulnerable to discrimination. For example, racial discrimination often affects women more than men. Despite the fact that all human rights treaties and instruments proclaim the principles of equality and non-discrimination, in many countries, laws and practices still permit or tolerate discrimination.

In order to help fight discrimination, during the past biennium, OHCHR has provided advisory services in the drafting of anti-discrimination laws; produced guidelines to assist States in the development of national action plans; organized regional workshops; and engaged in inter-agency cooperation on anti-discrimination issues so as to strengthen national protection systems. The Office has also supported national human rights institutions and civil society organizations and assisted in the empowerment of victims of discrimination.

The present biennium presents several opportunities in the fight against all forms of discrimination: The Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, adopted by the General Assembly in September 2007, outlaws discrimination against indigenous peoples and promotes their full and effective participation in all matters that concern them. It also urges States to take the appropriate measures, including legislative measures, to achieve these ends, and asks UN bodies and specialized agencies, as well as States, to promote respect for and full application of the Declaration and to follow up on its implementation.

The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, adopted in December 2006, were opened for signature and ratification in March 2007. Once the Convention enters into force, a new treaty body will be established to monitor compliance.

In addition, the 2009 Durban Review Conference, now being organized, will provide another opportunity to give new impetus to the implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted in 2001 at the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance. Pursuant to General Assembly and Human Rights Council resolutions, OHCHR will support the preparations for the Durban Review Conference by, inter alia, servicing the meetings of the Preparatory Committee; facilitating meetings of experts and working groups; and conducting consultations and seminars with civil society and regional organizations, as well as with State institutions, to ensure their effective participation in the preparatory process.

Armed conflict and violence

Massacres and indiscriminate killings, forced displacement, gender-based violence, mass detentions and disappearances are common, widespread features of today's armed conflict. Rape and other forms of sexual violence continue to be used as weapons of war and have, in some countries, reached pandemic proportions. Children are often torn from their families and pressed into serving as soldiers or sex slaves. Most wars in this century are conflicts between a government and insurgent forces, or between different armed groups who are often responsible for serious human rights abuses and who do not feel bound by any obligation to respect human rights.

In her Plan of Action, the High Commissioner advocated that the protection of human rights be at the core of efforts to prevent and end armed conflict. Patterns of human rights abuse are a key precursor to violent conflict. When these patterns of abuse are tackled effectively, escalation can often be halted. Addressing human rights in peace agreements helps ensure the success of

those agreements, as they provide guarantees that the population will not be subjected to further abuse. Human rights must also be integrated in efforts to provide immediate humanitarian relief. Indeed, humanitarian agencies have moved in this direction as they reform the framework of humanitarian response. Protection is now a major cross-cutting issue to be incorporated in all humanitarian activities. Furthermore, in situations where the violence and insecurity are the result of widespread criminal activities, protecting the rights of all people without discrimination will ensure that ordinary citizens will not be subjected to arbitrary actions by law-enforcement officials.

The issue of terrorism and human rights has long been a concern of the UN human rights programme, but it has become more urgent following the attack of 11 September 2001 on the United States of America and the worldwide surge in acts of terrorism. OHCHR unequivocally condemns terrorism and recognizes the duty of States to protect those living within their jurisdictions from terrorism. However, the Office is concerned that many countries have adopted counter-terrorism measures that also threaten human rights, and has consistently reminded States that measures taken to combat terrorism must conform to their obligations under international human rights law.

Conscious that addressing human rights issues in conflict and post-conflict environments requires concerted efforts, OHCHR has increased its collaboration with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the UN Department of Political Affairs (DPA) and UN peace missions, including through supporting their human rights components, and contributed to the development of guidance on human rights for military and police components. OHCHR has also been increasingly involved in the humanitarian response to crises and the development of human rights training manuals and operational guidance.

In 2008-2009, OHCHR's rule-of-law activities will include systematic engagement with judges and lawyers, monitoring of formal justice systems, improving access to justice and collaboration with national judiciaries, as well as work on accountability structures, including for law-enforcement officials. In addition, OHCHR will look into the relationship between access to economic and social rights and public insecurity in order to develop human-rights based responses in the context of the fight against common criminality. With regard to terrorism, OHCHR will follow up on the implementation of the Secretary-General's Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which makes proposals for safeguarding human rights in the fight against terrorism. The impact of counter-terrorism measures on economic, social and cultural rights will also be studied and addressed.

Democratic deficits and weak institutions

Respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms is an essential element of democracy, which provides the natural environment for their protection and effective realization.

While stressing the interdependence between democracy, development and human rights, the High Commissioner stated in the 2005 Plan of Action that "human rights standards must underpin any meaningful conception of democracy, so that physical integrity is protected and freedoms of participation, elections, assembly, association, opinion, expression and information are guaranteed". The Plan also provided the ingredients for giving effect to human rights and democratic principles through a comprehensive framework which includes space for dissent and opposition; safeguards for the rights and interests of minorities, women and vulnerable, disadvantaged and marginalized groups; a peaceful transition of power; and an active and vibrant civil society, including human rights defenders; and free and responsible media.

The challenges of democratic deficits cover a wide spectrum of issues inherent in the weakness or dysfunction of governing institutions, structural and institutional impediments to the enjoyment and protection of human rights, armed conflicts, the legacy of long-standing discriminatory laws and practices, corruption, and impunity as a result of the erosion of the rule of law.

OHCHR's democracy-building and support activities are carried out under the various components of the UN human rights programme. Technical cooperation projects are mainly geared towards enhancing the capacities of State institutions to promote democratic governance, notably through a strong and independent judiciary; effective parliament oversight mechanisms, independent and powerful national human rights institutions and a vibrant civil society. Constitution making and constitutional reforms are important in the context of democratic transitions and peace building. OHCHR is working with the rest of the UN system towards a coordinated system-wide approach to constitution building, and this work will continue in 2008-2009. The Office is currently engaged in an exercise to further develop its relationships with key actors in and outside the UN system, with a view to strengthening its legal and human rights advisory capacities in this area and developing a publication on this subject. Coordination and partnerships with other UN entities, including the United Nations Democracy Fund, will be crucial to share a wide range of available experience and expertise that can help build democratic institutions and respect for human rights.

OHCHR'S STRATEGIES

In trying to find the most effective ways to meet today's pressing human rights challenges and advance its overall goal to protect people and empower them to realize their rights, OHCHR uses a variety of strategies at different levels. These strategies cluster around four areas – **leadership**, **country engagement** and **partnerships** inside and outside the UN system, as well as its unique relationship with the **United Nations human rights mechanisms**.

UN General Assembly Resolution 48/141 establishing the post of the High Commissioner for Human Rights gives the High Commissioner principal responsibility on human rights issues. Thus, OHCHR's first task is to identify human rights challenges and bring them to the attention of all relevant stakeholders and partners. Through the work of its specialized units, the Office formulates appropriate responses to such challenges. These responses can be implemented either directly by OHCHR, by partners, or jointly, at the national, regional and global level.

The Office also exercises recognized leadership, in particular on issues related to human rights mainstreaming and the right to development, especially in the context of activities relating to the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs); the establishment and strengthening of frameworks for the legal protection of economic, social and cultural rights – including their judicial and quasi-judicial adjudication; human rights in peacebuilding and peacekeeping; and the strengthening of the rule of law.

OHCHR implements a combination of strategies in the four areas of leadership, country engagement, partnership and work with UN human rights mechanisms at the national as well as at the regional and global levels.

National level

It is on the ground, in every country, that the norms and rhetoric of rights are turned into reality. OHCHR places much value on engaging with actors at the ground level so as to ensure that the practice conforms to international standards. The Office **engages with countries** at the national level in three ways: through the establishment of a field presence in the country; through country-specific activities conducted by the geographically responsible regional office; and through a variety of interventions – technical assistance, advocacy, organization of fact-finding visits, etc., carried out from Headquarters.

While the degree of engagement with a given country varies according to the specific situation, these three forms of engagement are not mutually exclusive: OHCHR defines its strategies on a given country based on an Office-wide assessment of the human rights situation and needs, and formulates responses in line with its

areas of expertise and comparative advantage. The implementation of the country strategy may require technical expertise that is not available in the country presence and will therefore be provided by a regional office, or directly from Headquarters.

OHCHR also fulfils its primary **leadership** responsibility on human rights issues through **advocacy** and partnership with national and other international actors, in and/or outside the country, thus generating discussion on pressing human rights issues.

Partnership strategies are crucial to the achievement of objectives and are developed in order to include central, provincial and local authorities, national human rights institutions and civil society actors; media sectors; business sectors; UN agencies, programmes and funds; regional organizations and non-governmental organizations; as well as diplomatic representations. In that context, OHCHR facilitates dialogue among different partners, who can then engage in constructive exchanges and define joint strategies and policies to deal with outstanding human rights issues.

In order to ensure that the right responses are given to the different human rights challenges, OHCHR will, according to the needs of the situation:

- maintain a public role based on the monitoring and fact-finding activities that are at the basis of its work, and that allows it to advocate inside and outside the country on human rights issues, increase human rights protection, and widely disseminate tools, analyses and statements;
- build the capacity of national and international actors present in the country by providing direct assistance, expert advice, tools and training – especially on thematic areas such as discriminated and marginalized groups; rule of law and democracy; human rights-based approaches to development, peace and security and humanitarian issues; UN human rights mechanisms and bodies; etc;
- provide the required expertise and advice in the context of inter-agency responses to humanitarian crises, including by supporting the human rights components of peacekeeping operations;
- ensure that, on the one hand, actors present in the country are kept abreast of the work of **UN human rights mechanisms and bodies**, comply with their obligations in relation to them, and use them according to their needs; and that, in turn, UN human rights mechanisms and bodies are kept informed of developments relating to human rights challenges on the ground so that they are better able to issue relevant concluding observations and recommendations, and take decisions on and respond to individual petitions.

Regional and global level

OHCHR seeks interaction with, and the constant improvement of, existing systems of human rights protection, both at the regional and the global level. The Office has the responsibility of facilitating such improvement, not only by supporting the existing systems, but also by leading efforts to respond promptly and effectively to new challenges by encouraging the development of new instruments or the use of existing ones in such a way that they will increase the degree of protection afforded. In order to achieve these objectives, OHCHR develops strategic partnerships with both governmental (UN and other global and regional organizations) and non-governmental actors (networks of national and international civil society actors, media sectors, academia, business organizations), and

- makes human rights information widely available to them so as to facilitate decision-making processes and ensuing action by various actors;
- carries out human rights advocacy with all actors in order to gather their support around responses to particular human rights situations or challenges;
- provides tools to increase the capacity of all actors to act and react to upcoming human rights issues. This includes coordinating human rights education programmes, a task that OHCHR has been specifically mandated by the General Assembly to carry out.

Within the United Nations, OHCHR must also meet the challenge of fully integrating human rights issues into the core of the United Nations agendas for development and security. To do so, OHCHR acts at different levels, for example by participating in the work of internal mechanisms and UN executive bodies, such as the Chief Executives Board, the Secretary-General's Policy Committee, the UN Development Group, the four Executive Committees and the Global Migration Group; by leading global initiatives to train Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators on the integration of human rights considerations into development and humanitarian assistance programmes; and by participating in inter-agency humanitarian and development forums.

With regard to UN human rights mechanisms and bodies, OHCHR has the institutional responsibility of supporting them in different ways by:

- providing substantive inputs to increase their impact (situational and legal analysis; guidelines and tools on specific human rights issues);
- supporting their work in order to ensure smooth functioning (secretarial assistance, documentation, preparation of field visits, availability of technical tools such as databases, etc.);

- supporting their efforts to increase internal coherence and consistency (coordination between treaty bodies and special procedures, reporting, issuance of concluding observations and recommendations, etc.); and,
- strengthening the capacity of other actors (including civil society) to use the system in the most effective way possible in order to address human rights issues, and encouraging them to show publicly their support for the UN human rights system, including by advocating for government compliance with international human rights law, with the recommendations of the different mechanisms, and with treaty body reporting obligations.

UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS - 1948-2008

OHCHR's strategies at all levels will go hand-in-hand with a system-wide public information campaign spearheaded by the Secretary-General with the support of OHCHR throughout 2008, in which the UN family and its partners around the world will mark the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

The campaign aims to empower rights-holders by highlighting the enduring relevance of the document - adopted in Paris on 10 December 1948 - that laid the foundation for the human rights gains of the past six decades. The theme of the campaign, "Dignity and justice for all of us", reinforces the vision of the Declaration as the first international commitment to the universality of human rights.

Information materials and activities shared with all OHCHR's partners will give expression to the Office's leadership role in a way that aims to inform and educate the wider public, as well as to stimulate debate and spur action by governments, civil society and the rights-holders themselves. OHCHR also hopes that the anniversary will be an occasion to garner further political and financial support for its efforts to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights throughout the world.



LESSONS LEARNED

The implementation of the first Strategic Management Plan has validated the relevance of the strategies used, while highlighting a few lessons that are taken into account in this present SMP.

Leadership

By bringing specific human rights issues or situations to the fore and stimulating debate and action among governments, UN agencies, civil society and other stakeholders, the High Commissioner has helped garner support for the efforts of different stakeholders to address human rights issues at the global, regional or national level. The reinforcement of the Office's thematic expertise and field presence has provided a more accurate thematic and country content, while an increased communications capacity has helped take the High Commissioner's message to a wider audience.

However, more needs to be done in terms of regular advocacy at the field level, both in terms of support to field-level consistent communication, and the balance between civil and political rights, on the one hand, and economic, social and cultural rights on the other. This is evidenced by the difficulty OHCHR has had to put the necessary emphasis on economic, social and cultural rights, particularly in countries with a history of violations of civil and political rights, despite the recognition of the High Commissioner's important role in ensuring focused attention on the former rights at the international level. Learning from this experience, OHCHR has made it a priority to develop its work on economic, social and cultural rights at the country level during 2008-2009.

The increased capacity of the New York Office has assisted the High Commissioner's involvement with various UN committees and interaction with other bodies, such as the Peacebuilding Commission. Nevertheless, the need for OHCHR to be physically present and participate on a more regular basis in high level committees calls for a further upgrading of the New York Office's management.

Country engagement

OHCHR's two-track approach to its engagement with countries has proved to be effective, as it was responsive in a timely manner to emerging needs and crises, while proactively developing long-term strategies for specific countries. The newly created Rapid Response and Peace Missions Support Unit provided operational support to geographic desks, field offices and other parts of OHCHR where urgent deployment of staff was required, in liaison with UN operational partners and others for emergency operations; contributed to the establishment of commissions of inquiry; and helped organize or participated in technical assessment

missions. Moreover, the punctual reinforcement of a field presence at critical stages of a country situation, such as electoral periods, has helped provide effective support and therefore strengthened the engagement with the concerned country, which may in turn open new opportunities. Learning from recent experience (e.g. Togo), OHCHR will, in this biennium, aim to systematize this tailored approach.

In the past two years experience has shown that responding rapidly to critical human rights situations, in particular to increasing requests from the Human Rights Council, has become a growing task which demands significant efforts with substantial resource implications. Moreover, greater involvement in inter-agency humanitarian forums and action has led to higher expectations of OHCHR's involvement in the field from a variety of partners. These developments will require further development of the Office's capacity.

The establishment of standard field presence types and, in the case of country and regional offices, model legal agreements; the development and piloting of a country assessment methodology; and the issuing of guidelines for formulating country strategies have constituted significant steps in the Office's strategic approach to country engagement.

Much progress has therefore been made in relation to increasing the number of field presences (from 35 to 47 countries) and rationalizing and/or reinforcing existing ones, as well as in deepening country engagement from Headquarters with country-specific expertise and stronger administrative backstopping. Nevertheless, despite many improvements, much remains to be done in the area of human rights monitoring and investigations in order to harmonize methods of work, keep pace with the growing involvement of OHCHR in these areas, develop mechanisms to ensure sharing and management of knowledge on substantive human rights issues, and document, identify and promote good practices more systematically. Further inter-branch and Headquarters-field coordination, as well as their ability to establish priorities together on a given country, also need to be improved. This is particularly important in relation to special procedures and treaty body capacity-building activities to help improve reporting and follow-up. Last, learning from its experience in the Balkan region, the Office will have to further articulate its strategic approach in order to adjust its presence in a given country to evolving country needs.

Partnerships

An important lesson learned is that OHCHR often works best when it works with and/or through others, both within and outside the United Nations. OHCHR's expanded field presences have been instrumental in deepening and sustaining practical collaboration at the country level. In the past biennium, OHCHR took a number of steps to strengthen its existing partnerships and to forge new ones.

Partnerships were developed with the UN Development Group Office and the UN Staff College to support country teams involved in Common Country Assessments (CCA) and the UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF) with resource persons knowledgeable in the human rights-based approach to programming, as well as to develop human rights guidance for Resident Coordinators, Humanitarian Coordinators and senior staff.

This was done in support to the work undertaken at the field level, where OHCHR's presences supported UN Country Teams in integrating human rights into their work, so that development plans and UN planning frameworks are drawn using a human rights-based approach, and promote a rights-based approach to national development efforts.

Conscious of the need to further articulate its human rights mainstreaming strategy, the Office is conducting an evaluation on the relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, and sustainability of its interventions at the field level in that regard. Findings will be available during the first part of 2008 and will serve as a basis to refine and systematize its approach.

OHCHR's work on integrating human rights considerations in development programmes and the fight against poverty has also led it to reach out to international financial institutions. This has demonstrated the value of the Office's participation in forums such as the High-level Task Force and Open-ended Working Group on the Right to Development, where the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund and the World Trade Organization have been especially active and where much of this cooperation was initiated.

United Nations human rights mechanisms

During the past biennium, OHCHR endeavoured to consolidate its relationship with UN human rights mechanisms, seeking opportunities to improve its work, increase cooperation and coordination among them and encouraging synergies for more effective work.

The High Commissioner's proposal for the creation of a unified standing treaty body prompted treaty bodies to increase efforts to harmonize their working methods and reporting requirements and encouraged States parties to streamline their reporting.

Still, more can be done to ensure that proactive country engagement and leadership from OHCHR are aligned with the work of the treaty bodies.

In 2006 and 2007, OHCHR strengthened the support structures for special procedures mechanisms, both for individual mandates and for the system as a whole, improving the level of policy, administrative and research assistance available to special procedures

mandate-holders. Increased support and integration resulted in greater coordination and cross-fertilization of the work of mandate-holders, but more work needs to be done to ensure further coordination both among mandate-holders and with treaty bodies.

The definition of the UPR process revealed the need for substantive and technical support to the related Working Group of the Human Rights Council and to prepare the two reports under the OHCHR's responsibility. Thus, a dedicated section was created at the end of 2007, staffed by personnel temporarily detached from different branches, pending proper human and financial resource allocation. This has evidenced the need for flexibility in the Office's planning.

Management and planning

OHCHR's process of internal reform to strengthen its planning, monitoring and evaluation function and its human resources, finance and administration management has begun to yield results. Progress was made in standardizing a predictable two-year planning process, as well as in starting to build the capacity of staff and providing guidance on results-based planning and monitoring. While the approval of an Office-wide set of expected accomplishments, based on which the different branches and units have developed their respective outputs, is contributing to greater cohesion, there is still room for fostering synergy and gaining efficiency. In addition, results-based monitoring, as well as the generation of lessons learned and best practices, will require further improvement.

Much progress has been achieved in improving human resources policies and practices, at a time when the Office significantly increased its staffing. The contracts of most long-serving staff on short-term contracts were regularized, and training opportunities for staff were extended. In an effort to achieve wider geographical representation among staff, candidates from under-represented regions and countries were encouraged to apply for, and many were selected to fill, new positions. The Office has examined its experience in that regard, and concluded that further improvement will require the development and the implementation of a proactive recruitment strategy. Nonetheless, OHCHR's dependence on UN Secretariat recruitment procedures has resulted in long delays in the selection and hiring of personnel, including deployments to field presences. Besides this external factor, the Office has further analysed the bottlenecks in its recruitment and will strive to reduce those delays under its control.

However, it is clear that OHCHR needs to operate with a certain degree of administrative independence in the areas of finance, administration and human resources. The recently received delegations of authority in finance and property management should provide greater flexibility and accountability for the Office and improve its ability to support field presences.

OHCHR'S EXPECTED ACCOMPLISHMENTS FOR 2008-2009

Expected Accomplishments	Global Level Indicators	National Level (Field presence) Indicators
<p>1. Increased compliance with human rights standards by national institutions, laws and programmes</p>	<p>1.1 Number of national human rights institutions accredited "A" status or improving their accreditation status by the International Coordinating Committee</p> <p>1.2 Number and proportion of countries where OHCHR has been engaged that have undertaken legislative and policy changes in accordance with human rights standards</p> <p>1.3 Number and proportion of countries where OHCHR has been engaged that have institutionalized national human rights training programmes (for lawyers, judges, law enforcement officials, security forces and in the formal education system)</p>	<p>1.2 Number of legislative and policy changes in accordance with human rights standards</p> <p>1.3 Number of national human rights training programmes institutionalized (for lawyers, judges, law enforcement officials, security forces and in the formal education system)</p>
<p>2. Increased compliance and engagement by governments with UN human rights mechanisms and bodies (treaty bodies, special procedures, Human Rights Council/Universal Periodic Review – UPR)</p>	<p>2.1 Number and proportion of countries where OHCHR has been engaged, which have implemented any outstanding treaty body and/or special procedures recommendations</p> <p>2.2 Number of countries having issued standing invitations to special procedures</p> <p>2.3 Number of countries which have submitted due and overdue reports in accordance with the reporting guidelines</p> <p>2.4 Percentage of special procedures communications replied to by governments</p> <p>2.5 Proportion of countries engaging with the Human Rights Council in the context of the UPR in conformity with established processes and Human Rights Council resolutions</p>	<p>2.1 Number and proportion of treaty body and special procedures recommendations implemented</p> <p>2.2 Proportion of special procedures' visit requests for which the government has issued an invitation</p> <p>2.3 Number of due and overdue reports submitted in accordance with the reporting guidelines</p> <p>2.4 Percentage of special procedures communications replied to by the government</p> <p>2.5 Countries engaging with the Human Rights Council in the context of the UPR in conformity with established processes and Human Rights Council resolutions</p>
<p>3. Increased ratification of international and regional human rights instruments and review of reservations</p>	<p>3.1 Number of ratifications of international and regional human rights instruments</p> <p>3.2 Number of reservations removed or reviewed</p>	<p>3.1 Number of ratifications of international and regional human rights instruments</p> <p>3.2 Number of reservations removed or reviewed</p>
<p>4. Justice and accountability mechanisms established and functioning in accordance with international human rights standards to monitor, investigate and redress civil and political, as well as economic, social and cultural human rights violations</p>	<p>4.1 Number and proportion of countries where OHCHR has been engaged, which have established mechanisms in accordance with international human rights standards to monitor, investigate and redress human rights violations</p>	<p>4.1 Number of mechanisms established and functioning in accordance with international human rights standards to monitor, investigate and redress human rights violations</p>

<p>5. Increased number of measures taken to improve access of marginalized and discriminated groups, and particularly women, to justice and basic services and to allow their participation in public policy, decision-making, and monitoring processes</p>	<p>5.1 Number and proportion of countries where OHCHR has been engaged, which have introduced measures to allow participation of marginalized and discriminated groups, particularly women, in public policy, decision-making and monitoring processes</p> <p>5.2 Number and proportion of countries where OHCHR has been engaged, which have introduced measures to improve access of marginalized and discriminated groups, particularly women, to justice and basic services</p>	<p>5.1 Number of measures introduced to allow participation of marginalized and discriminated groups, particularly women, in public policy, decision-making and monitoring processes</p> <p>5.2 Number of measures introduced to improve access of marginalized and discriminated groups, particularly women, to justice and basic services</p>
<p>6. Increased number and diversity of rightsholders and national human rights institutions and civil society actors acting on their behalf making use of UN and regional human rights mechanisms and bodies</p>	<p>6.1 Number and proportion of countries where national human rights institutions and civil society organizations are submitting information to treaty bodies, special procedures and the Human Rights Council in the context of the UPR</p>	<p>6.1 Number and type of national human rights institutions and civil society organizations submitting information to treaty bodies, special procedures and the Human Rights Council in the context of the UPR</p>
<p>7. International community increasingly aware, alert and responsive to critical human rights situations and issues</p>	<p>7.1 Number of concrete actions by UN/regional intergovernmental bodies to address critical human rights situation and issues linked to OHCHR's work</p>	<p>7.1 Number of concrete actions taken by non-national actors to address critical human rights situation and issues linked to OHCHR's work</p>
<p>8. Increased integration of human rights standards and principles, including the right to development, into UN system policies and programmes with respect to development, humanitarian action, peace and security and economic and social issues</p>	<p>8.1 Number and proportion of UN common country programmes and projects using in their programming treaty body, special procedures and Human Rights Council recommendations, as well as OHCHR guidelines</p> <p>8.2 Number of relevant UN system agencies policy documents and key speeches of heads of UN agencies/departments which integrate human rights standards and principles with OHCHR support</p>	<p>8.1 CCA/UNDAF and number and proportion of UN agencies programmes and projects using in their programming treaty body, special procedures and Human Rights Council recommendations, as well as OHCHR guidelines</p>
<p>9. Enhanced coherence and consistency of UN human rights mechanisms and bodies</p>	<p>9.1 Percentage of treaty bodies and special procedures recommendations taken up by the Human Rights Council in the context of the UPR</p> <p>9.2 Number of new procedures approved by the meeting of special procedures mandate-holders for coordination of their work</p> <p>9.3 Approval by the Human Rights Council of the review of mandates</p> <p>9.4 Percentage of countries submitting common core documents in accordance with the guidelines</p> <p>9.5 Number of joint treaty body activities or innovative treaty body initiatives contributing to harmonization</p>	<p>9.4 Submission of common core documents in accordance with the guidelines</p>





PART 2

OHCHR'S PROGRAMME OF WORK

OHCHR'S PROGRAMME OF WORK

SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES AND ORGANS

The Human Rights Council and the human rights treaty bodies constitute two central elements of the international human rights system. OHCHR works to ensure the smooth functioning of these human rights bodies and organs. The process of treaty body reporting, consideration of individual petitions and other procedures, and following up on treaty body recommendations at the country level are central to implementing human rights and are at the heart of OHCHR's country engagement with States parties.

With the transfer of responsibility for supporting the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) to OHCHR in 2008, OHCHR will provide support to the seven treaty bodies that monitor implementation of the core human rights instruments, namely the Human Rights Committee; the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR); the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD); CEDAW; the Committee against Torture (CAT); the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC); and the Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW). The Office also provides substantive and technical support to the Sub-committee on Prevention of Torture. This sub-committee, which began its work in February 2007, is mandated by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture (OPCAT) to visit places where persons may be deprived of their liberty and to work with, and assist, national preventive mechanisms.

Current situation and challenges

Treaty Bodies

The Office's workload relating to treaty bodies has increased over the years. The number of States parties to international human rights treaties has more than tripled since 1995, and three new human rights treaties are now open for signature, accession and ratification: the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Optional Protocol, and the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance. Individual complaints submitted to OHCHR increased six-fold between 1997 and 2006, and the number of complaints received and processed keeps rising. Inquiry procedures established by human rights treaties have been initiated, and the Sub-committee on Prevention of Torture plans to conduct preventive visits to at least five States parties each year. Still, the human rights treaty body system needs to be made more visible and accessible.

The High Commissioner's proposal for creating a unified standing treaty body has prompted increased efforts among all treaty bodies to harmonize their working methods, and has also encouraged States parties to attempt to streamline their reporting by using the guidelines for the Common Core Document. The Office has also intensified efforts to harmonize the work and procedures of the treaty bodies so that they can function as a coherent system, namely by assisting treaty bodies in elaborating treaty-specific reporting guidelines complementing the Common Core Document and assisting States parties in using them. This is essential for the enhancement of the impact of the work of the treaty bodies on the ground and in making treaty body recommendations more focused, clear and implementable. In addition, it will contribute to achieving the goals of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR – see below). OHCHR will continue this work and will also provide strong support to the new treaty bodies when they are established.

The Human Rights Council

On 15 March 2006, the General Assembly replaced the Commission on Human Rights with the Human Rights Council (Resolution 60/251). During its first year, the Council met as a quasi-standing body, holding five regular sessions, four special sessions and three sessions of its institution-building working groups. In June 2007, one year after its first meeting, the Council agreed on the procedures, mechanisms and structures that will form the basis for its future work. The Council maintains a system of special procedures and a confidential complaint procedure. It also establishes an expert advice body, the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee, which replaces the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights. Through a new mechanism, the Universal Periodic Review, the Council will periodically review the fulfilment of human rights obligations in all countries.

UNIVERSAL PERIODIC REVIEW (UPR)

Through this new mechanism, the Council will periodically review the fulfilment of human rights obligations of all countries. It will ensure that all States, including members of the Council, are treated equally and are subject to a review of their human rights record.

- All UN Member States will be reviewed within a period of four years in the first cycle, with 48 States to be reviewed every year.
- All the members of the Council will be reviewed during their term of membership.
- The first States to be reviewed have been chosen by regional groups through the drawing of lots to ensure full respect for equitable geographic distribution. Alphabetical order will then be applied, beginning with these countries, with the exception of those who volunteer to be reviewed.
- The review will be carried out by a working group, composed of members of the Council, that will meet three times a year for two weeks, and will be facilitated by groups of three States Members of the Council, which will act as rapporteurs (or "troikas") appointed by the Council.
- Recommendations from the special procedures and human rights treaty bodies, and information from other sources, such as non-governmental organizations and national human rights institutions, will be considered as elements for the review in addition to the report of the State concerned.
- The final outcome of the UPR will consist of recommendations to be implemented primarily by the State concerned and, as appropriate, by other relevant stakeholders.

The first session of the working group that will carry out the UPR is scheduled for April 2008.

Programme

Treaty bodies

During the 2008-2009 biennium, OHCHR will continue to provide substantive and technical support to the treaty bodies, and seek to strengthen their capacity to monitor compliance with, and support the implementation of, treaties at the country level, including by assisting treaty bodies to formulate more concrete and targeted recommendations to States parties and developing follow-up procedures. There has been progress in rendering treaty body recommendations more concrete, but there is room for improvement. The *ratio decidendi* of decisions on individual petitions remains too general and imprecise. In November 2006, OHCHR convened a meeting of the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation, treaty body members, OHCHR field presences and UN entities to discuss how recommendations can be better used at the national level.

The Office will continue to work to improve awareness and understanding of treaty body recommendations at the national level and encourage OHCHR field presences, other UN agencies, UN Country Teams, national human rights institutions, and NGOs to integrate the treaty body system into their work. An office-wide effort, including field presences and thematic units, will be essential in this work. This will require training for field officers so that they can contribute to follow-up activities and respond to requests for assistance by States parties in relation to reporting on the basis of the Common Core Document.

OHCHR will, to the extent possible, also continue to organize training workshops on the work of the treaty bodies and on the different ways in which various actors, such as national human rights institutions, non-governmental organizations, media, parliamentarians, and legal practitioners, can participate in the reporting and implementation process. The Office currently reviews the training requests from States and resource requirements for these workshops, and establishes priorities. Government representatives, parliamentarians, members of national human rights institutions and NGOs, as well as representatives of the media and the legal profession, are the main participants of these workshops. Interested countries will be selected in accordance with OHCHR's strategies for country engagement. In light of the increase in requests for such workshops to strengthen the implementation of human rights at the national level, and the limited human resources of OHCHR, new and creative approaches will be needed. The possibility of establishing a "training-of-trainers" programme will be considered.

The Office will also gather good practices in the implementation of human rights treaty provisions at the national level, the recommendations included in treaty-body concluding observations, and recommendations for remedies included in decisions on individual complaints, in order to provide examples to States parties and UN partners on how States have implemented international human rights standards and treaty body recommendations.

In addition, the Office will develop its technical cooperation capacity in order to achieve more sustainable results and enhanced impact in the fields of treaty implementation and reporting, through training tools such as reporting kits and CD-ROMs.

Revised and streamlined working methods have already enabled some treaty bodies, particularly the Human Rights Committee, to adopt a larger number of decisions on individual complaints and reduce the average time complaints are pending. OHCHR will continue to assist treaty bodies to develop and streamline follow-up mechanisms. A thematic digest of human rights jurisprudence has been prepared, and will be made

available online. The petitions database was updated and modernized in June 2006 and other features have been added to improve the ability to search for cases and track the status of pending complaints to ensure more efficient processing of new and pending complaints.

OHCHR will encourage further cooperation between treaty bodies and human rights special procedures, particularly in relation to the elaboration of general comments.

Reform of treaty bodies

OHCHR will assist both existing and new treaty bodies as they seek to coordinate their activities and standardize their reporting requirements, with the aim of creating a more coherent and effective system.

The Office will support the biannual inter-committee meetings to adopt concrete recommendations for improving and harmonizing the working methods of the treaty bodies which, in turn, will improve their overall effectiveness, coherence, and unity. The use of the Common Core Document by States parties will be promoted, and each reporting State will be encouraged to submit such a document in tandem with their treaty-specific reports. The core document contains basic information that is relevant to all treaties; States would thus not have to make duplicate submissions. States will also be offered assistance and training in the preparation of the Common Core Document and treaty-specific reports. As a result, it is expected that they will comply more fully with their reporting obligations, and that treaty body documentation will be rationalized. This would also contribute to more focused and implementable recommendations that can be used in the framework of the UPR.

Study on violence against children

The sixty-second session of the General Assembly (ongoing at the time of writing) has decided to create a

Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the question of violence against children. OHCHR will work closely with the new Special Representative.

The Office will continue to work with UNICEF, WHO and other partners to raise awareness about the outcome of the 2006 Secretary-General's Study on Violence Against Children and promote the implementation of its recommendations through the entire array of its activities, particularly through the work of its field presences. The Office will support mainstreaming of the Study's recommendations into the work of the UN human rights treaty bodies and special procedures and encourage these mechanisms to monitor and report on the situation of violence against children and on emerging trends in this area. OHCHR will also develop policy, planning and programming tools to facilitate the implementation of the recommendations of the Study by all relevant stakeholders, and promote research on violence against children, including through expert meetings, seminars and work with existing human rights mechanisms. The exchange of information and good practices will also be promoted. OHCHR will continue to participate in the work of the inter-agency group on violence against children and to closely coordinate with partner agencies and programmes.

The Human Rights Council and its mechanisms

With the adoption of the institution-building text on 18 June 2007, the Council established the procedures, mechanisms and structures that will form the basis for its future work. These provisions now need to be translated into practice. OHCHR will continue to provide substantive assistance and legal and technical advice to the President of the Council, its Bureau, and to the Plenary and other relevant bodies to facilitate institution-building.

OHCHR will continue to provide substantive support to the regular work of the intergovernmental human rights machinery, including during the high-level plenary



Sixth session of the Human Rights Council, September 2007. © UN/OHCHR

meetings of the Council and its subsidiary bodies and during the inter-sessional period. Proceedings of the Council will be recorded in a separate report for each regular and special session, and resolutions and decisions adopted during the year will be compiled into an annual report to the General Assembly.

Support will be provided to establish the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee. The Committee will function as a think-tank for the Council, providing expertise and advice, and conducting substantive research and studies on thematic issues of interest to the Council and at its request.

The Council has also established a new confidential complaint procedure to address consistent patterns of gross and reliably attested violations of human rights and all fundamental freedoms. In order to avoid a protection gap, there must be a seamless transition from the former 1503 procedure to the new complaint procedure. OHCHR will also continue its support to the procedure's implementing bodies and the closed meetings of the Council and assist any independent expert appointed under the procedure.

The Office will provide substantive support to the working group that will carry out the Universal Period Review and will hold three two-week sessions per year for that purpose. The situation in 48 Member States will be considered each year. OHCHR will prepare a compilation of information regarding each State contained in the reports of treaty bodies, special procedures and other relevant UN documents and a summary of information provided by other relevant stakeholders. These documents, together with the information prepared by the State concerned, will form the basis of the review. During the sessions of the working group, the Office will also provide the necessary expertise and assistance to the "troikas," a group of three rapporteurs in charge of facilitating the review.

OHCHR will also work to ensure that relevant information is widely and expeditiously disseminated inside and outside the Office, and will continue to coordinate the submission of documentation for intergovernmental and expert meetings and the calendar of meetings in collaboration with other sections of the UN Secretariat. The Office handles documents relating to the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the Human Rights Council and its related working groups and procedures, the Confidential Complaint Procedure, Geneva-based treaty bodies, all communications, complaints, and publications produced by the Office. The volume of documentation is expanding constantly, given the proliferation of ratifications of human rights treaties and the anticipated establishment of new organs.

SUPPORTING HUMAN RIGHTS FACT-FINDING PROCEDURES

Special procedures were established by the then Commission on Human Rights to address major human rights themes and phenomena and to play a role in preventing or attempting to end human rights violations worldwide. Generally, special procedures mandate-holders are entrusted with monitoring, advising and publicly reporting on major human rights phenomena or situations around the world. Thematic mandates focus on specific human rights issues of concern; country mandates focus on particular country situations. At present, there are 28 thematic mandates and ten country mandates. Within the context of their mandates, special procedures mandate-holders:

- carry out fact-finding missions to countries;
- send communications to governments concerning individual cases of alleged human rights violations;
- conduct thematic studies and research for reports to UN bodies;
- promote respect for human rights through various public activities;
- hold consultations with civil society and other stakeholders; and
- provide advice on technical cooperation projects at the country level.

OHCHR provides support to individual special procedures mechanisms and to their Coordination Committee, established in 2005. This service includes thematic, policy and legal expertise and advice, research and analytical work, and administrative and logistical assistance.

- From January to October 2007, mandate-holders carried out over 50 missions, including three follow-up missions to over 40 countries.
- From January to September 2007, more than 740 communications were sent, concerning over 1,600 individuals.
- In 2007, over 130 reports were submitted to UN organs, particularly the General Assembly and the Human Rights Council.
- Between January and October 2007, over 60 press releases were issued on human rights situations of concern.

Current situation and challenges

When the Human Rights Council was established in March 2006 by General Assembly Resolution 60/251, it was called upon to "assume, review and, where necessary, improve and rationalize all mandates, mechanisms, functions and responsibilities of the Commission on Human Rights in order to maintain a system of special procedures". After a year of institution

building, the Council adopted two resolutions: on its institution-building architecture and on a code of conduct for special procedures mandate-holders. These resolutions establish new procedures for selecting and appointing mandate-holders, establish principles for the review, rationalization and improvement of individual mandates, and contain elements to guide mandate-holders in discharging their functions. In 2006/07, OHCHR facilitated the participation of mandate-holders, through the Coordination Committee, in discussions and meetings on the Human Rights Council's institution-building process.

Further to its decision related to the review, rationalization and improvement of mandates, the Council began assessing individual mandates in September 2007. Most work pertaining to the harmonized working methods of special procedures will depend on the outcome of the review. Also, OHCHR will need to adjust to any change to the system as a whole. For example, at its sixth session in September 2007, the Council created a new mandate on contemporary forms of slavery. This mandate will begin functioning in 2008, and OHCHR will provide the necessary servicing, consistent with its support to all special procedures mandates. In addition, a new selection procedure for mandate-holders has been established. Over the next biennium, at least a dozen mandate-holders will be replaced and new mandate-holders selected. The new mandate-holders will need to be integrated into the special procedures system through general, centralized induction and training, including on working methods, and through additional staff support for individual mandate-holders.

Programme

During 2008 and 2009, OHCHR intends to maintain its support to mandate-holders in their efforts to achieve greater coherence in and coordination of their work, and to ensure that the special procedures system continues to be a central element of the work of the Council, including the Universal Periodic Review.

With the Human Rights Council engaged in its institution-building process, the special procedures system is expected to continue performing its role to ensure that human rights obligations are met, and to build the capacity of States to guarantee the protection of human rights. Accordingly, the Office will continue to adjust its work to respond to the requests of the Council as they relate to special procedures, to provide quality support to the special procedures mechanisms, and to help ensure better implementation of their recommendations and findings at the national level.

With mandates focused on a wide range of civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, as well as mandates dedicated to certain groups and countries deserving

special attention, the special procedures cover the priority human rights themes of the Office: impunity; poverty and global inequities; discrimination; armed conflict and violence; and democratic deficit and weak institutions. The special procedures system, through its variety of activities, also supports the main strategies of the Office: country engagement, leadership, partnerships, and work with UN human rights bodies.

Coordination among special procedures mandate-holders

In order to achieve its goal to improve coherence and consistency of human rights mechanisms, the Office will facilitate improved coordination among special procedures mandate-holders, particularly through the Coordination Committee. In the context of the review of mandates by the Human Rights Council, the Coordination Committee has followed up issues of common interest, in consultation with mandate-holders. As a result, the Committee contributed to policy discussions on behalf of all mandate-holders. In addition, OHCHR has continued to support an increasing number of joint activities by mandate-holders. For example, the Independent Expert on minority issues and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance undertook a joint fact-finding visit to the Dominican Republic from 23 to 29 October 2007. Furthermore, in 2007, over 50% of all communications sent by special procedures mandate holders have been joint communications.

In 2008/09, OHCHR will continue to assist the Coordination Committee in developing more harmonized working methods and ensuring a joint approach to issues of common concern, including in relation to the Council's ongoing review of mandates and the new selection procedure. The Office will support the Coordination Committee and mandate-holders in revising the draft Manual on Special Procedures, ensuring that the provisions of the Manual comply with the Code of Conduct adopted by the Council in June 2007. The Office will also continue to encourage efforts to streamline methods of work and ensure greater coherence and effectiveness in the new institutional setting.

Coordination with other human rights mechanisms

In line with the goal of ensuring coordination with other human rights mechanisms, the Coordination Committee and mandate-holders have stated their intention to engage with other mechanisms of the Human Rights Council. The Office will thus ensure that the contributions mandate-holders have been making to the international human rights protection system are duly reflected in the Universal Periodic Review. It may also support the development of working relations between special procedures mandate-holders and the newly established

Advisory Committee, which is the successor to the Sub-Commission on the promotion and protection of human rights. The Office also promotes close cooperation between special procedures and treaty bodies. In addition to referring to each other's conclusions and recommendations in their respective reports, special procedures mandate-holders and members of treaty bodies increasingly share information through briefings and invite contributions in the development of general comments or other discussions on particular human rights issues. For example, in September 2007, the Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living participated in a general day of discussion of the Committee on the Rights of the Child on resources for the protection of rights of the child. Also in September, the Human Rights Council decided to create a forum on minority issues to "provide a platform for promoting dialogue and cooperation" on issues pertaining to persons belonging to minority groups. The resolution establishing the forum foresees a central role for the Independent Expert on minority issues, who "shall guide the work of the forum" and build upon its work. The Office will continue its efforts to standardize coordination among different human rights mechanisms and to promote joint discussions and reflection on issues of common interest in 2008/09.

Country-level engagement and follow-up to special procedures recommendations

The information stemming from the work of special procedures, through communications, fact-finding missions and related recommendations, is critical in identifying, assessing, and addressing gaps in the implementation of human rights at the country level, and will help the Office achieve its goal of ensuring increased compliance with human rights standards and engagement with human rights mechanisms. For example, the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Haiti has welcomed good cooperation with the Government, noting progress in the implementation of his recommendations, particularly in judicial and police reform and in the promotion of women's rights. The recommendations of the Independent Expert were also used to elaborate an OHCHR technical cooperation project with the Human Rights Section of MINUSTAH. In April 2007, the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related forms of intolerance, as well as two experts of the former Sub-Commission for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights participated in a technical advisory mission to Nepal. The experts assisted OHCHR in designing national-level policies on discrimination-related issues, with a special emphasis on the situation of indigenous peoples, *dalits* and other minorities who live in the country.

For its part, OHCHR will continue to provide legal expertise, research and analytical work to special procedures country missions and thematic studies with the aim of encouraging improved implementation of human rights obligations at the national level.

In keeping with the Office's efforts to help governments increase their implementation of recommendations of UN human rights mechanisms and bodies, and with its aim to sensitize the international community about critical human rights situations and issues, the Office will maintain its support of mandate-holders' interaction with the Human Rights Council and the Third Committee of the General Assembly, through the presentation of their reports and ensuring follow-up to their recommendations. Engagement with Member States of the Council and with civil society has improved during the past biennium because of revised modalities for interaction with special procedures mandate-holders. The Council has increasingly called upon mandate-holders to address country situations through its special sessions and resolutions on specific countries or territories and OHCHR will continue to respond to the needs of mandate holders in carrying out this work.

Thematic leadership

On numerous occasions, special procedures mandate-holders have led the human rights community in analyzing emerging human rights issues and developing new human rights standards. These efforts have contributed to the Office's strategy to provide thematic leadership on human rights issues of concern. For example, in September 2007, the Special Rapporteur on torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment held a consultation on strengthening the protection of women from torture and identifying where the mandate may need to change its working methods to better respond to the experiences of women and girls. The Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health has highlighted the global inequities surrounding access to medicine, noting that 15% of the world's population consumes over 90% of the world's pharmaceutical products. In this regard, he held numerous consultations to identify how pharmaceutical companies could contribute to the realization of this aspect of the right to health, culminating in the launch of the draft Human Rights Guidelines for Pharmaceutical Companies in relation to Access to Medicines in September 2007.

Cooperation with the UN system and regional mechanisms

The Office promotes greater integration of the work of special procedures into UN system policies and programmes through continued cooperation with UN Country Teams, especially through OHCHR field offices. It will continue to encourage cooperation with regional organizations and mechanisms through consultations,

joint meetings or workshops organized with these bodies, so as to ensure a greater impact of special procedures activities and avoid duplication or overlap. The Office builds on the good practices established by certain mandate-holders to engage with their counterparts in regional systems. For example, the Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons and the Special Rapporteur on refugees and internally displaced persons of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights have engaged in discussions about the drafting of an African Union instrument on the protection of internally displaced persons. The Special Rapporteur on torture and other forms of cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment has established a close working relationship with the European human rights mechanisms, including the Committee for the Prevention of Torture of the Council of Europe, and with the European Union, especially with regard to challenges to the absolute prohibition of torture in the context of the fight against terrorism.

Interaction with civil society, especially marginalized groups, and awareness-raising activities

OHCHR will continue to engage with civil society actors, including NGOs and national human rights institutions, in order to raise awareness about and disseminate special procedures' work and to increase the number and diversity of rights-holders and institutions making use of special procedures mechanisms. The Office will also maintain its support to thematic mandates in all areas of civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights, including the rights of marginalized and discriminated groups, in order to

assist them in shaping their work and recommendations and in engaging with partners to ensure that their work is reflected in public policy decision-making, planning, programming and monitoring processes. Mandate-holders have regular contact with civil society actors through their country missions, participation in events, and presence at the Human Rights Council.

With regard to civil society, OHCHR undertook an evaluation of the outreach capacity of special procedures and their collaboration with civil society actors. This evaluation identified good practices and areas, both substantive and geographic, in need of further attention. For example, the evaluation recommended more interaction with civil society as a source of information; more regular sharing of information on special procedures activities and reports; enlarging the network of civil society contacts in Africa and the Middle East; and facilitating access to special procedures through harmonized websites and information tools translated into official UN languages. During the fourth session of the Human Rights Council alone (March 2007), mandate-holders held over 80 meetings with civil society actors to discuss specific human rights issues. These occasions have helped raise awareness about human rights and the value of the special procedures system. OHCHR will continue to improve information tools on special procedures, including the website, thereby ensuring better access, in official UN languages, to general information about special procedures, information on country visits and thematic studies, special procedures reports, and summaries of special procedures analyses and recommendations.



Visit of Jean Ziegler, Special Rapporteur on the right to food, to Bolivia, May 2007. © OHCHR

SPECIAL PROCEDURES MANDATE-HOLDERS AS AT 30 OCTOBER 2007

Mandate	Established in	Mandate holder
Country mandates:		
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Burundi	2004	Mr. Akich OKOLA (Kenya)
Special Representative of the Secretary-General for human rights in Cambodia	1993	Mr. Yash Ghai (Kenya)
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea	2004	Mr. Vitit MUNTARBHORN (Thailand)
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in the Democratic Republic of the Congo	2004	Mr. Titinga Frédéric PACÉRE (Burkina Faso)
Independent Expert appointed by the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Haiti	1995	Mr. Louis JOINET (France)
Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Liberia	2003	Ms. Charlotte ABAKA (Ghana)
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar	1992	Mr. Paulo Sérgio PINHEIRO (Brazil)
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Palestinian territories occupied since 1967	1993	Mr. John DUGARD (South Africa)
Independent Expert appointed by the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Somalia	1993	Mr. Ghanim ALNAJJAR (Kuwait)
Special Rapporteur on the situation on human rights in the Sudan	2005	Ms. Sima SAMAR (Afghanistan)
Thematic mandates:		
Special Rapporteur on adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living	2000	Mr. Miloon KOTHARI (India)
Working Group on people of African descent	2002	Mr. Peter Lesa KASANDA (Zambia) Mr. Joe FRANS (Sweden) Mr. George N. JABBOUR (Syrian Arab Republic) Ms. Irina ZLATESCU (Romania)
Working Group on Arbitrary Detention	1991	Ms. Leila ZERROUGUI (Algeria) Mr. Tamás BÁN (Hungary) Ms. Manuela Carmena CASTRILLO (Spain) Mr. Seyyed Mohammad HASHEMI (Islamic Republic of Iran) Ms. Soledad VILLAGRA DE BIEDERMANN (Paraguay)
Special Rapporteur on the sale of children , child prostitution and child pornography	1990	Mr. Juan Miguel PETIT (Uruguay)
Special Rapporteur on the right to education	1998	Mr. Vernor MUÑOZ VILLALOBOS (Costa Rica)
Working Group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearances	1980	Mr. Santiago CORCUERA CABEZUT (Mexico) Mr. Joel ADEBAYO ADEKANYE (Nigeria) Mr. Darko GÖTTLICHER (Croatia) Mr. Saeed Rajaei KHORASANI (Islamic Republic of Iran) Mr. Stephen J. TOOPE (Canada)

Mandate	Established in	Mandate holder
Special Rapporteur on extrajudicial, summary or arbitrary executions	1982	Mr. Philip ALSTON (Australia)
Independent Expert on the question of human rights and extreme poverty	1998	Mr. Arjun SENGUPTA (India)
Special Rapporteur on the right to food	2000	Mr. Jean ZIEGLER (Switzerland)
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of the right to freedom of opinion and expression	1993	Mr. Ambeyi LIGABO (Kenya)
Special Rapporteur on freedom of religion or belief	1986	Ms. Asma JAHANGIR (Pakistan)
Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health	2002	Mr. Paul HUNT (New Zealand)
Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders	2000	Ms. Hina JILANI (Pakistan)
Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers	1994	Mr. Leandro DESPOUY (Argentina)
Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous people	2001	Mr. Rodolfo STAVENHAGEN (Mexico)
Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons	2004	Mr. Walter Kälin (Switzerland)
Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination	2005	Ms. Amada BENAVIDES DE PÉREZ (Colombia) Ms. Najat AL-HAJJAJI (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) Mr. José GÓMEZ DEL PRADO (Spain) Mr. Alexander Ivanovich NIKITIN (Russian Federation) Ms. Shaista SHAMEEM (Fiji)
Special Rapporteur on the human rights of migrants	1999	Mr. Jorge A. BUSTAMANTE (Mexico)
Independent Expert on minority issues	2005	Ms. Gay MCDUGALL (United States of America)
Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism , racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance	1993	Mr. Doudou DIÈNE (Senegal)
Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity	2005	Mr. Rudi Muhammad RIZKI (Indonesia)
Independent expert on the effects of economic reform policies and foreign debt on the full enjoyment of human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights	2000	Mr. Bernards Andrew NYAMWAYA MUDHO (Kenya)
Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights while countering terrorism	2005	Mr. Martin SCHEININ (Finland)
Special Rapporteur on torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment	1985	Mr. Manfred Nowak (Austria)
Special Rapporteur on the adverse effects of the illicit movement and dumping of toxic and dangerous products and wastes on the enjoyment of human rights	1995	Mr. Okechukwu IBEANU (Nigeria)
Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons , especially in women and children	2004	Ms. Sigma HUDA (Bangladesh)
Special Representative of the Secretary-General on human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises	2005	Mr. John Ruggie (United States of America)
Special Rapporteur on violence against women , its causes and consequences	1994	Ms. Yakin ERTÜRK (Turkey)

HUMAN RIGHTS MAINSTREAMING, RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT, RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

While pursuing its strategies of strengthened country engagement, leadership, partnership and synergy with the UN human rights bodies, OHCHR will work to advance the integration of human rights and their gender dimension into the policies, programmes and activities of the entire UN system, particularly at the country level. During 2008-2009, OHCHR will continue to provide expertise and support in key cross-cutting themes in human rights: equality and non-discrimination; indigenous peoples' and minority rights, development; economic, social and cultural rights; rule of law, transitional justice and democracy; human rights-based approaches to peace and security and humanitarian work; human rights methodologies and human rights education.

Current situation and challenges

Despite successive UN reform programmes, a lack of coherence persists between the normative and operational work of the UN system, with regard to human rights. The demands faced by OHCHR in supporting the UN system's efforts to mainstream human rights have continued to increase, both quantitatively and qualitatively. Accordingly, efforts to strengthen support, commitment and accountabilities within the UN system, including at the level of Resident and Humanitarian Coordinators and Special Representatives of the Secretary-General, will be prioritized in the 2008-2009 biennium, along with initiatives to deepen knowledge, practical skills and commitment to human rights mainstreaming in all areas of United Nations work.

OHCHR's strategy in the field of equality and non-discrimination will aim to further the implementation of the 2001 Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA), in areas where the legacies of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and intolerance still linger. The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action (DDPA) set the pace and framework for progress on the pressing issue of eradicating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. Three follow-up mechanisms were established: the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent; the Intergovernmental Working Group on the effective implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action; and the group of Independent Eminent Experts.

Since their inception, these mechanisms have studied complementary standards to fill normative gaps, and the interrelation between racism and thematic areas, such as education, poverty, health, globalization, racial profiling and the Internet. These bodies have made concrete recommendations to States as well as non-governmental organizations to spur action.

Although multiple initiatives have sought ways to realize the visions and aspirations of the DDPA, many of the Durban pledges remain to be translated into national action plans and programmes for better treatment of victims; into more stringent anti-discrimination legislation and administrative measures; and into universal ratification and implementation of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and other relevant international treaties.

The Durban Review Conference scheduled for 2009 will offer an opportunity to compare best practices, to analyze the long-standing and emerging obstacles to the realization of the Durban vision, and render justice to the universal aspirations of equality and non-discrimination that it captured in 2001.

OHCHR's strategies benefiting equality and non-discrimination will include the development of awareness-raising tools and training materials to strengthen the implementation of the relevant international human rights standards and help to eradicate the structural, cultural and psychological dimensions of racism and discrimination. The process set in motion through preparations for the Durban Review Conference and the Conference itself, will offer the opportunity for evaluating progress and identifying challenges in combating racism and discrimination and will be a major area of focus.

The adoption by the General Assembly of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples in September 2007 and the decision by the Human Rights Council to establish a Minorities Forum and consider a further subsidiary expert body on indigenous peoples, signal the international community's continuing concerns for these groups. The Office will be expected to take leadership in promoting the Declaration as a policy framework at all levels and within the UN system and to continue to promote the principles of full participation by minority groups in public life as guaranteed in the Minorities Declaration.

OHCHR's leadership within the UN system in several areas related to the rule of law was acknowledged during the past biennium. As a principal area of focus, the Office will continue to draw on its unique and close relationship with the bodies that develop international human rights law to design and implement an action-oriented multidimensional rule-of-law programme. With the aim of advancing conformity of national law and practice with international human rights obligations, the Office will continue to build on its previous work on strengthening institutions capable of providing human rights protection, particularly those devoted to administering justice and accountability.

Devising effective measures to tackle impunity for gross violations of human rights remains one of the key

challenges faced by OHCHR today. As the Office develops its country engagement strategies to protect the rights of individuals within their societies, it must address deficiencies in the national protection systems that may lead to such abuse in areas such as development, equality, and the rule of law.

During the past biennium, the Office has stepped up its work in the area of economic, social and cultural rights as part of its effort to promote a comprehensive vision of human rights, reflecting their indivisibility, interdependence and interrelatedness. During 2008-2009, OHCHR will continue to strengthen its work on economic, social and cultural rights with priority given to activities on specific rights at the national level; legal protection of economic, social and cultural rights; development of training materials and tools; and strengthening of the Office's capacity to work with partners on these rights. Moreover, the Office will continue its support for the inter-governmental negotiations on an Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Regarding the rights of persons with disabilities, OHCHR will seek to ensure that the human rights mechanisms and the UN system as a whole participate in the mainstreaming of these rights as contained in the new Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

In relation to the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of business activities, challenges ahead include defining the evolving role of OHCHR in the Global Compact and providing support and expert advice to the mandate of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises.

During the past biennium, the Office devoted increased efforts to develop policy and methodological guidance for the conduct of human rights work by OHCHR, including its field offices, and other actors; to develop mechanisms for the sharing and management of knowledge on substantive human rights issues; and to more systematically document, identify and promote good practices. Needs assessment and programme reviews, as well as demands by OHCHR partners, point to a continuing need in this area. During the 2008-2009 biennium, this work will be consolidated to ensure that programmes are carried out in line with consistent quality standards and the best advice and assistance are provided to national counterparts and international partners. In addition to the thematic areas outlined below, priority will be given to key human rights methods of work such as assessment, monitoring and investigations, education and training, and integration of human rights in peace operations.

ADOPTING A GENDER APPROACH AND SAFEGUARDING WOMEN'S RIGHTS

The Women's Human Rights and Gender Unit was created in 2006 in order to ensure that a gender perspective is reflected in all the aspects of the work of the Office, as well as to help deepen its knowledge and expertise. In 2007, OHCHR thus concentrated on women's right to access justice, particularly with regard to situations of violence; economic, social and cultural rights; and political representation. Position papers were developed on the prosecution of sexual violence, the protection of social and economic rights in the post conflict contexts, and on discriminatory legislation. Strategies were developed for the integration of gender into the larger field presences and this integration will continue in this biennium.

In 2008-2009 the Office will continue this focus, aiming to strengthen the analyses and its ability, through appropriate tools, training, advice and advocacy, to assist States to safeguard women's rights. Emphasis will be placed on the prosecution of sexual violence and impunity, and the need for positive discrimination in the area of economic, social and cultural rights. A major conference is planned for September 2008, to address the obstacles that women face when seeking justice. In addition the unit will be conducting comparative legal analyses of human rights protection for gays, lesbians, bi-sexuals and transgendered people. A gender audit of the Office is also included in OHCHR's plans for the biennium.

Programme

In order to encourage increased compliance with human rights standards by national institutions and in national laws and programmes, OHCHR intends to develop guidelines intended to assist States to design and implement national action plans for combating racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. OHCHR will also develop guidelines on the elaboration and implementation of national legislation against racial discrimination.

In the **rule of law and democracy** area, OHCHR will continue its systematic engagement with judges and lawyers, monitoring formal justice systems, improving access to justice, particularly for the poor, and providing an analysis of informal justice systems. OHCHR will draw on the experience of a group of senior national judges to help foster collaboration with national judiciaries.

With regard to **economic, social and cultural rights**, OHCHR will provide guidance and training materials on legislative and policy reform to raise awareness and increase knowledge of these rights among national institutions. Also, OHCHR will strengthen and consolidate its partnerships with other UN agencies, particularly with WHO, UN-HABITAT and FAO, as well

as with civil society actors at regional and international levels in relation to these rights.

Regarding the **assessment** of human rights gaps and their causes, OHCHR will continue to refine relevant methodologies for the assessment with a view to developing appropriate responses through country engagement strategies which include close cooperation with national, regional and international actors.

In this connection, there has also been a growing demand for appropriate human rights **indicators** and statistical information to help assess country human rights situations, as well as to promote and monitor the implementation of human rights. During the 2006-2007 biennium, OHCHR, in consultation with a panel of experts, developed a conceptual and methodological framework on indicators for both economic, social and cultural rights and civil and political rights. During the 2008-2009 biennium, the Office will strengthen the analytical framework and focus on consolidating and operationalizing this work at country level.

Enhanced thematic expertise and technical support will be provided to national and international human rights stakeholders and monitoring mechanisms. OHCHR will address the "knowledge gap" identified in the Plan of Action by developing guidelines, tools and programmes to support **human rights education and training** activities implemented by national actors, as well as by staff and other interested parties, while ensuring the coordination of the World Programme for Human Rights Education launched in 2005. OHCHR will continue to produce materials adapted to the needs of the target audiences and that continue to be relevant to the areas prioritized for the biennium.

Efforts will continue to promote integration of **indigenous peoples and minority** rights into public policies through the development of expertise,

guidelines and tools on the Minorities Declaration and the Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples. Best practices will be made available to meet the needs of partners on issues, including indigenous justice systems, integration of minorities into public life, such as in policing and efforts to protect isolated indigenous peoples. Attention will be made to strengthening partnerships with inter-agency networks, in particular to implement the workplan on indigenous issues agreed upon by the United Nations Development Group and with non-governmental organizations through the continuing improvement of the fellowship and human rights training programme. The objective in the biennium will be to further integrate indigenous and minority rights into the policies and programmes of OHCHR and the UN system, including through staff training.

OHCHR also aims at ensuring that justice and accountability mechanisms are established and functioning in accordance with international human rights standards, to monitor, investigate and redress civil and political, as well as economic, social and cultural human rights violations. In this respect, the Office will also continue to strengthen **accountability structures** with a view to reducing impunity and to ensure that breaches of human rights law do not go unpunished. A particular emphasis will be placed on the efficiency of investigations. To close the impunity gap, the Office will also further deepen its cooperation with the International Criminal Court and will elaborate practical tools to guide staff members in this area. The Office will also develop and update policies and methodological guidance and tools; identify good practices; develop and provide training; and maintain reference services, resource centres and forums for exchange of experience among OHCHR staff.

OHCHR will also focus on strengthening its own capacity in the area of **monitoring, fact finding and investigations** to increase the methodological soundness and coherence of its work, including with regard to the work of field



High Commissioner Louise Arbour visits Jesús de Machaca indigenous community, Bolivia, March 2007. © OHCHR/E. Tamburi

offices, commissions of inquiry, special procedures, and rapid response. It will develop and update policies and methodological guidance and tools in areas such as analysis and documentation of human rights information, protection of sources, monitoring of economic, social and cultural rights. A human rights case database will be finalized and used in OHCHR and DPKO field offices; training for staff and external partners will be provided and reference services, resources and communities of practice for OHCHR staff will be maintained.

With respect to the prosecution of **sexual violence** and the need to support positive measures to end gender discrimination, particularly in post-conflict situations, advocacy activities will be launched within the UN, and at regional and national levels, to promote the adoption of measures recommended by OHCHR.

One of the Office's expected accomplishments relates to the increased number of measures taken to allow marginalized and discriminated groups to participate in public policy decision-making and monitoring processes. OHCHR will continue to promote compliance with human rights obligations relating to equality and non-discrimination. In addition, the Office will organize activities to promote dialogue within and among communities and will facilitate the participation of underrepresented groups, in particular people of African descent, in the work of UN human rights mechanisms and bodies.

Drawing from its experience in promoting consultative mechanisms for indigenous peoples in UN Country Teams, particularly from Bolivia, OHCHR will advocate that improved and formal consultative processes be developed with **indigenous and minority** groups. The Office will continue to extend substantive and organizational support to the voluntary funds on indigenous populations and contemporary forms of slavery (see page 101) by creating space for dialogue between States, experts and these groups. The Indigenous and Minorities Fellowship Programme supported by OHCHR will also contribute to achieving this expected accomplishment.

Once the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities enters into force, States parties will be obliged to ensure that **persons with disabilities** and their representative organizations participate in the development and implementation of related legislation and policies. To this end, OHCHR will support human rights field presences by developing training modules, awareness-raising materials and a national monitoring handbook and by conducting training and other activities to empower persons with disabilities and their representative organizations.

In order to increase the number and diversity of rights holders and institutions acting on their behalf making use of UN human rights mechanisms and bodies,

OHCHR will prepare training modules and publications on the CRPD and the use of human rights mechanisms and bodies for use by persons with disabilities. The Office will also maintain and improve a database of contacts with disabled people's organizations.

Democratic deficit is a key challenge that OHCHR will continue to address. In this respect, the Office will continue to assist national parliaments in the elaboration of laws aimed at protecting human rights.

As part of the efforts to strengthen the High Commissioner's leadership role in raising awareness of and increasing the international community's responsiveness to critical, challenging and emerging human rights issues, the Office will issue publications, research papers, fact sheets, and thematic reports. The 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights offers an opportunity for raising awareness of international standards, as well as of the activities of OHCHR and human rights mechanisms, among States, UN Country Teams and civil society.

TRANSITIONAL JUSTICE

OHCHR will also pursue its lead role on **transitional justice** issues pursuant to the UN Policy Committee discussions and the subsequent Secretary-General's decision No. 2006/47 of 7 November 2006 on the **rule of law**. The Office will continue to provide advice and assistance, and particularly training, on the basis of nine policy tools it has already developed on issues relating to transitional justice such as truth commissions, prosecution initiatives, amnesties, and vetting. The Office will also elaborate a tenth tool in this series on the subject of preservation of national archives. Also, in carrying out the role assigned to OHCHR pursuant to the 2007 UN Policy Committee decision on constitutional reform, the Office will follow up on its 2007 mapping of the UN system's expertise in human rights and constitution-making. A tool will be prepared with the objective of contributing to strengthening UN capacity in this area.

The High Commissioner dedicated International Human Rights Day in 2006 to the topic of **poverty** and human rights, and has consistently lent her voice to ensure that violations associated with poverty are identified and that persons responsible are held accountable.

In the past biennium, OHCHR undertook an assessment exercise by examining different modes of field engagement with a view to identifying how it could add value to the approach of the UN system in addressing **Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and poverty** from a human rights perspective. In 2008-2009, OHCHR will consolidate this conceptual and analytical effort. Thematic modules on human rights, poverty and the MDGs will be integrated within the UN Common

Learning Package on a Rights-Based Approach to Common Country Assessment (CCA) and the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF).

The Office will also deploy further efforts to ensure that a human rights-based approach to development strategies takes into account the linkages between human rights, good governance, and anti-corruption measures. This strategy will in turn contribute to increasing understanding of the right to development and the integration of its promotion and protection in global development partnerships. OHCHR will deepen its expertise as related to the relationship between human rights and development, in areas such as liberalization of trade in services, foreign direct investment, and trade-related aspects of intellectual property rights in light of the negative impact they can have on human rights.

OHCHR's **human trafficking** project for 2008-2009 will examine the connections between human trafficking globally, including its complex connections with migration, development, discrimination, denial of economic, social and cultural rights, and access to justice. It will also address the adverse effects that anti-trafficking measures have on the human rights of trafficked persons. The Office will focus on consolidating and improving its thematic expertise in the context of country, regional and subregional engagement. In this regard, preparation of user-friendly tools, compilation of good practices and lessons learned, as well as training to integrate human rights into anti-trafficking work will be undertaken.

The protection and promotion of human rights are essential not only in preventing the spread of HIV and AIDS and in mitigating the social and economic impact of the pandemic, but also in protecting those infected and affected by the HIV virus. During the 2008-2009 biennium, OHCHR will continue its cooperation and partnership with UNAIDS, WHO and regional organizations in an effort to ensure that the rights of people affected by HIV and AIDS are protected and that they have access to health care. There is a growing need for the inclusion of human rights protection and promotion programmes benefiting persons infected by HIV and AIDS in country strategies and in programmes implemented with UN Country Teams.

Finally, the Office aims to improve the integration of human rights standards and principles, including the right to development, into UN system policies and programmes with respect to development, humanitarian action, peace and security, and economic and social issues.

Launched in 2004, the "**Action 2**" global programme was intended to help UN agencies and UN Country Teams to provide more effective assistance to Member States at

their request in order to build national capacities to protect human rights. Mainstreaming human rights has led to an enormous increase in demand for OHCHR input, expertise, advice, assistance, and other forms of cooperation. Consequently, developing and strengthening thematic expertise, and human rights knowledge management will continue in 2008-2009, in partnership with other UN agencies.

THE RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT

The Office will make a concerted effort to further the integration of the promotion and protection of the right to development in global partnerships and into the policies and operational activities of relevant actors at all levels. Additionally, OHCHR will continue to support the UN Working Group on the Right to Development and its High-level Task Force by providing research, as well as analytical and operational assistance. During 2008-2009, additional emphasis will be placed on improving awareness, knowledge and understanding of the right to development. OHCHR will organize activities and produce analytical papers and information materials to achieve this objective.

Regarding the linkages between human rights, **peace and security**, the Office will continue to support the implementation of the 2005 Secretary-General's Policy Committee decisions on human rights in integrated missions. OHCHR will continue to work with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and, when relevant, the Department of Political Affairs (DPA), and contribute to the development of guidance for senior management, human rights, military and police components of peace operations.

In the context of the UN-African Union ten-year capacity-building programme, OHCHR will seek to integrate human rights in the emerging African Union peacekeeping doctrine. Training efforts will focus on enhancing the human rights awareness and capacity of Special Representatives of the Secretary-General and other senior staff and on supporting the integration of human rights in international, regional and national training programmes for military and police personnel to be deployed to peace operations. Concerning **humanitarian action**, OHCHR will seek to support the Office engagement with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) through the development of human rights modules for the learning and briefing system for Humanitarian Coordinators, and of guidance for humanitarian actors on engaging with national authorities on human rights issues.

OHCHR will focus on the implementation of the human rights dimensions of the **Secretary-General's Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy**, and explore the impact of counter-terrorism measures on economic, social and cultural rights with the aim of filling a gap already identified during the implementation of the 2007 programme on this issue.

ADVISORY SERVICES AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION

OHCHR's activities at the country level are aimed at preventing and reducing human rights violations, mainly through strengthening national protection systems. Field presences and country-focused activities are a critical means of promoting implementation of international human rights standards. The Office advocates for and assists in bringing national legislation and practice into line with States' human rights obligations under international human rights law.

OHCHR facilitates and supports the work, at the country and regional level, of UN human rights mechanisms and provides technical support to national counterparts. It works closely with relevant national authorities, NGOs and human rights defenders, as well as with UN partners. The Office follows human rights developments at the country level and, where it has the capacity to do so, reports publicly on these.

OHCHR's technical cooperation work is conducted upon request of governments and based on comprehensive human rights needs assessments. The development and provision of appropriate technical cooperation is

intrinsically linked to protection. Technical cooperation projects are implemented, as a rule, where OHCHR has a presence.

Current situation and challenges

During 2006 and 2007, OHCHR focused on developing Headquarters' capacity to support greater and more effective country engagement. The Office developed standard field presence profiles and issued standard operating procedures; strengthened some field offices with additional human and/or financial resources; and promoted the use of standard mandates.

OHCHR also focused on deepening its partnerships with other operational UN entities. In particular, it enhanced support to human rights components of peace missions. It also worked on furthering cooperation with UN Country Teams, including through the adoption of standard policies on the function of human rights advisers.

OHCHR's field presences, which at the beginning of 2006 numbered 34, had, by the end of 2007, reached a total of 47, and are expected to increase to 59 during the next biennium. While the number of country offices and



OHCHR-organized seminar on the role of national human rights institutions in conflict prevention, Belfast, December 2006.
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human rights components of peace missions is expected to remain stable in 2008-2009, there will be additional regional offices and human rights advisers. While the establishment of new regional offices has proven to be slower than expected, such offices are expected to be up and running in the course of 2008. Eleven human rights advisers were deployed to UN Country Teams in 2007 alone – funded either directly by the Office or by the “Action 2” programme – compared to only two in 2006, which had been funded solely by OHCHR.

In order to respond to the growing number of requests by governments and by the Human Rights Council for a rapid response to critical human rights situations, a Peace Missions Support and Rapid Response Unit was created in 2006 within Headquarters (see Section on cross-cutting support). Since its creation, the Unit has provided support for the establishment and activities of four commissions of inquiry or fact-finding missions either requested by a government, or mandated by the Human Rights Council, and participated in several

United Nations technical assessment missions. Another major role of the Unit is to work closely with UN operational partners, including DPKO, DPA, OCHA and UNHCR, to ensure that there are adequately resourced human rights components in UN peace missions.

Developing national human rights protection systems is also an essential component of OHCHR's country engagement and partnerships. In this context, in 2006-2007, OHCHR continued to support a large number of national human rights institutions (NHRIs). In particular, the Office played a significant role in promoting their compliance with the Paris Principles and fostering greater interaction between NHRIs and the international human rights system. This resulted in increased submissions of information from NHRIs to treaty bodies and more exchanges with special procedures mandate-holders, and in increased participation of NHRIs at the Human Rights Council.

SUPPORTING NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS

National human rights institutions in full compliance with the Principles Relating to the Status and Functioning of National Institutions for Protection and Promotion of Human Rights (“Paris Principles”) are the cornerstones of strong national human rights protection systems, as they can be one of the best mechanisms at country level to ensure the application of international human rights norms. NHRIs can address critical human rights gaps, ensure the rule of law, fight impunity, and complement the actions of international human rights mechanisms. Because they operate at the domestic level, they can ensure follow-up to the recommendations of international mechanisms and hold the authorities accountable with respect to their human rights obligations. By increasing national ownership, they can improve the chances for success and sustainability of UN Country Team efforts in the area of good governance, rule of law and human rights. They can also facilitate interaction among all the elements of the national protection system, such as the judiciary, Parliament, and civil society organizations.

An essential element of OHCHR's country engagement strategy is the support given to establishing and strengthening NHRIs worldwide, including through technical cooperation projects. The Office reviews draft laws concerning NHRIs and advises on matters relating to compliance with the Paris Principles; provides guidance notes, methodological tools, best practices and lessons learned on NHRI-related issues; and supports effective interaction between NHRIs and the judiciary, Parliament, and NGOs.

OHCHR also supports the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC). The Sub-committee on Accreditation of the ICC, which meets twice a year to review compliance of NHRIs with the Paris Principles, also assesses the effectiveness and independence of NHRIs' actions and makes time-bound recommendations to strengthen their independence and effectiveness.

The Office facilitates interaction between NHRIs and the international human rights system, including the Human Rights Council and its new mechanism, the Universal Periodic Review, the special procedures mandate-holders and UN human rights treaty bodies.

OHCHR cooperates closely with UN Country Teams in:

- developing a national consensus, involving all key stakeholders, in order to “seed” the idea of NHRIs, gather national support, and adhere to the Paris Principles, making use of best practices and lessons learned of existing NHRIs;
- establishing a national process, encouraging and supporting national ownership for creating a NHRI, encouraging the creation of one or more working groups with a pluralistic composition to examine and recommend the features of a new NHRI;
- developing a statutory base and enabling legislation, ensuring that Parliament and other officials are aware of the statutory powers that a NHRI requires to undertake effective programming; ensuring that Parliament and other officials are aware that the enabling legislation should establish the separate, legal identity of the NHRI; defining the scope of its responsibilities and the legal authority that the NHRI can exercise in the implementation of its responsibilities; where appropriate, establishing the complaint process and the remedies available; defining the membership, membership criteria, selection and dismissal process, term duration and privileges and immunities of members; granting the right to employ staff; and describing reporting procedures, preferably to Parliament; and
- designing an organizational structure of each NHRI that allows for the effective delivery of programmes.

Programme

In 2008 and 2009, OHCHR will continue to build closer partnerships with national and international counterparts, further strengthen its field presences, and enhance work from Headquarters on countries where there is no OHCHR presence and where there are major human rights challenges.

Through OHCHR's programmes and activities, it is expected that duty-bearers will be better informed on human rights standards and on how to translate them into national laws, regulations and policies, while rights-holders will be further empowered to claim their rights. This will be achieved through cooperation with governmental and non-governmental partners, including through capacity-building activities. In this context, assistance for greater participation in public policy decision-making and monitoring processes by groups that are marginalized or discriminated against will be emphasized.

In particular, OHCHR will support – and in some cases lead – efforts to establish or consolidate justice and accountability mechanisms at the national level, in accordance with international human rights standards, to monitor, investigate and redress violations of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights. *Amicus curiae* briefs on human rights-related cases will also be used.

Public reports and statements will be issued to highlight critical country situations and human rights issues and make recommendations to address them at the national and regional levels.

The Office will also improve its capacity for responding in a timely and systematic manner to human rights crises by establishing additional standard operating procedures for rapid response activities. It will also complete the procurement of an equipment reserve for emergency needs. An important objective will be to strengthen partnerships with relevant emergency actors. The Office will also establish and manage internal and external rosters of experts, including one for senior level staff, for rapid response activities. In addition, it will develop further expertise in the area of investigation, fact-finding and human rights needs assessment.

OHCHR will continue to provide support to DPKO and DPA-led UN technical assessment missions in order to ensure that human rights strategies are reflected in the mandates of peace missions and are fully integrated into their plans. Greater integration of human rights in humanitarian programmes will also be pursued, *inter alia* through participation in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee.

The Office will work more closely with the UN Policy Committee, the Executive Committee on Peace and

Security, and the Executive Committee on Humanitarian Affairs. Attention will be devoted to further strengthening cooperation with DPKO, DPA and other departments in New York to ensure the implementation of Policy Committee decisions relevant to human rights and OHCHR activities.

Furthermore, the Office will continue to strengthen partnerships with UN Country Teams to enhance UN advocacy on human rights issues at the country level and ensure a coherent response from the UN system to human rights challenges. The human rights capacity of UN Country Teams will be further expanded and strengthened, including through the "Action 2" programme and support to the "One UN" pilot countries. This will include providing substantive advice to UN Country Teams, backstopping and deploying human rights advisers, and contributing to the work of relevant inter-agency mechanisms in Geneva and New York.

The Office will also develop joint initiatives and strategic partnerships with regional organizations.

Since NHRIs are key national protection counterparts, the Office will continue to support their work. OHCHR will support individual NHRIs, regional networks and the International Coordinating Committee as well as governments that are considering establishing or strengthening national institutions in accordance with the Paris Principles. The Office will continue focusing on promoting greater compliance of NHRIs with the Paris Principles, on consolidating the role of the ICC and its Sub-committee on Accreditation, enhancing dialogue between NHRIs and UN human rights mechanisms, and building their capacity to address human rights issues.

OHCHR will pursue closer cooperation with civil society organizations at the national, regional and international levels. It will conduct regular briefings, involve human rights NGOs in seminars, workshops as well as substantive activities, implement awareness-raising and capacity-building programmes for targeted groups, and provide information on OHCHR country-specific work for the implementation of human rights activities.

Supporting the Universal Periodic Review mechanism will represent a major undertaking in the coming period. OHCHR will also continue supporting the work of special procedures and treaty bodies. In this context, it will promote the ratification of human rights treaties and the review of reservations.

FIELD ACTIVITIES

Country and regional level field presences, either as OHCHR offices or as joint endeavours with other UN entities, are crucial for achieving OHCHR's overall objective of helping to bridge the gaps in human rights implementation.

All field presences base their activities on the full spectrum of the High Commissioner's mandate, as defined by General Assembly Resolution 48/141, and on a strategy, particular to each country, developed through an assessment of the situation and consultations with national authorities and other relevant stakeholders. OHCHR's field presences differ in size, reporting lines and funding.

Regional presences

OHCHR regional offices address the regional dimensions of human rights issues, including specific thematic issues; engage national actors in countries within the region following an assessment of needs and in accordance with OHCHR's regional strategies; and provide support to UN Country Teams in the region. Where relevant, they also work closely with and support regional organizations.

By early 2008, OHCHR will have regional offices in Addis Ababa (East Africa), Bangkok (Southeast Asia), Beirut (Middle East), Bishkek (Central Asia), Dakar (West Africa), Panama (Latin America, with a small liaison office in Santiago, Chile, where the former South America Regional Office was located), Pretoria (Southern Africa), and Suva (Pacific), and plans to open additional offices covering South-West Asia and North Africa during this biennium.

In addition, OHCHR will increase support to the United Nations subregional centre for human rights and democracy in Central Africa, established in 2001 pursuant to General Assembly Resolution A/Res/54/55 (1999). The Office is also holding discussions with the Government of Qatar with the aim of opening the United Nations Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region during 2008, in accordance with General Assembly Resolution A/Res/60/153 (2005).

Regional offices vary in size, with a minimum of three professional officers. Their activities, analyses, conclusions and recommendations are integrated in the High Commissioner's annual report to the Human Rights Council. Details on the individual regional offices can be found in the relevant sections of this Strategic Management Plan.

Country offices

OHCHR has country offices in Angola, Bolivia, Cambodia, Colombia, Guatemala, Mexico, Nepal, Togo, and Uganda, as well as stand-alone offices in the occupied Palestinian territories and Kosovo (Serbia).

The usual legal basis for the establishment of country and stand-alone offices is a standard agreement with the respective government, based on the High Commissioner's mandate. OHCHR's country and stand-alone offices support national efforts aimed at strengthening respect for human rights. To this end, they analyse and report publicly on the human rights situation in the country, and recommend the formulation and implementation of necessary measures to enhance the protection of human rights. They promote the implementation of the recommendations made by the international human rights mechanisms, and provide support, through technical cooperation and advice, to the authorities and other national stakeholders for developing effective national human rights protection systems.

Country offices vary in size, depending on the phase of deployment and the nature of the work undertaken. With the exception of the office in Cambodia, their funding comes from voluntary contributions. They report annually to the High Commissioner, and their reports are generally presented to the Human Rights Council either independently or as an addendum to the High Commissioner's report.

Human rights components of UN peace missions

Based upon the Security Council's acknowledgement that the realization of human rights is essential for building and keeping peace, OHCHR works in close collaboration with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO), the Department of Political Affairs (DPA), and other actors to ensure that human rights components of UN peace missions are adequately guided and supported. These human rights components aim to prevent and redress human rights violations by monitoring the human rights situation, issuing public reports, and assisting in building national capacities to address human rights issues.

Human rights components are financed and supported operationally and administratively by the UN department in charge of the mission, but also receive guidance and support from OHCHR. This may take the form of substantive advice, funding for technical cooperation activities, or the deployment of human rights officers with specific expertise. The heads of human rights components of peace missions are selected by OHCHR, and they report to both the Special Representative of the Secretary-General heading the mission and to the High Commissioner.

Human rights components of UN peace missions are deployed, or about to be deployed, in Afghanistan, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ethiopia/Eritrea, Georgia/Abkhazia, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Iraq, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan and Timor-Leste.

Human rights advisers

Human rights advisers are deployed through an agreement between the Office of the High Commissioner and the Resident Coordinator in order to respond to a specific need for human rights expertise in the country. Human rights advisers have the primary responsibility of ensuring that human rights are integrated into the activities of the UN agencies present in the country in which they are deployed.

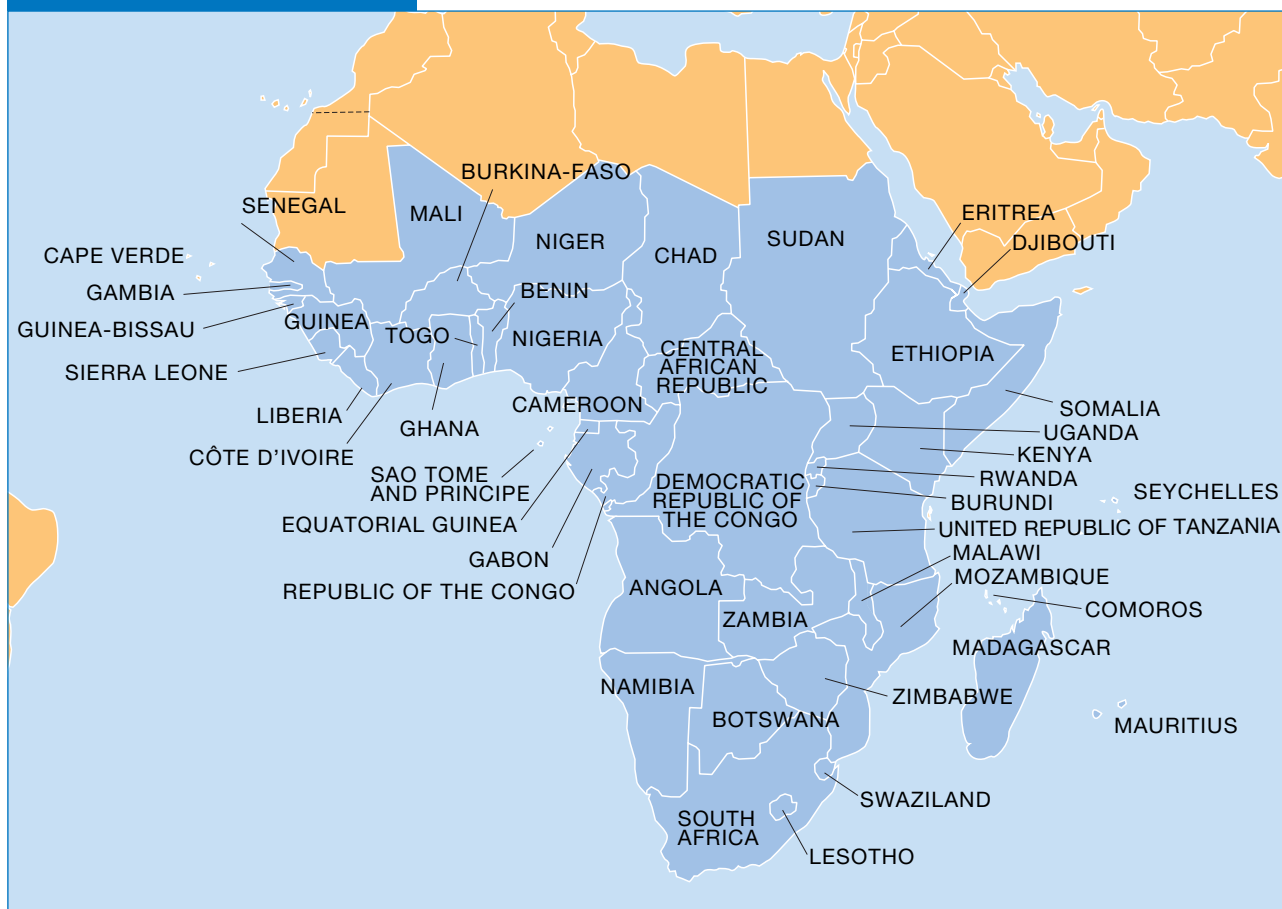
Human rights advisers are staff in the Resident Coordinator's office and report to the Resident Coordinator, but also receive guidance and support from OHCHR. Funding for their deployment comes from multiple sources, including the "Action 2" programme. As with all other field presences, human rights advisers are deployed on long-term assignments and their activities are defined on the basis of a country strategy.

At the end of 2007, human rights advisers were deployed to Ecuador, Guyana, Indonesia, Kyrgyzstan, the Maldives, Nicaragua, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Somalia, the Southern Caucasus, Sri Lanka, and The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. During the 2008-2009 biennium, human rights advisers will be deployed to the Great Lakes Region of Africa, Guinea, Moldova, Niger, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, and Viet Nam.



High Commissioner Louise Arbour and First Vice President and Minister of Foreign Relations Samuel Lewis Navarro, signing the agreement to set up the new regional office in Panama. © UN/OHCHR

OHCHR IN AFRICA



Regional human rights context

Many of the most grave and complex human rights challenges facing the world today are found in Africa. Poverty, discrimination and exclusion are reinforced in many countries by poor governance, corruption and ethnic divisions. Impunity is pervasive, and violence and discrimination against women, especially in conflict and post-conflict settings, persist. While violent conflict continued into late 2007 in several countries in Africa, notably Somalia, Sudan, and eastern Democratic Republic of the Congo, several African States continued to evolve from post-conflict status towards stability and development.

The extremely varied security and political environments across the continent were reflected in differing levels of national capacity and commitment to promote and protect human rights. Many of the regional and subregional human rights mechanisms and institutions, such as the African Union (AU), the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) and others are in need of institutional support and technical assistance to increase their capacity to promote and protect human rights.

In addition to the large number of potential national and regional partners, rapidly changing political and security environments presented a further challenge to OHCHR in balancing the need to respond quickly to urgent human rights problems while not diverting resources from long-standing, but sometimes less visible, issues with equally or more dramatic impact on rights-holders.

Strategy

During the 2008-2009 biennium, OHCHR will engage with national and regional actors to bolster efforts to build the peace in post-conflict States by promoting the rule of law and respect for human rights. Critical to establishing lasting peace will be helping countries to ensure accountability for past crimes, combating impunity, confronting discrimination and violence against women and vulnerable groups, and addressing poverty and social and economic rights by promoting a human rights-based approach in development and humanitarian programming.

OHCHR's overall programme in Africa will focus on assisting local, national and regional institutions to understand and respond to human rights concerns.

The programme seeks to increase the integration of human rights standards and principles into national legislation and policies, including through interaction with the treaty bodies, ensuring the implementation of voluntary pledges by new Human Rights Council members, and building on visits and recommendations from special procedures mandate-holders.

OHCHR's programme in Africa includes helping to build the capacity of the African Union, the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR) and other relevant subregional organizations to promote and protect human rights. At the national level, OHCHR will continue to strengthen relevant national institutions and to collaborate with UN Country Teams to promote a human rights-based approach to development in their programming. Regional Offices will continue to serve as the entry point in countries where OHCHR has no presence.

During the 2008-2009 biennium, OHCHR will support 22 field presences in sub-Saharan Africa. These include regional offices or centres in Addis Ababa (East Africa), Pretoria (Southern Africa), Yaoundé (Central Africa), and Dakar (West Africa); country offices in Angola, Togo and Uganda; human rights components in 12 UN Peace Missions in Burundi, the Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia/Eritrea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Sudan as well as the AU-UN hybrid mission in Darfur; and human rights advisers to the UN Country Teams in Rwanda, Niger, and Guinea. In addition, a regional human rights adviser for the Great Lakes Region, based in Bujumbura, will be deployed in 2008.

The Office will also continue to support the work of the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights

in Burundi, the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in DRC, the Independent Expert on technical cooperation and advisory services in Liberia, the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Somalia, and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Sudan.

Field presence

Field deployment during the biennium is projected as follows:

TYPE OF OFFICE	LOCATION
Regional Offices	East Africa (Addis Ababa) Southern Africa (Pretoria) Central Africa (Yaoundé) West Africa (Dakar)
Country Offices	Angola Togo Uganda
Human Rights Components of UN Peace Missions	Burundi CAR Chad* Côte d'Ivoire DRC Ethiopia/Eritrea Guinea-Bissau Liberia Sierra Leone Somalia Sudan
Human Rights Advisers to Country Teams	Great Lakes Region* Guinea* Niger* Rwanda

* To be opened in 2008



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REGIONAL OFFICES

East Africa Regional Office

Established	2002
No. of staff	9
Financial requirements	USD 1,939,106

Human rights context

The East Africa Regional Office covers countries in the East and Horn of Africa, and focuses primarily on Ethiopia, Eritrea, Djibouti, Kenya and Tanzania since there is no OHCHR presence in those countries.

In partnership with UN Country Teams in the region, the Office facilitates information-sharing, capacity-building initiatives and actions to promote, monitor and uphold human rights in the region. The Office emphasizes mainstreaming human rights in the work of regional and subregional intergovernmental organizations based in Addis Ababa, such as the African Union and the UN Economic Commission for Africa, and in UN Country Teams and UN offices in the region.

The regional dynamics, the worsening human rights situation in Somalia, and the chronic border deadlock between Ethiopia and Eritrea result in an array of inter-related human rights problems in the region, such as arbitrary detention, torture, extrajudicial killings, disappearances, trafficking, internal displacement, and migrant flows.

Achievements

OHCHR participated in drafting and reviewing Chapter 6 of the African Governance Report published by the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa on the state of human rights in Africa. UN Country Teams further integrated human rights into their programmes. In early 2006, the Government of Ethiopia and the UN Country Team signed The UN Development Assistance Framework II (UNDAF-II), which gives a prominent place to human rights reforms and programmes. OHCHR also facilitated national and regional training sessions on the human rights-based approach for UN staff from Ethiopia (20 trainees), Rwanda (20 trainees), Kenya (25 trainees) and Tunisia (25 trainees) and partners in East Africa and beyond. The Office offered advice on strategic planning and technical assistance to the African Union and responded to queries from AU Member States, civil society organizations and other partners. OHCHR also held an expert seminar on the new role of the African Commission as new African treaty bodies emerge, and on the creation of a specialized library for human rights, governance and democracy within the Secretariat of the African Union. Many of these activities were jointly implemented with NGOs, international organizations and governments.

Priorities

In addition to focusing on impunity, OHCHR in East Africa will prioritize issues relating to poverty and global inequities, armed conflict and violence, democratic deficits and weak institutions in the countries of the subregion.

The Office will also be involved in providing technical assistance and capacity-building activities to key stakeholders in Ethiopia, such as Parliamentarians, the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission (EHRC) and civil society.

The Office will also facilitate the mainstreaming of human rights into the programmes of the UN Country Teams in the region. OHCHR leads the development and implementation of the United Nations-African Union ten-year capacity-building programme on human rights. This project is a continuation of OHCHR's previous biennial project (2006-2007) of comprehensive support to the African Union.

EAST AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE BUDGET 2008 – 2009

	Requirements (USD)
Personnel and related costs	1,119,268.00
Official travel	92,250.00
Contractual Services	65,600.00
General operating expenses	223,655.00
Seminars, grants & contributions	215,250.00
Subtotal	1,716,023.00
Programme support costs	223,083.00
GRAND TOTAL	1,939,106.00

Southern Africa Regional Office

Established	1998
No. of staff	5
Financial requirements	USD 1,322,349

Human rights context

The Regional Office for Southern Africa was the first regional presence established by OHCHR. It was set up in 1998 in response to demand for human rights advice, guidance and assistance from the UN Country Teams in Southern Africa at a time when countries in the region were undergoing a transition to democracy. Now, almost ten years later, the need for human rights advice, guidance and assistance has not diminished.

The Regional Office covers Botswana, Comoros, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mozambique, Namibia, Seychelles, South Africa, Swaziland, Zambia, and Zimbabwe.

The Regional Office works in partnership with governments, national institutions, civil society, the UN system, and the growing number of subregional organizations, such as the Southern African Development Community (SADC), the SADC Parliamentary Forum, the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (SARPCCO), the Association of Law Reform Agencies of Eastern and Southern Africa (ALRAESA), and the Central, Eastern and Southern African Heads of Correctional Services Association. By working jointly with these and other organizations, the Office contributes to strengthening African regional institutions and local partners and facilitates the exchange of regional experience in solving local problems.

Achievements

The Office has worked to raise the profile of human rights in the region, and has achieved considerable success in integrating a human rights perspective into the work of the UN Country Teams. It was instrumental in creating a Gender and Human Rights cluster as part of the Regional Director's Team. It has also assisted in establishing national human rights institutions and worked with other partners to initiate or stimulate consultative processes with the aim of establishing or rejuvenating national human rights institutions, notably in Zimbabwe, Malawi and Madagascar. The Office sought to ensure that domestic legislation incorporated international human rights instruments through consultations with regional mechanisms, such as the SADC tribunal.

During the 2006-2007 biennium, the Office engaged with UN Country Teams and focused on two of the leading problems in the region, namely the spread and treatment of HIV and AIDS and the continuing discriminatory attitudes and practices and violence against women. The Office helped plan and launch the 365 Days Campaign against Gender Violence, which stoked momentum for the adoption of legislation in South Africa, Zimbabwe and Mauritius on gender discrimination and violence.

Priorities

In 2008-2009, the Regional Office will become more involved in UNDP's governance programmes in Southern Africa, which include elements that are core concerns for OHCHR, such as establishing and strengthening human rights commissions and providing human rights training for government officials, police, prison officers, judges, lawyers and NGOs.

OHCHR will continue to expand its network of partnerships and strengthen awareness of its role as a regional resource for human rights information, advice, training and assistance accessible to a broad range of partners and institutions. Given the worsening situation in Zimbabwe, which has prompted an exodus, particularly into South Africa, the Office will work with the

UN Country Team, civil society, and relevant government authorities in Zimbabwe to help protect human rights and strengthen rule-of-law institutions.

SOUTHERN AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE BUDGET 2008 – 2009

	Requirements (USD)
Personnel and related costs	876,127.00
Official travel	87,228.00
Contractual Services	2,050.00
General operating expenses	126,690.00
Seminars, grants & contributions	78,126.00
Subtotal	1,170,220.00
Programme support costs	152,129.00
GRAND TOTAL	1,322,349.00

West Africa Regional Office

Established	2008
No. of staff	3
Financial requirements	USD 1,712,092

Human rights context

West Africa is currently the most volatile subregion of the continent, with most States immersed in various degrees of political, economic and humanitarian crises. The subregion is host to some 25,000 troops as a result of the presence of UN peacekeeping and peace-building missions in Côte d'Ivoire, Liberia and Sierra Leone. Violations and abuses of human rights are the root causes of the various crises in the subregion. Such crises, especially armed conflict, when they flare up in one country have repercussions in others because of cross-border ethnic relations, a high level of migration in the region and the inter-related economies. Conflicts have also created added pressures due to the large flows of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) they have generated. There are also problems associated with cross-border involvement in conflicts and the presence of mercenaries from within and outside the region participating in conflicts. These diverse experiences underline the need for a long-term strategy aimed at addressing root causes of conflict while dealing in the short and medium term with its consequences. Arms, combatants, child soldiers, as well as HIV and AIDS and other epidemics, continue to spread across the region. Communities hosting refugees and returning migrants are over-burdened and government social services in many countries are on the verge of collapse.

The mandate of the West Africa Regional Office, expected to be operational in early 2008, is to help develop engagement strategies for countries of the region; cooperate with subregional intergovernmental and

non-governmental organizations; and function as resource centre for country offices, human rights advisers and human rights components of peace operations deployed in the region. In this regard, OHCHR will in particular continue to work with the human rights component of the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA).

The Regional Office will cover Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo. Its work will be complementary to that of existing OHCHR presences in the region, namely the country office in Togo and the human rights components of peace missions in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia and Sierra Leone.

OHCHR will address issues relating to impunity and the rule of law, migration, trafficking in persons, economic, social and cultural rights, and integrating a rights-based approach into the policies and programmes of the UN Country Teams and other partners, including regional organizations.

Priorities

In its initial phase, the Office will focus on increasing the capacity of the human rights components of peace missions and establishing cooperative relations with countries where OHCHR has no presence, including Benin, Burkina Faso and Cape Verde. As part of its development phase, the Office will identify relevant thematic priorities in consultation with Member States, national human rights institutions, NGOs and UN Country Teams in the region.

The Office will advocate for the development of strong national protection mechanisms, including national human rights institutions and civil society networks, and will assist States in this endeavour.

OHCHR will initiate discussions on key thematic issues, such as impunity, migration and trafficking in persons, and will encourage regional-level focus on issues of common concern by releasing reports and statements.

The Office will build partnerships to develop activities and programmes to address regional human rights challenges with other UN agencies, UN Country Teams, national institutions and regional organizations. The Office will also serve as a platform for sharing regional experience and best practices, particularly in the areas of impunity, poverty and discrimination.

OHCHR will advocate for treaty ratification, reporting and follow-up. It will also promote greater engagement with the special procedures through referral of individual complaints and support for mandate-holder visits. It will help develop appropriate mechanisms for treaty reporting and follow-up to recommendations by both special procedures and treaty bodies.

WEST AFRICA REGIONAL OFFICE BUDGET 2008 – 2009

	Regular Budget Requirements (USD)	Extrabudgetary Requirements (USD)
Personnel and related costs	1,066,600.00	
Consultants		
Official travel	16,000.00	39,975.00
Contractual Services		
General operating expenses	112,000.00	
Furniture & Equipment	149,200.00	
Seminars, grants & contributions	137,800.00	164,000.00
Programme Support Costs		26,517.00
GRAND TOTAL	1,481,600.00	230,492.00

Central Africa Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy

Established	2001
No. of staff	10
Financial requirements	USD 2,354,258

Human rights context

The UN Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa was established in 2001 pursuant to General Assembly Resolution 54/55 A of 1 December 1999, at the request of Member States of the Economic Community of Central African States to strengthen security, stability and development in Central Africa by promoting respect for human rights and democracy. The Centre covers Angola, Burundi, the Central African Republic, Cameroon, Chad, the Republic of the Congo, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Rwanda and Sao Tome and Principe. Covering the four countries where OHCHR does not have a presence (the Republic of the Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, and Sao Tome and Principe) has proved to be one of the Centre's greatest challenges.

The Centre's priorities include strengthening the rule of law and democracy, increasing awareness on human rights issues through human rights training and education programmes, disseminating human rights materials, building the capacity of governments, parliamentarians, the police and civil society organizations, supporting the establishment of national human rights institutions, and advocating for a human rights-based approach to UN programming in the subregion.

Most countries in Central Africa have ratified the key human rights treaties and made public pledges to implement them domestically, although much remains to be done in terms of transforming international obligations into domestic law. While human rights and democracy challenges persist, some countries enjoy a relatively high degree of political freedom and fundamental liberties and governments broadly tolerate activities aimed at sensitizing the population about their rights. However,

such liberties are restricted in several countries. Internal and external conflicts have been used as a pretext to restrict human rights. Many minorities face discrimination in accessing social, economic and cultural rights, particularly in terms of education, health and housing. Exploitation of resources is a major issue, especially as communities are being displaced. Torture, child trafficking, slavery and sexual exploitation continue to be reported from some parts of the subregion.

Most countries of the subregion have established national human rights institutions based on the Paris Principles, while others have created institutions within government departments or ministries to improve human rights promotion and protection. Some of these institutions have addressed specific human rights cases and trends and have been instrumental in the promotion of human rights, but generally appear to shy away from dealing with sensitive or high profile cases. Elections have been taking place periodically in most countries and the democratic space generally seems to be expanding, but more progress needs to take place. Some parts of the subregion have a vibrant civil society, which has helped open up the political space and encouraged a constructive human rights dialogue. Nonetheless, in some countries, journalists and human rights defenders have been restricted in their work, and there have been arrests of leading human rights figures.

Achievements

Throughout 2007 in particular, the work undertaken in the field of democracy and human rights, mainly on the fight against impunity, prevention of torture, discrimination, human rights training programmes on gender issues and transitional justice, raised the Centre's profile throughout Central Africa, enabling it to expand its network of partners. The adoption of the High Commissioner's Strategic Management Plan for 2006-2007 led to the development of a three-year strategy for the Centre (2007-2009) aimed at strengthening collaboration with the UN Country Teams and ECCAS Member States, and building fruitful partnerships with national human rights institutions, civil society organizations, the media and the diplomatic community to promote and protect human rights and democracy in Central Africa.

Priorities

During 2008-2009, the Centre will engage more actively in Chad in addition to Cameroon, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon and the Republic of the Congo. Chad will be included in all regional capacity-building initiatives related specifically to conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peace and security.

In the Central African Republic, the Centre will provide support to the human rights component of the United Nations Peace-building Office (BONUCA) in information-gathering initiatives and public reporting, and will facilitate contacts with international organizations based in Central Africa, mainly in Cameroon.

The Centre will continue its activities in Cameroon, aimed at strengthening the capacity of parliamentarians to develop broad participation of the population in democratic processes. The Centre will also address the issues of impunity, discrimination, torture and administration of justice. As part of its efforts to help alleviate poverty, the Centre will foster cooperation with the UN Country Team to address gender-based violence and promote women's rights and the right to education, particularly for young girls in northern Cameroon.

The Centre will pursue its efforts in Gabon toward strengthening the capacity and knowledge of Government officials and the growing number of civil society organizations to monitor and respond to human rights violations. The Centre will deliver human rights training programmes for the police, judiciary, security forces and prison officials to strengthen their knowledge in applying human rights standards, particularly the provisions of the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment. The Centre will also develop sensitization programmes, in collaboration with the Ministry of Communication, to increase awareness about human rights issues and knowledge of international and regional human rights mechanisms.

The Centre will also conduct an assessment mission to Equatorial Guinea to collect data on the human rights situation and explore ways of addressing the more pressing human rights abuses, with particular focus on migrants' rights, gender-based violence, women's education, prevention of torture, and detention conditions.

As a follow-up to the mission conducted in the Republic of the Congo in October 2007, the Centre will continue to support the establishment of a national human rights commission in compliance with the Paris Principles, and intensify its efforts to integrate a rights-based approach in UN Country Team programmes.

SUBREGIONAL CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS AND DEMOCRACY BUDGET 2008 – 2009

	Regular Budget Requirements (USD)	Extrabudgetary Requirements (USD)
Personnel and related costs	1,244,600.00	61,272.00
Consultants	–	44,280.00
Official travel	26,000.00	179,170.00
Contractual Services	–	77,900.00
General Operating Expenses	147,000.00	136,456.00
Furniture & Equipment	–	–
Seminars, grants & contributions	148,000.00	198,850.00
Subtotal	1,565,600.00	697,928.00
Programme support costs	–	90,731.00
GRAND TOTAL	1,565,600.00	788,658.00



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COUNTRY OFFICES

Angola

Established	2003
No. of staff	17
Financial requirements	USD 7,225,595

Human rights context

After more than 37 years of war, Angola has enjoyed peace since the ceasefire accords were signed in April 2002. The absence of armed conflict for the first time in the lives of most Angolans is, in itself, the most important indication of progress in human rights. Still, access to justice is limited, the judiciary is weak, and there are serious limits to press freedom and to civil society activities. Even with the country's massive mineral wealth and economic growth, the most serious human rights challenge is abject poverty, with 68 per cent of the population living below the poverty line. Access to health, education, land, food and adequate housing, water and sanitation need to be improved, particularly for women. Maternal and child mortality rates are among the highest in the world.

Parliamentary and presidential elections are scheduled for 2008 and 2009, respectively.

At the same time, and as pledged by Angola for the election to the Human Rights Council, interaction with the UN human rights mechanisms has been growing. In 2007, Angola invited the Working Group on Arbitrary

Detention and the Special Rapporteurs on freedom of expression and on freedom of religion and belief. The Special Rapporteur on the right to education has been invited to visit Angola in 2008. Angola was also due to submit a Common Core Document, for which it is a pilot country, and a treaty-specific report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in 2007.

OHCHR's office in Angola works under the mandate of the UN Resident Coordinator. The office has initiated discussions with the Government on signing OHCHR's standard memorandum of understanding for country offices.

Achievements

Besides encouraging and supporting Angola's interaction with UN human rights mechanisms, OHCHR has played a critical role in establishing a national human rights institution (Ombudsman) and the Human Rights Coordination Council, an umbrella civil society organization.

An active partnership with the Ministry of Justice has resulted in the recognition of alternative mechanisms of justice such as mediation and conciliation. OHCHR has trained mediators and promoted necessary law reforms and the establishment of legal clinics. Through the ongoing justice reform process, traditional justice has been incorporated into the justice system.

There is greater awareness about human rights issues both in and outside the capital, Luanda, thanks to a training programme on human rights that OHCHR implemented in cooperation with the Office of the Attorney General and the National Police.

Priorities

OHCHR's strategy for the 2008-2009 biennium aims to strengthen the capacity of the Government and civil society to promote and to protect human rights. Given its limited capacity and the many operational challenges in working in the country, the Office has decided to focus on the provinces of Cabinda, Huambo and Lunda Norte.

OHCHR will continue to work to build the capacity of government institutions, such as the judiciary and the police, and that of the Ombudsman and civil society to promote and to protect human rights. OHCHR will support efforts to adopt a national human rights plan of action.

OHCHR Angola will raise awareness among the Government and civil society about the need to improve social policies and legal frameworks and to respect economic, social and cultural rights, particularly the rights to housing, food and health.

The political transition from a one-party State to democracy and rule of law is guaranteed by the country's constitution, but has yet to be put into practice. The elections expected to take place in 2008 and in 2009 will be the first since 1992. OHCHR will advocate for respect for civil and political rights, particularly in the context of the electoral process.

The Office will also support improved access to justice, particularly for women and people living in poor and remote areas, by encouraging the use of alternative mechanisms for conflict resolution and ensuring that traditional authorities adhere to international standards.

OHCHR Angola will continue to support the country's interaction with UN human rights mechanisms through ratification of core international instruments, reporting to treaty bodies, cooperation with special procedures of the Human Rights Council, and preparing for the Universal Periodic Review (Angola is due for review in early 2010).

OHCHR will continue to help incorporate a human rights-based approach in the UNDAF and UN agencies' programming.

ANGOLA BUDGET 2008 – 2009	
	Requirements (USD)
Personnel and related costs	2,323,851.00
Consultants	809,750.00
Official travel	328,000.00
Contractual Services	61,500.00
General operating expenses	566,005.00
Seminars, grants & contributions	2,305,225.00
Subtotal	6,394,331.00
Programme support costs	831,263.00
GRAND TOTAL	7,225,595.00

Togo

Established	2006
No. of staff	6
Financial requirements	USD 2,190,948

Human rights context

The OHCHR Country Office in Togo was established in November 2006 to help build national capacities to protect human rights. It assists the Government in designing policies to implement the 22 commitments on democracy and human rights undertaken with the European Union in April 2004 and the recommendations of the UN mission of inquiry issued in 2005. As it moves into the second year of its operation, the Office will focus on the administration of justice and rule of law, human rights education, and the integration of human rights into the activities of the UN Country Team.

The political parties and the Government of Togo signed a Global and Political Agreement, brokered by President Blaise Compaoré of Burkina-Faso, on 20 August 2006, and established a follow-up committee. The Agreement proposes the creation of two commissions that will be responsible for establishing the truth on past post-electoral crimes and human rights violations, and for promoting reconciliation. The Country Office will provide technical, neutral support for the process.

The UN Special Rapporteur on torture visited Togo in April 2007 at the invitation of the Government, illustrating the Government's willingness to open itself up to independent and objective scrutiny of its human rights situation. The Special Rapporteur commended the Government for the progressive implementation of the undertakings with the European Union, of the UN mission's recommendations, and the Global Political Accord. At the same time, he recommended that the Government take further measures against impunity by establishing an effective and independent mechanism to investigate incidents of torture; continue its efforts to improve detention conditions; support the National Human Rights Commission in its efforts to become an effective player in the fight against torture; establish effective mechanisms to enforce the prohibition of violence against women; ratify the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture; and establish effective national mechanisms to carry out unannounced visits to all places of detention.

Achievements

Since November 2006, the Office has organized and supported training for judges, the media, the military, police and civil society. The Office is viewed as an impartial arbiter and is respected for its courage in taking the lead on such sensitive issues as those related to impunity, which are now openly discussed. The Office has built constructive and dynamic relationships with all national actors. It monitored the human rights situation

throughout the country before, during and after the parliamentary elections that took place on 14 October 2007. Five temporary sub-offices opened in Aneho, Atakpame, Kara, Mango and Sokode monitored the human rights situation and conducted sensitization programmes in each area.

Priorities

The Office will support the establishment and functioning of justice and accountability mechanisms, in accordance with international human rights standards, to monitor, investigate and redress violations of civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights.

Building on experiences from Sierra Leone, Burundi, Liberia and elsewhere, the Office will advise and support the Government in establishing the two accountability mechanisms envisaged under the Global Political Agreement. The Office will also launch a human rights education campaign and a national campaign against impunity.

OHCHR will provide technical assistance and financial support to the National Human Rights Commission and NGOs. Joint monitoring, reporting and advocacy activities will be undertaken, including assistance to the Ministry of Human Rights in implementing the national human rights action plan adopted in May 2007 and working with the Ministry of Justice on the Modernization-of-Justice Programme. Human rights training for NGOs, the security forces, the judiciary, lawyers, prison officials and the media will help bridge knowledge and capacity gaps in national human rights monitoring, reporting and advocacy.

The Office will develop an advocacy strategy and provide technical advice to the Government to ensure that national legislation complies with international human rights standards. This support, especially in the field of women's rights and gender-based violence, prevention against torture and discrimination will result in legislative and policy changes in compliance with Togo's international treaty obligations.

OHCHR will advocate for the implementation of recommendations of the Committee against Torture (CAT), the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the report of the Special Rapporteur on torture. Support given to the Inter-ministerial Committee on Reporting will result in the development of a national framework and plan of action to implement the recommendations and to ratify standards related to migration, persons with disabilities, and the optional protocols to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The Office will also continue to provide its support to Special Rapporteurs who visit the country.

The Office will continue to work with the UN Country Team, particularly the UN Governance Working Group, to encourage joint activities on human rights themes, including activities commemorating the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and follow-up on concluding observations of the CAT and the CRC. Training sessions on international human rights mechanisms and standards and on rights-based approaches will be intensified to facilitate coordination with the humanitarian and development components of the UNDAF. The Office will also continue its ongoing joint action with UNHCR to protect returnees and will develop other joint activities with UNICEF on human trafficking and slavery-like practices. In addition, it will work with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC) and UNDP on conflict prevention and resolution.

OHCHR's visibility and presence outside the capital, Lomé, is of strategic importance in its next phase to help bring the human rights message closer to the people and facilitate closer monitoring of the human rights situation and public reporting. Thus the Office plans to open two field offices, in Sokode (centre) and Dapaong (north), in 2008.

TOGO COUNTRY OFFICE BUDGET 2008 – 2009	
	Requirements (USD)
Personnel and related costs	1,066,473.00
Consultants	87,228.00
Official travel	54,161.00
Contractual Services	71,750.00
General operating expenses	156,210.00
Seminars, grants & contributions	503,070.00
Subtotal	1,938,892.00
Programme support costs	252,056.00
GRAND TOTAL	2,190,948.00

Uganda

Established	2005
No. of staff	36
Financial requirements	USD 6,754,697

Human rights context

OHCHR's Uganda country office was established in July 2005, initially to protect and empower populations in the conflict-affected areas of northern Uganda. By September 2007, OHCHR had six field offices (Gulu, Pader, Lira, Kitgum, Soroti, Moroto) in addition to its office in Kampala.

OHCHR Uganda responds to three distinct, yet historically interlinked, human rights problems in the country: the southern, western and central districts of Uganda,

including the capital Kampala, which have registered considerable socio-economic progress and a growing economy over the last 20 years, but which still lag in the realization of economic and social rights and require the incorporation of human rights in development planning; the effects of the 21-year internal conflict in the north, where peace talks have made progress but the core issues of justice, impunity, security and livelihoods must still be addressed; and the widespread human rights violations that took place during government operations to disarm people in the northeastern Karamoja subregion, a centre of illegal arms trade and one of the most impoverished areas in the country.

Achievements

OHCHR's human rights monitoring, investigations and research enabled the Office to raise public awareness of, and advocate for an end to, human rights violations in the forgotten subregion of Karamoja.

OHCHR's technical support to the Uganda Human Rights Commission and its Civil-Military Cooperation Centres resulted in a significantly strengthened national human rights protection capacity in the conflict-affected north, and allowed for the establishment of district-level human rights protection structures and capacities under the National Policy on Internally Displaced Persons.

During the ongoing peace talks, OHCHR conducted an extensive public survey to amplify the voices of victims on justice, accountability and reconciliation. The Office also provided technical expertise on these issues.

OHCHR's cooperation with UNICEF has prompted the Government to develop a national action plan against the recruitment and use of children in armed conflict. OHCHR also developed partnerships with legal aid organizations and paralegals operating in IDP camps in an effort to build a human rights monitoring and reporting network at the parish level.

Training sessions on implementing treaty body recommendations were offered to various stakeholders. A national Treaty Body Implementation Coordination Committee was established, consisting of representatives from the Government and civil society. OHCHR obtained a commitment from the Government and initiated preparations for the long-overdue State party report under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

Priorities

Assuming that a peace agreement will be concluded between the Government and the Lord's Resistance Army by the end of 2007, OHCHR Uganda will focus on monitoring human rights in the context of the return of internally displaced people and the progressive return

of civilian law-enforcement and judicial institutions; transitional justice initiatives; and land rights. OHCHR will provide technical guidance on peace negotiations or the implementation of a peace agreement. In the context of return, OHCHR will continue to monitor the land-restitution process and advocate for the establishment of dispute-resolution mechanisms that comply with international human rights principles.

The Office will also intensify its efforts to strengthen national and local capacity to systematically monitor and respond to conflict-related human rights violations as well as those in the Karamoja region. In cooperation with other protection agencies, the Office will continue its human rights training programmes for the army, police, judiciary, lawyers, prison officials and paralegals. OHCHR will also train human rights civil society organizations in lobbying and advocacy.

UGANDA COUNTRY OFFICE BUDGET 2008 – 2009	
	Requirements (USD)
Personnel and related costs	4,618,163.00
Consultants	18,450.00
Official travel	75,758.00
Contractual Services	44,075.00
General operating expenses	737,590.00
Seminars, grants & contributions	483,572.00
Subtotal	5,977,608.00
Programme support costs	777,089.00
GRAND TOTAL	6,754,697.00

SUPPORT TO UN PEACE MISSIONS

Burundi – United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi (BINUB)

In 2007, OHCHR integrated its Burundi office into BINUB. The Office supports the missions of UN human rights mechanisms, including the Independent Expert on the situation of human rights in Burundi and other mandates with whom Burundi interacts, even though the country still does not completely fulfill its human rights obligations. Burundi will be reviewed under the Universal Periodic Review at its third session in 2008, and is one of the pilot countries of the Peacebuilding Commission.

Burundi is emerging from a long civil war during which serious human rights violations occurred. The newly elected Government and its institutions are still fragile. The human rights situation is precarious due to

the lack of capacity of rights-holders and duty-bearers. There is widespread poverty, and few enjoy the full range of economic and social rights. Civil society organizations and the media have made considerable progress in promoting human rights. However, continued external support is required for maintaining the progress achieved.

The Government and the United Nations have embarked on a programme of judicial reform to combat long-standing impunity and restore trust between the population and the judiciary.

The integrated office in Burundi made significant progress in laying the foundations for the establishment of an independent national human rights commission and the creation of a truth and reconciliation commission. The Office also provided technical assistance to the Government in revising its criminal law and trained judicial and penitentiary staff. The Office also helped increase awareness about sensitive human rights issues among civil society, the media, and new law enforcement personnel. However, these foundations are precarious, given the country's volatile security situation.

The Office provided technical assistance for the establishment of a multi-sectoral committee to prepare the long overdue State party report under various UN conventions. As a result, two reports (to CAT and to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women – CEDAW) were submitted to treaty body committees. BINUB will continue to work with the Government to implement the recommendations made by these committees.

BINUB will also continue to support the establishment of an independent national human rights commission through advocacy, the preparation of a legal framework, and the creation of transitional justice mechanisms, including a truth and reconciliation commission. In cooperation with other partners, the Office will help improve the functioning of the judicial system by providing technical assistance in revising criminal law and training judicial and penitentiary staff and paralegals. The Office will raise awareness about human rights in civil society, women's groups, and the media through training, technical assistance and partnerships with key institutions and organizations. It will also help integrate human rights principles into the work of UN agencies by providing training on the human rights-based approach.

Central African Republic – United Nations Peace-building Office (BONUCA)

Despite the signing of two peace agreements between the Government and the rebel *Union des Forces Démocratiques pour le Rassemblement* (UFDR) in February 2007 and in April 2007, there have been no

peace talks with the rest of the rebel groups and the situation remains fragile. Continued fighting has resulted in additional internal displacement in the central and northwest regions. The country is beset with chronic human rights problems, especially related to the lack of capacity of the judiciary and extreme poverty. Serious violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, especially in conflict zones, are rife; and State institutions are too weak to protect human rights in much of the country. The Central African Republic ranks 172nd out of 177 countries in the Human Development Index.

The Human Rights Section of BONUCA, supported by OHCHR, consists of an office in Bangui and three regional offices in Bambari, Bouar and Bossangoa. It carries out monitoring and capacity-building activities and played an important role during the process of political transition in 2005, especially in supporting the participation of women. It has also assisted national stakeholders, including the Government and NGOs, in implementing various activities such as training, monitoring trials, and visiting prisons. However, for several reasons, particularly the lack of human and financial resources, the impact of the Human Rights Section on the overall situation has been limited. Still, key State authorities have shown a willingness to engage with BONUCA and OHCHR on human rights protection issues, including investigating specific cases of human rights violations.

At the time of writing, the inter-agency Protection Cluster had yet to provide a coordinated and effective mechanism to respond to protection needs. The Cluster has developed terms of reference and a distribution of tasks, and has begun to expand its presence to the interior. OHCHR intends to increase its involvement in the Protection Cluster.

In 2008 and 2009, the Human Rights Section of BONUCA, with OHCHR's support, will help strengthen its protection and promotion activities in the CAR by increasing monitoring and protection interventions, including through regular meetings about human rights cases with local authorities, coordination with the UN presences being established throughout the country, and regular travel in surrounding areas; preparing regular and public reports; providing assistance to local civil society organizations, particularly those working on monitoring and protection issues; increasing coordination with the UN Country Team's Protection Cluster and the Liaison Office of the UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT) and raising human rights cases and issues with the Government; and increasing engagement with the CAR Government concerning the establishment of a strong and independent national human rights commission and the adoption of a national human rights plan of action.

Chad – UN Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad (MINURCAT)

In September 2007, the Security Council, by its resolution 1778, approved the establishment in Chad and the Central African Republic, in concert with the European Union, of a multidimensional presence in the CAR and in Chad with the aim to help create the security conditions conducive to a voluntary, secure and sustainable return of refugees and internally displaced persons.

MINURCAT was being established at the time of writing. The Mission will have a human rights component, which will have the following mandate:

- contribute to the monitoring and to the promotion and protection of human rights, with particular attention to sexual and gender-based violence, and recommend action to the competent authorities, with a view to fighting impunity;
- support efforts aimed at strengthening the capacity of the Governments of Chad and the Central African Republic and civil society through training in international human rights standards, and efforts to put an end to recruitment and use of children by armed groups;
- assist the Governments of Chad and, notwithstanding the mandate of BONUCA, the Central African Republic in the promotion of the rule of law, including through support for an independent judiciary and a strengthened legal system, in close coordination with UN agencies.

Côte d'Ivoire – United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire (UNOCI)

As UNOCI's periodic reports on the human rights situation in Côte d'Ivoire show, serious violations continue to be committed in most parts of the country, mainly by elements of the defence and security forces, members of armed and unarmed militia, and armed criminals operating in the west and in the zone of confidence. As the country emerges from conflict, the Human Rights Division of ONUCI is expected to help strengthen human rights by integrating a human rights perspective into the various planning processes of the UN system, including the Common Country Assessment and the UN Development Assistance Framework. The Human Rights Division thus intends to continue empowering duty-bearers and rights-holders to respond to human rights concerns and, with the availability of new funds, to focus on encouraging the Government to meet its regional and international obligations.

The political agreement signed in Ouagadougou between President Laurent Gbagbo and the rebel *Forces Nouvelles*

Secretary-General Guillaume Kigbabori Soro on 4 March 2007 does not explicitly address the question of human rights. Nevertheless, the parties to the agreement explicitly affirm the relevance of previous agreements and resolutions of the Security Council, some of which establish the framework for UN support in promoting and protecting human rights in the country. The UN Peacebuilding Commission will support the implementation of the Ouagadougou Agreement. Following the signing of the Agreement, the Head of State issued an amnesty that led to the release of detainees. The amnesty fails to explicitly exclude war crimes and crimes against humanity, however, and therefore does not comply with the country's obligations under applicable norms of international law, and UNOCI remains deeply concerned about the prevailing culture of impunity. Relevant authorities have been regularly called upon to undertake concrete measures to address these concerns, including investigation of grave violations and prosecution of perpetrators.

The Human Rights Division established a good partnership with State authorities, particularly the Ministries of Justice and Human Rights, Interior, Defence and Communication, and with civil society in general. Seminars for civil and military authorities on various human rights issues were jointly implemented in both Government- and rebel-controlled areas. In coordination with the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights, and in cooperation with national NGOs, more than 70 human rights clubs were established in primary and secondary schools to compensate for the lack of human rights education in the national curriculum and while awaiting the development and implementation of a human rights programme for primary schools, as agreed in the World Programme for Human Rights Education.

The Human Rights Division also assisted the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights in launching the National Human Rights Commission.

UNOCI's strategy for the biennium will focus on monitoring and helping to investigate human rights violations, particularly violence against children and women, with the aim of ending impunity; supporting the implementation of the Government's human rights priority action plans and the functioning of the newly established national human rights commission; raising human rights awareness among certain target groups, including the defence and security forces, civil servants, women and youth; and strengthening the human rights capacities of the UN Country Team with the aim of transferring the responsibility for supporting national systems for the promotion and protection of human rights to the UN Country Team.

The Division will continue to support Special Rapporteurs who visit the country, and will strengthen the capacity of the newly established National Human Rights

Commission. The Human Rights Division will also be seeking the support of OHCHR to organize workshops with government institutions to increase their capacity to meet their international human rights obligations.

Democratic Republic of the Congo – United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUC)

The human rights situation in the DRC continues to deteriorate. Serious violations, such as arbitrary executions, rape, torture and cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment are pervasive, committed mostly by the army, police and intelligence services. The latter, highly politicized, are often used to commit politically-motivated crimes during specific periods and then revert to daily harassment and intimidation of Congolese citizens. Armed groups operating in the country, both foreign and Congolese, although responsible for only six per cent of documented human rights abuses, have perpetrated massacres, arbitrary executions, abductions of villagers, and subjected women to systematic rape, sexual slavery and other forms of sexual violence with full impunity. Civil and military jurisdictions continue to be prone to corruption, and lack the human and material resources needed to function efficiently. Interference by military and political authorities in the administration of justice is widespread. Despite declarations by the authorities, hardly any progress has been made in the fight against impunity. Prolonged pre-trial detention periods, dilapidated detention centres, and the lack of food and medical supplies are common throughout the DRC's correctional system.

Thanks to MONUC's support, Congolese courts successfully conducted at least five high-profile trials for war crimes or crimes against humanity. In some cases, the courts directly applied the Statute of the International Criminal Court. MONUC also created and set up legal aid clinics that provide free legal assistance to victims. As part of the Office's efforts to assist in combating sexual and gender-based violence, four legal aid clinics were established, two in Equateur Province and two in Orientale Province. MONUC helped form a small cell of specialized investigators, deployed by the Chief Military Prosecutor throughout the country, to conduct investigations into serious violations of human rights and humanitarian law, and train military judicial officials in investigation techniques and protection of victims, in partnership with the Institute for International Criminal Investigations. A special investigation into the events of Buramba, North Kivu, was conducted by the first cell of trained investigators.

MONUC organized programmes, round table discussions, exhibitions and performances to mark international days commemorating the rights of women, the fight against racism, children's rights, refugees, and the prevention

of torture. It also organized training for judicial police officers, police commanders, the National Intelligence Agency and other security agents on the rights of persons in custody, and training for parliamentarians and the UN Country Team on the rights-based approach to policy making. The Human Rights Office of MONUC also disseminated international and national human rights materials.

MONUC will continue to focus its work on conflict-related human rights violations and on economic, social and cultural rights. The Office will organize seminars for law enforcement officials and members of provincial assemblies in all provinces. To ensure the sustainability of human rights protection and promotion mechanisms at the national level, the Office will help update and implement the National Action Plan for the Protection and Promotion of Human Rights, elaborated in 2000, and will continue to provide training to human rights NGOs and human rights defenders, particularly regarding monitoring and reporting on economic, social and cultural rights. It will also continue its efforts to address widespread sexual violence by raising awareness among the army and police about relevant new legislation, providing legal assistance to victims, providing support to the judicial structures, including some prison renovation, and setting up legal clinics in most provinces. The Human Rights Office of MONUC will continue to work for the implementation of a civic education programme integrating human rights into at least 40 per cent of DRC's schools by the end of the biennium.

The Office will also monitor conditions in prisons and detention centres, and advocate for the strict application of existing laws and standards on detention. It will continue to train members of the inter-ministerial committee on reporting to treaty bodies, advocate for the enactment of appropriate legislation and implementation of related policies within the area of economic, social and cultural rights, and strengthen the capacity of duty-bearers through sensitization campaigns, workshops and panel discussions.

Ethiopia/Eritrea – United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea (UNMEE)

The unresolved boundary dispute between Ethiopia and Eritrea has created a tense stalemate between the two countries. On occasion, both Eritrea and Ethiopia have amassed troops at the border. While UNMEE's mandate concerns the temporary security zone (TSZ) between the two countries, the situation in the TSZ has also been affected by the general conditions and human rights situations in both of them.

Through various sub-offices and a number of human rights officers, the human rights component of this peacekeeping mission monitored the human rights



Ethiopia human rights day parade, 2006.

situation in the TSZ on both sides of the border between Eritrea and Ethiopia. The prolonged illegal and arbitrary detention of individuals arrested within the zone, and of those civilians who voluntarily cross into it, continues to be a problem. During 2006-2007, in addition to monitoring the TSZ, the Human Rights Section of UNMEE provided human rights training for peacekeepers and held human rights workshops for law enforcement officials, judicial bodies and civil society organizations in Ethiopia.

The possibility of downgrading the UNMEE mission has led to the elaboration of several contingency plans since 2006. It is anticipated that in the 2008-2009 biennium, the Human Rights Section will continue monitoring the TSZ. Once the border demarcation is settled, the likely residual human rights issues, such as nationality issues, unaccompanied minors, property issues, monitoring of the treatment and/or repatriation by Ethiopia and by Eritrea of each other's nationals, and the debriefing of returnees and asylum-seekers, will require human rights expertise and a core operating staff.

Liberia – United Nations Mission in Liberia (UNMIL)

Despite the election of the country's first democratic government in January 2006, Liberia is still recovering from 14 years of conflict. Although the security situation has stabilized in recent years, a combination of weak State institutions, weak law enforcement and a weak judiciary means that human rights are not promoted and protected. Reversing the climate of impunity and ensuring justice for all are the objectives guiding the Human Rights and Protection Section of UNMIL.

The Section has built constructive working relationships with ministries and UN agencies. A peace, human rights and civic education programme was jointly designed by the Ministry of Education, UN agencies and the Section, and launched in schools nationwide. Human rights clubs have also been established in schools in every county. The Human Rights and Protection Section has also supported the State in developing laws and policies, including the enabling legislation for both the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the Independent National Human Rights Commission. The UNMIL Task Force on the Rights of Children in Conflict with the Law issued a report for study and follow-up action by the Government. Guidelines on minimum standards for operating welfare institutions in Liberia, including orphanages, were endorsed by the Ministry of Health and Social Welfare as a result of the Section's report on orphanages.

In 2008 and 2009 the Section will carry out initiatives aimed at integrating human rights standards into national legislation and Government programmes. Information collected through monitoring activities will direct the development of capacity-building and protection strategies. Providing assistance and support to national mechanisms should lead to an operational and functional Independent National Commission on Human Rights and the formulation and implementation of a national human rights action plan that will include reporting to UN treaty bodies and a strengthened judiciary. Providing technical assistance to the Truth and Reconciliation Commission in fulfilling its mandate by September 2008 and in issuing its final report, with recommendations, will be a key priority. The Section also plans to strengthen its engagement with Liberia's civil society by conducting capacity-building activities.

Sierra Leone – United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone (UNIOSIL)

For nearly ten years, Sierra Leone was ravaged by a violent and brutal conflict characterized by massive violations of human rights. Through the intervention of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), peace and stability were restored. However, an assessment conducted prior to the termination of the mandate of UNAMSIL revealed that the situation in the country was still fragile, that many of the root causes of the conflict have not been fully addressed, and that a number of human rights challenges continue to prevent the consolidation of peace. To create an enabling environment for economic development, the Security Council established the United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone to assist the Government in establishing a national human rights commission, formulating a national action plan for human rights, expediting the implementation of the recommendations of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission, and strengthening the rule of law, including by promoting independence of the judiciary and enhancing the capacity of the police and the correction system. A stakeholders' conference, held in December 2005, identified capacity building, legal reform, institutional development and the implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission's recommendations as prerequisites for the consolidation of peace.

A human rights commission was established and is now becoming operational. The capacity of civil society, government institutions and the UN Country Team has been built through training and collaborative activities. Sustained monitoring, increased advocacy and sensitization have resulted in improved respect for women and children's rights and the passage of three gender bills and a child rights bill, as recommended by the Truth and Reconciliation Commission. A country report under CEDAW has been submitted, thus opening the way for constructive engagement with the international community on women's rights. Some progress has been made in the justice sector through coordination of interventions, capacity building of key institutions and technical support. The Section's nationwide assessment of prison conditions and the training provided for prison officers throughout the country have helped build the capacity of prisons to respect detention standards. Considerable progress has also been made in national reconciliation. The Truth and Reconciliation Commission's report has been widely distributed, and sensitization and consultative meetings with relevant stakeholders have been held to discuss the findings and recommendations.

As UNIOSIL phases out in 2008, the Section will accelerate its efforts to strengthen national capacity, in particular that of the national human rights commission, to assume full responsibility for the promotion and protection of human rights. It will also develop the independence and capacity of the judiciary,

the police and corrections system, as the justice system continues to be characterized by delays in trials, prolonged pre-trial detentions, poor prison conditions, and weak prosecutorial capacity. The implementation of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission recommendations will also be a focus of UNIOSIL's work, as it is a crucial step towards the consolidation of peace. OHCHR will actively explore options for a human rights presence in Sierra Leone following UNIOSIL's withdrawal.

Somalia

During 2006-2007, OHCHR was involved in the country through a human rights adviser to the United Nations Political Office for Somalia (UNPOS) and through the deployment of a human rights adviser to the UN Country Team. The advisers monitored and reported on human rights-related developments and advised OHCHR, UNPOS and the Resident Coordinator's Office on human rights approaches in the political process and in peace-building, humanitarian and reconstruction efforts. OHCHR also provided substantive support to the Independent Expert appointed by the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights in Somalia.

During the last biennium, OHCHR urged the numerous parties in Somalia to meet their human rights obligations and brought to their attention human rights issues such as improved respect for the human rights of women, freedom of expression and opinion, and improved interactions with human rights defenders and civil society.

During 2008-2009, OHCHR will continue to provide advice to UNPOS on the political and human rights situation in the country in order to facilitate the human rights action taken by both offices, and to strengthen the capacity of the UN Country Team to integrate human rights into their programmes. In addition, the human rights functions of the advisers will be rationalized under a single, strengthened human rights unit at UNPOS.

Sudan – UN Mission in Sudan (UNMIS) and AU/UN Hybrid Operation in Darfur (UNAMID)

Serious violations of human rights continue in varying forms in different parts of the Sudan. While the situation in Darfur is well known to the international community, violations also occur in northern, eastern, and southern Sudan and in the Transitional Areas.

The signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) on 9 January 2005 by the Government and the Sudan People's Liberation Movement/Army saw the end of an internal conflict that lasted more than two decades. The CPA includes a permanent ceasefire and accords on wealth and power-sharing, and establishes major transformation

processes, including reforming the political system to reflect democratic principles and uphold respect for human rights. UNMIS, established in 2005, was mandated to support the implementation of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement by monitoring its implementation, investigating violations, observing the movement of armed groups, and ensuring an adequate human rights presence.

OHCHR supports the work of the human rights component of UNMIS through technical cooperation projects and by providing guidance and expert advice on specific human rights questions. UNMIS human rights officers are based in the capital, Khartoum; Nyala, El Fasher, El Geneina, Zalengi (Darfur); Abyei, Kadugli, Ed-Damazin (Transitional Areas); Juba, Rumbek, Malakal, and Wau (Southern Sudan). The Human Rights Office monitors the human rights situation, supports the rule of law and national institution-building, advocates for judicial and legal reforms, promotes international human rights standards and implements technical cooperation projects.

OHCHR and UNMIS assisted the Government of National Unity and the Government of Southern Sudan in establishing national human rights institutions in accordance with the Paris Principles. Workshops were organized to prepare for the new institutions, ensure their independence, and define their core functions, structure, methodology and legal provisions. Suggested changes were included in the draft laws submitted to the National Legislative Assembly and the Southern Sudan Legislative Assembly.

Workshops were also held for members of civil society to promote international human rights standards and encourage independent presentation of human rights reports to treaty bodies, and follow-up on concluding observations. In addition, Government representatives, members of Parliament and civil society attended Workshops in Khartoum to strengthen their capacity to promote and protect human rights, particularly regarding the drafting, revision and implementation of national laws that conform to international human rights standards.

OHCHR issued public reports, in cooperation with UNMIS, that suggested remedial action to address and prevent future violations. In some cases, this led to limited action by the Government.

OHCHR supported the work of the Human Rights Council-mandated mechanisms, including the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in the Sudan. OHCHR serviced the High-level Mission to assess the human rights situation in Darfur, appointed by the President of the Council and the Expert Group on Darfur, to advance implementation of previous recommendations designed to improve human rights protection. The Expert Group developed an implementation plan with clear steps that should be taken by the Government and established indicators of progress and a timetable for implementation.

In 2008 and 2009, OHCHR will continue to provide assistance to, and build the capacity of, both the Government of National Unity and the Government of Southern Sudan to protect and promote human rights in all parts of the country. An additional challenge during this period will be ensuring freedom of expression, association and assembly and other political rights leading up to the elections in 2009.

The African Union-United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur will begin functioning by the beginning of 2008. OHCHR will provide support to the new human rights component of UNAMID. The new peace mission will operate in parallel with UNMIS with a distinct geographical mandate covering Darfur.

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISERS

Great Lakes

The Great Lakes Region Initiative (GLRI) under the "Action 2" programme seeks to support the UN system in the region (initially focusing on Burundi, Democratic Republic of Congo and Rwanda) in implementing the programme at the country level and to foster regional cooperation to address common challenges faced in strengthening human rights in the region.

The main objectives of the Great Lakes Region Initiative are to strengthen the human rights capacity of the UN Country Teams in the region; to facilitate the development of joint programmes aimed at supporting national partners in strengthening national protection systems; to foster regional programme activities which may go beyond the three countries initially participating in the GLRI and the collaboration, partnership and sharing of knowledge and experience among the UN Country Teams in the region; to promote human rights in the work of the Executive Secretariat for the follow-up mechanism of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region; and to build linkages with relevant work of the UN Country Teams in the region.

In 2008, under "Action 2 GLRI", OHCHR will deploy a regional human rights adviser in Burundi to support the three UN Country Teams and the Executive Secretariat for the follow-up mechanism of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region. The Regional Human Rights Adviser (RHRA) will advise the participating UN Country Teams on capacity-building activities and act as a resource person in country workshops to ensure consistency of approaches; consult with participating UN Country Teams and identify common human rights issues and challenges, including those of a cross-border

nature, which could be addressed through collaboration among Country Teams and national actors; and support the Executive Secretariat of the follow-up mechanism in the implementation of the Plan of Action of the International Conference on the Great Lakes Region.

Guinea

Human rights violations have been reported by different civil society entities in recent years. The situation deteriorated after the launch of a nationwide strike, led by the trade unions, in January 2007 to protest inflation, rising fuel prices, worsening standards of living for ordinary Guineans, corruption, embezzlement, and presidential interference in judicial matters. In clashes between security forces and protesters, over 100 people were killed and 1,700 were wounded. In February 2007, OHCHR and the United Nations Office for West Africa (UNOWA) deployed a joint mission to Conakry to assess the human rights situation and discuss human rights priorities and needs with the UN Country Team and civil society.

In 2008, a senior human rights officer will be stationed in Conakry and will be responsible for assessing the country's human rights needs and advising the UN Country Team and the heads of UN agencies on human rights strategies.

Niger

Following a decade of political instability, two coups d'état, a military regime and an armed rebellion, Niger returned to democracy in 1999. The Government has implemented three peace agreements with Tuareg and Toubou rebels, and has declared its commitment to take effective legislative, administrative and judicial measures to ensure that human rights are respected and protected in the whole territory under its jurisdiction. Niger's Constitution provides a strong framework for human rights. The legislature has passed laws in recent years to outlaw slavery, protect people from arbitrary detention and advance representation of women in Parliament. A National Commission on Human Rights and Fundamental Freedoms has been established.

Despite these encouraging steps, human rights violations are still rampant, and human rights commitments are impaired by impunity and poor implementation of many laws and international obligations. There are frequent reports of arrests of opposition members, independent journalists, civil society leaders and human rights defenders, and the silencing of critical media outlets.

Improvements in the human rights situation will depend on the concerted efforts of all actors: the Government, civil society and international technical and financial partners. UN agencies are poised to adopt a human

rights-based approach in the UNDAF process, which prioritizes poverty alleviation, social services, democratic governance, and sustainable environment.

In 2008, a human rights adviser will be deployed in Niger under the "Action 2" programme to strengthen the capacity of the UN Country Team to support the Government's efforts to strengthen its human rights promotion and protection systems. The Adviser will work with the UN Resident Coordinator and the UN Country Team to develop capacity building for the Government, and will act as a resource to the UN Resident Coordinator and the UN Country Team on mainstreaming human rights in their planning and programming and processes related to humanitarian, recovery and development work.

The Adviser will assist the Resident Coordinator and the UN Country Team in encouraging the Government to ratify international human rights treaties, comply with its reporting commitments to international human rights treaty bodies, and follow up the recommendations made by these bodies. The Adviser will also liaise with civil society and the media on issues relating to human rights, and will build their capacity to protect and promote human rights.

Rwanda

Despite the existence of a legal human rights framework and a national social protection policy, the primary obstacle to implementing Rwanda's protection policies is lack of capacity at both the central and local levels. With greater coordination among UN agencies, and a strengthened capacity of the UN Country Team to deal with human rights issues, the Country Team will be in a better position to support national efforts to promote the realization of human rights in the Great Lakes Region. The country will be considered under the Universal Periodic Review in 2011.

The Human Rights Adviser was deployed to the UN Country Team in October 2007. The first priority is to assess the Country Team's programmatic and technical needs and capacities, then advise and assist it in joint programming and devising a strategy for mainstreaming a rights-based approach in government institutions, within the framework of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the Economic Development and Poverty-Reduction Strategy (EDPRS), UNDAF, and decentralization processes, targeting policy-makers, national and local leaders and civil servants. The activities will focus on two thematic areas: the integration of human rights and human rights principles into the EDPRS and UNDAF; and technical assistance to the Government in complying with its reporting and follow-up commitments to the treaty-monitoring bodies by developing clear national rules and procedures and supporting the inter-ministerial committee of national focal points.

OHCHR IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



Regional human rights context

The Asia-Pacific region is confronted with a diverse range of human rights challenges.

Long-standing conflicts continue in several parts of the region. Post-conflict transitions in other States remain constrained by insecurity and political uncertainty. Several countries are undergoing important processes of democratic, legal and institutional reform, but democracy has been set back in others through the reassertion of military authority. Many countries continue to enjoy rapid economic development, but this in turn creates pressures on marginalized and disadvantaged groups. At the same time poverty, gender inequality and patterns of discrimination remain deeply entrenched. High levels of internal and external migration within and outside the region pose particular protection challenges, as well as attendant problems such as human trafficking. While many countries have well established legal frameworks and the elements of a national human rights protection system, serious gaps in capacity and political will undermine implementation and enforcement.

The biennium 2008-2009 will also see several important processes come to fruition in the region, particularly in Indonesia and Timor-Leste as well as in Cambodia, where the trials for crimes committed during the Khmer Rouge period will begin. In Sri Lanka, OHCHR and a group of international experts have worked closely with a special presidential commission investigating serious crimes. The establishment of a truth commission and other specialized inquiries will be important developments in Nepal's political transition. At the same time, however, there are moves to pass laws granting amnesty to the perpetrators of serious human rights violations in breach of international standards in several countries. In some countries, specific aspects of investigation and prosecution, such as forensic science and witness protection, are either absent or require improvement.

The Asia-Pacific region is also at an important point in the development of national and regional human rights infrastructure and mechanisms. Many countries in the region have national human rights institutions, although many of them lack capacity and several have had their independence and integrity compromised in recent

years. At the same time, other countries are considering establishing such institutions. The Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions has played an important role in fostering regional capacity in this area, and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) human rights commissions have begun to develop their own systems for transnational cooperation. Most importantly, in a region without its own human rights arrangement, ASEAN and, to a lesser extent, the Pacific Islands Forum, have begun to explore the possibility of creating subregional frameworks and mechanisms.

Strategy

Taking into account this context, OHCHR will focus its work at the regional level on impunity, weak institutions and discrimination. OHCHR is already engaged with several important transitional justice or accountability initiatives aimed at combating impunity throughout the region.

OHCHR's focus on combating discrimination will vary from country to country, ranging from gender concerns to indigenous people to caste-based discrimination. The rights of non-citizens, both in the context of statelessness and migration, will also receive priority attention. OHCHR will look for specific opportunities to strengthen and support the work of national institutions and civil society that addresses discrimination issues and will promote the participation of groups that have been marginalized or discriminated against in public policy decision making and their engagement with the international human rights system.

Strengthening institutions to protect human rights will also be a priority focus. This will include support for ASEAN and the Pacific Islands Forum in the creation of subregional human rights mechanisms. It will also involve close partnership with the Asia Pacific Forum and individual national institutions to ensure their compliance with the Paris Principles and capacity to effectively investigate and seek redress for human rights violations. At the sub-national level, OHCHR will also reach out to the many specialized commissions focusing on women, children and other specific groups that could help combat discrimination.

OHCHR has significantly expanded its regional presence and country engagement. During this biennium, regional offices will be in place for South and West Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific. Country offices will be maintained in Cambodia and Nepal, and OHCHR will continue to support the human rights elements of peace missions in Afghanistan and Timor-Leste. Human rights advisers will be maintained in the Maldives, Indonesia and Sri Lanka, and others will be deployed to Papua New Guinea and the Philippines. Support will also be provided to UN Country Teams for the "One UN" pilot programmes in Pakistan and Viet Nam.

OHCHR's office in Nepal will remain flexible and responsive, focusing on the immediate protection concerns that arise during the political transition; however, as part of a rationalization of operations in the country, the office will gradually concentrate on the root causes of the conflict, and on building partnerships and capacity among national institutions and civil society. The opening of a new South and West Asia Regional Office, together with the new Human Rights Training and Documentation Centre in Qatar (see section on North Africa and the Middle East), will provide an important platform for close engagement with countries in the subregion. In the South Pacific, OHCHR will close the Solomon Islands liaison office and work through the Regional Office in Suva and the newly deployed Human Rights Adviser in Papua New Guinea instead.

The Office will continue to support the work of country rapporteurs in Cambodia, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and Myanmar, subject to the review of mandates by the Human Rights Council. OHCHR will also continue its technical cooperation programme with China and work in close partnership with the UN Country Team, particularly as the 2008 Olympics create further impetus to reform. The Office will also explore closer engagement with the Islamic Republic of Iran as a follow-up to the High Commissioner's visit there in September 2007.

The Office will continue to play a leading role in the development of regional cooperation on human rights. OHCHR will seek to engage subregional organizations such as ASEAN, the Pacific Islands Forum and the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) in developing cooperation on common issues. The 15th anniversary of the Asia-Pacific Regional Framework will be used to encourage progress towards more concrete outcomes at the subregional level. Public reporting and statements will help highlight critical issues at both national and regional levels.

Through its network of regional offices and field presences, OHCHR will also foster deeper partnerships with UN Country Teams and national stakeholders, including in the context of the "One UN" initiatives. A key focus will be strengthening collaboration in follow-up and implementation of treaty body recommendations. OHCHR will encourage effective and strategic engagement with the UN human rights system as a whole, including the special procedures and the Universal Periodic Review of the Human Rights Council. The Office will also work with national institutions and civil society to promote greater ratification of human rights treaties, particularly in the context of the 60th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Field presence

Field deployment during the biennium is projected as follows:

TYPE OF PRESENCE	LOCATION
Regional Offices	South-East Asia (Bangkok) Pacific (Suva) South-West Asia*
Country Offices	Cambodia Nepal
Human Rights Components of UN Peace Missions	Afghanistan Timor-Leste
Human Rights Advisers to Country Teams	Indonesia Maldives Papua-New Guinea* Philippines* Sri Lanka Support to "One UN" pilots*

* Under discussion or to be established/deployed during the biennium.

REGIONAL OFFICES

Southeast Asia Regional Office

Established	2002
No. of staff	6
Financial requirements	USD 1,660,383

Human rights context

The Regional Office in Bangkok covers Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand, Timor-Leste and Viet Nam.

Southeast Asia faces diverse human rights challenges. For the next biennium, impunity will remain a serious concern. Some government and non-governmental institutions in the region suffer from structural weaknesses in addressing violations of human rights committed by State agents. Sexual exploitation of children and human trafficking are common regional problems. The lack of specific and human rights-based legislation on human trafficking and on the exploitation of women and children is a major obstacle to tackling these issues. Although Southeast Asia is one of the most ethnically diverse regions in the world, protection mechanisms are not in place to promote and protect the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples. The issue of statelessness and the lack of protection for internally displaced persons and refugees have not been adequately addressed, but an ASEAN framework on migrant labour is being developed.

Internal armed conflict affects several countries in the region, and there are no mechanisms to respond to its consequences. ASEAN has made formal declarations of support for human rights education, but these need to be translated into national policies, programmes or projects.

Although national human rights commissions have been established in Indonesia, Malaysia, the Philippines and Thailand, some of them lack political support from their respective governments and the strength to effectively monitor human rights violations. Existing civil society organizations find it difficult to win ASEAN's recognition to become part of the decision-making process at the regional level; in some States, they face censorship and restrictions on their freedom of expression.

Asia is the only continent to have no regional human rights mechanism. The adoption of the new ASEAN Charter in November 2007 will open a new window of opportunity for the development of a dedicated ASEAN mechanism to promote and protect human rights.

A considerable number of international human rights instruments have yet to be ratified by ASEAN Member States; and the recommendations made by treaty bodies and special procedures are often not implemented.

Achievements

The Regional Office in Bangkok worked in partnership with its counterparts in the region, including the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), UN agencies, the donor community, ASEAN Member States and civil society organizations, in several programmes and activities related to the protection of migrant workers, building the capacity of NGOs in monitoring and reporting, and analyzing the region's human rights situation.

During 2006 and 2007, the Regional Office focused on establishing an ASEAN human rights mechanism. The first draft of the ASEAN Charter, which was approved at the 40th ASEAN Ministerial Meeting on 29 July 2007 in Manila, the Philippines, includes a provision relating to the establishment of an "ASEAN Human Rights Body". The Charter was endorsed at the 13th ASEAN Summit in November 2007 in Singapore.

The Regional Office and the diplomatic communities of ASEAN countries discussed human rights protection and promotion activities in the concerned States and in the region as a whole. The Office works with each ASEAN Member State to tailor responses to that country's particular human rights problem.

Priorities

For the 2008-2009 biennium, the Regional Office will focus on implementing recommendations of international treaty body mechanisms and special procedures;

establishing an ASEAN human rights mechanism; launching capacity-building programmes in the administration of justice, legislative reform and human rights education in Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam; preparing for the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in the region; and building the capacity of the UN system to promote and protect human rights in Myanmar.

Activities will include preparing tools to be made available to governments, national human rights institutions and civil society organizations to overcome obstacles in implementing treaty body recommendations in Indonesia, Laos, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam; providing support to civil society organizations to increase their contributions to the implementation of treaty body recommendations; developing advocacy tools to encourage follow-up to the recommendations and communications from special procedures; providing expert advice to increase compliance with international human rights instruments through the domestic legislation of ASEAN Member States; building the capacities of national human rights institutions in the region; providing technical support to establish a regional human rights mechanism within the ASEAN Charter; and providing support to the UN system in order to achieve a structured, consistent and human rights-based approach to the promotion and protection of human rights in Myanmar.

SOUTHEAST ASIA BUDGET 2008 – 2009	
	<i>Requirements (USD)</i>
Personnel and related costs	1,068,210.00
Consultants	46,125.00
Official travel	24,403.00
Contractual Services	17,835.00
General operating expenses	157,032.00
Seminars, grants & contributions	155,759.00
Subtotal	1,469,365.00
Programme support costs	191,017.00
GRAND TOTAL	1,660,383.00

Pacific Regional Office

Established	2005
No. of staff	6
Financial requirements	USD 1,425,839

Human rights context

The Pacific region is primarily composed of small island communities that are extremely isolated, both geographically and politically, and face widespread social and economic problems and ethnic tensions that have, at times, resulted in instability and civil unrest. In most instances, the national capacity to address these problems is low.

Some of the most pressing human rights issues in the region include widespread poverty, violence against women and children, lack of judicial independence and ill treatment in detention. These issues are compounded by political and social instability and weak justice systems. There are also significant instances of racial discrimination. Processes of social reconciliation and peacebuilding in the Solomon Islands, civil unrest and emergency rule in Tonga, and a political crisis in Fiji all affect those nations' key institutions.

Australia and New Zealand have advanced economies and have ratified almost all international human rights treaties; nevertheless, both face ongoing challenges related to their indigenous populations, migrants and other minority groups. The national human rights institutions in these two countries undertake effective work on a wide range of issues.

Achievements

OHCHR has raised awareness about and encouraged the use of international human rights norms, standards and mechanisms, including the Human Rights Council and its special procedures mandates, and human rights conventions and treaty bodies. An increased number of human rights communications from the region have been sent to and processed by special procedures, attesting to the higher level of awareness about international human rights mechanisms.

Through the use of a cooperative and consultative approach, OHCHR supported regional initiatives aimed at reinforcing national protection systems, including through the Pacific Islands Forum and the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions. These included activities to establish new national institutions and reinforcing the existing ones. The Regional Office collaborated with the New Zealand Human Rights Commission on a study that explored the most suitable means for creating new and reinforcing existing human rights institutions in countries in the region. The possibility of establishing a regional human rights body for the region was also explored.

Awareness-raising activities, dissemination of information, and training on human rights led to a better understanding of human rights concepts and standards among duty-bearers and rights-holders. In collaboration with the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, the Regional Office commissioned an expert to study the added value of integrating international human rights norms and standards into national human rights protection mechanisms.

The Office worked to strengthen the capacity of UN Country Teams to mainstream human rights in selected strategic programmes. OHCHR ensured that a human rights-based approach was adopted and employed in a regional UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF). In cooperation with the UNDP Pacific Centre, the Office examined human rights issues

in disaster management with the aim of reducing the vulnerability of affected populations and special groups, enabling the transition to normalcy and reducing protection risks within a rights-based framework.

In addition, OHCHR provided advice and support on reconciliation processes in Fiji and the Solomon Islands; contributed to discussions on regional human rights initiatives within the Pacific Islands Forum; facilitated the establishment of a juvenile court in the Solomon Islands; launched an OHCHR-Pacific website for the purpose of providing information specific to the region; published a compilation of recommendations adopted by UN human rights treaty bodies for the Pacific region; initiated steps, including with UN Country Teams, to address the emerging issue of trafficking and sale of human beings, especially women and children; and co-organized the 11th Annual Meeting of the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Institutions in Fiji in 2006.

Priorities

During the next biennium, OHCHR will expand its cooperation with regional organizations and institutions. The main regional intergovernmental organization is the Pacific Islands Forum, which covers the same 16 Member States as the OHCHR Pacific Regional Office. The Pacific Islands Forum launched the Pacific Plan in 2005, which aims to tackle common regional challenges, including cooperation on human rights issues. There are also moves within the Forum to establish regional judicial structures and develop national human rights institutions or other analogous mechanisms. OHCHR and the United Nations have aligned their planning closely to the nationally owned and endorsed the Pacific Islands Forum's regional platform.

In general, the region has a low rate of human rights treaty ratification. Though almost all of these countries have ratified the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), only three are Parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and two to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). The Regional Office will continue advocating for the ratification of other treaties and will seek to forge strong links among UN Member States, national institutions, UN Country Teams, civil society and the UN human rights system, particularly the special procedures of the Human Rights Council.

As part of its country engagement efforts, OHCHR will continue advocating in all the countries of the region that duty-bearers provide redress to those rights-holders whose human rights have been violated. In line with this approach, the Office will seek to foster increased compliance with human rights standards and the implementation of laws, regulations, policies and administrative instructions that meet human rights obligations. The Office will increase its cooperation and foster a participatory approach with regional, national and local

stakeholders in their engagement with international human rights mechanisms, including UN treaty bodies, special procedures, and the Universal Periodic Review.

OHCHR will assume a leadership role in working to ensure that justice and other accountability mechanisms are established and function in accordance with international human rights standards. The Office will promote the monitoring, investigation and redress of human rights violations.

PACIFIC REGIONAL OFFICE BUDGET 2008 – 2009	
	Requirements (USD)
Personnel and related costs	887,884.00
Consultants	10,250.00
Official travel	57,400.00
Contractual Services	2,050.00
General operating expenses	152,418.00
Seminars, grants & contributions	151,803.00
Subtotal	1,261,804.00
Programme support costs	164,035.00
GRAND TOTAL	1,425,839.00

South and West Asia Regional Office

Established	2008
No. of staff	To be determined
Financial requirements	To be determined

Human rights context

The Regional Office will cover countries in the South and West Asia region, including: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, India, the Islamic Republic of Iran, the Maldives, Nepal, and Sri Lanka.

The South and West Asia subregion hosts a diverse set of human rights opportunities and challenges. Countries like Afghanistan and Nepal are in the midst of post-conflict transitions but face significant problems of insecurity, exclusion and lack of transitional justice. Democratic institutions and the rule of law are on the brink of reform in Bangladesh and the Maldives. Conflicts persist in several countries, including Afghanistan, regions of India and Pakistan, and Sri Lanka, with resulting human rights violations and displacement.

Well-established legal systems exist, but implementation and enforcement of the law is weak, and impunity is still a problem. The barriers against accessing the justice system are formidable for many people, reflecting the impact of social and religious traditions on women and other groups. Poverty is at the root of many human rights violations and contributes to specific problems,

such as child exploitation and human trafficking. Throughout the region, there are thriving and active civil societies and media actors playing an important role in human rights and other social issues.

Priorities

The Office will focus its work on the priority themes selected for the region, particularly the need to strengthen national institutions and combat discrimination. South Asian countries have well-established legal systems and normative frameworks to protect human rights, but gaps in capacity, security and commitment limit implementation. In India, the Maldives, Nepal and Sri Lanka, national institutions play an important role, and there are prospects for new institutions to emerge in other countries in the subregion. There are also many specialized commissions throughout the region that focus on the rights of women, children, castes and minorities.

To initiate closer engagement with countries of the subregion, the Regional Office will, in its initial phase, focus on establishing bilateral cooperation with countries in which OHCHR has no presence: Bangladesh, Bhutan, India and the Islamic Republic of Iran. As part of its development phase, the Office will identify relevant thematic priorities in consultation with Member States, national human rights institutions, civil society actors and UN Country Teams.

The South and West Asia Office will also be ideally placed to initiate discussions on the possible establishment of a regional human rights mechanism for Asia and the Pacific. In this context, it will consult closely with regional actors, particularly SAARC, on possible avenues for cooperation in the field of human rights. SAARC has already adopted a Social Charter and specialized conventions on trafficking, and women and children. Other opportunities may arise in connection with the development of a new subregional human rights mechanism by ASEAN. The Office will also raise awareness about issues of common concern by releasing thematic reports and statements.

OHCHR will build partnerships to develop activities and programmes to address regional human rights challenges with other UN agencies, UN Country Teams, national institutions and regional organizations. It will encourage sharing experiences and best practices in the area of human rights, particularly regarding impunity, weak institutions and discrimination.

The Office will promote greater engagement with special procedures through referral of individual complaints and mandate-holder visits. It will advocate for treaty ratification, reporting and follow-up, and will assist Member States, national human rights institutions, civil society and UN Country Teams in their preparations for the Universal Periodic Review.

COUNTRY OFFICES

Cambodia

Established	1993
No. of staff	8
Financial requirements	USD 4,116,527

Human rights context

Although Cambodia has experienced strong economic growth in the last decade, serious problems related to government accountability and the independence of the judiciary remain. Cambodia is still plagued by misuse and abuse of laws, failure to respect or enforce laws, and impunity with no accountability or redress. There is little effective restraint on the exercise of executive power.

The space for civil society to protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms is shrinking, with continuing attacks and harassment directed against human rights defenders and community activists. Restrictions on freedom of expression and assembly, along with difficulties in accessing information held by public authorities, such as term records, make it difficult for Cambodians to voice their concerns and to participate knowledgeably and meaningfully in policy and decision making that directly affect their lives and livelihoods.

The pursuit of economic growth has led to the violation of the human rights of the poor and marginalized populations in rural and urban areas. There is significant concern that the current pattern of economic development in Cambodia could result in increased dispossession and victimization of vulnerable sectors of the population.

During 2008-2009, Cambodia will hold national elections through which the ruling party will attempt to gain full control over Parliament. At the time of writing, opposition parties appear fractured and factionalized. There are concerns that the violence and unrest that marred previous elections may reoccur.

In the last biennium, the Special Representative of the Secretary-General for human rights in Cambodia conducted three missions, in March 2006 and May and December 2007. The Cambodia Office also hosted a visit by the High Commissioner in May 2006. Cambodia's initial report under the Convention on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women was considered in January 2006 and its next report is expected in November 2009. Cambodia will be considered under the Universal Periodic Review in 2009.

Achievements

During the 2006-2007 biennium, OHCHR worked with the Government of Cambodia to develop draft legislation consistent with its international human rights treaty obligations, and to secure ratification of outstanding treaties and follow-up to recommendations of relevant treaty bodies.

The Office also worked closely with UNICEF in the area of juvenile justice, particularly with the aim of reducing custodial sentences for persons under the age of 18, in accordance with the Convention on the Rights of the Child. A landmark ruling by the Constitutional Council in July 2007 reaffirmed that courts should take into account the age of the perpetrator in order to impose lesser sentences. This decision restored consistency to the application of the law and reinforced the constitutional protection of the rights of children in Cambodia. The Constitutional Council's ruling was a response to a civil society petition that, in turn, was a product of capacity-building work led by the Cambodia Office.

The Office responded to numerous requests for assistance in relation to disputes about land and natural resource concessions. It worked with the Technical Working Group on Land, one of 19 sectoral government-donor coordination bodies, with civil society actors, and with the United Nations on human rights issues related to land and livelihoods.

OHCHR also intervened on individual cases involving restrictions on freedom of expression or association, illegal arrests and other serious breaches of criminal process guarantees, and forced evictions. It raised its concerns with national and provincial authorities, proposing appropriate responses, and encouraging the authorities to conduct credible investigations into reported allegations and to ensure effective remedy.

The Office arranged for the translation into Khmer of core documents on human rights, including the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and human rights treaties, and disseminated them across the country. It has also made available a compilation of key domestic laws in print, CD-ROM format and via the Internet.

Priorities

A sustainable solution to Cambodia's complex and deeply rooted human rights problems will not be found through financial or technical assistance alone, but will require effective mechanisms of accountability and political commitment to genuine reform.

OHCHR will seek to improve dialogue and cooperation with the Government at the policy making and implementation levels, advocate for Government accountability to its citizens and respect for national laws and for its obligations under international human rights treaties. This work will include advice and assistance to the Government on the implementation of human rights treaties to which it is a party, particularly the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OPCAT).

The Office will continue to focus on developing and implementing laws and policies that comply with international human rights obligations and standards, particularly in

relation to the administration of justice, the protection and promotion of fundamental freedoms, safeguarding the rights of indigenous communities, and equitable and transparent management of land and other natural resources.

OHCHR will also provide advice to the Government on the establishment of a national human rights institution that complies with the Paris Principles.

The Office will continue to work with the Government on the organization and administration of justice and access to effective remedy, including on individual cases and specific situations that require preventive or remedial action by the relevant authorities. As part of its rule-of-law programme, the Office will follow the work of the Extraordinary Chambers in the Courts of Cambodia, established in June 2007 to try crimes committed during the Khmer Rouge period, with the aim of gathering good practices and models that may help support the independence and integrity of the Cambodian judiciary and contribute to efforts to combat impunity for human rights abuses, past and present.

OHCHR will continue to raise national and international awareness and understanding of the human rights situation in Cambodia through monitoring, analysis and reporting on trends, issues and cases.

As the only member of the UN Country Team with a protection and public reporting mandate, OHCHR will continue to promote joint efforts by the Country Team and donor agencies, including through technical working groups, to address common issues of concern, such as access to justice, transparency and accountability, and human rights-based approaches to development, including in the management of land and natural resources.

Through strengthened partnerships, capacity-building activities and direct protection interventions on behalf of civil society actors and human rights defenders, OHCHR will promote a supportive environment for citizens' participation in public and political life, including action to uphold human rights.

With its partners in the UN Country Team and the wider donor community, the Office will promote greater integration of human rights into the work of the UN and other international actors in Cambodia, and greater respect for human rights and the rule of law in the development, implementation and enforcement of national laws and policies. The UNDAF for 2006-2010, to which the Office contributes substantively, is a strong, rights-based document that identifies four focus areas: good governance and the promotion and protection of human rights; agriculture and rural poverty; capacity building and human resource development for the social sector; and support for the National Strategic Development Plan (2006-2010). While the Office's programme contributes to all of these objectives, its emphasis is on protection, assistance and advisory work in the first two areas.

The Office will continue its efforts to promote and support increased government and civil society engagement and cooperation with UN treaty bodies, special procedures and the Human Rights Council. This will include providing advice and assistance to the Government to ensure progress on its reporting obligations under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (CAT), the ICESCR, and the International Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), and on its engagement with the Human Rights Council. The Office will also encourage civil society to participate in treaty reporting and Universal Periodic Review processes by submitting shadow reports or information to relevant Committees. The Office will continue to promote engagement with special procedures mandate-holders by the Government and civil society.

CAMBODIA BUDGET 2008 – 2009		
	Regular Budget Requirements (USD)	Extrabudgetary Requirements (USD)
Personnel and related costs	2,667,400.00	359,994.00
Official travel	68,000.00	51,414.00
Contractual Services	5,900.00	74,620.00
General Operating Expenses	341,200.00	190,855.00
Furniture & Equipment	100,700.00	–
Seminars, grants & contributions	37,800.00	68,983.00
Subtotal	3,273,700.00	745,865.00
Programme support costs	–	96,962.00
GRAND TOTAL	3,273,700.00	842,827.00

Nepal

Established	2005
No. of staff	159
Financial requirements	USD 18,628,891

Human rights context

The mass protests of April 2006 ended the armed conflict, raising hopes for greater respect for human rights, especially after the 21 November 2006 signing of the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA). However, the conflict and the period of autocratic rule left State institutions weak and subject to political pressure. Entrenched impunity for past and present abuses, inherited from periods prior to the conflict, continues to be the central obstacle to reform of government institutions, particularly local governance bodies, law enforcement agencies and the criminal justice system. Particularly destabilizing to the peace process has been the failure to reform the police, which has led to a public security crisis that is central to the deteriorating human rights situation.

The security vacuum has been filled, in part, by the parallel “law enforcement” activities of the Communist Party of Nepal (Maoist) (CPN [M]), including its Young

Communist League. Their actions have led to increased human rights abuses that undermine public confidence in the Maoists’ commitment to the peace process.

Much of the population remains politically under-represented and excluded from access to justice and other public services as a consequence of poverty and/or through discrimination by reason of gender, ethnicity, caste or sexual orientation. The failure of the peace process to address these concerns has resulted in numerous protests and strikes, particularly in the Terai region, near the southern border with India. While most demonstrations are peaceful, some have resulted in violent confrontations with the police. OHCHR continues to document repeated use of excessive force by the police, increasing tensions and the likelihood of violent confrontation. In addition, the public security vacuum has resulted in a proliferation of criminal gangs and armed groups in the Terai. These groups are a dangerous and increasingly unpredictable catalyst for extreme violence and criminality.

The postponement of elections for the Constituent Assembly for a second time, in October 2007, is likely to exacerbate these problems. While elections are a key step towards creating a more participatory, inclusive and equal society, there are significant obstacles to overcome before credible elections can be held in a climate free from intimidation and fear. Public security must be improved, including by reforming the police, and long-standing impunity must be tackled.

A United Nations Mission in Nepal (UNMIN), with which the Office cooperates closely, was established in January 2007.

Nepal will not be reviewed by the UPR until 2011. However, the country has overdue reports to the Human Rights Committee and CEDAW and should submit reports to the CAT and CERD in the first part of 2008. No visits by special procedures mandate-holders have taken place to Nepal in 2007, and no invitations have been issued yet for 2008.

Achievements

One of the main impacts of OHCHR’s presence in Nepal was the reduction of conflict-related human rights violations. OHCHR’s visits to army barracks and other places of detention made an impact that was acknowledged by the Nepalese Army itself: By the end of 2005, conflict-related disappearances by the army had ceased. Periods of unacknowledged detention gradually became shorter and conditions of detention improved in cases where OHCHR had intervened.

It is also widely acknowledged that OHCHR’s monitoring of the April 2006 protests deterred violence by State authorities in repressing the demonstrations. A further deterrent was the announcement by the High Commissioner that she would pass information on individuals or units from the police or Nepalese Army responsible for human rights violations to the Department of Peacekeeping Operations to prevent their participation in UN operations.

As the Terai region became a growing priority, OHCHR's interventions in relation to protests, detention, abductions and abuse of human rights defenders were widely recognized as having a considerable stabilizing effect, although this was mitigated by the failure of the national authorities to take effective action on public security and wider political solutions.

Some of the most important impacts of the Office's work have been more focus on human rights issues, human rights defenders carrying out their work in greater security, victims coming forward to report violations and abuse, and public dialogue on human rights issues continuing even in the face of repression.

OHCHR Nepal also coordinated its work closely with the UN Country Team, and particularly with UNICEF, on the implementation of Security Council Resolution 1612 on children and armed conflict.

Priorities

OHCHR Nepal's plans for 2008-2009 will focus increasingly on building the capacity of national partners and will continue to give attention to issues critical to the peace process, while remaining sufficiently flexible to respond to the uncertain and volatile political climate. Impunity remains the greatest human rights challenge in the country and OHCHR will continue to advocate that perpetrators of human rights violations from both sides to the conflict be held to account, including through prosecutions.

As national capacity is strengthened and national institutions take on a greater role in human rights promotion and protection, and assuming no major further deterioration of the situation, OHCHR will begin in 2008 to progressively reduce its presence in Nepal with a view to creating a sustainable presence comparable to OHCHR's other major operations.

However, the high levels of tension created by discrimination and marginalization and public insecurity, coupled with public expectations of a proactive, mobile and highly visible OHCHR, mean that field monitoring, protection and prevention activities are likely to remain a priority in, at least, the first part of the biennium. The Office will intensify its engagement and advocacy with the Government to press for the incorporation of provisions protecting human rights into the new Constitution and other relevant legislation. A crucial activity will be analyzing draft legislation and providing recommendations and supporting civil society's advocacy efforts on these issues. OHCHR will continue to advocate for the elimination of discriminatory legislation and practices, through legal analysis and monitoring and outreach activities.

The Office will increase its efforts to build the capacity of organizations representing marginalized groups and will press for the inclusion of those groups in all aspects of social and political life. Advocacy with and capacity

building of law enforcement agencies, justice institutions, and civil administration will also be strengthened in an effort to push for implementation of new and existing legislation. OHCHR will increase its support to civil society and the Government in developing transitional justice mechanisms and will work to strengthen the Nepal Human Rights Commission.

OHCHR will assist the Government in meeting its human rights obligations through greater cooperation with international human rights mechanisms, including treaty bodies and special procedures, and through the ratification of the remaining treaties, specifically the Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD), the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families (ICRMW), the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the Statute of the International Criminal Court.

NEPAL BUDGET 2008 – 2009	
	Requirements (USD)
Personnel and related costs	13,425,204.00
Official travel	647,136.00
Contractual Services	168,084.00
General operating expenses	2,189,520.00
Seminars, grants & contributions	55,800.00
Subtotal	16,485,744.00
Programme support costs	2,143,147.00
GRAND TOTAL	18,628,891.00

HUMAN RIGHTS COMPONENTS OF UN PEACEKEEPING MISSIONS

Afghanistan – United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan (UNAMA)

Afghanistan continues to suffer from a pervasive culture of impunity and a weak rule of law. Worsening security conditions have substantially diminished the enjoyment of human rights, including the right to life and safety, freedom of movement, access to education and health, and access to livelihoods by communities in insurgency-affected areas.

Illegal and arbitrary detention continues, and in a significant proportion of cases, pre-trial detention deadlines are breached, suspects are not given defence counsel, and

ill-treatment and torture are used to force confessions. Very few people have access to redress mechanisms, especially women. There are frequent reports of arbitrary denial of justice in disputes over housing, land and property rights.

There are clear signs that freedom of expression is threatened, with continuing reports of arbitrary arrests, detention and intimidation of journalists. There has been limited progress towards the implementation of the transitional justice action plan (Action Plan on Peace, Reconciliation and Justice in Afghanistan) adopted by the Government in December 2005 and due for completion by end 2008.

OHCHR continued to build the capacity of local human rights actors, including the Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC), to promote and protect human rights. An illustrated booklet and a poster on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in local languages were published and disseminated in the provinces.

OHCHR continued to work closely with the AIHRC and the UN Country Team. OHCHR and other UN partners are also supporting the Government in fulfilling its treaty reporting obligations.

OHCHR will focus on impunity and transitional justice and on the protection of civilians, which is an acute problem given the deteriorating security situation. OHCHR will lead efforts to advocate for greater State adherence to international human rights norms and standards. This includes mainstreaming human rights into the work of the Ministry of Interior and calling upon all parties to the conflict to respect and protect the rights of civilians.

OHCHR will continue to provide technical advice and support to the Human Rights Treaty Reporting Project, based in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and supported by donors and UNDP, and to implementation of human rights-related benchmarks of the Afghanistan Compact and the Afghanistan National Development Strategy. OHCHR will advocate for increased Government commitment to implementing the transitional justice action plan as part of its efforts to increase the capacity of the national human rights protection system. Working closely with the UNAMA Rule of Law Unit, OHCHR will also improve upon the Legal System Monitoring Project on reform of the justice sector, focusing particularly on women's access to justice.

OHCHR will continue to create awareness among the Afghan people, particularly women, about their rights and how to realize those rights.



UNAMA-supported event, International Day of Peace in Khost, Afghanistan. © UN Photo/Khost Office

Joint projects with other UN agencies will include rights-based programming with specific focus on economic and social rights; setting up and maintaining women referral centres, which provide an alternative point of reference for women victims of violence; creating awareness about the rights of persons with disabilities; and integrating human rights into the Afghanistan National Development Strategy process.

Afghanistan will be considered under the Universal Periodic Review in 2009.

Timor-Leste – United Nations Mission in East Timor (UNMIT)

The Presidential and Parliamentary elections held in 2007 were widely considered free and fair despite sporadic violence. The security situation is improving; however, the interim law enforcement support provided by UNMIT Police and the security assistance provided by the International Stabilization Force (ISF) remain necessary.

Timor-Leste is slowly recovering from the security and humanitarian crisis caused by the unrest during April and May 2006. However, the absence of durable solutions for thousands of internally displaced people living in camps, and the presence of a small but well-armed group of ex-military and police operating in the countryside are sources of instability. Poverty, high unemployment, especially among youth, and inadequate access to basic services are priority issues requiring concerted action by both the Government and the international community. State and civil society institutions are still faced with serious capacity problems.

Timor-Leste has submitted its report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and is finalizing its report under CEDAW.

In November 2006, OHCHR, UNDP and the Office of the *Provedor* (Ombudsman) signed a three-year technical cooperation project, entitled “Human Rights Capacity Building of the *Provedoria* for Human Rights and Justice,” to which OHCHR is providing substantive and financial assistance. As a result of the work already undertaken, the *Provedoria* is receiving and investigating complaints and has also engaged in advocacy at the national level. Following the establishment of a fully representative Advisory Council, the *Provedoria* was admitted, on 25 September 2007, to full membership of the Asia-Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions.

The capacity of local NGOs to monitor and promote human rights has been strengthened, not only through training initiatives, but also with the creation of a human rights database that ensures consistency among local NGOs in addressing cases.

A cooperative relationship has been established with the Timorese armed forces: for the first time, human rights training was conducted for its military personnel, and human rights issues have been discussed with the senior command.

Following the unrest of April and May 2006, and pursuant to a request from the then Timorese Minister of Foreign Affairs, the Secretary-General mandated the High Commissioner for Human Rights to establish the Independent Special Commission of Inquiry for Timor-Leste (COI). In keeping with the COI’s request to strengthen the domestic judicial system for the implementation of its recommendations, OHCHR provided funding in 2007 for the recruitment of an international prosecutor to assist the Office of the Prosecutor-General in implementing those recommendations. Despite serious resource constraints and political tension, the domestic judicial system has made progress in implementing the COI’s recommendations. UNMIT and OHCHR advised against the adoption of wide-ranging amnesty legislation that would have undermined criminal accountability and fostered impunity. The law was declared unconstitutional by the Timor-Leste Appeals Court, following a request for review of constitutionality by the President.

OHCHR, through the Human Rights and Transitional Justice Section of UNMIT, will implement a new two-year technical cooperation programme with the Government with the aim of strengthening national human rights protection systems. The project will support the integration of human rights into the curricula of the police and the army, internal accountability systems, progress towards accountability for serious violations of human rights committed during the crises of 1999 and 2006 (through the continued implementation of the recommendations of the COI report), increased access to and public awareness of existing protection and redress mechanisms, the introduction of human rights education in primary and pre-secondary schools, and the development of human rights education training for school teachers.

In order to strengthen human rights protection mechanisms, the technical cooperation programme with the Office of the *Provedor* will continue. OHCHR will continue to strengthen the advocacy and monitoring capacity of NGOs, including the capacity of women’s NGOs to monitor judicial processes related to cases of domestic violence. Capacity building for the Parliament will help ensure that new laws comply with international human rights standards and promote transitional justice. OHCHR will advocate for a strong legal framework to address the issue of gender-based violence.

OHCHR will provide the necessary expertise in transitional justice to ensure progress towards accountability, especially for serious violations of human rights committed in 1999 and during the crisis of April-May 2006.

The Office will provide guidance to the UN Country Team in identifying areas for human rights programming and ensuring that the Common Country Assessment (CCA) and UNDAF apply a human rights-based approach. OHCHR will provide assistance and expertise to ensure greater government and civil society engagement and cooperation with the UN treaty bodies, special procedure mechanisms and the Human Rights Council, including in preparing reports and shadow reports, and following up on recommendations and concluding observations.

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISERS

Indonesia

Indonesia is undergoing a momentous transition: the President has made justice, law, human rights and democracy central priorities. The country has ratified all the major human rights conventions, with the exception of the ICRMW, and its national human rights institution, *Komnas HAM*, plays an important role in protecting and promoting human rights.

Although a peace settlement is being implemented in Aceh, along with post-tsunami reconstruction, other regional conflicts continue to simmer in the country, particularly in Papua. Indonesia has also assumed a front-line role in the “war on terror,” with strong international support for counter-terrorist measures.

Indonesia will be in the first group of Member States to be considered under the Universal Periodic Review in the first part of 2008.

On the basis of activities developed since the establishment of the post in August 2007, the Human Rights Adviser will conduct a mapping exercise to identify needs for technical cooperation and assistance, set up coordination mechanisms within the UN Country Team, and hold regular discussions with state institutions and civil society. Priority areas include the prevention of torture and the protection of human rights in disaster response.

The Human Rights Adviser will provide substantive advice on how to integrate human rights into UN Country Team programming, including through training on applying human rights-based approaches to priority themes. The Adviser will also facilitate increased collaboration between the Government and the special procedures mechanisms and will assist both the Government and civil society in reporting to the treaty bodies and UPR and in following up on recommendations.

The Maldives

The Republic of Maldives has ratified most of the core human rights conventions, including the ICCPR and ICESCR. The Government has also extended a standing invitation to all special procedures of the Human Rights Council. The Government has embarked on an extensive programme of political reform, including significant revisions to the criminal justice system and human rights-related laws. Recently improved legislation has affirmed the independence of the national Human Rights Commission.

The Human Rights Adviser's primary focus will be to strengthen national capacities and institutions for the protection and promotion of human rights. The Adviser will advise the Government and national institutions on drafting legislation that complies with international human rights norms and standards, and on how to strengthen the capacity of the judiciary to implement legal reform in compliance with international human rights law. The Adviser will also contribute to ongoing activities under the UNDP joint project to support the national Human Rights Commission.

In addition, the Human Rights Adviser will help build the capacity of the UN Country Team and its partners to integrate a human rights-based approach into its programmes and activities; will support the country's emerging human rights NGOs; and will assist the national Human Rights Commission, civil society and the UN Country Team in treaty body reporting and follow-up and in working with the special procedures.

Papua New Guinea

Papua New Guinea is a multi-party democracy with constitutional protection for human rights and has ratified ICERD, the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and CEDAW. The country does not yet have a national human rights institution. With more than 800 indigenous tribes and languages, it is one of the most heterogeneous countries in the world.

In spite of its legal framework of protection, there are reports of police abuses, including of children, poor prison conditions and lengthy pre-trial detention. Discrimination against girls and women remains prevalent, and there is a looming HIV and AIDS crisis with some two percent of the population affected. Insufficient resources, lack of professional training for the police force, and the absence of strong political leadership and national identity have all compounded law-and-order problems in the country. The proliferation of small, homemade arms and the continued migration to urban areas have augmented security concerns. There are also challenges for recovery and the implementation of post-conflict arrangements in Bougainville. There is low awareness of human rights, and only those with sufficient resources are able to access the justice system.

The Human Rights Adviser will support efforts to mainstream human rights and to build the internal capacity of the UN Country Team to better support the implementation of relevant UNDAF recommendations for strengthening of national human rights protection systems. Expert advice and training on human rights will be provided to the UN Country Team and support will be offered to the Government and other national partners in establishing and strengthening national protection systems.

The Adviser will promote greater action by the UN Country Team on human rights and use of a rights-based approach to programming, with a focus on vulnerable groups, including women, children and minority groups, increased Government and civil society engagement and cooperation with international human rights mechanisms, and greater public awareness of human rights through advocacy campaigns and human rights education.

The Philippines

The Philippines boasts a positive environment for engagement in human rights issues, with a receptive government, democratic institutions, an effective national human rights institution, an active UN Country Team that seeks the integration of human rights, and a vibrant civil society. Concerns have been raised by Special Procedures, however, about human rights violations in the context of law enforcement. The Philippines has championed the development of an ASEAN human rights mechanism, and its national human rights commission is at the forefront of regional cooperation efforts. In 2007, OHCHR worked with the Philippines to host regional meetings on national human rights institutions and violence against women, and built local capacity for treaty reporting and follow-up.

The UN Country Team has expressed interest in a Human Rights Adviser post to mainstream human rights and support the implementation of relevant UNDAF recommendations to strengthen the national human rights protection systems.

The Philippines will be among the first Member States to be considered under the Universal Periodic Review in 2008.

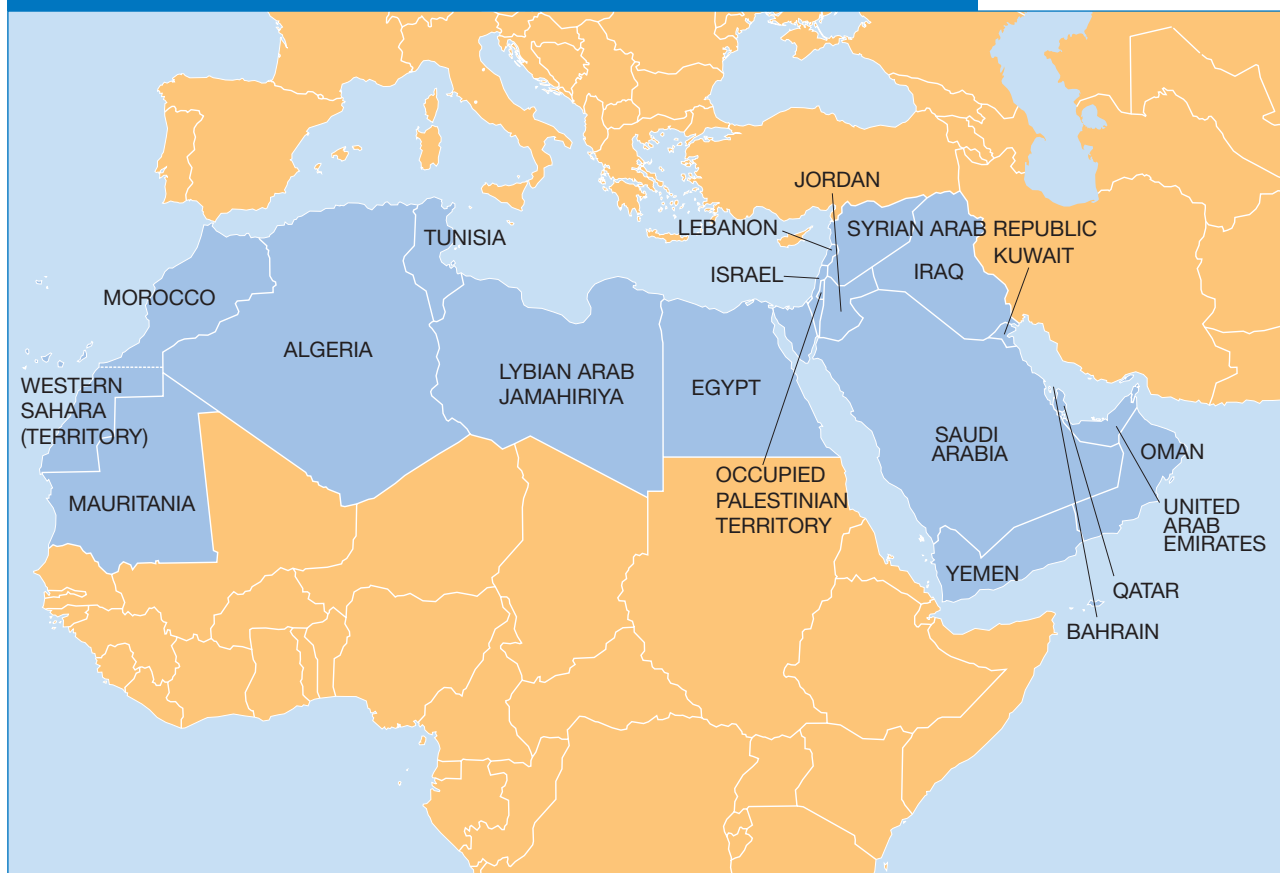
Sri Lanka

A senior Human Rights Adviser has been working with the UN Country Team in Sri Lanka since June 2004, advising and supporting the UN Resident Coordinator and UN agencies on strategies to protect human rights and build the capacity of national institutions and civil society to support the peace process. In response to the deteriorating human rights situation since December 2005, OHCHR has explored ways to reinforce its presence in the country, culminating with the High Commissioner's visit in October 2007. While the Government has not favoured an expansion of OHCHR's presence, the creation of a new Ministry for Human Rights and Disaster Management in 2006 presented new opportunities for OHCHR to intensify its country engagement. Up to two additional staff members will be deployed on a rotational basis to assist the senior Human Rights Adviser.

Sri Lanka will be considered under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) in 2008.

The primary focus of OHCHR's country engagement with Sri Lanka is to strengthen national capacity to monitor and respond to conflict-related human rights violations. This will involve building the capacity of national protection mechanisms, including the national Human Rights Commission and relevant government Ministries, the security forces, judiciary and civil society. OHCHR is also providing technical support to initiatives that address impunity for human rights violations and ensure effective witness protection, particularly the Commission of Inquiry and the International Independent Group of Eminent Persons. OHCHR is also working with its UN partners in implementing a joint programme on human rights arising from the 2008-2012 UNDAF. This includes working with the Government and other stakeholders on treaty body reporting and follow-up and engaging with the special procedures and the UPR mechanism.

OHCHR IN THE MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA



Regional human rights context

In recent years, many States in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) region have taken steps towards legal, economic and social reforms, including holding multi-party legislative and municipal elections, establishing national human rights institutions, and improving the status of women. The number and diversity of activities of civil society organizations has increased, with human rights NGOs focusing their activities on raising awareness, promoting human rights education, documenting human rights violations and providing legal assistance and research services to right-holders. In addition, new independent media outlets have emerged in many countries.

Many States in the region have ratified the major international human rights instruments. A growing number of these countries have been fulfilling their human rights treaty body reporting obligations and taking steps to follow up on the implementation of both treaty body and special procedures recommendations and concluding observations. However, despite this progress, more work is required to ensure region-wide ratification of some of the core human rights treaties, particularly the two International Covenants and the various optional protocols.

While several countries in the region have demonstrated a greater commitment to human rights, the record in most countries still needs improvement. One of the many pressing problems facing North African and the Middle Eastern countries is the impact of counter-terrorism measures on human rights. Striking a balance between upholding core human rights principles and combating terrorism is a particularly great challenge to the States of the region. With the political climate in the region dominated by the violence in Iraq, the Israeli-Palestinian conflict, the unrest in Lebanon and their respective consequences, human rights norms and the rights of civilians have become harder to protect. Some countries have remained under emergency laws for decades. Others have adopted laws within the framework of national reconciliation processes that, in practice, ensure impunity. In some countries, human rights organizations have had their freedom of association and assembly restricted.

Strategy

In 2008 and 2009, OHCHR will focus on combating impunity, strengthening democratic institutions and contributing to the protection of human rights in armed conflicts. The Office will strengthen its country engagement in the region by improving the capacities of the Office in the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) and the Regional Office for the Middle East, opening a Regional Office for North Africa, and a UN Human Rights Documentation and Training Centre in Qatar.

The Office will increase the number of its advisory and needs-assessment missions to the region and will intensify dialogue with all relevant actors at regional and national levels. OHCHR will also bolster its strategic partnerships with intergovernmental organizations, such as the League of Arab States, the Gulf Cooperation Council, the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Islamic Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, and regional professional associations. In cooperation with independent media outlets, OHCHR will promote human rights and raise its own profile throughout the region. Training tools and information in Arabic will be developed to support public information and advocacy activities.

The Office will continue to encourage and assist government efforts to ratify international human rights treaties and protocols, support the existing national human rights institutions, and encourage the creation of new ones in line with the Paris Principles. OHCHR will also support governments, UN Country Teams, civil society actors and media outlets in implementing and following up on concluding observations and recommendations of treaty bodies and special procedures. The Office will consult with concerned States and other relevant actors to ensure monitoring of the implementation of national human rights plans of action. The High Commissioner's good offices will be sought to bring about policy changes and place human rights on the national agendas of MENA countries.

In an effort to combat impunity, OHCHR will undertake legal analyses to ensure that national legislation complies with international standards and will offer advice and assistance on establishing or strengthening justice and accountability mechanisms. Specific training activities for judges and lawyers will be conducted and ad hoc *amicus curiae* briefs will be filed with the aim of increasing the implementation of international human rights standards through court judgments.

Protecting human rights in situations of armed conflict will remain at the core of OHCHR's regional focus. Timely technical assistance will be provided to governments to conduct national investigations, assist in the creation of truth and reconciliation commissions, and award individual and collective reparations for violations of human

rights and humanitarian law. Support will be provided to rights-holders to identify and use mechanisms of redress for violations of international humanitarian or human rights law.

Field presence

Field deployment during the biennium is projected as follows:

TYPE OF OFFICE	LOCATION
Regional Offices and Centres	Middle East (Beirut) North Africa* Qatar*
Stand Alone Office	OPT
Human Rights Components of UN Peace Missions	Iraq

* To be opened during the biennium.

REGIONAL OFFICES

Middle East Regional Office

Established	2002
No. of staff	8
Financial requirements	USD 2,773,355

The Office, which was opened in February 2002, covers Bahrain, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the United Arab Emirates and Yemen.

Human rights context

OHCHR implements its programmes in a complex region with a history of tense social, religious and political relationships that have regularly flared into open armed conflict, including internal and international conflicts and military occupations. Despite the formal constitutional and parliamentary structures in place in most countries of the region, the principles and structures of the rule of law, including clear separation of powers, accountability and transparency in governance and, above all, an independent judiciary, remain weak in practice.

Armed conflict, the lack of democratic participation, and patchy social and economic policies have had a direct and deleterious impact on the status of individual and collective human rights, and their enjoyment in the region remains tenuous at best. While civil society advocacy organizations are strong in the Occupied Palestinian Territory, Lebanon, and Jordan, and are growing in Iraq, Syria and several countries in the Gulf, they often come

under threat of arrest and harassment in violation of their rights to free expression, association and assembly. They are also in need of support and strengthened capacity to fully and effectively achieve their objectives. The struggle for women's rights, particularly equality in citizenship and access to resources, continues, and women's organizations have been effective in raising their concerns in public discussions. Of particular concern are the human rights of groups that have become acutely vulnerable because of a lack of protection, including nearly five million Palestinian, Iraqi and other refugees in the Middle East, and hundreds of thousands of stateless persons and migrant workers.

Achievements

The Office collaborated closely with the Economic and Social Commission for West Asia (ESCWA) in its regional work, in particular with the ESCWA Centre for Women by contributing to the project on women in situations of armed conflict. Contact with ESCWA's Emerging Conflicts and Related Issues Unit resulted in a joint programme that will continue during 2008-2009, and OHCHR's support led to the adoption of a human rights-based approach in ESCWA's preparation of the Arab Millennium Development Goals Report for 2007, focusing on youth.

Given the developments in Lebanon in 2006 and 2007 and due to resource constraints, the activities of the Regional Office were mainly focused on Lebanon. Significant achievements were realized in bringing a human rights focus to the work of UN agencies in Lebanon. OHCHR worked closely with UNHCR and UNRWA during and after the war of July 2006 and the May-August 2007 armed conflict between the Lebanese Army and a cross-national militant group, which resulted in the near total destruction of Nahr el-Bared Palestinian refugee camp. The Office continuously highlighted the importance of protecting civilians, co-chaired the Protection Working Group with UNHCR, and created a Protection Working Group for the north of the country in the context of the latter conflict. In the aftermath of the July 2006 war in Lebanon, the Office was also involved in the visits of five Special Rapporteurs and Representatives, and provided support to the Commission of Inquiry on Lebanon established by Human Rights Council Resolution S-2/1 and its subsequent report and recommendations.

Following the creation of the position of Special Coordinator for Lebanon in November 2006, OHCHR provides human rights advisory services for the Special Coordinator's Office.

Priorities

The Office has identified a number of thematic issues that require attention at national and regional levels. In 2008-2009, OHCHR will focus on freedom of expression, association and assembly, given that these are both threatened and essential to democratic participation. Target issues will include press freedom, the requirements of political participation and public debate, the freedom of civil society

organizations, particularly human rights defenders, to operate freely, and trade and labour union rights. Economic and social rights will also be highlighted, particularly in the context of the Millennium Development Goals. The rights of women will continue to be a priority issue.

The Office will also focus on groups that are in particularly vulnerable situations, including refugees and stateless persons. The majority of refugees in the Middle East have no legal protection other than the good offices of UNHCR. Yemen is the only country in the Middle East to have ratified the 1951 Convention Relating to the Status of Refugees, and the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA) has no mandate for the legal protection of Palestinian refugees. The human rights of stateless persons, whose legal status is little understood or discussed within the region, will also be a focus of OHCHR's programme. The Office will continue its activities to protect women migrant domestic workers in the region.

In implementing all of these activities, the Office will maximize resources by working closely with UN agencies and government and non-governmental partners. Many UN agencies have significant resources that can be tapped for joint programming with OHCHR. Projects undertaken with UNDP, the ILO, UNRWA and other agencies in the previous biennium offer excellent examples to be followed, and provide opportunities to mainstream human rights in the work of these agencies and that of the UN Country Teams in both Lebanon and Syria.

MIDDLE EAST REGIONAL OFFICE BUDGET 2008 – 2009

	Requirements (USD)
Personnel and related costs	1,796,349.00
Consultants	29,190.00
Official travel	163,385.00
Contractual Services	4,920.00
General operating expenses	305,143.00
Seminars, grants & contributions	160,310.00
Subtotal	2,454,297.00
Programme support costs	319,059.00
GRAND TOTAL	2,773,355.00

North Africa Regional Office

Established	2008
No. of staff	To be determined
Financial requirements	To be determined

Human rights context

The North Africa region continues to face challenges in the areas of rule of law, good governance and, in some cases, effective transitional justice initiatives and prolonged states of emergency. Gender protection and the rights of

persons in vulnerable groups, for example, children and migrants, remain key areas to be strengthened. Other issues of concern include freedom of expression and information, protection of human rights defenders, freedom of association, judicial independence, the impact of counter-terrorism legislation, and law enforcement.

The mandate of the Regional Office for North Africa, like that of other regional offices, is to help develop engagement strategies for countries requiring more focused attention; provide coverage for other countries, as requested by Headquarters; engage with regional and subregional intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations; and function as resource centre for country offices, human rights components of peace operations and human rights officers deployed in the region by providing relevant thematic expertise for capacity-building, fact-finding, advocacy and other activities. To that end, regional offices are intended to help bridge gaps in implementation at the national level.

The geographic scope of the regional office will encompass the following countries: Algeria, Egypt, the Libyan Arab Jamahiriya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia. The Regional Office for North Africa will be the first OHCHR presence in the region.

Priorities

In its initial phase, OHCHR's Regional Office will focus on establishing bilateral cooperation frameworks with countries in the region where OHCHR has no presence and

identifying relevant thematic priorities in consultation with Member States, national human rights institutions, NGOs and UN Country Teams in the region.

The Office will seek to strengthen the capacities of governments and civil society actors in the region, including in thematic issues such as judicial independence, impunity, the impact of counter-terrorism legislation, and law enforcement. OHCHR will also work on issues relating to gender protection and human rights defenders in cooperation with local and regional institutions and organizations, with the aim of increasing participation in decision-making processes. These objectives will be met through regular analysis and reporting, sharing OHCHR materials, media engagement, development of training modules, and providing training.

The Regional Office will also serve as a forum for sharing regional experiences and good practices in the area of human rights, particularly concerning the priority themes of impunity, weak institutions and discrimination. It will cooperate in and possibly carry out joint programming with partners such as UN agencies, the UN Country Teams, regional organizations including the African Union and the League of Arab States, and national human rights institutions. The Office will serve as a link between Member States and these entities by promoting greater interaction with the special procedures by referring individual complaints and supporting visits by special procedure



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mandate-holders. The Office will also advocate for treaty ratification, reporting and follow-up. It will assist Member States, national human rights institutions, civil society and UN Country Teams in developing appropriate mechanisms for treaty reporting and follow-up to recommendations by both special procedures and treaty bodies.

Training and Documentation Centre for South-West Asia and the Arab Region

Established	2008
No. of staff	3
Financial requirements	USD 1,005,842

The General Assembly adopted Resolution A/Res/60/153 in 2005 asking “the Secretary-General and the Office of the High Commissioner to give their support to the establishment of a United Nations human rights training and documentation centre for South-West Asia and the Arab region, to conclude an agreement with the host country regarding its establishment and to make available resources for the establishment of the centre.” The resolution defined the Centre’s mandate as: “to undertake training and documentation activities according to international human rights standards and to support such efforts within the region by Governments, United Nations agencies and programmes, national human rights institutions and non-governmental organizations.” Discussions on establishing the Centre are ongoing with the Government of Qatar with a view to opening it in 2008.

Priorities

With the objective of strengthening a human rights culture and building human rights expertise, the Regional Centre will rely on up-to-date tools and methodologies to promote human rights through active learning, provision of advisory services on curricula design and dissemination of information. Activities will target line-ministry officials, national human rights institutions, secretariats of intergovernmental organizations, law enforcement agencies, the judiciary, students, professional groups, and NGOs identified by the regional and other field offices.

The Centre will focus on increasing the capacity of the judiciary, law enforcement officials, members of parliaments and their staff, and other actors to apply human rights standards in their work. It will develop and provide information and documentation systems on human rights and disseminate information through various media outlets. Training and documentation projects will be carried out to raise awareness about human rights and foster research with civil society actors, universities, research and training centres and media organizations. The Centre will advocate for the ratification of core

human rights treaties, the withdrawal of reservations, and the implementation of and follow-up on reporting obligations and concluding observations.

A library and an Arabic website will be created. As part of OHCHR’s media strategy for the region, and benefiting from the proximity of Al-Jazeera’s headquarters, human rights information will be disseminated through regional media. Complementing the activities already conducted by OHCHR to strengthen human rights groups, the Centre will encourage civil society organizations and academics to publish high-quality reports on specific human rights issues and will assist in translating and disseminating them.

TRAINING AND DOCUMENTATION CENTRE FOR SOUTH-WEST ASIA AND THE ARAB REGION BUDGET 2008 – 2009	
	Requirements (USD)
Personnel and related costs	547,078.00
Official travel	185,812.00
General operating expenses	154,775.00
Seminars, grants & contributions	2,460.00
Subtotal	890,125.00
Programme support costs	115,716.00
GRAND TOTAL	1,005,842.00

STAND-ALONE OFFICE

Occupied Palestinian Territory

Established	Gaza: 1996 Ramallah: 2000
No. of staff	15
Financial requirements	USD 3,721,977

Human rights context

The internal power struggle between the rival Fatah and Hamas movements has added a new dimension to the suffering of the Palestinian people. In addition to the threats to human rights resulting from the Israeli forces’ military control of the territory, Palestinians are now exposed to new abuses resulting from the power struggle between the two rival factions. These worrying trends are surfacing in an environment dominated by violence and impunity in the West Bank and the Gaza Strip.

In the West Bank, an emergency Palestinian Authority Government (PA) enjoys international recognition and pledges of support, while in the Gaza Strip the international community and the United Nations do not

recognize the legitimacy of Hamas' June 2007 military takeover. During that month, the emergency government instructed Gaza-based institutions for administration of justice and law enforcement not to resume functioning. Law and order functions are carried out by the Hamas-affiliated Executive Forces, or Ezzedine al-Qassam Brigades, outside the framework of the law and in the absence of judicial oversight.

In this situation, domestic human rights mechanisms may be pressured to curtail their reporting, thereby increasing the need for OHCHR to monitor and report directly on the human rights situation. Given the nature of the current political situation, OHCHR must address human rights issues with three sets of duty-bearers, namely the PA, Hamas and the Government of Israel.

Achievements

Activities to strengthen partnerships with civil society and build their capacities have included intensive training sessions for participants from all parts of the Gaza Strip and West Bank, where freedom of movement is severely curtailed. Training was designed to increase Palestinian civil society actors' use of special procedures and to enhance their understanding of treaty bodies and use of concluding observations. New elements included workshops on human rights with NGOs working on poverty and unemployment issues, women's rights and gender mainstreaming, the rights of persons with disabilities, and mainstreaming their participation into ongoing training activities. For the first time, training-of-trainers' sessions were successfully undertaken in the West Bank and Gaza Strip, with support from the Women's Rights and Gender Unit.

OHCHR helped strengthen the UN Country Team's capacity to use a rights-based approach to programming and held regular meetings of the UN Human Rights Working Group (UNHRWG). In 2006, significant efforts were made to create a Protection Sector, led by OHCHR, and aimed at placing human rights in the foreground of work by UN agencies and contributors to the inter-agency Consolidated Appeal Process (CAP). The Office also hosted inter-active briefings for experts visiting the region with the UNHRWG.

Priorities

OHCHR aims to strengthen its work on accountability through authoritative, law-based public reports on priority themes, accompanied by direct interventions with duty-bearers, advocacy and media work. The Office will work with the UN Country Team to integrate human rights law into joint statements and work with NGOs to develop complementary strategies for accountability.

The Office will continue to provide support to police academies and the judiciary, focusing on transparent and effective mechanisms for accountability. The Office will also organize training for the Palestinian Legislative Council's specialized committees and staff on integrating human rights standards into draft legislation. OHCHR will continue to work with the Minister of Education and Higher Education to support the Ministry's implementation of the World Programme for Human Rights Education.

A more strategic approach to communications will be employed by working with the media, maximizing the potential interest in OHCHR's work on both accountability and empowerment, and developing a webpage to provide information updates on treaty bodies and special procedures. Wherever possible, reports will be made available in Arabic and Hebrew.

OHCHR will continue to work with the UN Country Team, particularly the Human Rights Working Group, to encourage joint activities on human rights themes and actions. Familiarization sessions on international human rights mechanisms and standards and on the human rights-based approach will continue, and human rights will be further integrated through joint planning activities, such as the CAP, for which OHCHR takes the lead in the protection sector.

Building on past experience, the Office will create partnerships with the national human rights institution and civil society actors to strengthen interaction with international accountability mechanisms. It will also assist groups that are marginalized or are discriminated against, particularly women, persons with disabilities and Palestinians living in remote and/or impoverished areas, in gaining access to appropriate international human rights mechanisms and realizing their rights.

The Office will also assist in direct interaction with special procedures and relevant treaty bodies and will advise on implementation of Human Rights Council resolutions relating to the region.

OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY BUDGET 2008 – 2009	
	Requirements (USD)
Personnel and related costs	2,320,629.00
Consultants	420,025.00
Official travel	67,076.00
Contractual Services	95,325.00
General operating expenses	299,095.00
Seminars, grants & contributions	91,635.00
Subtotal	3,293,785.00
Programme support costs	428,192.00
GRAND TOTAL	3,721,977.00

HUMAN RIGHTS COMPONENTS OF PEACE MISSIONS

Iraq

The Human Rights Office within the UN Assistance Mission in Iraq (UNAMI) was established in 2004 with the mandate to ensure the promotion and protection of human rights as foreseen in Security Council Resolution 1546 of June 2004. Freedom of movement of UN staff continues to be severely restricted because of security conditions in all regions, except governorates under the authority of the Kurdistan Regional Government. As of this writing, despite the difficult security situation, the Office had monitored and reported on the human rights situation and had implemented capacity-building activities focusing on the rehabilitation and reconstruction of state and civil society institutions.

Until October 2007, the Human Rights Office had issued nine bi-monthly reports on the human rights situation in Iraq and two quarterly reports. These reports, which detail serious and widespread human rights violations,

are intended to assist the Government of Iraq in ensuring protection of basic human rights and respect for the rule of law.

OHCHR supports the work of the UNAMI by assisting in the implementation of activities and providing guidance and expert advice on specific human rights questions. Monitoring is carried out from UNAMI's human rights offices in Baghdad, Erbil and Amman. The UNAMI Human Rights Office promotes the protection of human rights, assists in the development of a strategy for transitional justice, and advocates for judicial and legal reform. Projects to support the establishment of a national human rights institution, a national centre for missing and disappeared persons and a centre for the rehabilitation of victims of torture will be implemented during 2008-2009.

OHCHR and UNAMI will continue to assist the Iraqi Government in establishing a national human rights commission in compliance with the Paris Principles, as provided for in the new Constitution. Cooperation with international human rights mechanisms, especially the special procedures mandate-holders, will continue.



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OHCHR IN EUROPE, NORTH AMERICA AND CENTRAL ASIA



Regional human rights context

Europe, North America and Central Asia comprise 56 countries with different human rights challenges and priorities. OHCHR focuses on the issue of impunity for violations of a broad range of human rights and works with countries to address instances of torture, violence against women and violations of a number of social and economic rights, including housing rights.

It has long been recognized that a sound system of national institutions is a prerequisite for the effective protection of human rights. Every country has its own challenges to face in ensuring its democratic development. In countries that only recently gained independence, the institutions established to support democracy struggle at times. OHCHR seeks to support countries in their efforts to strengthen fundamental democratic institutions that protect human rights, particularly independent and impartial judiciaries and legislatures. OHCHR also assists countries in countering the growing problem of discriminatory and intolerant treatment based on sex, race, ethnic or religious affiliation, disregard for human rights in the fight against terrorism, abuse against human rights defenders and restrictions on freedom of association.

The Office promotes ratification of important legal instruments, such as the Optional Protocol of the Convention

against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment, and provides training for the legal professions and assistance to national human rights institutions. In implementing these activities, the Office cooperates closely with the UN Country Teams, where these exist, and with the UN human rights mechanisms.

Given OHCHR's limited resources, interaction with existing regional human rights machinery is essential. The Office works with the regional mechanisms of the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to ensure the protection of human rights and to maximize effectiveness. The Office looks forward to seeing how best to cooperate with the European Union institutions in general, and the newly established Fundamental Rights Agency of the European Union in particular, to strengthen the protection of human rights in Europe.

Strategy

OHCHR is present in Central Asia, the South Caucasus, the Russian Federation and Kosovo. Its field deployment in the region underwent a number of changes in the last biennium. Some of these changes were the result of strategic decisions aimed at re-directing scarce resources to those areas most in need. For example, in 2006-2007

OHCHR completed its technical cooperation project in The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and closed its country offices in Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, except for Kosovo. Other changes were prompted by external factors, such as the closing of the UN Tajikistan Office for Peacebuilding (UNTOP). Work in relation to Serbia, Montenegro, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Bosnia and Herzegovina will be continued largely from OHCHR's Headquarters in Geneva, with support given to national human rights advisers deployed in some of the UN Country Teams in the region. Work in Tajikistan will be carried out by the Regional Office for Central Asia, in collaboration with UNDP and OSCE. In Kosovo, OHCHR will continue its efforts to ensure that human rights are properly addressed in all aspects of governance, current and future.

Following the High Commissioner's visit to Central Asia in 2007 and the expected conclusion of an agreement with the Government of the Kyrgyz Republic for the establishment of a Regional Office for Central Asia, the Office will strengthen its engagement in the countries of the region. The deployment of a human rights adviser in Kyrgyzstan, jointly funded with members of the UN Country Team, is a step in this direction. Implementation of a joint OHCHR/UNDP treaty body reporting project in Turkmenistan is under way and is yielding positive results. The implementation of a comprehensive three-year human rights project will follow as of 2008.

With the deployment of a senior human rights adviser to Moscow at the end of 2007, the Office looks forward to working with the UN Country Team and the Russian authorities and institutions on a programme focusing on the rule of law, equality and tolerance, and education and information on human rights.

In the South Caucasus, the placement of a human rights adviser in Tbilisi, Georgia, in May 2007, has strengthened the Office's capacity to provide advisory and capacity-building services to national partners and to UN Country Teams in the region.

OHCHR was, at the time of writing, exploring the possibility of deploying an "Action 2"-funded human rights adviser to the UN Country Team in Albania, in addition to the adviser to be deployed in Moldova. Albania is one of the pilot countries for the "One UN" programme.

In those countries where OHCHR does not have a presence, the Office will continue to follow human rights developments and be ready to advise governments from its Headquarters in Geneva. OHCHR will continue strengthening and formalizing cooperation with regional organizations, including with the European Union, with the aim of joining forces to address some of the main human rights challenges throughout Europe, especially those related to migration, the fight against terrorism and discrimination. Thus, the work of the Special

Rapporteurs on contemporary forms of racism and on the promotion and protection of human rights with the European Union and its associated countries in efforts to counter terrorism will be closely followed.

In the South Caucasus, OHCHR will assist in the implementation of the recommendations that emerge from the visits of the Special Rapporteur on freedom of expression, the Special Rapporteur on torture, and the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons. In Central Asia, the recommendations of the Special Rapporteur on the independence of judges and lawyers will continue to be used to promote reforms in the administration of justice. In Southeast Europe, the Office will closely cooperate with the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders and the Special Rapporteur on the right to education in following up on their recommendations.

Field presence

In the 2008-2009 biennium, OHCHR's presence in the region is projected as follows:

TYPE OF OFFICE	LOCATION
Regional Offices	Central Asia (Bishkek)*
Stand alone Office	Kosovo (Serbia)
Human Rights Components of UN Peace Missions	Georgia/Abkhazia
Human Rights Advisers to UN Country Teams	FYR Macedonia Kyrgyzstan Moldova* Russian Federation Serbia* South Caucasus (Tbilisi)

* To be opened during the biennium.

REGIONAL OFFICES

Central Asia Regional Office

Established	2006 (Regional Representative) 2008 (Regional Office)
No. of staff	6
Financial requirements	USD 612,426

Human Rights Context

The five States of Central Asia share many features and challenges, partly because of their shared history and the legacy of the Soviet Union, and because of their

geographic proximity. Yet, since each country has developed in its own way since independence, specific and targeted activities need to be developed for each country.

There are no regional human rights mechanisms in Central Asia, and few international organizations focus their work exclusively on human rights issues. OHCHR can therefore play a key role in raising awareness about human rights. The establishment of the Regional Office is crucial for realizing OHCHR's goal of active country engagement.

Major human rights concerns as identified by UN human rights mechanisms include allegations of the widespread use of torture; arbitrary detention; the absence of an independent judiciary and violations of fair trial principles; harassment and persecution of civil society organizations, human rights defenders and political opponents; violations of the right to seek asylum and of the *non-refoulement* principle; domestic violence and violations of women's rights; child labour; serious obstacles to the enjoyment of freedom of expression, association, information, and movement; limitations on the enjoyment of religious freedoms; poverty and violations of a wide range of social and economic rights, including the right to social security and to an adequate standard of living, in particular its component rights to adequate housing and water.

The 2006-2007 biennium saw a number of positive developments: the change in leadership in Turkmenistan has created an opportunity for better engagement with this country, and Kazakhstan became the first Central Asian State to sign the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. The High Commissioner visited Central Asia in April and May 2007 with the aim of discussing human rights needs in the region and how the future Regional Office for Central Asia could help meet those needs.

Achievements

In June 2006, a Regional Representative was deployed to Central Asia to establish the Regional Office. At the time of writing, negotiations on the establishment of the Regional Office were ongoing. OHCHR hopes that they will be completed by early 2008, and that the Regional Office will be fully functional during the 2008-2009 biennium.

Despite this delay, OHCHR was able to increase its engagement on a number of key issues in the region. The Office promoted ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture. Two round tables on the subject were held with the participation of international experts and resulting materials were published and disseminated. Working with the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, OHCHR organized a regional seminar on follow-up to the Committee's concluding



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observations. The Office also carried out protection and promotion work and cooperated with the UN human rights special procedures and treaty bodies.

Before the closure of the UN Tajikistan Office of Peacebuilding in July 2007, OHCHR continued to support the activities of its human rights component through a national programme officer working under the supervision of the Central Asia regional representative and funded through the regional project. The regional project implemented a number of human rights activities in Tajikistan, ranging from human rights education, treaty body reporting and implementation support to training for judges and lawyers. At the time of writing, OHCHR was cooperating with UNDP and other organizations active in the region, in particular OSCE, to continue providing human rights support to the country. At the request of the Government, OHCHR and UNDP are supporting Tajikistan's efforts to establish an independent national human rights institution. Once the Regional Office is formally established, it will support a smaller presence in the country to allow for monitoring and protection work to continue. The unit would continue a number of initiatives in human rights education, and expand into new priority areas, such as violence against women, torture and housing rights. It would also respond to government requests for support, particularly for establishing an independent national human rights institution.

In Turkmenistan, a joint OHCHR/UNDP project to support the country in its treaty body reporting started in May 2006. The Government set up an inter-ministerial committee to be led by the National Institute for Democracy and Human Rights and started work on preparing reports to be submitted to the treaty bodies. The committee is gathering additional information under the Convention on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and will prepare the country's report under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The reports under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and the Convention against Torture are also due. Agreement was reached with the Government to begin a new project in mid-2008, in cooperation with UNDP, to focus on implementing recommendations that emerge from the various human rights bodies.

Priorities

OHCHR's strategy in Central Asia focuses mostly on efforts to end impunity for torture, violence against women and infringements on the rights of other vulnerable groups. One way to achieve this will be through ensuring greater access to legal services. The Regional Office will also continue to raise awareness about economic, cultural and social rights, and about UN human rights complaint mechanisms, including special procedures and treaty bodies, and will work to improve the effectiveness of the treaty body reporting system.

OHCHR will assist UN Country Teams in implementing a human rights-based approach in all areas of their work. Improved partnerships with Country Teams will help bolster the effectiveness of UN human rights mechanisms and will remain one of the cornerstones of OHCHR's engagement in the region.

The Regional Office will seek to increase its oversight and supervisory capacity for joint activities with donors and key actors from the international community, and will conduct regular field visits to the countries in the region where joint activities and programmes are being implemented. The Office will also work with the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy to engage relevant political and security organizations and States with significant leverage and influence in the region.

CENTRAL ASIA BUDGET 2008 – 2009	
	Requirements (USD)
Personnel and related costs	215,815.00
Consultants	51,250.00
Official travel	57,400.00
Contractual Services	34,850.00
General operating expenses	43,255.00
Seminars, grants & contributions	139,400.00
Subtotal	541,970.00
Programme support costs	70,456.00
GRAND TOTAL	612,426.00

STAND-ALONE OFFICES

Kosovo (Serbia)

Established	1996 (Serbia Office)
No. of staff	7
Financial requirements	USD 1,674,967

Human rights context

In view of the demands likely to arise as a result of Kosovo's change of political status, OHCHR strengthened its presence in Kosovo from a small sub-office of the Serbia Field Office into a stand-alone office. At the time of writing, the office was in the final stages of expansion and was expected to reach full capacity at the end of 2007.

Political developments have had an impact on OHCHR's work in Kosovo. The collapse of negotiations within the Security Council (which put the Ahtisaari Proposals on hold, together with plans for the withdrawal of the UN

Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK) and deployment of an EU-led presence) and uncertainty over the outcome of the new round of negotiations have made it difficult to address the human rights situation. The level of human rights protection in Kosovo is generally unsatisfactory. OHCHR will continue to work with the existing international presence and the Kosovo Provisional Institutions of Self-Government (PISG) in order to address possible accountability concerns.

A dialogue was established between UNMIK and UN and Council of Europe treaty bodies, including the Human Rights Committee. This was the first time a non-State Party reported to these bodies.

Achievements

OHCHR's work in Kosovo over the past two years has contributed to increased awareness and consideration of human rights-related matters by UNMIK and the PISG. The capacities of the UN agencies in Kosovo to implement a human rights-based approach have been increased. In the last biennium, OHCHR Pristina concentrated its efforts on strengthening government human rights capacities and providing advice and political support to the Ombudsman localization process. The Office promoted the conclusion of UNMIK's dialogue with UN treaty bodies, and fulfilment of UNMIK's other human rights obligations. The Office worked with the UN Kosovo Team to integrate OHCHR's planned activities, including training of staff and partners, with those of other agencies. It also advocated for the consideration of human rights in the Ahtisaari Proposals, and encouraged the implementation of transitional justice initiatives in the Kosovo status process.

OHCHR's intervention in these areas has led to several tangible results, including the revision of a number of draft laws to ensure greater compatibility with human rights standards (two were related to the establishment and role of the Ombudsman). With support from the Office, the PISG developed and started to implement a human rights strategy. Working with the OSCE, OHCHR also helped ensure greater awareness among senior PISG officials of the need to create properly staffed and qualified human rights units within key ministries.

As part of the development of the Ahtisaari Proposals and the UNMIK transition plan, OHCHR's dialogue with UNMIK resulted in several concrete policy decisions. By the end of 2007, UNMIK agreed to establish a focal point for human rights issues, to regularly convene a task force to address these issues, and started preparations for convening the much-delayed Human Rights Advisory Panel. OHCHR intends to build upon these achievements in the next biennium to ensure that it is regularly consulted by UNMIK, and any successor international actors, in policy discussions affecting human rights.

OHCHR also worked with the UN Kosovo Team on a number of advocacy initiatives that resulted in policy changes, such as the relocation of a number of internally displaced persons affected by lead poisoning. The Office assisted the Secretary and members of the Human Rights Committee in considering the report of Kosovo under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and helped facilitate dialogue between Committee members and the UN mission.

Priorities

Given the extensive human rights concerns and uncertainties remaining in Kosovo, the main objectives of OHCHR in the 2008-2009 biennium include identifying the human rights challenges that will emerge after UNMIK withdraws, and strengthening the capacity of the future Government to translate Kosovo's obligations under international human rights instruments into effective laws, regulations and policies, including increased Government engagement with human rights mechanisms and bodies. Where necessary, the Office will be ready to provide technical advice to those international structures supporting Kosovo's national institutions. OHCHR will also assist in facilitating the adoption of a comprehensive transitional justice approach by the numerous actors involved in various uncoordinated projects.

OHCHR's interventions in these areas will seek to contribute to a smooth transition of human rights responsibilities from UNMIK to the successor authorities and a possible post-UNMIK international presence. This would include an effective "localized" national human rights institution, a functioning human rights advisory panel (and its successor body), conclusion and handover by UNMIK of its treaty body reporting and follow-up obligations, and progress in the field of transitional justice. Another expected accomplishment would be the strengthened capacity of Kosovo authorities to protect human rights. The Office will also endeavour to issue public reports.

KOSOVO (SERBIA) BUDGET 2008 – 2009	
	Requirements (USD)
Personnel and related costs	1,189,573.00
Official travel	37,310.00
Contractual Services	33,210.00
General operating expenses	166,829.00
Seminars, grants & contributions	55,350.00
Subtotal	1,482,272.00
Programme support costs	192,695.00
GRAND TOTAL	1,674,967.00

SUPPORT TO PEACE MISSIONS

Abkhazia/Georgia – United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia (UNOMIG)

OHCHR continues to support the human rights component of UNOMIG, which is mandated to monitor the human rights situation in Abkhazia, Georgia and to protect the human rights of the population there. This includes ensuring a safe and dignified return of refugees and internally displaced persons, establishing direct contacts in Abkhazia to improve the human rights situation, and reporting on human rights developments.

Capacity-building activities, such as rehabilitation programmes for former detainees and legal assistance projects, have helped to alleviate the suffering of some of the most vulnerable people. In 2008-2009, OHCHR will continue to focus on the most prevalent human rights problems, including impunity, violations of due process, disappearances, arbitrary arrests, mistreatment and torture of detainees, extortion and corruption, arbitrary evictions and illegal occupation of property, and restrictions on freedom of expression. The above-mentioned capacity-building projects will continue and the Office will raise awareness about the recommendations of international human rights mechanisms, particularly the recent concluding observations of the Human Rights Committee and the recommendations of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons.

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISERS

Kyrgyzstan

An "Action 2"-funded human rights adviser was deployed to the UN Country Team in March 2007 for one year to help integrate human rights into the work of the Country Team and to promote and institutionalize the application of a human rights-based approach in the Team's work. Introductory training was held for Country Team members and resource guides were developed and disseminated. The Human Rights Adviser is working closely with the Country Team in developing joint activities, including advocacy activities.

Induction training on human rights approaches to development, organized for UN staff members, have increased their knowledge of international human rights instruments and raised their awareness about human rights principles. OHCHR is also working in close cooperation with UNDP in developing a joint project to support the Government in treaty body reporting.

Specialized leadership training on human rights-based approaches will be conducted for UN Country Team members, and a joint programme on promoting national human rights mechanisms will be developed.

Moldova

At the time of writing, the Office was in the final stage of negotiations to deploy a human rights adviser, jointly-funded with the UN Country Team, by the end of 2007. Since the UN Country Team emphasizes the integration of human rights principles, standards and values in its development programmes, the Human Rights Adviser will work with the Resident Coordinator and the Country Team to develop strategies to build and strengthen national capacities and institutions to promote and protect human rights, particularly through UN development programmes.

The Adviser will map the UN agencies' development interventions in human rights and national capacities to promote and protect human rights, and will help the Country Team coordinate a comprehensive assessment of the use of the rights-based approach. This assessment will include an analysis of UN programmes and projects from a human rights perspective. Efforts will be made to increase participation of national and local stakeholders in international human rights mechanisms, including treaty body reporting and special procedures. The Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination will consider Moldova's State report during its 72nd session in February-March 2008.

Russian Federation

The High Commissioner's two visits to the Russian Federation, in 2005 and 2006, provided an opportunity to consolidate and strengthen cooperation with national authorities and partners. A human rights presence was established within the UN Country Team in Moscow through the deployment of a national programme officer; a senior human rights adviser will be in place at the beginning of 2008. The latter deployment will assist the UN Country Team, the Government, and civil society in their efforts to advance human rights in the Russian Federation.

As a follow-up to the High Commissioner's visit to Russia, a framework for cooperation with the Russian Federation for 2007 and beyond was developed by OHCHR in close consultation with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and on the basis of discussions with a number of State agencies and bodies, national institutions and civil society. OHCHR plans to focus on three main areas: rule of law; equality and tolerance; and education and information on human rights. At the time of writing, consultations with all relevant partners about the modalities of activities to be implemented in these three areas were ongoing.

Serbia

Following an agreement with the UN Resident Coordinator, OHCHR was, at the time of writing, planning to deploy a national human rights adviser and programme assistant to the UN Country Team in Serbia by the end of 2007. The Adviser and the Assistant will support the Office of the Resident Coordinator and the UN Country Team in Serbia to monitor the human rights situation and assist the Government of Serbia to develop its capacity to promote and protect human rights in Serbia.

In addition to monitoring and reporting, the Adviser and the Assistant will focus on supporting UN human rights treaty body and special procedures mechanisms in Serbia; supporting UN and national NGO transitional justice initiatives; supporting activities for human rights promotion and education; and providing general human rights advice and support to the Resident Coordinator and the UN Country Team.

South Caucasus

The Human Rights Adviser for the South Caucasus was deployed in Tbilisi, Georgia, in May 2007, heading a team of national staff within the UN Country Teams in Georgia and Azerbaijan. The deployment helped increase OHCHR's capacity to incorporate human rights-based approaches into the UN Country Team's development programming in the region and to assist governments and civil society in strengthening national capacities to promote and protect human rights. OHCHR brought UN treaty body committee members to the countries of the region, encouraging interaction between its national partners and international human rights mechanisms.

The Human Rights Adviser helps raise awareness about international human rights standards among governments, civil society and the public and helps translate these standards into national legislation, policies and practices. The Adviser focuses on administration of justice, freedom of expression, and the human rights of disempowered, vulnerable and conflict-affected groups, and will assist in implementing the recommendations of recent treaty body considerations and special procedure mechanisms, particularly in light of the recent visit of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights of internally displaced persons.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Following the completion of OHCHR's technical cooperation project in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia at the end of 2006, OHCHR deployed a national human rights adviser with the aim of providing advice to the UN Country Team on how to incorporate

human rights into programming, supporting the Country Team's interaction with UN human rights bodies, and assisting the country in implementing recommendations of recent treaty body considerations, particularly with regard to the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), and special procedure visits, notably the latest visit of the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the situation of human rights defenders.

The Human Rights Adviser served as part of the UN Country Team's theme group on human rights and gender and worked to incorporate human rights principles in the Country Team's daily work. A major outcome of the theme group's work was the completion of a mapping exercise of Country Team activities, which will be an important starting point for the development of a Team strategy on human rights and gender. An assessment of the extent of domestic violence in The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia was also completed during 2006-2007, the first ever UN joint programming effort in the country.

In the coming biennium, the Human Rights Adviser will continue to focus on strengthening capacities for joint action within the UN Country Team and strengthening the Country Team's and national actors' capacity to engage with UN human rights mechanisms. Preparations will also be made for the Universal Periodic Review, scheduled for the country for 2009, and the Office will continue its work to ensure that national human rights institutions adhere to the Paris Principles.

OHCHR IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN



Regional human rights context

The legal framework for human rights protection in Latin America and the Caribbean region is relatively strong. The region has long-established mechanisms, such as the Inter-American Commission for Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, while most countries in the region have national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights. There are networks of civil society organizations monitoring human rights, and many governments are willing to cooperate with international and regional human rights mechanisms. The rate of ratification of major human rights treaties is relatively high in Latin America, although not in the Caribbean.

At the same time, Latin America has one of the highest levels of social inequality in the world, which has worsened over the past decade. The region's persistent inequality in income hampers development and the enjoyment of human rights. Indigenous and Afro-descendent groups are among the most affected by

poverty and exclusion, highlighting the imperative of promoting respect for economic, social and cultural rights.

Pressing human rights concerns include impunity, inefficient administration of justice, weak institutions, corruption, and past human rights abuses committed under various dictatorial regimes. Alarming high instances of prolonged pre-trial detention, prison overcrowding, and violence against women are also pervasive. Latin America is affected by public insecurity and violence, including violence related to organized crime rings linked to drug trafficking and juvenile gangs.

Democratic elections are now the norm in the region. In 2006-2007, there were national elections in 16 countries; 12 more elections are scheduled for the 2008-2009 biennium. In addition, two countries, Bolivia and Ecuador, are undergoing constitutional reform processes, which present another opportunity for strengthening domestic human rights protection mechanisms.

Strategy

In 2008-2009, OHCHR will concentrate its efforts on the fight against impunity, poverty, inequality and discrimination. To address these issues, the Office will work to ensure that national institutions, laws and programmes comply with human rights standards, that governments implement the recommendations of UN human rights mechanisms and bodies, and that more steps are taken to allow groups that are marginalized or discriminated against to participate in public policy decision-making and monitoring processes.

In 2008-2009, OHCHR will have ten presences in the region: Bolivia, Chile, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Guyana, Haiti, Mexico, Nicaragua and Panama.

Where no field offices are present, OHCHR will follow and analyse the human rights situations from Headquarters, proposing adequate courses of action to the High Commissioner and UN human rights mechanisms; assist UN Country Team efforts to integrate human rights into their activities; support activities of the UN human rights mechanisms, including visits by special procedures, and examinations of States parties' reports by treaty bodies; support visits to the region by the High Commissioner and other UN officials; and reinforce cooperation with the inter-American and other regional human rights mechanisms.

Field presence

OHCHR's field presence in Latin America is projected as follows:

TYPE OF OFFICE	LOCATION
Regional Offices	Latin America (Panama, Santiago)
Country Offices	Bolivia Colombia Guatemala Mexico
Human Rights Components of UN Peace Missions	Haiti
Human Rights Advisers to Country Teams	Ecuador Guyana Nicaragua

REGIONAL OFFICES

Regional Office for Latin America

Established	Panama: 2007 Santiago: 2001
No. of staff	Panama: 3 Santiago: 2
Financial requirements	Panama: USD 1,481,600 Santiago: USD 695,889

From 2008, the Regional Office for Latin America will be based in Panama and will have a liaison office in Santiago de Chile, where a fully-fledged regional office for South America had been in operation since 2001. The feasibility of re-establishing a second regional office in Santiago will be re-examined in late 2008.

Achievements

During the 2006-2007 biennium, awareness about human rights was raised among UN agencies, governments, national human rights institutions, judges, members of parliament, human rights defenders, NGOs, and the general public through official communications to governments, training activities, work with the media and advocacy. Several workshops and seminars were organized, including a regional seminar on follow-up to the implementation of the recommendations of the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC) (Costa Rica, 2006), a National Seminar on the Establishment of a Human Rights Institution (Chile, 2007), and the Colloquium on the Protection of Victims of Human Rights Abuses in Argentina, organized in collaboration with the National Human Rights Secretariat and the *Comité para la Defensa de la Salud, la Ética Profesional y los Derechos Humanos* (CODESEDH, Committee for the Defence of Health, Professional Ethics and Human Rights) in 2007.

The Office also reinforced its partnership with UN partners, including the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) and other UN regional offices, and with regional intergovernmental organizations. Several activities were jointly organized, including a regional workshop on the elaboration of human rights-based national Millennium Development Goal reports (in collaboration with ECLAC, UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA, Chile, 2007); a Regional Seminar on Migration Governance and Human Rights (in collaboration with IOM, Chile, 2007), and the Regional Seminar on Justiciability of Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (in collaboration with ECLAC, Chile, 2007). The Office monitored the human rights situation in the region and strengthened its interaction with UN Country Teams and other national actors, such as national human rights institutions, and worked with academic institutions to organize awareness-raising and capacity-building activities. In 2007, the Office submitted comments on the draft

law on the death penalty to the Peruvian Congress. The Office also organized several training activities on incorporating human rights into UN planning processes for UN staff in the region (Ecuador, 2007; Trinidad and Tobago, 2007; Chile, 2007).

Priorities

In 2008-2009, the Office will concentrate its efforts in Latin America on the identified regional priorities: the fight against impunity, poverty and inequality, discrimination against Afro-descendants and indigenous peoples, and insecurity and violence, including violence against women.

OHCHR will help raise awareness about international human rights instruments and recommendations issued by international human rights mechanisms. The Office will help civil society organizations obtain access and provide information to UN human rights mechanisms, and will help disseminate and implement the recommendations of special procedures and treaty bodies. The Regional Office will also foster dialogue to deepen cooperation between the inter-American human rights system and the UN human rights mechanisms to help strengthen governments' commitment to human rights. The Office will promote the ratification of newly adopted human rights treaties, namely the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearances and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its Protocol.

In order to have concrete impact in all the countries covered, the Regional Office will establish solid working relations and regular communications with governments, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations, especially regional networks of NGOs and academic institutions, UN Country Teams, regional UN agencies and other regional organizations.

The Office will cooperate in the implementation of the Andean Programme on Human Rights Protection and Empowerment of Indigenous Peoples and Afro-descendants in Ecuador, Peru and Bolivia.

In an effort to increase the number of steps taken to allow groups that are discriminated against to participate in public policy decision-making, seminars, forums and other public activities will be conducted with the aim of strengthening the knowledge and capacity of regional human rights organizations on issues related to the administration of justice, the rights of the child, the rights of indigenous peoples and women's rights.

The Regional Office's comparative value-added in the region is its proven human rights expertise. For the UN Country Teams in the region, OHCHR assumes the leadership in human rights issues and the Regional Office will provide practical tools and guidelines on integrating human rights in UN programmes and joint planning

activities. There is a growing consensus in the region that the human rights-based approach is a valuable tool for sustainable development, the fight against poverty and for strengthening social cohesion and protection systems. It also helps governments and UN Country Teams understand and abide by international human rights obligations, and facilitates monitoring of human rights.

PANAMA OFFICE BUDGET 2008 – 2009	
	Requirements* (USD)
Personnel and related costs	1,066,600.00
Consultants	
Official travel	16,000.00
Contractual Services	
General operating expenses	112,000.00
Furniture & Equipment	149,200.00
Seminars, grants & contributions	137,800.00
GRAND TOTAL	1,481,600.00

* UN Regular budget funds

SANTIAGO OFFICE BUDGET 2008 – 2009	
	Requirements (USD)
Personnel and related costs	333,956.00
Consultants	
Official travel	31,775.00
Contractual Services	8,610.00
General operating expenses	162,852.00
Seminars, grants & contributions	78,638.00
Subtotal	615,831.00
Programme support costs	80,058.00
GRAND TOTAL	695,889.00

COUNTRY OFFICES

Bolivia

Established	2007
No. of staff	8
Financial requirements	USD 1,762,202

Human rights context

Bolivia has experienced significant social and political unrest in recent years. While the landslide election of President Evo Morales in December 2005, a national referendum and the opening of a Constituent Assembly to rewrite the country's Constitution have all led to a new political climate, the processes underway have revealed social and political fault lines between the resource-rich

lowland departments and the largely poor highland regions of the country, as well as between the traditional political classes and parties and social movements. Those differences are threatening to undermine the Constituent Assembly process, making activities aimed at strengthening the promotion and protection of human rights in the country all the more urgent.

Bolivia has ratified all seven major international human rights instruments, including the Optional Protocols to the Convention on All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). Bolivia has also ratified the Statute of Rome, and the Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention (No.169) of the International Labour Organization. The most recent country visit to Bolivia was by the Special Rapporteur on the right to food. The Special Rapporteur on indigenous peoples visited the country from 26 November to 6 December 2007.

Human rights mechanisms have raised as issues of concern the situation of extreme poverty in which the majority of Bolivians live; the need to address the chronic levels of malnutrition among Bolivia's young children; the need to improve access to land for peasant communities and rural families and to recognize traditional forms of land tenure and restitution of lands of indigenous communities; the need to address the effects of structural adjustment policies in a human rights framework; the need to integrate indigenous peoples into Bolivian society, especially into political decision-making processes; domestic violence against women and children, especially in the form of sexual exploitation; impunity and shortcomings in the administration of justice; and the need to mainstream human rights education and disseminate human rights information.

The High Commissioner visited the country in February 2007, and an agreement establishing the new Country Office in Bolivia was signed between the High Commissioner and President Morales and then ratified by the Parliament in July 2007. OHCHR Bolivia's mandate will be to ensure that national and local institutions have adequate knowledge, understanding and skills to identify human rights concerns in the area of administration of justice and to develop a mix of legislative and policy measures to address human rights concerns effectively; that civil society, vulnerable groups and the general public know and can claim their rights, especially with regard to economic, social and cultural rights and combating racial discrimination; and that national and local human rights institutions are supported so that they can fulfil their obligations; The mandate also includes assisting State institutions, such as the Attorney General's Office, in their efforts to combat impunity by improving the criminal prosecution system in a way that leads to a proper investigation of the events of 2003 and other violations of human rights, and to ensure redress to victims.

Achievements

Given the fact that this is a new OHCHR Office, there are no achievements to build upon from the previous biennium. However, OHCHR played a central role in the indigenous component of UNDP's Human Rights Strengthening Programme (HURIST), establishing a UN Country Team consultative mechanism with indigenous peoples. OHCHR Bolivia participates in the inter-agency group created to assist this mechanism. By the end of 2007, OHCHR should have concluded all necessary administrative and logistical arrangements, including the recruitment and deployment of staff, for the full functioning of the office. During 2007, OHCHR Bolivia established contacts with international partners and most national stakeholders, and identified priority areas of cooperation.

Priorities

OHCHR's assistance and technical support will be essential in ensuring that a rights-based approach that complies with international human rights standards is adopted in legislation, including the new Constitution, and reflected in the programmes and practices of all relevant State institutions. Strategic partnerships will be established with the Government, State institutions, the UN Country Team and international and national partners and leading human rights defenders, with the High Commissioner's Report on the activities of the Office as a starting point for dialogue with each institution, on the challenges that need to be addressed. OHCHR will work with the Ombudsman's Office (*Defensoria del Pueblo*) on judicial reform and State programmes designed to reduce impunity, vulnerability and exclusion, and reinforce the rule of law.

The Office will also assist civil society organizations in using treaty body and special procedures recommendations and in submitting information to these mechanisms. OHCHR will also provide technical assistance to the Government in submitting reports and implementing the recommendations made by these bodies.

BOLIVIA BUDGET 2008 – 2009	
	Requirements (USD)
Personnel and related costs	1,262,549.00
Consultants	4,920.00
Official travel	51,455.00
Contractual Services	45,100.00
General operating expenses	140,917.00
Seminars, grants & contributions	54,530.00
Subtotal	1,559,471.00
Programme support costs	202,731.00
GRAND TOTAL	1,762,202.00

Colombia

Established	1997
No. of staff	68
Financial requirements	USD 16,595,479

Human rights context

OHCHR has been present in Colombia since 1997. Through its offices in Bogotá, Medellín, Bucaramanga and Cali, it implements a comprehensive programme that includes observing and reporting on human rights and international humanitarian law, giving advice, providing technical cooperation, promoting and disseminating human rights and international humanitarian law, and strengthening national authorities and civil society. In September 2007, OHCHR's mandate in Colombia was renewed for three years.

Colombia is plagued with internal armed conflict and violence, resulting in pervasive human rights violations and breaches of international humanitarian law. Drug trafficking and organized crime also feed into this situation. In her 2006 Annual Report on Colombia, the High Commissioner described “numerous and frequent violations of the rights to life and personal integrity, freedom and security, and the right to due process and judicial guarantees”. Although most members of paramilitary groups were formally demobilized as part of the so-called Justice and Peace Law during 2005 and 2006, paramilitary activities persist. Judicial processes to investigate these activities have started, but greater efforts will be needed to ensure the right to truth, justice and reparation for the victims, and the protection of victims, witnesses and members of judicial institutions who courageously fight impunity.

Many Colombians continue to be affected by poverty, discrimination and inequality. Although there has been a decrease in the poverty rate in recent years, around half of the population continues to live under the poverty line. The rights to health, food, education, water and sanitary services, work and housing are still not fully realized. Colombia will be reviewed within the context of the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) during the third session of the Human Rights Council in 2008.

Achievements

The Office concentrated on examining cases of extrajudicial executions with the Government. This led to the adoption of internal decisions to prevent extrajudicial executions and to additional measures by the Attorney General's Office to improve the effectiveness of criminal investigations of those cases.

Through frequent field missions, sometimes to remote rural areas, the Office raised awareness of and helped protect the human rights of community members and human rights defenders, encouraging authorities at all levels to take preventive actions and intensify their dedication to investigating human rights violations.

The legal advice provided by OHCHR had a positive impact on new legislation, most notably in the “Justice and Peace Law” and the Code of Military Justice.

The technical cooperation projects focusing on the rights of persons deprived of liberty and strengthening the human rights perspective within the Attorney General's



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Office had a significant impact on institutional policies and helped build confidence, which, in turn, led to progress on other human rights issues.

The Office helped strengthen civil society organizations by creating opportunities for dialogue between them and civil, military and police authorities at the national and regional levels.

Public statements highlighting human rights violations, breaches in international humanitarian law and public policies affecting human rights resulted in greater coverage of human rights issues in the media.

Priorities

OHCHR Colombia's work for the coming biennium will focus on the fight against impunity. Advice and training will be provided on preventing and investigating incidents of torture, enforced disappearances, extrajudicial killings, illegal detentions and sexual violence. The Office will continue strengthening the capacity of the Public Ministry (Procurator General, Ombudsman and municipal ombudsmen) and the Attorney General's Office to investigate human rights violations and breaches of international humanitarian law and will advocate for protection of and assistance to victims of the armed conflict, human rights defenders and members of the judiciary. OHCHR will focus on supporting victims' organizations and institutions created to ensure the rights of the victims to truth, justice and reparation, and on promoting peace and reconciliation.

The Office will support the strengthening of a human rights culture through training, by promoting an agreement on a national action plan on human rights and international humanitarian law and a national plan on human rights education, and through awareness-raising activities. The Office will strengthen the capacity of the mass media to inform the public about human rights issues.

OHCHR will enhance the capacities of the UN Country Team to assist the State in strengthening its human rights protection system and to mainstream human rights through the 2008-2012 UNDAF.

The Office will concentrate on building the capacity of civil society to participate in the design of and decision-making processes concerning public policies that recognize and protect rights. A training agenda has been developed to promote widespread knowledge about international human rights standards and their application to development issues.

OHCHR Colombia will also strengthen the capacity of civil society to use and inform international human rights mechanisms, including treaty bodies, special procedures, the High Commissioner and the UPR, in order to assist individuals and groups who are marginalized or discriminated against in claiming their rights.

COLOMBIA BUDGET 2008 – 2009

	Requirements (USD)
Personnel and related costs	10,589,382.00
Consultants	1,324,920.00
Official travel	710,540.00
Contractual Services	380,480.00
General operating expenses	1,680,943.00
Subtotal	14,686,264.00
Programme support costs	1,909,214.00
GRAND TOTAL	16,595,479.00

Guatemala

Established	2005
No. of staff	39
Financial requirements	USD 8,244,853

Human rights context

Guatemala enjoys a rising economy that would guarantee the well-being of all its citizens if its wealth were distributed equally. Instead, Guatemala has one of the most unequal distributions of wealth in the world. The newly elected Government, which will take office in January 2008, faces a myriad of challenges, but none will be more critical than addressing violent and organized crime, which is said to be increasingly infiltrating the political system itself. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Guatemala reports one of the highest intentional homicide rates among all countries for which reliable data are available. The UNDP reckons that violence costs Guatemala the equivalent of 7.3 percent of its GDP each year.

Guatemala, like some of its Central American neighbours, is, according to UNODC, believed to be the transit zone through which 88 percent of the cocaine headed for the United States passes. Civil society is weak. Direct attacks on human rights defenders and both targeted and diffuse threats have prompted self-censorship among human rights groups. Political parties are weak and fragmented, impunity is rampant and criminality is commonplace.

Little progress has been achieved in ten years of post-peace international cooperation, including through the since-withdrawn UN Verification Mission in Guatemala (MINUGUA), some of which could be attributed to lack of planning and consistency in implementation. But the greatest weakness identified is a deep-rooted resistance of the wealthiest sectors of society to help fund the State apparatus. With a significantly reduced tax base, the State must function with less than 10 percent of GDP, well below the average in Latin America. The exceptionally bumpy road that led to the approval of the UN-supported International Commission against Impunity

in Guatemala (CICIG) is proof of the resistance among important segments of society to what is considered an infringement of Guatemala's sovereignty.

While the CICIG's approval, through a national emergency voting procedure in Congress, provides an opportunity for the country to start serious investigations of past and present human rights violations and serious crimes with the support of top international investigators and serious crimes with the support of top international investigators, there is a possibility that its functioning may be hampered by resistance by many sectors within and outside the State machinery. The impact of the establishment of CICIG on the work of the OHCHR's office in Guatemala will be significant, as the UN system will look to OHCHR to provide analysis and support, both advisory and technical, in understanding the working environment and identifying paradigmatic cases.

Guatemala will be reviewed by the Human Rights Council, under the UPR mechanism, during its second session in 2008. OHCHR will negotiate a renewal of the mandate of its Country Office, which is due to expire, in the second quarter of the same year.

Achievements

OHCHR Guatemala has established positive working relationships with all sectors, including the Government, State institutions, civil society, the media, the UN Country Team and the international community, and has come to be seen as a reliable partner.

Three important laws adopted in 2006-2007, on the penitentiary system, the establishment of the National Institute of Forensic Science, and on organized crime, fully incorporate the Office's recommendations.

The Office has become well known among the general public, and its media work has helped generate public debate on human rights issues. One of the main recommendations of the High Commissioner's 2006 Annual Report on Guatemala, suggesting the need to gradually increase the tax level over the next three years to allow the State to better respect, protect and realize human rights, caused much debate and was regularly referred to, and supported by, both national and international actors, including the President of the World Bank and the General Manager of the International Monetary Fund during their visits to Guatemala that year.

Through the Office's technical cooperation activities, members of vulnerable groups, journalists, prosecutors and civil society activists received training on how to claim their rights, how to investigate human rights violations, and other human rights-related issues. OHCHR Guatemala has promoted the value of its work among State authorities and the general public.

Priorities

The Office will work with duty-bearers to increase their capacity to understand and implement human rights

legislation and public policies, and uphold their international obligations. It will work with rights-holders, especially civil society organizations, to encourage them to promote compliance by duty-bearers, including by providing legal services.

OHCHR will cultivate and maintain its partnerships with national, regional and international actors. Training on a human rights-based approach for members of the UN Country Team will be followed up to ensure implementation in programming and budgeting ahead of the new Common Country Assessment (CCA)/ UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) cycle that will start in 2008. Relations with the international community will be strengthened as the Office attempts to bring more focus to the donors' approach to funding of human rights projects with both the Government and civil society.

With a limited presence of UN agencies, programmes and funds in the country, OHCHR's Office has a distinctive, and publicly recognized, role in addressing human rights issues. The Office will cooperate with public institutions whose role is crucial for protecting human rights, including the Ombudsman's Office and the Public Prosecutor's Office, and with those that have proved receptive and committed to change, such as the Office for the Defence of Indigenous Women, the Presidential Commission on Human Rights, and the Presidential Commission against Discrimination and Racism. These areas of work are already prioritized in the UNDAF that was approved in 2005, but will be further incorporated during the next CCA/UNDAF cycles, starting in 2008.

The Office will work to reduce gaps in knowledge, commitment and capacity of duty-bearers concerning the ratification of treaties and additional protocols, the submission of reports to the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), the participation in the UPR, and the upcoming visits of special procedures. It will also assist civil society organizations in communicating with special procedures and submitting alternative reports to human rights mechanisms.

GUATEMALA BUDGET 2008 – 2009	
	Requirements (USD)
Personnel and related costs	4,544,001.00
Consultants	601,675.00
Official travel	347,270.00
Contractual Services	526,850.00
General operating expenses	802,985.00
Seminars, grants & contributions	473,550.00
Subtotal	7,296,331.00
Programme support costs	948,523.00
GRAND TOTAL	8,244,853.00

Mexico

Established	2002
No. of staff	8
Financial requirements	USD 3,293,001

Human rights context

The office in Mexico was established in 2002 as part of a technical cooperation agreement with the Government. Since the office was established, the Government has shown greater political will towards implementing the observations and recommendations of international human rights mechanisms within both the universal and the regional systems. The Government has extended a standing invitation to special procedures. Most recently, the Special Rapporteur on violence against women visited the country in 2005 and the Special Rapporteur on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography visited in 2007. Some actions have been taken to guarantee and protect human rights, such as the elimination of the death penalty.

However, Mexico still faces important challenges with regard to ensuring that its national legislation complies with international human rights standards; reducing the gap between the principles enshrined in the human rights treaties signed and ratified by Mexico and the reality on the ground; dismantling the structural causes of human rights violations related to poverty, inequality, discrimination and impunity, particularly with regard to women, children, indigenous peoples, migrants, the elderly and those with disabilities; promoting a culture of respect for human rights; addressing the issues of public security, economic, social and cultural rights, criminal justice, migration, the rights of indigenous peoples, violence against women and freedom of expression; and constructing democratic mechanisms through which citizens can participate in formulating public policy, including referenda, plebiscites and popular initiatives.

Achievements

Two of the most significant actions resulting from the Technical Cooperation Agreement between OHCHR and the Government were the 2003 National Diagnostic of the Human Rights Situation in Mexico, known for its independence, openness and transparency, and the National Human Rights Programme (NHRP) that resulted from this process. Both are unprecedented exercises that have made a solid contribution in establishing a State policy based on human rights.

During the past biennium, the Office established close relations with the Federal Congress in order to promote constitutional reform concerning human rights and the harmonization of national legislation with international human rights standards. The Office also established agreements with the Supreme Court of Justice, which has been open to receiving advice and counsel from OHCHR regarding key human rights issues.

The Office has also replicated the successful experience of the National Diagnosis and NHRP at state and local levels where knowledge and implementation of international human rights standards is weak.

In order to increase knowledge about human rights, reports and documents on key issues were disseminated throughout the country, and a capacity-building strategy targeting Government and civil society at federal and state levels was launched. The Office also started training staff of the UN Country Team so that the Team can begin implementing programmes and activities with a human rights-based approach. The Office also provided legal advice and facilitated meetings between victims of human rights violations and special procedures mandate-holders when they visited Mexico.

Priorities

The Office will continue its work with the Federal Congress in an effort to help pass constitutional reform in human rights and increase the number of laws approved and reformed that meet human rights standards. It will also work with the Supreme Court of Justice in incorporating international human rights standards in their jurisprudence and rulings.

At the federal level, the Office will help formulate a new National Human Rights Action Plan that draws on the methodology and core points of the previous plan and guarantees active participation by civil society and academic institutions. In order to guarantee the implementation of the actions and policies contemplated in the plan, the Office will help establish clear monitoring mechanisms. It will also work with federal secretariats that have shown interest in integrating a human rights perspective into their plans and programmes, particularly those that address the issues of discrimination and poverty in a holistic manner.

On the state level, the National Diagnosis and NHRP will be replicated in six more states. Coordinating committees, composed of representatives from the executive, legislative and judicial powers, the state human rights commission, public and private universities and from civil society, will direct the exercise.

Working with the Government, civil society and academic institutions, the Office will establish a set of objective indicators to measure the fulfilment of Mexico's human rights obligations. OHCHR will also convene a group of experts from civil society and academic institutions to formulate an independent, annual report of the human rights situation in Mexico, in accordance with recommendation 31 of the National Human Rights Diagnostic. A planned human rights documentation centre, based in a university in Mexico City, will obtain local, state, national and international human rights publications and make them available in a single location.

OHCHR will also train law professors in international human rights law with the aim of creating a network that can multiply these trainings on state and federal levels. It will produce and distribute human rights materials, and ensure that information on human rights is disseminated through print, audio and visual media.

MEXICO BUDGET 2008 – 2009	
	Requirements (USD)
Personnel and related costs	1,578,780.00
Consultants	838,040.00
Official travel	82,205.00
Contractual Services	51,250.00
General operating expenses	271,379.00
Seminars, grants & contributions	92,506.00
Subtotal	2,914,160.00
Programme support costs	378,841.00
GRAND TOTAL	3,293,001.00

SUPPORT TO PEACE MISSIONS

Haiti – United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH)

Three years after the deployment of MINUSTAH, the human rights situation remains of great concern, and rapid improvements are needed, particularly regarding the right to life and physical integrity and social and economic rights. However, the May 2006 installation of an elected Government following a peaceful electoral cycle and subsequent high-level appointments in the area of rule of law have created the prospect of more efficient State responses to the very serious human rights situation. The Government's willingness to address key issues such as impunity, corruption and prolonged pre-trial detention, and to implement police and justice reform is a most welcome first step in advancing respect for human rights in the country.

Despite an improvement in the security situation, crime and urban violence remain pervasive. At the same time, improvements in the security situation have revealed the weakness of the judicial system as law enforcement, court and penitentiary systems are unable to manage the influx of persons arrested and detained. Prolonged pre-trial detention continues to be of serious concern, despite government initiatives such as the *Commission de la détention* (Detentions Commission).

Arbitrary arrests, unlawful police custody, ill-treatment and excessive use of force continue to be reported. Lack of technical expertise, poor communication, negligence and apparent corruption of judicial authorities are reportedly the source of numerous unlawful arrests, prolonged pre-trial detention and a low number of court decisions. Public distrust of the justice system has led many Haitians to avoid the formal court system and rely on informal methods, such as vigilantism, which further undermines the security situation.

Deployed in eight departments, MINUSTAH's Human Rights Section regularly monitored police commissariats, prosecutors' offices, justices of the peace, courts and prisons. It has also provided local authorities and the public with information on human rights developments and on the functioning of these key rule-of-law institutions. In February 2007, the human rights component organized two national seminars during which judicial and police authorities worked on addressing the complex challenges relating to the protection of judicial guarantees. The human rights component has supported the institutional development of the General Inspectorate of the Haitian National Police through exchange of information on individual cases and training.

The Human Rights Section of MINUSTAH will continue its monitoring, public reporting, and training activities aimed at strengthening capacities and facilitating institutional reform, including by developing a national human rights agenda, while producing periodic reports to inform key public institutions, such as the police, the judicial system, local administrative authorities and parliament on issues relating to the protection of human rights, the fight against impunity and institutional reform.

In its training activities for law enforcement, judicial and administrative authorities, the human rights section will address key human rights violations and procedural irregularities observed in the field, such as in handling arrests, judicial investigations and indictments, with the aim of reducing the incidence of arbitrary and unlawful detention, prolonged pre-trial detention, poor investigations, lack of coordination between police and judicial authorities, and impunity.

Support will also be provided to the Government, Parliament and civil society in developing a human rights action plan and in reporting to international treaty bodies on human rights. Capacity-building activities will include a special effort to strengthen the programmatic capacities within the Office of the Ombudsman (*Office de la Protection du Citoyen- OPC*).

The human rights section will also help integrate human rights into the police academy programme, particularly for the General Inspection and the Magistrate School, and help parliamentarians to apply

human rights standards to their legislative work. Promotion activities will include activities to inform the public about human rights and the rule of law. Particular emphasis will be placed on training members of the press, assisting national NGOs and bar associations in providing legal aid to indigents, and mainstreaming human rights into the work of MINUSTAH and the UN Country Team.

HUMAN RIGHTS ADVISERS

Ecuador

In June 2007, OHCHR deployed a Human Rights Adviser to support the UN Country Team, particularly in implementing human rights-based activities to strengthen the judiciary.

Given that the National Constituent Assembly will approve a new Constitution defining the legal and political structure of the country, and Ecuador is, for the first time, formulating a long-term development strategy, OHCHR will focus on supporting the ongoing judicial reform aimed at ensuring independence and transparency of the judiciary, access to justice and the eradication of impunity. The advisor will work on integrating a rights-based approach into the Ecuadorian long-term development strategy, and provide advice to the UN Country Team on mainstreaming human rights into its CCA-UNDAF process. The Adviser will also help ensure that the new Constitution complies with international human rights standards.

Guyana

In May 2007, a Human Rights Adviser was deployed to continue the work begun by another human rights adviser in 2004-2005. The country is beset with general lawlessness, lack of government transparency, and interracial mistrust. The establishment of a Governance Unit in the Office of the President has signalled the Government's interest in improving its human rights record. Deployed within the Resident Coordinator's Office, the Human Rights Adviser has worked with the UN Country Team to integrate a human rights-based approach into the 2006-2010 UNDAF. In July 2007, the Human Rights Adviser provided training on strengthening national human rights protection mechanisms to the Presidential Adviser on Governance and non-State stakeholders. As a result, a multi-stakeholder National Human Rights Partnership was launched and a Human Rights Unit within the Office of the President was being established at the time of writing.

As part of its exit strategy, the Human Rights Adviser will advise the UN Country Team on how to include human rights in the implementation of the UNDAF, the formulation of the new poverty-reduction strategy paper and other planning frameworks of the UN Country Team, so as to ensure that the UN Country Team's human rights efforts are sustainable. With the expert advice of the Human Rights Adviser, the National Human Rights Partnership is expected to become a public mechanism through which civil society can monitor and support the Government's progress on its human rights treaty obligations and recommendations. In coordination with the new Social Cohesion Programme, the Human Rights Adviser will advocate for the establishment of five rights-based commissions while providing technical advice to the State institutions that underpin the rule of law, including the police, the magistracy and the judiciary, so that they can incorporate human rights standards into their daily work.

Nicaragua

Like most of its neighbouring countries in Central America, Nicaragua is beset with human rights problems related to poverty, discrimination and shortcomings in the administration of justice. Of particular concern is the administration of juvenile justice, child labour and trafficking. The country's communities of indigenous peoples and Afro-descendants are among those most affected by poverty. The inadequacy of public services, including education, health and justice, in the areas inhabited by these communities is particularly high compared to other areas of the country.

OHCHR deployed a Human Rights Adviser to the UN Country Team, under the "Action 2" programme, at the end of 2007. The Adviser's main priority will be to improve the integration of human rights standards and principles into the UN Country Team's programmes and policies. The ultimate goal is to enable the UN Country Team to provide better support to Nicaraguan authorities and civil society for promoting and protecting human rights.

VOLUNTARY FUNDS ADMINISTERED BY OHCHR

Humanitarian funds

In addition to its core human rights work, in 2008 and 2009 OHCHR will continue to service three long-established humanitarian trust funds: the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture; the Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery; and the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations. Each fund was established by a resolution of the General Assembly and is designed to provide financial support to individuals and NGOs working in related human rights fields. These funds, which are financed through voluntary contributions, are formally administered by the Secretary-General, acting on the advice of a Board of Trustees, with OHCHR providing the secretariat support. During 2006-2007, contributions to the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture amounted to USD 14 million; the Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery received just over USD 1 million; and the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations received USD 894,000.

It is estimated that the combined requirements for these three funds during the 2008-2009 biennium will be USD 26 million.

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture

The Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, established in 1981 by General Assembly Resolution 36/151, gives grants to organizations that help alleviate the physical and psychological effects of torture on victims and their families. The types of assistance provided by organizations supported by the Fund range from psychological, medical, and social assistance to legal aid and financial support.

The Fund's Board of Trustees meets twice a year to determine priorities, review the workings of the Fund, and award grants. With OHCHR's secretariat support, in 2006-2007 the Fund disbursed over USD 14 million in grants to some 170 projects to assist victims of torture. Grants for psychological and medical assistance are the most common, but often recipient organizations use a holistic approach in which more than one form of assistance is provided to victims. This approach has proven effective in helping victims cope with the after-effects of trauma, find reparation and reintegrate into society.

Estimated requirements for grants awarded during the 2008-2009 biennium: USD 24 million.

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

The Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations was established in 1985 by General Assembly Resolution 40/131 with the purpose of providing indigenous peoples with the opportunity to raise issues of concern to them in international forums, thus contributing to the development of international standards and national legislation to protect their rights. Funds contributed by donors are distributed in the form of travel grants for representatives of indigenous peoples around the world. Over the years, the Fund has supported 1,308 participants in attending these forums.

The Board of Trustees, composed of indigenous representatives, meets annually to determine priorities, review the work of the fund, and approve new grants. The Fund has recently strengthened its pre-screening and evaluation mechanisms, improved its methods of work and considerably expanded its outreach in under-represented regions.

During 2006-2007, the Board awarded 218 travel grants, representing USD 870,000, out of a total of 912 applications. The Board also recommended expanding the mandate of the Fund to include financial support for human rights projects and travel grants to support indigenous peoples' participation in the meetings of human rights treaty bodies.

Estimated requirements for the 2008-2009 biennium: USD 1.3 million.

United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

The United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, which was established by the General Assembly in 1991, provides small grants for grassroots projects that provide humanitarian, legal, and financial aid to victims of contemporary forms of slavery. Projects supported by the Fund cover a variety of issues, including trafficking for the purpose of sexual exploitation, domestic servitude, bonded labour and child labour. Projects targeting child victims of slavery or bonded labourers often aim to provide victims with assistance in returning to school or with non-formal and vocational training. Other projects aim to establish welcome centres for victims of trafficking that provide comprehensive assistance, including housing, food, legal aid, psycho-social support, and medical care. Most projects also include an awareness-raising component that targets the general public. Since 1997, the Fund has supported 220 projects.

The Fund is administered by the Secretary-General on the advice of a Board of Trustees, which is composed of five human rights experts with particular expertise in contemporary forms of slavery.

During 2006-2007, the Board awarded 80 grants, representing USD 860,000, out of a total of 218 applications. These grants provided assistance to victims of contemporary forms of slavery in 31 countries.

At the request of the Board of Trustees, a review of the Fund was carried out in 2006 by the Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS). OIOS' overall assessment was that the Fund, with its unique characteristics such as outreach to small, grassroots organizations, has had a positive impact on victims of contemporary forms of slavery. OIOS' June 2007 report also contained recommendations to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the Funds' activities.

Following these recommendations, new methods of work and guidelines were initiated to improve its pre-screening and monitoring framework. The Fund also expanded its outreach in under-represented regions and strengthened its communications and information management system.

Estimated requirements for the 2008-2009 biennium: USD 1.6 million.

Other voluntary funds

Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture Special Fund

On 22 June 2006, the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture (OPCAT), which had been adopted by the UN General Assembly four years earlier, entered into force. At the time of writing, 34 States had ratified the OPCAT.

The OPCAT creates a two-pillar system, at the international and national levels, to prevent torture and other forms of ill-treatment in all places of detention, and establishes the Sub-Committee on the Prevention of Torture of the Committee against Torture. The Sub-Committee will initially consist of ten independent, multi-disciplinary experts who will conduct regular visits to places of detention in all States Parties.

The OPCAT also provides for the creation of a Special Fund to help finance the implementation of the recommendations made by the Sub-Committee after a visit to a State party, and to support education programmes in national preventive mechanisms. The Special Fund may be financed through voluntary contributions made by governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations and other private or public entities. OHCHR has been entrusted to manage the Fund.

Funds set up to assist the Universal Periodic Review (UPR)

Human Rights Council Resolution 5/1, which sets the modalities of the Universal Periodic Review mechanism, envisages the establishment of a voluntary trust fund

“to facilitate the participation of developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, in the said mechanism”. The Human Rights Council followed up on that issue and formally asked the Secretary-General to establish such a fund in its Resolution 6/17.

Resolution 6/17 also asks the Secretary-General to establish “a new financial mechanism called The Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance”, to be administered jointly with the trust fund mentioned above. In conjunction with multilateral funding mechanisms, these funds will provide financial and technical assistance to countries that request support in implementing the recommendations contained in the Universal Periodic Review.

In addition, Resolution 6/17 urges all Member States, observers and other stakeholders of the Council to support the operationalization of the funds and asks OHCHR to take the necessary measures with a view to expeditiously operationalizing the mechanisms.

At the time of writing, the requirements and funding mechanisms for these trust funds were under discussion.

CROSS-CUTTING SUPPORT

Rapid response to emerging human rights crises

OHCHR established a rapid-response capacity to anticipate and respond promptly to deteriorating human rights situations, ensure human rights considerations in inter-agency responses to humanitarian crises, provide support to fact-finding missions and commissions of inquiry investigating serious human rights abuses, and provide support to UN peacekeeping missions. The Rapid Response and Peace Missions Support Unit, established in 2006, has achieved significant results, particularly by supporting, participating in and leading several field missions. As part of its support to peace missions, OHCHR has developed training materials, especially on field deployment and field investigations, for use by OHCHR staff and the personnel of UN peacekeeping missions.

The Office rapidly deploys well-equipped and logistically supported trained personnel to conduct fact-finding missions or investigations in response to a mandate given to OHCHR by UN legislative bodies or special procedures; under the mandate of the High Commissioner; as part of an inter-agency effort to respond to emergencies; or in response to requests from UN Country Teams or peace missions.

Depending on the mandate and context, rapid response activities may involve public or confidential reporting, direct contact with national authorities, provision of advisory services and support to national capacities, and/or direct forms of protection to victims and their families, including disseminating information gathered among national or international justice mechanisms. Activities have ranged from forensic assessment missions to technical assessments prior to deploying a peacekeeping operation to the establishment of commissions of inquiry.

Given the extreme sensitivity of rapid response activities, the highest standards of professional response must be rigorously upheld. OHCHR strives to meet this challenge by continuing efforts at preparedness, strengthening the internal roster system, developing a roster of external experts, enhancing planning and logistical capacity and regularly revising methodology and training. A rapid response contingency fund was established in 2006 to ensure a ready source of funds for the swift deployment of personnel and accompanying logistical support to respond to emerging human rights crises. The fund stands at USD 1 million.

In 2006 and 2007, OHCHR conducted 16 rapid-response activities, including the establishment of the Commission of Inquiry for Timor-Leste, the Lebanon Commission of Inquiry, technical-assessment missions to the Central African Republic, Chad, Somalia, Sierra Leone and DRC, and support to the mission of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar in November 2007.

Based on the experience of the past biennium, it is expected that OHCHR's rapid response capability will be increasingly solicited. In response, the Office will continue to develop its capacity to assess, anticipate and respond to deteriorating human rights situations and emergencies as a matter of priority.

Results-based and knowledge management

Building on the vision outlined in the Plan of Action and the initial attempt, made in the SMP for 2006-2007, to identify results and indicators to measure progress in key areas of work, further efforts are being made to build a culture of results across OHCHR in order to use available resources as efficiently and effectively as possible.

The Office has defined a common set of expected accomplishments for the 2008-2009 biennium on the basis of which all branches and field presences have developed their own expected accomplishments and outputs. This provides a solid framework for a comprehensive, Office-wide implementation of the common vision in the biennium and beyond.

OHCHR will apply results-based management principles in each of the Office's work units and in managing Office-wide results, including the monitoring of progress towards its expected accomplishments. Indicators have been defined to monitor the common set of expected accomplishments at the national, regional and global levels. OHCHR will ensure that streamlined processes are in place for monitoring these indicators at the beginning of the SMP implementation period (early 2008). This includes the establishment of standards and criteria for their application, baseline data, and targets for the biennium.

The strategic plans developed by Headquarters and field offices provide the basis for allocation of human and financial resources. Chiefs of branches and heads of field offices, with the assistance of their teams, will closely monitor the status of their respective performance indicators and take corrective action, as required. Strategic plans will be periodically examined against their objectives and progress will be reported to senior management. Periodic reporting, including the High Commissioner's public annual report, will remain the primary mechanism for reviewing organizational performance, progress achieved in relation to the planned results, and organizational targets and standards.

Geographic units provide oversight and support to field offices in the application of results-based management. The Policy, Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation Section (PPMES) provides the Office with guidance and learning resources for results-based management, based on experience and lessons learned, including from the field, so as to help all work unit managers be fully accountable.

The planned results of Headquarters branches will contribute, directly or indirectly, to the strengthening of capacities of field offices.

Geographic units support improvements in country reporting and prepare reports for their regions, incorporating aggregated data on indicators linked to the relevant expected accomplishments in the SMP.

Analysis of the work units' annual reports will serve to identify under-performing or marginal activities and shift resources to high-priority areas. As part of the feedback system, evaluations and audits will help identify good management practices, and those needing improvement, at different levels.

In addition, attention will be given to strengthening the systems, structures, infrastructure and practices for the generation and use of knowledge. Chiefs of branches, geographic units, and field offices will continue to identify lessons and good practices, and will ensure that they are appropriately recorded, including in annual reports. Headquarters may initiate more extensive case studies in order to document good practices across countries and generate lessons and knowledge of wider relevance.

Thematic evaluations that compare experiences from several countries will be carried out on issues that have Office-wide relevance. The strategic value of the evaluation function will be strengthened by focusing on a few, high-quality evaluations with an emphasis on analysing effectiveness and results, improving quality standards for evaluations, and ensuring that evaluation findings and recommendations are acted upon. The Office will design, validate and document case studies and evaluations in support of major and/or global evaluations. An adequate monitoring and evaluation framework for all 2010-2011 strategic plans will be developed.

Strengthening the organizational capacity to monitor and evaluate will require a systematic approach consisting of:

- Training in results-based management, especially monitoring and evaluation aspects, for branch and field office focal points for programme management (75 per cent of relevant staff by mid-2009), in order to ensure that monitoring and evaluation skills and tools are integrated into the programme functions of OHCHR by the end of 2009, thus maximizing efficiency while strengthening management accountability.
- Providing branches and field offices with access to key guidance and external resources by the end of 2008, including technical guidance tools for drafting terms of reference for evaluations, and establishing a roster of evaluation consultants.

A series of targeted external evaluations and internal reviews will be managed to cover SMP strategies, through programmatic and thematic or cross-cutting evaluations, as well as key operational processes, through internal review, as necessary.

OHCHR's internal knowledge management system will be developed to enable efficient access to and retrieval of the results of evaluations and lessons learned, both by OHCHR and from other organizations. The Office will learn from other organizations' knowledge generation activities, management and networking in order to strengthen its own approaches. OHCHR will also periodically review its overall policy and practice of disseminating and using, both internally and externally, new knowledge, lessons learned and recommended practices.

Finally, the Office will participate in the planning and implementation of joint thematic evaluations with the United Nations and other partners, in line with UN Evaluation Group norms and standards, and will contribute to the UN Evaluation Group.

EXCELLENCE IN MANAGEMENT

Strengthening the capacity of OHCHR's management and administration to improve efficiency and effectiveness was a priority in the Strategic Management Plan for 2006-2007. Additional resources were provided to establish the Programme Support and Management Services branch (PSMS) to take charge of sections dealing with finance and budget, human resources management, information management and technology, and general field and administrative support services. By early 2007, most of the new staff had been recruited, and the development or standardization of procedures began. Closer links were established with the field presences to improve coordination and ensure appropriate and timely provision of needed support from Headquarters.

OHCHR's basic objective in management and administration in the 2008-2009 biennium is to ensure that branches and field presences have the necessary support to enable them to meet the Office's strategic objectives. This is best achieved through clear procedures and policies that enable timely response to new operational requirements. Toward this end, OHCHR was, at the time of writing, developing an administrative handbook covering all administrative and technical support activities, which will be particularly useful for the field presences. At the same time, contacts with the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the new Department of Field Support were being strengthened to improve coordination and cooperation and make the best use of UN resources in the field, particularly during emergencies.

Another major objective is to improve the geographic diversity of OHCHR's staff. Although the strict recruitment rules of the UN Secretariat are followed, the Office has already undertaken several initiatives, such as specific outreach to attract candidates, particularly from less or under-represented developing countries. In addition, the High Commissioner has committed the Office to prioritizing the consideration of candidates from under-represented regions for new OHCHR recruitments.

In order to achieve its objectives and ensure adequate support to the Office, OHCHR has created within PSMS a structure composed of a Finance and Budget Section, a Human Resources Management Section, an Information Management and Technology Section and a General Administrative Services Section.

With regard to financial matters, while the Office relies on the United Nations Office at Geneva (UNOG) for the formal maintenance of accounts and related global financial services, OHCHR monitors the use of all resources and allocates voluntary contributions in accordance with the

approved cost plans. Matching resources with requirements can be challenging, particularly during periods when no fresh contributions are received. For this reason, a Financial Monitoring Committee was established to review allocations of funds on an ongoing basis.

With regard to human resources, OHCHR handles the first-level administration of contracts and the recruitment and assignment of temporary staff and consultants in Geneva and in the field. As with financial matters, the Office relies on UNOG for overall human resources and international staff management. Local support staff are contracted and administered in the field, after clearance from Headquarters, by local UN administrative agents, generally UNDP, on behalf of OHCHR. A newly established Staff Development and Training Unit will oversee induction and training opportunities for all OHCHR staff.

In addition, with regard to general administrative services – logistics, procurement, and travel services – the greatest challenges lie in ensuring that requirements of the field presences are met and that a cost-effective and consistent level of support is in place to enable those offices to be fully functional.

Information technology plays an essential role in management: while most of the essential systems are common to the United Nations Secretariat, the unique needs of the Office, for example in terms of management of grants under humanitarian trust funds, and monitoring extra-budgetary resources from contribution to expenditure, must be met through the development of systems specific to OHCHR.

While the recently received delegation of financial authority should improve efficiency in administration of extra-budgetary resources, additional systems are being developed to enhance the financial monitoring capabil-

ity of programme managers and to improve financial controls in the field. A similar delegation of authority in human resources management is under consideration by the UN Department of Management, and it is hoped that receipt of this authority, relating to administration of entitlements and appointments of temporary staff and consultants, will be forthcoming in 2008. This will greatly assist the Office in meeting staffing requirements and adapting to situations as they develop. For all support functions, the adoption by the United Nations Secretariat of a new “Enterprise Resource Planning” infrastructure during the 2008-2009 biennium should lead to enormous improvements in the administration and management of resources, from recruitment of staff to logistics and supply in the field.



PART 3

BUDGET AND FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

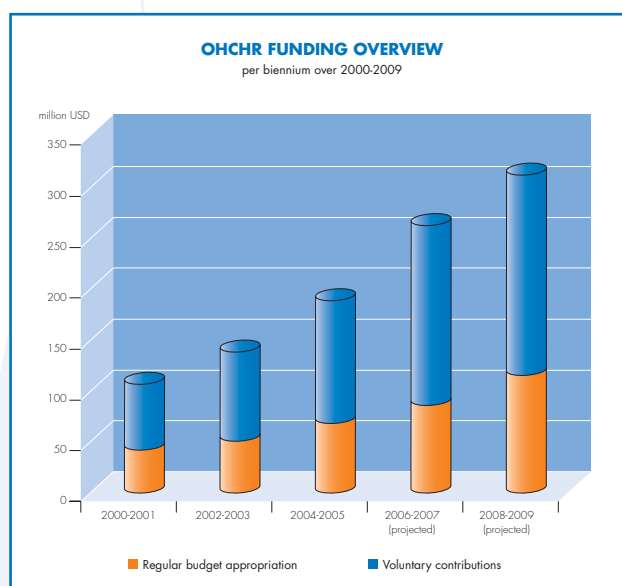
A person wearing a red shirt is holding a white sign with the word 'CONSULTATION' written in large, blue, capital letters. The sign is slightly out of focus. The background is a blurred outdoor setting with a grey wall and a white vertical stripe on a wooden post.

CONSULTATION

BUDGET AND FUNDING REQUIREMENTS

OHCHR depends on funding from the United Nations' regular budget and a steady flow of voluntary contributions from UN Member States and other donors to meet its funding needs. Although the Office's share of the regular budget has grown in recent years, the amount OHCHR receives still covers little more than one third of its overall resource requirements. Of the approximately USD 248 million in projected expenditure in 2006-2007, for example, just above USD 83 million, or 33.5 per cent, was funded from the regular budget, with the remaining USD 165 million, or 66.5 per cent, funded from voluntary contributions.

The importance of voluntary contributions is unlikely to diminish significantly in the coming years as OHCHR's growth continues to outpace the funds made available under the regular budget. Total resource requirements for 2008-2009 have been set at USD 312.7 million, an increase of approximately USD 67.1 million over the 2006-2007 budget. With regular budget funding expected to provide some USD 115.3 million in 2008-2009, the Office will rely on its donors to provide the remaining USD 197.4 million needed to implement its programme of work in full.



United Nations regular budget

The UN regular budget is funded from dues payable by all Member States under the Charter of the United Nations, with the level of each Member State's contribution based on a number of factors, including its share of the world economy. Every two years, the Secretary-General proposes a biennial budget for the entire Organization to the General Assembly for review and approval. In addition to its programme budget (Section 23), OHCHR receives a small share of the total United Nations budget under the Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation (Section 22).

Of the USD 115.3 million OHCHR expects to receive in funding under the regular budget, USD 112.2 million will be provided under the programmatic budget for human rights and USD 3.1 under the Regular Programme for Technical Cooperation.

Voluntary contributions

Voluntary contributions are provided by donors to OHCHR to support implementation of the Office's programme of activities. While the bulk of these contributions is provided by UN Member States, OHCHR also accepts contributions from intergovernmental organizations, NGOs, foundations, companies and private individuals. Despite recent increases in its share of the United Nations regular budget, the Office remains heavily reliant on voluntary contributions to pay for much of its work. With a few notable exceptions, the regular budget has traditionally provided very little support for fieldwork, for example, which means that the cost of establishing and maintaining OHCHR's network of field presences is covered mainly by voluntary contributions. Across the Office, voluntary contributions are used to pay for activities that could not otherwise be afforded or to supplement resources available under the regular budget.

In recent years, OHCHR has appealed to donors not only to increase the level of their voluntary contributions, but, to the extent possible, to make more funding available on an unearmarked basis. Unearmarked funding gives the Office greater flexibility in planning and setting priorities, and ensures that activities can be recalibrated as conditions change and new needs emerge. A high level of unearmarked funding also reinforces OHCHR's political independence, ensuring that programmes are developed and implemented according to a framework established by the High Commissioner.

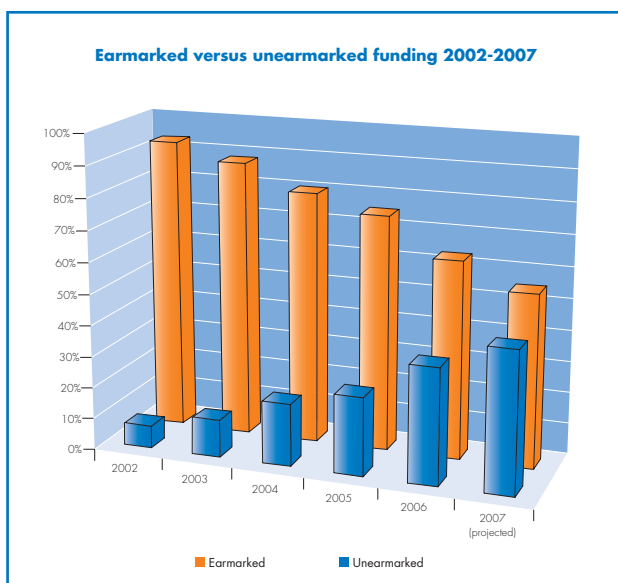
OHCHR'S TRUST FUNDS

Voluntary contributions to support OHCHR's activities at Headquarters and in the field are channelled and managed through two major funds: the Trust Fund for the Support of the Activities of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, used as a general funding pool to support a wide range of activities, and the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the field of Human Rights, which is used to fund activities in the field of technical cooperation with Member States, including capacity-building projects. Another trust fund covers human rights education activities in Cambodia.

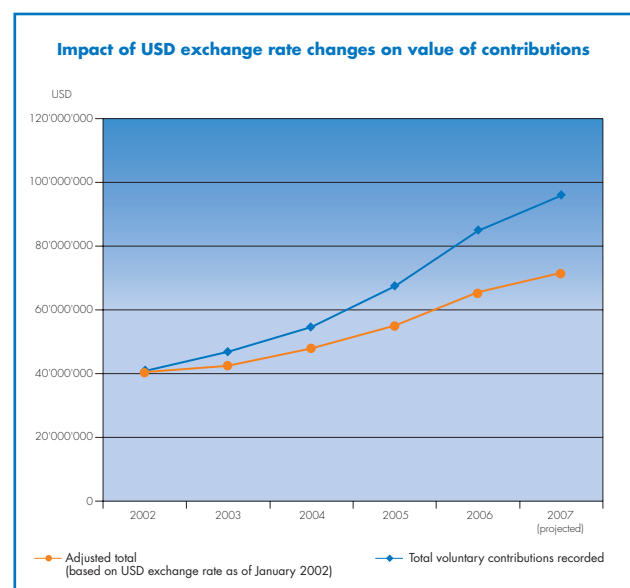
OHCHR also acts as the secretariat for three grant-making funds, known as the Humanitarian Funds, which provide funding to civil society organizations and, in some cases, individuals. These funds, established by General Assembly resolution and hosted by OHCHR, are the Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations, the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery, and the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture. In addition, OHCHR manages a small fund for the prevention of torture in places of detention (stemming from the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment) and was, at the time of writing, about to set up two funds to assist the Universal Periodic Review process. Information on these funds is provided in the chapter on voluntary funds in Part 2.

Recent trends in support

In the past five years voluntary contributions have more than doubled, rising from USD 46 million in 2003 to a projected figure of more than \$95 million in 2007. Over the same period, the proportion of unearmarked funding has risen steadily from 7 per cent to a projected figure of 43 per cent.



These results reflect a number of positive external factors and real efforts made by OHCHR's leadership to address internal weaknesses and build donor confidence. Perhaps the single most important, if little noticed, external factor has been the steady weakening of the US dollar against other currencies, including those of most of OHCHR's major donors. This has effectively increased the value, in dollars, of almost all contributions made in other currencies, helping to push up total contributions every year since 2002. Had the dollar held its value as at 1 January 2002, for example, contributions received in 2006 would have been worth USD 66 million, compared with the USD 85.3 million actually recorded. The graph below shows the value of contributions actually received in each of the past six years, compared with the value of those same contributions had exchange rates remained at January 2002 levels.



Other external factors that have had a positive effect include a reinforced international commitment to the United Nations human rights programme, reflected in the outcome of the 2005 World Summit, at which leaders expressed support for a significant expansion of OHCHR. Robust economic growth, and corresponding increases in development cooperation, have also played a part, as has cross-party political consensus in many donor countries in favour of strong support for UN institutions.

Just as significantly, OHCHR has taken important steps to reform itself, addressing a number of perceived internal weaknesses and setting out ambitious plans that have elicited strong interest among the donor community. Increased donor confidence in the Office has translated into an increased willingness to provide a greater proportion of funding free of earmarking. The deliberate effort to reorient OHCHR as a more operational organization, working to strengthen human rights capacity at a national level and monitor and report publicly on human rights problems in the field, has added to its appeal. The emphasis on fieldwork and implementation is a

welcome counterpoint to the Office's traditional, if exaggerated, image as a Geneva-based, UN think tank, concerned mainly with servicing international meetings and setting international legal norms.

Challenges

OHCHR faces two main fund-raising challenges over the coming years. The first is to sustain growth in the overall level of voluntary contributions, including unearmarked contributions, at a time when most donors with the capacity to provide large-scale support are already doing so, and any potential new donors are likely to contribute at very modest levels. Exchange rate gains, which helped power a significant proportion of funding growth over the past five years, are unlikely to exert the same forward pull in the 2008-2009 biennium, and could even have a reverse effect if the US currency, now at a historically low level, begins to recover in value.

The second major challenge is to broaden OHCHR's funding base. The number of donors has remained fairly static and relatively low for several years now: between 55 and 63 Member States, plus one or two UN partners, the European Commission and a handful of private donors. While it may be unrealistic, given economic realities, to expect a significant change in the high proportion of funding coming from Western countries, the Office is committed to securing the support of a larger number of Member States in order to demonstrate broad international support for its work.

Overcoming these challenges and delivering further growth in funding over the next three to four years will require a concerted effort involving all parts of the Office. In the coming years, OHCHR will solicit the support of a larger number of Member States and, to the extent possible, non-government donors, while also servicing the needs of a growing donor base.

WIDENING SUPPORT FOR OHCHR IN THE SIXTIETH YEAR OF THE UNIVERSAL DECLARATION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Sixty years after the world came together to proclaim the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, OHCHR is appealing to all Member States to express their commitment to human rights by making a financial contribution in support of the Office's ongoing efforts to give practical effect to the ideals set out in the Declaration. During the course of 2008, all 192 Member States will be asked to make a voluntary contribution, commensurate with their means. It is hoped the anniversary will prompt many countries that have not previously provided funding to do so for the first time, thereby demonstrating strong, worldwide support for the United Nations human rights programme. Member States' contributions will be publicly reported through the website, in OHCHR's 2008 annual report and in other relevant public information materials.

2007-2008 Resource requirements

OHCHR's budget is the product of intensive internal consultation and review. Programme plans are developed with an eye on what is practical and affordable in the current fund-raising environment.

At USD 312.7 million, the 2008-2009 budget represents an increase of 27.3 per cent over the budget presented in the High Commissioner's 2006-2007 Strategic Management Plan, and an increase of 26.1 per cent compared with projected expenditure in 2006-2007. Of the USD 67.1 million overall increase in the budget, approximately USD 29.7 million will come from growth in the regular budget, while USD 37.3 million is expected to come from an increase in voluntary contributions. For 2008-2009, an overall target of USD 197.4 million was set for extra-budgetary spending, based on the approximate level of voluntary contributions the Office believes donors will be willing to provide. Any additional expenditure over this amount will be approved only where equivalent additional resources are identified.

On the extra-budgetary side, approximately 60 per cent of all planned expenditure will be devoted to OHCHR's field operations, 8.3 per cent to thematic human rights research, 4.4 per cent to supporting the Human Rights Council and treaty bodies and 3.9 per cent to supporting the work of the special procedures. The balance in the share of extra-budgetary expenditure between these substantive areas remains largely unchanged compared with 2006-2007.

STRATEGIC MANAGEMENT PLAN 2008-2009

Combined regular and extrabudgetary requirements

			(in thousands of USD)
	Regular Budget ^{1,2}	Extrabudgetary requirements	Total
I. OPERATING RESOURCES			
Executive Direction and Management	13,323.0	9,591.4	22,914.4
Policy-making Organs	9,207.7	0.0	9,207.7
Programme of Work			
Subprogramme 1: Research and Right to Development Division	18,544.5	16,548.0	35,092.5
Subprogramme 2: Human Rights Treaties Division	17,820.6	8,585.7	26,406.3
Subprogramme 3: Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division	21,817.7	17,793.2	39,610.9
Subprogramme 4: Special Procedures Division	12,351.6	7,655.9	20,007.5
Total Programme of Work – Headquarters	70,534.4	50,582.7	121,117.1
Programme Support and Management Services	10,737.9	12,549.8	23,287.7
Subtotal Headquarters operating resources, excluding humanitarian trust funds	103,803.0	72,724.0	176,527.0
Subtotal, operating resources, field presences	11,460.0	100,572.9	112,032.9
Total operating resources	115,263.0	173,296.9	288,559.9
II. HUMANITARIAN TRUST FUNDS			
Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture		21,170.6	21,170.6
Voluntary Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery		1,635.0	1,635.0
Voluntary Fund for Indigenous populations		1,300.0	1,300.0
Total humanitarian trust funds		24,105.6	24,105.6
III. GRAND TOTAL			
	115,263.0	197,402.4	312,665.4

¹ Excludes Commission on Missing Persons in Cyprus (USD 661,200 in 2008-2009).

² Includes RB requirements for Panama, West Africa, Cambodia and Central Africa offices).

EXTRABUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS 2008-2009

Programmes	Requirements (in USD)
I. OPERATING RESOURCES	
HEADQUARTERS	
EDM New York and Geneva	9,591,405
Programme of Work	
Subprogramme 1: Human Rights mainstreaming, Research and Right to Development Equality and Non-discrimination	5,638,589
<i>Anti-discrimination</i>	1,416,054
<i>Indigenous Populations and Minorities</i>	1,854,261
<i>Women's HR and Gender Unit</i>	1,278,569
<i>Trafficking</i>	514,090
<i>Disabilities</i>	575,616
Rule of Law and Democracy	2,235,500
Development, Economic, Social and Cultural Issues	3,015,800
<i>MDGs and HR-based Approach</i>	674,495
<i>HIV and AIDS</i>	599,829
<i>Economic and Social Issues</i>	618,361
<i>Human Rights and Development</i>	1,123,115
Methodology, Education and Training	4,163,450
Coordination and Management	1,494,671
<i>Total Subprogramme 1</i>	16,548,009
Subprogramme 2: Supporting Human Rights Bodies and Organs	7,991,614
<i>Human Rights Treaties Branch</i>	594,045
<i>Human Rights Council Branch</i>	
<i>Total Subprogramme 2</i>	8,585,659
Subprogramme 3: Advisory Services, Technical Cooperation and Field Operations	1,909,039
<i>National Institutions</i>	3,347,210
<i>RRPMSU</i>	2,900,353
<i>Africa</i>	3,063,754
<i>Asia and the Pacific</i>	1,275,666
<i>Latin America and the Caribbean</i>	2,397,803
<i>Europe, North America and Central Asia</i>	1,884,929
<i>Middle East and North Africa</i>	1,014,435
<i>Coordination and Management</i>	
<i>Total Subprogramme 3</i>	17,793,190
Subprogramme 4: Support for Human Rights Thematic Fact-Finding Procedures	7,655,886
Total Programme of Work	50,582,745
Support to the Programmes	12,549,805
Total Headquarters	72,723,955
FIELD PRESENCES¹	
<i>Africa</i>	29,063,578
<i>Asia and the Pacific</i>	27,131,950
<i>Latin America and the Caribbean</i>	31,862,664
<i>Europe, North America and Central Asia</i>	5,013,563
<i>Middle East and North Africa</i>	7,501,174
Total field presences	100,572,930
Total Headquarters and field operating resources	173,296,885
II. HUMANITARIAN TRUST FUNDS	
Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture	21,170,550
Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations	1,300,000
Voluntary Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery	1,635,000
Total humanitarian trust funds	24,105,550
III. GRAND TOTAL OHCHR	197,402,435

¹ See detailed requirements in separate table on page 113.

FIELD PRESENCES EXTRABUDGETARY REQUIREMENTS FOR 2008-2009

Programmes	Requirements (in USD)
DETAIL FIELD PRESENCES	
AFRICA	
Angola – Country Office	7,225,595
Burundi – Peace Mission Support	2,712,772
Central Africa – Subregional Centre	788,658
Côte d'Ivoire – Peace Mission Support	331,723
DRC – Peace Mission Support	1,091,938
East Africa – Regional Office	1,939,106
Eritrea/Ethiopia – Peace Mission Support	199,892
Great Lakes – Human Rights Adviser	413,826
Guinea – Human Rights Adviser	761,304
Liberia – Peace Mission Support	136,870
Sierra Leone – Peace Mission Support	825,377
Somalia – Peace Mission Support	320,690
Southern Africa – Regional Office	1,322,349
Sudan – Peace Mission Support	1,817,341
Togo – Country Office	2,190,948
Uganda – Country Office	6,754,697
West Africa – Regional Office	230,492
Sub-total Africa	29,063,578
ASIA PACIFIC	
Afghanistan – Peace Mission Support	1,480,420
Cambodia – Country Office	842,827
Nepal – Country Office	18,628,891
Indonesia – Human Rights Adviser	358,743
"One UN" Pilot – Human Rights Adviser	547,259
Southeast Asia – Regional Office	1,660,383
Sri Lanka – Human Rights Adviser	869,280
Pacific – Regional Office	1,425,839
Timor-Leste – Peace Mission Support	1,318,309
Sub-total Asia and the Pacific	27,131,950
MIDDLE EAST AND NORTH AFRICA	
Middle East – Regional Office	2,773,355
OPT – Stand-Alone Office	3,721,977
South-West Asia Centre	1,005,842
Sub-total Middle East and North Africa	7,501,174
EUROPE, NORTH AMERICA AND CENTRAL ASIA	
Central Asia – Regional Office	612,426
Georgia – Peace Mission Support	1,375,639
Kosovo – Stand-Alone Office	1,674,967
Russian Federation – Human Rights Adviser	1,350,531
Sub-total Europe, North America and Central Asia	5,013,563
LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN	
Bolivia – Country Office	1,762,202
Colombia – Country Office	16,595,479
Ecuador – Human Rights Adviser	615,156
Guatemala – Country Office	8,244,853
Guyana – Human Rights Adviser	203,440
Haiti – Peace Mission Support	452,644
Latin America (Chile) – Regional Office	695,889
Mexico – Country Office	3,293,001
Sub-total Latin America and the Caribbean	31,862,664
TOTAL FIELD PRESENCES	100,572,930

ANNEXES

STRUCTURE OF THE OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is headed by the High Commissioner for Human Rights. Louise Arbour was appointed High Commissioner in July 2004; Kyung-wha Kang joined her as Deputy High Commissioner in January 2007.

OHCHR is based in Geneva and has an office in New York, as well as other country and regional offices. Headquarters contains four substantive divisions: the Human Rights Council and Treaties Division; the Special Procedures Division; the Research and Right to Development Division; and the Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division, in addition to the Executive Office of the High Commissioner and a number of sections that report to the Deputy High Commissioner.

The **Executive Direction and Management** includes several working units. *The Executive Office* supports the High Commissioner and the Deputy High Commissioner in leading and managing OHCHR. *The Policy, Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation Section* works with all staff to ensure that the strategic vision of OHCHR is translated into concrete priorities and operational plans, and that effective monitoring and evaluation of impact is conducted. *The Communications Section* develops and implements strategies to improve general knowledge of human rights and create support for the work of the United Nations and OHCHR in the area of human rights. The newly created *Civil Society Unit* will strengthen and rationalize OHCHR's interaction with civil society actors worldwide and support their engagement with UN human rights bodies and mechanisms. *The Field Safety and Security Section* is responsible, in coordination with the United Nations Department of Safety and Security, for ensuring the security of OHCHR premises and staff in all field presences, and for staff and special rapporteurs travelling on official mission. *The Donor and External Relations Section* works to ensure that Member States are kept fully informed of the Office's plans, priorities and funding needs, and mobilize the necessary resources to support implementation of OHCHR's programmes.

The **Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division** coordinates the development and implementation of OHCHR country engagement strategies. Five geographic teams ensure country expertise and, among other things, manage the technical cooperation programme, support country special procedures, and serve as entry

points for OHCHR offices in the field. In addition, the Division has two support units with expertise on national human rights institutions and rapid response and support to human rights components in UN peace missions.

OHCHR **field presences** are accountable to the High Commissioner through the Chief of the Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division. Field presences take the form of regional offices, country offices, support for peace missions, or the assignment of human rights advisers to United Nations Country Teams. Each presence is responsible for a different set of activities tailored to the immediate situation and drawing on the full range of tools available to OHCHR.

The **Research and Right to Development Division** builds and helps apply expertise in selected cross-cutting themes of particular importance to the UN human rights programme, such as equality and non-discrimination, including programmes for groups and issues deserving special attention (victims of racial discrimination, minorities and indigenous peoples, women's rights and gender issues, disability and trafficking, and protection of people affected by HIV/AIDS); the right to development and economic, social, and cultural rights; the rule of law and democracy; rights-based approaches to development, including the Millennium Development Goals and poverty reduction; and humanitarian and peace and security activities. The Division also manages the OHCHR Documentation Centre and publications programme.

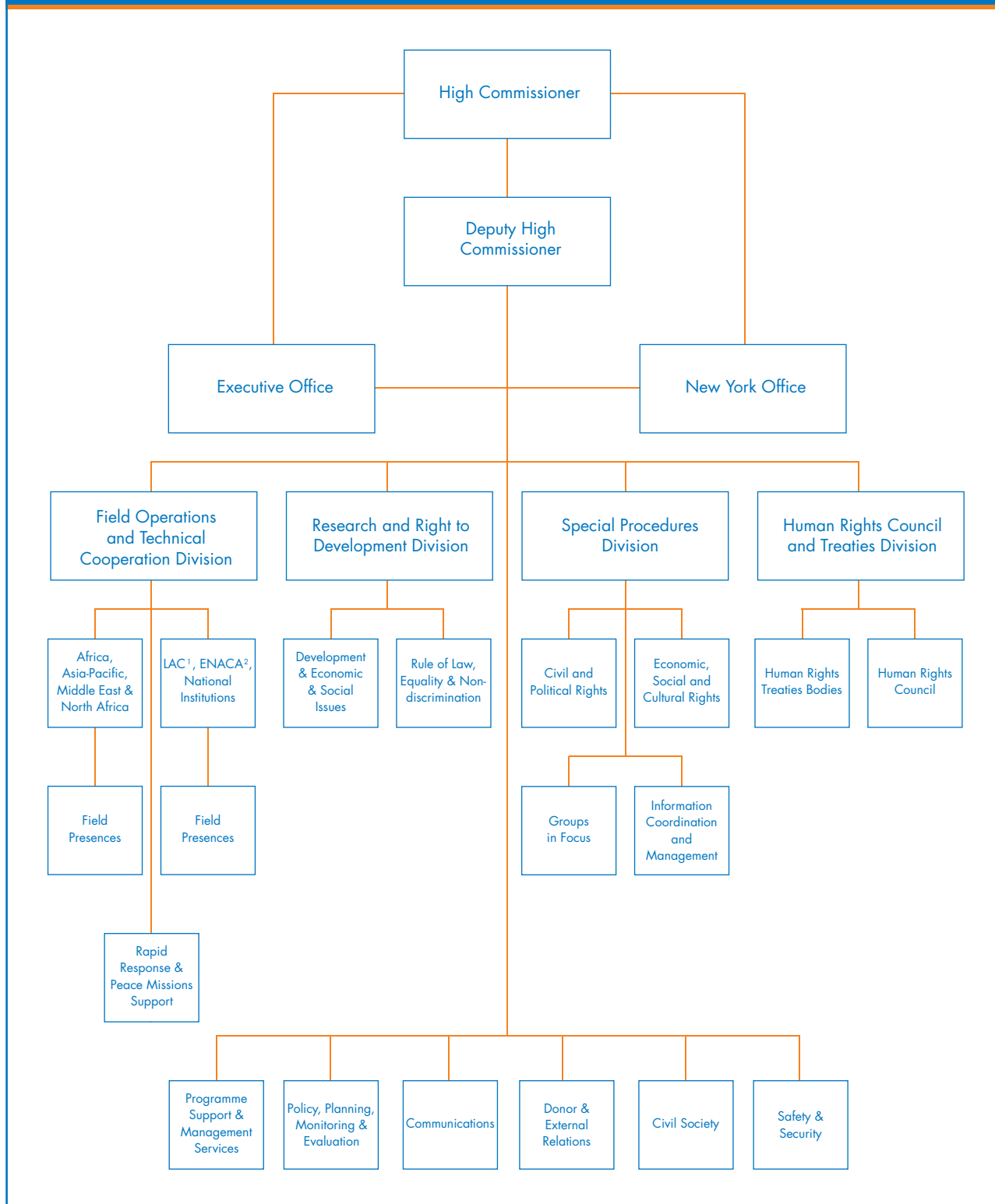
The **Special Procedures Division** provides support to the thematic special procedures of the Human Rights Council, such as the special rapporteurs, special representatives, independent experts and working groups. The Division facilitates the work of special procedures mandate-holders by collaborating with all stakeholders and by providing thematic, fact-finding, and legal expertise, research and analysis, and administrative and logistical support for their work.

The **Human Rights Council and Treaties Division** ensures the smooth functioning of the Human Rights Council and eight treaty bodies that monitor implementation of the core human rights instruments. It also supports activities carried out through the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and the Fund relating to the Optional Protocol to the Convention Against Torture. In addition, the Division coordinates all official documentation prepared by OHCHR for use by intergovernmental bodies and, in close cooperation with UNICEF and WHO, provides substantive and administrative support to the Secretary-General's Study on Violence against Children.

The **Programme Support and Management Services** provide support in the areas of budgeting and financial management; personnel recruitment and human resources; procurement, asset management, and general logistical support to field activities; information technology; and staff development and training.

The **New York Office** ensures that human rights issues are fully integrated into the United Nations' agenda for development and security. The office provides substantive support on human rights issues to the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Security Council, and other intergovernmental bodies.

OHCHR'S ORGANIZATIONAL CHART



¹ Latin America and the Caribbean,

² Europe, North America and Central Asia

LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACHPR	African Commission on Human and People's Rights
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome
AIHRC	Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission
ALRAESA	Association of Law Reform Agencies of Eastern and Southern Africa
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AU	African Union
BINUB	United Nations Integrated Office in Burundi
BONUCA	United Nations Peace-building Office – Central African Republic
CAP	Consolidated Appeal Process
CAR	Central African Republic
CAT	Committee against Torture
CCA	Common Country Assessment
CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women
CERD	Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
CESCR	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
CICIG	International Commission against Impunity in Guatemala
CMW	Committee on Migrant Workers
CODESEDH	<i>Comité para la Defensa de la Salud, la Etica Profesional y los Derechos Humanos</i>
COI	Independent Special Commission of Inquiry for Timor-Leste
CPA	Comprehensive Peace Agreement
CPN	Communist Party of Nepal
CRC	Committee on the Rights of the Child
CRPD	Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
DDPA	Durban Declaration and Programme of Action
DPA	Department of Political Affairs
DPKO	Department of Peacekeeping Operations
DRC	Democratic Republic of the Congo
ECCAS	Economic Community of Central African States
ECHA	United Nations Executive Committee for Humanitarian Affairs
ECLAC	Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EDPRS	Economic Development and Poverty-reduction Strategy
EHRC	Ethiopian Human Rights Commission
ESCWA	Economic and Social Commission for West Asia
EU	European Union
GA	General Assembly
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus
HRC	Human Rights Council
HURIST	Human Rights Strengthening Programme
IASC	Inter-Agency Standing Committee
ICC	International Criminal Court International Coordinating Committee for National Human Rights Institutions
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICERD	International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICRMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals

MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MINUGUA	United Nations Verification Mission in Guatemala
MINURCAT	United Nations Mission in the Central African Republic and Chad
MINUSTAH	United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti
MONUC	United Nations Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
NDS	National Directorate of Security
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
NGOs	Non-governmental organizations
NHRIs	National human rights institutions
OCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs
OHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
OPC	<i>Office de la Protection du Citoyen</i>
OPCAT	Optional Protocol to the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
OPT	Occupied Palestinian Territories
OSCE	Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe
PA	Palestinian Authority
PISG	Provisional Institutions of Self-Government (Kosovo)
PROCAP	Standby Protection Capacity
SAARC	South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation
SADC	Southern African Development Community
SARPPCO	Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization
SMP	Strategic Management Plan
TICC	Treaty Body Implementation Coordination Committee
TSZ	Temporary Security Zone
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights
UFDR	<i>Union des Forces Démocratiques pour le Rassemblement</i>
UNAMA	United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan
UNAMI	United Nations Assistance Mission in Iraq
UNAMID	African Union/United Nations Hybrid Operation in Darfur
UNDAF	United Nations Development Assistance Framework
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNECA	United Nations Economic Commission for Africa
UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund
UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
UNHRWG	United Nations Human Rights Working Group
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
UNMEE	United Nations Mission in Ethiopia and Eritrea
UNMIK	United Nations Mission in Kosovo
UNMIL	United Nations Mission in Liberia
UNMIN	United Nations Mission in Nepal
UNMIS	United Nations Mission in Sudan
UNMIT	United Nations Mission in East Timor
UNOCI	United Nations Operation in Côte d'Ivoire
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime
UNOMIG	United Nations Observer Mission in Georgia
UNOSIL	United Nations Integrated Office in Sierra Leone
UNOWA	United Nations Office for West Africa
UNPOS	United Nations Political Office for Somalia
UNREC	United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa
UNRWA	United Nations Relief and Works Agency
UNTOP	United Nations Tajikistan Office for Peace-building
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
WHO	World Health Organization

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