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

Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,  
political, economic, social and cultural rights,  
including the right to development

## Implementation and enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights

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

#### *Summary*

The present report contains an overview of the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in the implementation and enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights, in the light of Our Common Agenda and the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights, in particular against the backdrop of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. The United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights proposes possible ways to address the challenges to the promotion and protection of human rights, including the right to development, in the present global context.



## **I. Introduction**

1. In its resolution 53/11, the Human Rights Council requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a report on the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) in the implementation and enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights and propose possible ways to address the challenges to the promotion and protection of human rights, including the right to development. In the present report, the High Commissioner provides illustrative examples of activities carried out during the period from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024.

## **II. International cooperation in the area of human rights: Our Common Agenda towards the Summit of the Future**

2. Past the midway point to 2030, the world is significantly off track to achieve the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Goals. It is imperative to deliver on that global promise to secure the rights and well-being of everyone on a healthy and thriving planet. Renewed commitment to effective and inclusive multilateralism and international cooperation is key to mobilizing the necessary means of implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development.

3. In his report entitled “Our Common Agenda”,<sup>1</sup> the Secretary-General provided a vision for more solidarity and international cooperation towards a greener, safer and better future. He emphasized that, in an interconnected world, no community or country could resolve its challenges alone, with actors in a global community sharing responsibilities. Solidarity in that context is understood as the principle of working together, rather than charity. At the national level, a renewed social contract for the people and the planet anchored in human rights is crucial to overcome inequality, mistrust and intolerance, and paves the way for international cooperation. A new deal at the global level is needed to improve the protection of the global commons and the provision of a broader set of global public goods, those that benefit humanity as a whole and cannot be managed by any one State or actor alone.<sup>2</sup> The United Nations, characterized by its fundamental and universal values of peace, justice, human dignity, equity, tolerance and solidarity, is at the service of States to solve international problems through cooperation and must evolve in response to the changing world.

4. At the invitation of States Members of the United Nations, the Secretary-General issued a series of 11 policy briefs<sup>3</sup> in 2023. In the policy briefs, the Secretary-General provided more details on certain proposals contained in Our Common Agenda, building on the idea that robust international cooperation is a fundamental requirement to effectively address global challenges and advance the Sustainable Development Goals. Informed by the Charter of the United Nations and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the policy briefs were intended to support States in their deliberations leading up to the Summit of the Future in September 2024. The themes include future generations; an emergency platform; meaningful youth engagement; beyond gross domestic product; a global digital compact; international financial architecture; outer space; information integrity on digital platforms; a new agenda for peace; transforming education; and United Nations 2.0.

5. The Sustainable Development Goals Summit took place at Headquarters on 18 and 19 September 2023. Marking the midway point to 2030, it presented a crucial opportunity to assess progress and reconfirm the commitment to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. The key messages of OHCHR centred on promoting human rights as essential levers for transformative change and problem-solving tools to rescue the 2030 Agenda. The organization underlined the urgent need for a more equitable international financial system, calling for transformative changes in global economic governance and addressing issues such as debt relief and reshaping public finance. OHCHR also emphasized the centrality of the

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<sup>1</sup> [A/75/982](#).

<sup>2</sup> Ibid., para. 12.

<sup>3</sup> See [www.un.org/en/common-agenda/policy-briefs](http://www.un.org/en/common-agenda/policy-briefs).

commitment to “leave no one behind”, urging collaborative efforts to reduce inequalities and prioritize attention to those furthest behind.

6. The Summit of the Future, scheduled to be held on 22 and 23 September 2024, will provide an opportunity to enhance international cooperation in addressing pressing global issues. Recognizing that the progress made towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is off track and acknowledging the inadequacy of existing multilateral governance systems, the Summit aims to propel the 2030 Agenda forward. The proposed outcomes include A Pact for the Future, emphasizing the reaffirmation of the Charter of the United Nations, the reinvigoration of multilateralism and the restoration of trust. Key expectations involve reforms in multilateral institutions, a strengthened global security architecture and improved conflict prevention mechanisms at both the global and national levels. Further initiatives include a more inclusive and responsive international financial architecture, addressing issues such as debt relief, climate financing and an equitable global tax framework.

### **III. International cooperation in the context of the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

7. To commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, OHCHR launched the year-long Human Rights 75 initiative.<sup>4</sup> Its overarching goals were promoting universality and indivisibility, looking to the future and bolstering the human rights ecosystem. The initiative culminated in a two-day high-level event on 11 and 12 December 2023, at which global pledges were announced and ideas for a vision for the future of human rights were discussed. Throughout the event, the High Commissioner, several States and panellists reaffirmed the spirit of international cooperation and solidarity in addressing the multiple human rights challenges faced by people worldwide.

8. In his opening remarks at the high-level event,<sup>5</sup> the High Commissioner described the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as a river nourished by many streams of values emanating from different civilizations, among which he underscored the values of interdependence, cooperation and collective responsibility. Recalling that the drafters of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights set aside many significant disputes and transcended geopolitical clashes and economic differences, he made a call for solidarity to overcome polarization and to work together to solve the tremendous challenges that people face today.

9. In his statement to world leaders,<sup>6</sup> the High Commissioner stressed that human rights conversations must always take place in a spirit of respectful and constructive engagement in the search for a better world. He called upon all States and stakeholders to come together, transcending different societies and political and economic systems, to seek out areas of agreement and ensure meaningful change, in order that human rights become both the overarching goal and the guardrails for policy and action.

10. The High Commissioner also reaffirmed that human rights created bridges across geopolitical divides and were a blueprint for solutions to the greatest challenges of humankind, and for multilateral cooperation, because they were grounded in values that spanned divisions and were rooted in the universality of the human condition.<sup>7</sup> He noted that the global constituency for human rights should be supported and given space to innovate. To that end, more dialogue, more creative solutions, sharp thinking and expanding partnerships were encouraged. The High Commissioner urged States to act on the

<sup>4</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/human-rights-75](http://www.ohchr.org/en/human-rights-75).

<sup>5</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2023/12/turk-opens-global-human-rights-event-call-hope-and-action](http://www.ohchr.org/en/statements-and-speeches/2023/12/turk-opens-global-human-rights-event-call-hope-and-action).

<sup>6</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2023/12/turk-calls-world-leaders-rebuild-foundation-hope](http://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2023/12/turk-calls-world-leaders-rebuild-foundation-hope).

<sup>7</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2023/12/turk-promises-we-will-build-ambitious-agenda-change-can-meet-challenges-our-time](http://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2023/12/turk-promises-we-will-build-ambitious-agenda-change-can-meet-challenges-our-time).

recommendations arising from the international human rights system, which he identified as essential to peace and security, development and international cooperation.

11. Informed by extensive engagement with a range of actors following the Human Rights 75 initiative in 2023, the High Commissioner offered a vision statement<sup>8</sup> in February 2024, entitled “Human rights: a path for solutions”. He cautioned that instrumentalizing human rights for political ends or disregarding them cynically would threaten social cohesion and undermine international cooperation. The High Commissioner called for more effective international cooperation on tax policies and combating illicit financial flows, technology transfers, knowledge-sharing and financing.

#### IV. Activities of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

12. OHCHR continued to promote international cooperation in the field of human rights in the framework of the 2030 Agenda and Our Common Agenda. In the present section, the High Commissioner provides illustrations of various types of activities that represent enhanced international cooperation to protect and promote human rights in that regard, including the support of OHCHR for United Nations human rights mechanisms. However, it is not a full or exhaustive summary of the work carried out. The annual report of the High Commissioner to the Human Rights Council provides additional examples of the Office’s work during this period.

##### A. Thematic engagement

13. OHCHR continued to promote international cooperation in economic, social and cultural rights, including in the areas of workers’ rights and social protection, water, sanitation, food, health, education and housing. For instance, on the right to health, to mark the joint seventy-fifth anniversary of the World Health Organization (WHO) and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in 2023, the High Commissioner and the Director-General of WHO published a [joint statement](#)<sup>9</sup> on Human Rights Day (10 December) in multiple international newspapers, calling attention to inequalities that underlie the violation of health-related human rights in conflict settings around the world. On 16 February 2024, OHCHR organized a virtual expert workshop on key challenges and new developments in ensuring access to medicines, vaccines and other health products, as mandated by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 50/13.

14. The High Commissioner also launched the concept of a “human rights economy” in April 2023. OHCHR promoted the concept through a number of activities with a wide range of actors. Those included three sessions of the Hernán Santa Cruz Dialogue: in April 2023 at New School, New York, where experts shared ideas, experiences and best practices to materialize a human rights economy in order to promote sustainable, inclusive and equitable development; in May 2023, in Paris, in collaboration with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization on the theme “a solution in plain sight for a better world: a human rights economy”; and in August 2023 in Chile on the theme “integrating economic, social, cultural and environmental rights into national regulatory frameworks and public budgets”. A round table on the future of human rights, development and the economy<sup>10</sup> during the Human Rights 75 event provided an opportunity for States and other stakeholders to further reflect on the concept.

15. Against the backdrop of a call for a reform of the international financial architecture, OHCHR supported the [6th intersessional meeting of the Human Rights Council on human](#)

<sup>8</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/02/un-human-rights-chief-lays-out-path-solutions-years-come](http://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2024/02/un-human-rights-chief-lays-out-path-solutions-years-come).

<sup>9</sup> See [www.who.int/news-room/commentaries/detail/conflict-and-crisis-reveal-the-tip-of-the-iceberg-the-world-s-vulnerable-face-in-accessing-their-right-to-health](http://www.who.int/news-room/commentaries/detail/conflict-and-crisis-reveal-the-tip-of-the-iceberg-the-world-s-vulnerable-face-in-accessing-their-right-to-health).

<sup>10</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/udhr/publishingimages/75udhr/HR75-high-level-event-Economy-Background-document.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/udhr/publishingimages/75udhr/HR75-high-level-event-Economy-Background-document.pdf).

rights and the 2030 Agenda, on 18 January 2024, on the theme of “integrating human rights into the international financial architecture reforms: a cornerstone for realizing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and a human rights economy”. OHCHR issued key messages on how to anchor human rights in the reforms of the international financial architecture.<sup>11</sup> OHCHR also worked with development finance institutions to promote the alignment of their operations with human rights standards. OHCHR continued to support the implementation of its benchmarking study on the safeguard policies of development finance institutions and its 2022 report on remedy in development finance,<sup>12</sup> at policy and project levels. OHCHR participated in consultations on the revised safeguard policies of the Asian Development Bank, the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, FinDev Canada and the Green Climate Fund. OHCHR launched, in 2023, its project on development financial institutions and digital risks, completing initial desk research and consultations. OHCHR participated in the consultation on the World Bank Gender Strategy for 2024–2030, including through a written submission.<sup>13</sup>

16. Through its work, OHCHR aimed to inject a human rights perspective into trade and international investment. In particular, it continued to foster collaboration and partnerships with the secretariat of the African Union, the Economic Commission for Africa, the Friedrich Ebert Foundation in Geneva, national human rights institutions and civil society to increase knowledge of and support for inclusive implementation of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area. OHCHR organized and supported several capacity-building and awareness-raising activities for government representatives, the private sector, civil society and national human rights institutions in the African region on the linkages between trade and business and human rights in the context of implementing the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area. The advocacy and capacity-building efforts of OHCHR contributed to the adoption of thematic recommendations on mainstreaming human rights in implementing the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area.

17. The work of OHCHR on business and human rights also helped to promote international cooperation. Convened by the African Union, OHCHR, in partnership with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) and the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises, co-organized the [African Business and Human Rights Forum](#),<sup>14</sup> which was held on 5–7 September 2023 in Addis Ababa. The Forum contributed to enhancing the understanding of standards on business and human rights among a wide range of African stakeholders. In October 2023, OHCHR and the Working Group on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises convened the Latin American Business and Human Rights Forum, which brought together representatives from 10 Governments of the region. The event was held in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Global Compact and the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

18. OHCHR continued to raise awareness of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights among technology companies. For example, the [B-Tech project](#),<sup>15</sup> developed by OHCHR to provide authoritative guidance and resources for implementing the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, officially launched [B-Tech Africa](#)<sup>16</sup> in Cape Town, South Africa, with the aim of engaging strategically with technology company operators, investors and other key digital economy stakeholders, including civil society. The idea is to work within African economies and technology hubs to support implementation of the

<sup>11</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/2030agenda/sixthsession/ohchr-key-message-18-jan-HRC-intersessional.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/hrcouncil/2030agenda/sixthsession/ohchr-key-message-18-jan-HRC-intersessional.pdf).

<sup>12</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/Remedy-in-Development.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-02/Remedy-in-Development.pdf).

<sup>13</sup> See <https://thedocs.worldbank.org/en/doc/23a43e42ada40a9246849343135bf232-0090012023/original/OHCHR-General-Observations-on-the-World-Bank-Gender-Strategy.pdf>.

<sup>14</sup> See [www.undp.org/rolhr/events/2nd-african-business-and-human-rights-forum](http://www.undp.org/rolhr/events/2nd-african-business-and-human-rights-forum).

<sup>15</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/business-and-human-rights/b-tech-project](http://www.ohchr.org/en/business-and-human-rights/b-tech-project).

<sup>16</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/business/b-tech/B-Tech-Africa-Cape-Town-CN-Agenda.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/business/b-tech/B-Tech-Africa-Cape-Town-CN-Agenda.pdf).

Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. B-Tech Africa convened several activities, including a side event at the Forum on the Participation of NGOs in the Ordinary Session of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights during the seventy-seventh ordinary session of the Commission<sup>17</sup> in Arusha, Tanzania, focusing on the application of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights to digital trade practices in the African Continental Free Trade Area, as well as a [multistakeholder meeting of digital rights civil society organizations and small and medium-sized technology enterprises in Nairobi](#).<sup>18</sup> On 31 October 2023, B-Tech Africa organized a [workshop for selected national human rights institutions in Africa](#) on their empowerment in the domestic implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in the technology sector in Africa.

19. OHCHR continued to strengthen its engagement with stakeholders to provide human rights expertise and the sharing of good practices to enhance the effectiveness of anti-corruption efforts and responses by ensuring that they are consistent with States' obligations and have a victim-centred approach. The work of OHCHR emphasizes how resources can be allocated fairly and benefit the populations with the most vulnerabilities. That was combined with support through research and analysis addressing the negative impacts of corruption on human rights, focusing on prevention, effective administration of justice and redress for the victims of human rights violations. Substantial work in that area has been carried out through its in-country presences to support States. In 2023, OHCHR organized a panel discussion on the most efficient ways of upholding good governance to address the human rights impacts of the various digital divides<sup>19</sup> and attended the tenth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, during which it co-organized and participated in special sessions aimed at highlighting the importance of anti-corruption in health and in exploring the synergies between anti-corruption and human rights.

20. The work of OHCHR on climate change and the environment is a critical component of supporting international cooperation on human rights and sustainable development. OHCHR participated in and organized several conferences and activities on the environment and human rights, including the right to development and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. As a co-lead of the United Nations Environment Management Group on human rights and the environment, OHCHR, together with UNEP and UNDP, developed a new three-year plan, integrating the workstream on the rights of future generations of the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights, especially climate justice. In close collaboration with the Climate Vulnerable Forum, OHCHR developed and finalized a guidance note on integration of human rights in climate prosperity plans. With UNEP, OHCHR issued a new edition of the *Environmental Rights Bulletin* focused on human rights-based approaches to financing sustainable development, particularly with respect to climate action. OHCHR supported delivery of capacity-building workshops on the triple planetary crisis, and the development of new guidance on the protection of environmental human rights defenders and integrating human rights in national biodiversity strategies and action plans. OHCHR produced a position paper on advancing the right to a healthy environment in the Amazon rainforest for the Amazon Summit in August 2023, as well as key messages on human rights for the Summit of the Three Basins of Biodiversity Ecosystems and Tropical Forests in October 2023. In November 2023, in collaboration with the International Labour Organization, OHCHR published key messages on human rights and a just transition.

21. OHCHR continued to broaden and deepen its engagement with a wide range of actors, including young persons, children, older persons, persons with disabilities, minorities, migrants, Indigenous Peoples, people facing racial discrimination, including people of African descent, and local governments supporting them in their work, including by facilitating regional and international cooperation among these actors. That work has also

<sup>17</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/business/b-tech/concept-note-agenda-side-event-achrp-ngo-forum.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/business/b-tech/concept-note-agenda-side-event-achrp-ngo-forum.pdf).

<sup>18</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/business/b-tech/concept-note-agenda-nairobi-b-tech-consultation.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/business/b-tech/concept-note-agenda-nairobi-b-tech-consultation.pdf).

<sup>19</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/events/meetings/2023/panel-discussion-most-efficient-ways-upholding-good-governance-address-human](http://www.ohchr.org/en/events/meetings/2023/panel-discussion-most-efficient-ways-upholding-good-governance-address-human).



included strengthening cooperation with faith-based actors, through the Faith for Rights framework.<sup>20</sup> Religions for Peace, the University for Peace, the United States Institute of Peace, United Nations human rights mechanisms and OHCHR facilitated a series of monthly conversations on religion, beliefs and human rights. Several of those hybrid meetings were organized as side events during sessions of the Commission on the Status of Women, the Human Rights Council and the Academic Council on the United Nations System and the twenty-eighth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.<sup>21</sup> That led to the creation of a network entitled “Faith for Rights community of practices”, aimed at enhancing joint inter-faith action to promote and protect human rights for all.<sup>22</sup> In November 2023, OHCHR and the National Human Rights Council (Morocco) co-organized a workshop in Rabat with religious actors, women’s rights experts, academics and parliamentarians from the Middle East and North Africa.<sup>23</sup> The workshop used the Faith for Rights framework of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women, which it has used in dialogues with States parties and in its concluding observations.<sup>24</sup> That pilot project under the Knowledge Hub of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women focused on advocacy and peer-to-peer learning in cases in which culture, tradition or certain religious interpretations might impede the equal rights of women and girls in all spheres.<sup>25</sup>

22. OHCHR also continues to strengthen its engagement with youth and children. OHCHR established a Human Rights 75 Youth Advisory Group, a group of 12 young human rights advocates from different regions who were selected on the basis of an open call from a pool of 2,180 applicants. Through a consultative process, the Youth Advisory Group developed a [Human Rights 75 Youth Declaration](#), which was presented at the Human Rights 75 event in December 2023. Children’s engagement in the Human Rights 75 initiative was also strong. It included the development of a [children’s vision for human rights](#) based on a survey that received almost 4,000 responses from children worldwide, facilitated by OHCHR. From March to December 2023, OHCHR, in collaboration with several regional and national partners, held youth engagement sessions on economic, social and cultural rights in India, South Africa, Kenya, Nigeria, Georgia, Indonesia and Brazil. The sessions brought together youth from all over the world to raise awareness of economic, social and cultural rights and the importance of youth engagement in advocating for these rights, leading up to the Summit of the Future.

23. OHCHR continued its efforts to promote and protect the human rights of people of African descent worldwide. For instance, in January 2024, OHCHR organized a meeting for the Asia-Pacific region on the International Decade for People of African Descent, which contributed to increasing the visibility of contributions from and challenges facing Africans and people of African descent in the region and to identifying recommendations for advancing their human rights.<sup>26</sup>

24. OHCHR engaged on minority rights with a wide range of stakeholders across regions, including in Armenia, Bangladesh, Brazil, Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Iraq, Japan, the Philippines, the Republic of Korea, the Republic of Moldova and South Sudan, and continued to support the roll-out of the *Protecting Minority Rights: A Practical Guide to Developing Comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Legislation*.<sup>27</sup> Furthermore, it launched a research initiative into the state of play of equality law reform movements worldwide, with universities in France and South Africa.

<sup>20</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/faith-for-rights](http://www.ohchr.org/en/faith-for-rights).

<sup>21</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/faith-for-rights/framework-action](http://www.ohchr.org/en/faith-for-rights/framework-action).

<sup>22</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/religion/faithforrights/Faith-for-rights-P2Pweek2023.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/religion/faithforrights/Faith-for-rights-P2Pweek2023.pdf).

<sup>23</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/cedaw/activities/2023-11-CEDAW-hub-PR.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/cedaw/activities/2023-11-CEDAW-hub-PR.pdf).

<sup>24</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Religion/CEDAW\\_Excerpts.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/Documents/Issues/Religion/CEDAW_Excerpts.pdf).

<sup>25</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/cedaw/activities/2023-11-CEDAW-hub-PR.pdf](http://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/hrbodies/cedaw/activities/2023-11-CEDAW-hub-PR.pdf).

<sup>26</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/events/meetings/2024/regional-meeting-asia-pacific-international-decade-people-african-descent](http://www.ohchr.org/en/events/meetings/2024/regional-meeting-asia-pacific-international-decade-people-african-descent).

<sup>27</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/minorities/minority-rights-equality-and-anti-discrimination-law](http://www.ohchr.org/en/minorities/minority-rights-equality-and-anti-discrimination-law).

25. OHCHR continued its work on gender equality. Specifically, it sustained its engagement to support and promote inclusive narratives and solidarity among movements to counter the persistent anti-gender and anti-rights trends, including through focused events. OHCHR continued its role as the co-lead of the Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership in the context of the Generation Equality Forum and made progress in coordinating the implementation of commitments made by OHCHR on women human rights defenders.

26. OHCHR co-organized for the second time the online event of the Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership to commemorate the International Day for Women Human Rights Defenders. The event provided visibility and recognition for the work of women human rights defenders in various conflict-affected settings, building on the report of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders on women human rights defenders in conflict, post-conflict and crisis-affected settings<sup>28</sup> and featuring the experiences of women human rights defenders from South Sudan, Myanmar, Ukraine and the State of Palestine.

27. OHCHR reinforced its monitoring capacity on issues related to civic space. It further developed artificial intelligence for automatically processing open-source information in search of investigatory leads on alleged incidents of human rights violations, specifically on public demonstrations experiencing repression, building on efforts in 2022 to track attacks against human rights defenders. By developing artificial intelligence models in-house, OHCHR has trained them to apply human rights definitions and thresholds, so that the leads flow seamlessly into further human rights monitoring, investigations and analysis.

28. From April to October 2023, OHCHR collaborated with the Council of Europe and delivered a comprehensive training programme for young persons on human rights education, enhancing their capabilities to lead human rights initiatives at the local and national levels. OHCHR deepened its partnership with the World Organization of the Scout Movement, focusing on empowering Scout leaders to integrate human rights education into their programmes. As part of the Human Rights 75 celebrations, OHCHR organized various activities to empower youth through education, including the Human Rights 75 Youth Dialogue and the launch of a multimedia educational tool co-produced with Amnesty International and Soka Gakkai International.<sup>29</sup> OHCHR, in collaboration with the Global Campus of Human Rights, also facilitated a global webinar on human rights education in higher education.

29. OHCHR continued to monitor, train and advise members of State institutions and other actors to strengthen the administration of justice and the rule of law, including in the Central African Republic, Chile, Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Fiji, Haiti, India, Kenya, Mozambique, Thailand and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

30. OHCHR continued to support the African Union to integrate human rights into its early warning system. It designed and delivered training modules on integrating human rights into early warning and conflict prevention. For instance, in Ethiopia, OHCHR started the process of establishing early warning mechanisms at the community level, in the Afar and Amhara regions.

31. In response to humanitarian emergencies, OHCHR deployed surge teams to Antigua and Barbuda, Cambodia, Fiji, Guatemala, Haiti, Peru and the Republic of Moldova. It also deployed surge capacity to the border of the Syrian Arab Republic to mainstream protection into the earthquake response in the north of the country and for work on Myanmar. In Fiji, OHCHR contributed to the Vanuatu twin-cyclone response, including a post-disaster needs assessment.

<sup>28</sup> A/78/131.

<sup>29</sup> See [www.power-humanrights-education.org/multimedia/changemakers-stories-of-young-human-rights-educators](http://www.power-humanrights-education.org/multimedia/changemakers-stories-of-young-human-rights-educators).



## B. Right to development

32. Activities aimed at operationalizing the right to development, which is grounded in international cooperation, included secretariat support for the Working Group on the Right to Development<sup>30</sup> and the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development,<sup>31</sup> dedicated events, awareness-raising, advocacy and capacity-building, research, support for country and regional presences, and engagement with academic, epistemic and civil society efforts.

33. At its twenty-fourth session, held from 15–19 May 2023, the Working Group on the Right to Development considered the second revised text of the draft legally binding instrument on the right to development. The Chair-Rapporteur subsequently finalized the draft text of the international covenant on the right to development, assisted by a group of legal experts, and submitted it to the Human Rights Council, as requested. In its resolution 54/18 of 12 October 2023, the Council decided to submit the draft international covenant to the General Assembly, for its consideration, negotiation and subsequent adoption. The General Assembly, in its resolution 78/203 of 19 December 2023, took note of that decision.

34. Article 13 of the draft international covenant on the right to development underscores the duty of States parties to collaborate effectively in addressing global challenges and advancing development. It emphasizes the importance of the individual and joint actions of States to create favourable international conditions for the realization of the right to development. States parties should therefore take deliberate and concrete steps, both individually and collectively, to promote international cooperation, including through engagement within international organizations and with civil society. Furthermore, States parties should ensure that financing for development adheres to internationally recognized principles of development cooperation effectiveness and aligns with the provisions of the draft covenant.

35. OHCHR organized a series of activities in September and October 2023 aimed at promoting international cooperation and engagement on the draft international covenant on the right to development. Those included a side event during the fifty-fourth session of the Human Rights Council dedicated to discussing the drafting history and future trajectory of the draft covenant, featuring a multi-stakeholder panel of experts. OHCHR provided support to the Chair of the Working Group on the Right to Development during his visit to New York, which included facilitating high-level bilateral meetings with key stakeholders, such as the Secretary-General, ambassadors, and political and regional groups. OHCHR also supported the Chair's participation in a side event on the right to development co-organized by the Movement of Non-Aligned Countries and China, which focused on identifying obstacles to the realization of the right to development and exploring strategies for fostering an enabling environment.

36. At its seventh session,<sup>32</sup> held from 3–5 April 2023, the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development engaged in five focused thematic discussions with Permanent Representatives of States Members of the United Nations in New York, as well as relevant United Nations representatives, external experts and civil society representatives. As a result, the Expert Mechanism developed contributions<sup>33</sup> from a right to development approach to the topics “new agenda for peace”, “measuring progress beyond gross domestic product”, “reform of the international financial architecture”, “future generations” and “youth participation”, in the lead-up to the Sustainable Development Goals Summit in September 2023 and the Summit of the Future in 2024.

37. At its eighth session,<sup>34</sup> held from 30 October to 1 November 2023, the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development engaged in four thematic dialogues with Permanent Representatives of States Members of the United Nations to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, relevant United Nations representatives, external

<sup>30</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/hrc-subsiaries/iwg-on-development](http://www.ohchr.org/en/hrc-subsiaries/iwg-on-development).

<sup>31</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/hrc-subsiaries/expert-mechanism-on-right-to-development](http://www.ohchr.org/en/hrc-subsiaries/expert-mechanism-on-right-to-development).

<sup>32</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/events/sessions/2023/seventh-session-expert-mechanism-right-development](http://www.ohchr.org/en/events/sessions/2023/seventh-session-expert-mechanism-right-development).

<sup>33</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/hrc-subsiaries/expert-mechanism-on-right-to-development/contributions-international-processes](http://www.ohchr.org/en/hrc-subsiaries/expert-mechanism-on-right-to-development/contributions-international-processes).

<sup>34</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/events/sessions/2023/eighth-session-expert-mechanism-right-development](http://www.ohchr.org/en/events/sessions/2023/eighth-session-expert-mechanism-right-development).

experts and civil society representatives on (a) “responsibilities and climate justice: a dialogue from a right-to-development approach”; (b) “access to technology and the right to development”; (c) “women’s participation in development and promoting gender equality: good practices, opportunities and challenges”; and (d) “the United Nations system and opportunities for mainstreaming and promoting the right to development”. In addition to its annual report on the seventh and eighth sessions, the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development also submitted to the Human Rights Council, at its fifty-fourth session, three thematic studies on the right to development in international investment law,<sup>35</sup> inequality, social protection and the right to development<sup>36</sup> and the duty to cooperate and non-State actors.<sup>37</sup>

38. OHCHR, in collaboration with the Permanent Mission of Saudi Arabia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, organized a side event during the fifty-second session of the Human Rights Council focused on operationalizing the right to development through people-centred development assistance. Attended by diverse stakeholders, the event emphasized the importance of development assistance tailored to the needs and perspectives of recipient communities. The event highlighted the need for a right to development approach in development projects and recognized that that required effective international solidarity and cooperation.

39. In commemorating the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, in April 2023, OHCHR with the Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa and the United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo collaborated with the University of the Free State, South Africa, to organize a global webinar on the realization of the right to development in Africa.<sup>38</sup> Another 251 participants from 132 countries benefited from online training<sup>39</sup> on operationalizing the right to development in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, which is organized by OHCHR in partnership with the United Nations University and the University for Peace. Also, in partnership with the University for Peace, the second roll-out of the joint workshop<sup>40</sup> on mainstreaming the right to development in voluntary national review reporting for realizing the Sustainable Development Goals was attended by 149 participants from 60 countries.

40. In collaboration with the University for Peace, OHCHR developed a study on good practices in operationalizing the right to development in South-South cooperation<sup>41</sup> and presented its findings at a side event at the twenty-fourth session of the Working Group on the Right to Development in May 2023. The study highlights mutually reinforcing principles and practices of South-South and triangular cooperation and the right to development. The study analysed three case studies on: resilient and sustainable restoration of public infrastructure in health care and communications in Antigua and Barbuda carried out under the aegis of the India-United Nations Development Partnership Fund; resilient and sustainable production and commercialization in agriculture in the Comoros Islands carried out by South Africa; and resilient and sustainable restoration of water, sanitation and hygiene facilities and construction of public infrastructure in Angola carried out by Brazil, as part of its trilateral South-South cooperation with support from UNICEF. The last two examples are part of the India, Brazil and South Africa Facility for Poverty and Hunger Alleviation.

41. OHCHR contributed to educational programmes, academic debates and civil society dialogues on the right to development, including those on international development cooperation architecture organized by the NGO Committee on the Status of Women and other women’s organizations in September 2023; “the right to development: perspectives of NAM Youth” organized by the Non-Aligned Movement Youth Organization in October 2023;

<sup>35</sup> [A/HRC/54/82](#).

<sup>36</sup> [A/HRC/54/83](#).

<sup>37</sup> [A/HRC/54/84](#).

<sup>38</sup> See [www.youtube.com/watch?v=bOluThb87I4](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bOluThb87I4).

<sup>39</sup> See <https://www.upeace.org/e-course-right-to-development-and-the-sdgs/>.

<sup>40</sup> See <https://upeace.org/e-course-right-to-development-vnr-reporting-sdgs>.

<sup>41</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/development/Draft-Study\\_Good-Practices-Operationalizing-Right-to-Dev.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/documents/issues/development/Draft-Study_Good-Practices-Operationalizing-Right-to-Dev.pdf).

“new frontiers of human rights: debating the right to development” organized by academic institutions in November 2023; and the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the Conference of Non-Governmental Organizations in Consultative Relationship with the United Nations, organized in partnership with the World Council of Churches and 18 co-sponsors in December 2023.

## C. Supporting United Nations human rights mechanisms

### 1. Special procedures

42. OHCHR continues to lead efforts to ensure fuller use of the recommendations of special procedure mandate holders. At their 29th annual meeting, mandate holders adopted a joint declaration on the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, in which they underscored the critical role of human rights as a tool for transformative change that was urgently needed to achieve the Goals by 2030. To commemorate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in December 2023, mandate holders called upon States to ensure that the Summit of the Future was built on the bedrock of human rights. They emphasized that human rights must underpin development as well as peace and security.<sup>42</sup>

43. The Coordination Committee of Special Procedures continued to engage with all concerned on the Summit of the Future, including through participation in consultations, on 13 December 2023, on the Summit’s outcome. In the consultations, participants stressed that human rights should be fully and substantively reflected in A Pact for the Future. They reaffirmed that human dignity was at the heart of our societies and that respect for human rights was essential to the prevention of conflict and the promotion of human development. The Committee called for the Pact to press for fuller use of the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including the universal periodic review, the treaty bodies and the special procedures, to solve pressing social, economic and political challenges. The Committee also participated in the Human Rights 75 high-level event in Geneva, at which its Chair spoke at the Panel on the Future of Human Rights and Peace and Security. The Chair encouraged the United Nations and States to maximise the use of special procedures, together with other United Nations human rights mechanisms, which generated practical and solution-oriented recommendations. She also noted that the Summit of the Future would be an opportunity to materialize the vision of those mechanisms. Other mandate holders participated in the Human Rights 75 high-level event as panellists or moderators, reinforcing and recognizing the positive and pivotal role of special procedures in the human rights ecosystem.

44. In his report on conclusions and recommendations of special procedures,<sup>43</sup> the Secretary-General reflects the link between the work carried out by the special procedures and Our Common Agenda and the Call to Action for Human Rights. The conclusions and recommendations contribute to and are an integral part of the efforts to ensure that human rights are transformative and provide solutions. That makes the human rights system responsive and innovative in confronting human rights challenges and enhances synergies between human rights and all pillars of the work of the United Nations. An illustration is the report of the Special Rapporteur on the human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation on water as an argument for peace, twinning and cooperation, in which he shows the potential benefits of adopting a human rights approach to the sustainable management of transboundary waters.<sup>44</sup>

### 2. Universal periodic review

45. In 2023, OHCHR serviced three sessions of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review. It also serviced the adoption of the outcomes of those reviews during plenary sessions of the Human Rights Council. With all member States having agreed to participate in the fourth cycle review, an average of 98 member States and observers made

<sup>42</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2023/12/global-leaders-must-recommit-principles-human-rights-un-experts](https://www.ohchr.org/en/statements/2023/12/global-leaders-must-recommit-principles-human-rights-un-experts).

<sup>43</sup> A/HRC/55/19.

<sup>44</sup> A/78/253.

interventions and an average of 280 recommendations were received for each country under review, which represents an increase compared with previous cycles. The States under review in 2023 accepted, on average, 81.46 per cent of recommendations, which represents an increase compared with the figure for the third cycle (76 per cent). A significant increase in the number of pre-review submissions by civil society representatives and United Nations entities was also recorded.

46. The Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review<sup>45</sup> facilitated the travel of 13 State delegates to attend sessions of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, particularly from least developed countries and small island developing States.

47. The Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review<sup>46</sup> supported enhanced implementation of the relevant recommendations through projects in 13 countries in 2023, with one in Antigua and Barbuda and one in Haiti in the specific context of the Human Rights 75 initiative. OHCHR received 29 requests/project proposals for technical assistance for 2024 related to the universal periodic review. Moreover, in its resolution 54/28, the Human Rights Council requested that OHCHR establish and maintain an online repository of technical cooperation and capacity-building activities in the implementation of recommendations emanating from the universal periodic review.

48. In cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union, OHCHR organized pre-session briefings in October for parliamentarians and parliamentary staff of countries with upcoming reviews (90 representatives from 33 countries). In cooperation with the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, OHCHR facilitated the participation of 32 representatives of national human rights institutions from 16 countries coming up for review.

49. OHCHR maintained its effective partnership with UPR Info. Collaborations included: participation in the pre-session briefings delivered by civil society representatives for Permanent Missions to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva prior to each session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review; a side event at the fifty-fourth session of the Human Rights Council in October 2023, sponsored by the Permanent Mission of Portugal to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, entitled “towards a human rights economy: UPR recommendations for economic, social and cultural rights”; and the sixth edition of the Padova Model Universal Periodic Review in November 2023, which was held jointly with the University of Padova, Italy, and which attracted more than 50 students worldwide.

### 3. Treaty body capacity-building programme

50. In the context of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, OHCHR conducted a campaign to promote ratification of the core international human rights treaties and their optional protocols. The campaign prioritized a peer-learning approach, facilitating exchanges of experience on ratification and implementation of treaty obligations between parties to human rights instruments and States contemplating ratification. Such exchanges were organized on the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment in the Pacific region and on its Optional Protocol in the Middle East and Central, East, North and West Africa. Through its treaty body capacity-building programme, OHCHR continued to support the establishment and strengthening of national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up through in-country direct support, as well as facilitation of peer-learning among States. In 2023, regional round tables and workshops to exchange good practices on the creation and functioning of such national mechanisms were organized in South-East Asia, the Middle East and North Africa, Southern Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific. The global seminar mandated by the Human Rights Council in its resolution 51/33 and organized in 2023

<sup>45</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/trust-fund-participation](http://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/trust-fund-participation).

<sup>46</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/trust-fund-implementation](http://www.ohchr.org/en/hr-bodies/upr/trust-fund-implementation).

facilitated exchanges among States on key characteristics of an effective institutional set-up and mandate of a national mechanism for implementation, reporting and follow-up.

#### **D. National human rights institutions and regional mechanisms**

51. In line with the Call to Action for Human Rights and enhancing United Nations system support for national human rights institutions, OHCHR, in collaboration with UNDP and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions, continued to implement the Tripartite Partnership Project, which aims to increase fulfilment of human rights for all persons by providing a unique platform for collaboration to support national human rights institutions worldwide. In May 2023, the Tripartite Partnership Project organized a meeting to discuss how national human rights institutions accelerate progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. The meeting, which brought together representatives of States, national human rights institutions, global and regional networks thereof and United Nations entities, discussed progress in establishing institutions that were in compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles), as an indicator of progress towards sustainable development. The meeting also improved awareness of the challenges and risks faced by national human rights institutions when carrying out their mandates. The meeting resolved to sustain support for the establishment and strengthening of the frameworks and capacities of national human rights institutions, in line with the Paris Principles, as cornerstones of human rights protection at the national level.

52. Between November 2023 and February 2024, the Tripartite Partnership Project co-designed a collaborative process to operationalize country-level support to 13 national human rights institutions in the Comoros, Costa Rica, Ecuador, Georgia, Jordan, Malawi, Maldives, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Peru, the Republic of Moldova, Timor-Leste and Ukraine. The support was aimed at strengthening the capacities of national human rights institutions on human rights monitoring, business and human rights, environmental protection, women's rights and gender equality, early warning and prevention, and strategic planning.

53. In December 2023, OHCHR organized a one-day meeting with representatives from nine regional human rights organizations pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 52/15 on cooperation with them. The meeting discussed work done in relation to business and human rights, the environment and digital space. Good practices on cooperation between OHCHR and regional mechanisms were showcased and the meeting underscored the importance of continued cooperation.

54. OHCHR organized the fellowship programme for staff members of regional human rights organizations, which enabled staff of the African Court on Human and Peoples' Rights, the Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the East African Court of Justice and the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights to gain experience in the United Nations human rights system and to enhance cooperation among these mechanisms and with OHCHR.

55. In October 2023, OHCHR and the Inter-Parliamentary Union launched the *Parliaments and Human Rights: A Self-Assessment Toolkit*, designed to support parliamentarians better integrate human rights into their work.

#### **E. In-country presences of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

56. The OHCHR Regional Office for East Africa continued its advocacy to demonstrate that the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, together with the African Union draft policy on business and human rights, were fundamental in the operationalization of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area, if African countries were to realize Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want. In multiple forums, in particular in the National Human Rights Institutions Forum and sessions of the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights, the OHCHR Regional Office for East Africa

stressed the interdependence and the indivisibility of the implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the operationalization of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area. Those advocacy efforts resulted in the African Commission adopting its own resolution,<sup>47</sup> at its seventy-fourth ordinary session in 2023, calling for a human rights-based approach to guide the operationalization of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area.

57. The Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy in Central Africa convened the Dialogue on National Action Plans on business and human rights in the Central African subregion, on 22 June 2023, in Douala, Cameroon. The event brought together 250 representatives of Government, business, civil society, national human rights institutions and other stakeholders from the States Members of the Economic Community of Central African States. The one-day dialogue contributed to advance the multi-stakeholder discussion on the development, adoption and implementation of national action plans in the Central African subregion.

58. OHCHR Chad supported civil society organizations in drafting an alternative report for the country's fourth cycle review under the universal periodic review, facilitating the participation of civil society organizations in the universal periodic review pre-session in November 2023 in Geneva. OHCHR also assisted Chad in preparing its national report under the fourth cycle of the universal periodic review. OHCHR commissioned a study on the extractive sector's impact on human rights in Chad, aiming to assess the situation and guide national policies. Capacity-building efforts involved training sessions for security officers and civil society actors, contributing to enhanced human rights protection during law enforcement operations. OHCHR Chad is implementing a project aimed at strengthening the capacities of civil society organizations and human rights defenders to report on human rights violations. In its support for the establishment of an observatory for gender equality, OHCHR mobilized different actors, including the National Human Rights Commission, and State and civil society actors. OHCHR facilitated discussions with national authorities to establish a national programme in view of the end of the human rights and international humanitarian law compliance framework of the Joint Force of the Group of Five for the Sahel, to support the national defence and security forces in the implementation of human rights and international humanitarian law.<sup>48</sup> OHCHR organized workshops for military personnel and collaborated with UNDP to conduct capacity-building activities for the National Human Rights Commission and provided equipment to the national mechanism for reporting and follow-up.

59. The United Nations Joint Human Rights Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo provided technical and financial support to national authorities and civil society organizations for the protection and promotion of human rights. Collaborative achievements included the renewal of a cooperation agreement with the International Criminal Court and the participation of the Democratic Republic of the Congo in the Voluntary Principles on Security and Human Rights. Efforts were also directed towards the Business and Human Rights project, with the Democratic Republic of the Congo launching consultations for a national action plan and organizing a national dialogue to implement the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. The Joint Human Rights Office provided technical and financial support during the adoption of legislation protecting human rights defenders in the country. Moreover, it conducted a series of activities, including conferences, workshops and advocacy, to promote the universal values proclaimed in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

60. OHCHR Sudan engaged in capacity-building and support at State and local levels, promoting human rights and a rights-based approach, especially in humanitarian assistance. It collaborated with various authorities to strengthen the rule of law and advocate for accountability for human rights violations in cooperation with the national human rights institution. With the United Nations country team, OHCHR contributed to the Interim

<sup>47</sup> See <https://achpr.au.int/en/adopted-resolutions/resolution-human-rights-based-approach-implementation-monitoring-achprres551>.

<sup>48</sup> See [www.ohchr.org/en/countries/africa-region/project-supporting-g5-sahel-joint-force-implementation-human-rights-and-international-humanitarian](http://www.ohchr.org/en/countries/africa-region/project-supporting-g5-sahel-joint-force-implementation-human-rights-and-international-humanitarian).



Cooperation Framework for Sudan 2024–2026 to incorporate a human rights-based approach into planning and programming. OHCHR actively participated in the United Nations Economists' Network, advising on economic, social and cultural rights, and integrating human rights analysis into economic briefings. OHCHR conducted a briefing session for the health cluster on human rights mainstreaming and collaborated on the "Protection at a glance" publication authored by the protection cluster. OHCHR contributed to the development of strategic planning documents, including the 2024 humanitarian needs overview and the humanitarian response plan. Against the backdrop of the conflict in the Sudan, OHCHR maintained a focus on monitoring and reporting, supporting civil society, organizing human rights forums and facilitating cross-border coordination of protection interventions.

61. OHCHR Somalia implements its mandate through the Human Rights and Protection Group of the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia. That involves monitoring economic, social and cultural rights, including helping the Federal Ministry of Women and Human Rights Development to draft an initial report to the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. The work of OHCHR includes measures on the right to health, facilitating engagement with WHO and resulting in Somalia becoming a State party to the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control. Coordinated initiatives address climate change, including the establishment of a civil society thematic group and a training session on the intersection between climate change and human rights. In cooperation with State institutions, national agencies, civil society actors and other stakeholders, the Human Rights and Protection Group actively supported safe and free civic spaces, promoting and facilitating legislation for persons with disabilities, and championing cultural rights and freedom of expression. As part of the Human Rights 75 initiative, it supported the translation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights into six minority languages, to promote access and preservation of linguistic diversity in Somalia.

62. The OHCHR Regional Office for South-East Asia extended its engagement with the Intergovernmental Commission on Human Rights of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations from a technical level to a substantive human rights dialogue that involved interactions with the High Commissioner for Human Rights, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights, treaty body members, special procedures and OHCHR thematic sections. As Co-Chair of the Asia-Pacific Human Rights Network, the Regional Office organized monthly dialogues for United Nations staff across the region on the Universal Declaration of Human Rights as part of the Human Rights 75 initiative. The Regional Office organized a capacity-building training workshop on monitoring economic, social and cultural rights for staff members of the National Human Rights Commission of Thailand. OHCHR, the Resident Coordinator's Office in Thailand and the UNDP Regional Bureau for Asia and the Pacific supported the Ministry of Justice of Thailand in organizing a capacity-building workshop on monitoring and reporting on Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals.

63. The OHCHR Regional Office for Central Asia co-organized, with the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, a regional workshop on monitoring the use of weapons and methods of restraint by law enforcement personnel, in June 2023, in Almaty, Kazakhstan. The event brought together representatives from national preventive mechanisms, ombuds institutions and civil society in Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Uzbekistan, and fostered knowledge exchange and capacity-building on the human rights-compliant use of force and restraints. In October 2023, the Regional Office organized the International Youth Forum in Tashkent, under the Human Rights 75 campaign in partnership with the National Human Rights Centre of Uzbekistan and various United Nations agencies. It provided a platform for youth and youth-led organizations from five Central Asian countries to share their perspectives, concerns and recommendations on the future of human rights.

64. OHCHR Honduras engaged in efforts to strengthen the rule of law and accountability through structural reforms, strategic litigation, and partnerships with State institutions and civil society. It addressed human rights violations, collaborated with security forces and actively engaged in the global fight against corruption. OHCHR Honduras actively supported the national protection system and civil society organizations dedicated to safeguarding human rights defenders, contributing to the fortification of the legal framework for global human rights protection. It supported disability rights legislation and collaborated with the

Ministry of Social Development in Honduras. Other collaborative efforts included advancing inclusive policies, such as the establishment of the national system for follow-up on human rights recommendations, with a focus on the universal periodic review and assisting the Coalition against Impunity in Honduras. OHCHR Honduras actively contributed to protecting the rights of the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex community through technical sessions and regional forums on violence against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons, showcasing proactive engagement in shaping legal frameworks to advance human rights and protect vulnerable groups.

## **V. Conclusions and recommendations**

65. In the light of its indispensable role in addressing global challenges, reducing inequalities and promoting and protecting human rights for all, international cooperation was a recurrent theme throughout the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. International cooperation in the field of human rights is also core to the operationalization of the right to development, which is premised on effective international cooperation to advance peace, human rights and development.

66. States remain central to efforts to meet global challenges. They carry unique responsibilities in the multilateral system to ensure that laws, policies and frameworks are aligned with human rights. At the same time, non-State actors, including civil society, have a key role to play in tackling global challenges. The private sector can also make an important contribution by applying human rights guardrails to its operations. Parliaments, cities and other subnational authorities and national human rights institutions are now also increasingly recognized for their foundational role in advancing human rights. OHCHR is therefore making it a priority to continue to strengthen its cooperation with all actors, including through a commitment to building a movement for human rights, which is a key priority of its 2024–2027 office-wide management plan.

67. Developing countries bear the brunt of the multiple global crises gripping the planet today, and the related deepening inequalities within and among countries. Our economies need to be transformed with equality and sustainability at the core. A human rights economy, grounded in everybody's human rights, can perform the reset, and deliver for people and the planet. Human rights must be put at the heart of the efforts to reform the international financial architecture. Such a reform is urgently needed to enable countries to mobilize and invest the maximum available resources in human rights, achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and advance the right to development.

68. Young persons and future generations will face the consequences of today's actions and inactions in relation to our global challenges, including the triple planetary crisis. It is thus important to enhance intergenerational solidarity and meaningful engagement of young persons in our efforts to protect and promote human rights globally.

69. Human rights represent the common aspirations of humankind and one of the three pillars of the United Nations. They are deeply intertwined with and essential to realizing the other two pillars – peace and security and sustainable development. International cooperation, underscored by global solidarity, is the key to realizing them all. The Summit of the Future is an opportunity to reaffirm that vision and to strengthen the human rights pillar of the United Nations.

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