

# Annual Appeal 2 0 0 0

*Overview of activities and  
financial requirements*



OFFICE OF THE  
UNITED NATIONS  
HIGH COMMISSIONER  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS



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HIGH COMMISSIONER  
FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

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## Foreword by the High Commissioner

# F

or the first time in history we have begun a century recognizing the central role of human rights – as set out in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights – in human development. We must build on this human rights framework. For the first time too, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has made a global Annual Appeal for funding. The initiative represents a further step in the consolidation of the Office and its work. I hope that the appeal will enhance the transparency of the work of OHCHR and deepen cooperation with Member States.

In the five years of its existence, there has been a dramatic increase in the demands placed on OHCHR; correspondingly, the range of activities has developed rapidly:

- there are some 50 OHCHR technical cooperation projects today;
- the Office currently has human rights officers in 23 countries;
- the Commission on Human Rights has appointed 35 Special Rapporteurs with thematic or country mandates;
- OHCHR is responding to requests from an increasing number of countries wishing to establish independent national institutions to promote and protect human rights or to develop national human rights plans of action.

These activities are additional to the traditional tasks of the United Nations in the field of human rights, in particular the servicing of the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission, its Special Rapporteurs or Working Groups, and the treaty bodies.



They are welcome proof of the growing force of the movement towards universal respect for international human rights.

In order to fulfil the demands on the Office, we need to be able to count on continuous, stable funding. This Appeal asks those who have donated generously in the past to maintain their support, and those who have not to contribute funds to enable the Office to respond to human rights issues and to the requests from Member States for its services.

As well as setting out the reasons why we are seeking funding from donors, the Annual Appeal provides an overview of the activities of OHCHR that are funded from voluntary contributions. It should help donors reach a better understanding of the work of the Office. The Appeal underscores our determination to set clear priorities and to strengthen the Office in the areas of financial management and administration.

Many challenges lie ahead in the field of human rights. The financial support which my Office receives will be put to good use in the fight to promote and defend human rights. I urge you to help us in our task.



*Mary Robinson*  
High Commissioner for Human Rights

# Executive summary

The mandate of the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights requires it to spearhead international efforts to promote and protect human rights and prevent gross violations of human rights. These rights include not just civil and political rights, but also economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development.

Yet as the need to protect and promote those rights increases around the world, the UN's financial resources to fund those activities are diminishing. Indeed, the practical experiences of OHCHR show that it could not have operated effectively without voluntary funding. Technical cooperation programmes requested by Member States, field offices established at the request of Member States, the provision of assistance to needy groups, such as victims of torture, and emergency responses to situations of gross violations of human rights, such as occurred in Kosovo at the beginning of 1999, were all to a greater or lesser degree dependent upon voluntary contributions.

The Office of the High Commissioner is conscious of its responsibilities for promoting practical cooperation in the field of human rights, while it is also attentive to the need for strategic planning, the establishment of priorities, the fostering of transparency and accountability, and the provision of regular reporting to the donor community and to Member States of the United Nations. These considerations have led the High Commissioner for Human Rights to launch the present Annual Appeal.

This appeal seeks US\$ 53,1 million in voluntary contributions for 2000. These funds will allow OHCHR to provide support to national human rights institutions (at their request), and to develop regional strategies with partners in each of the five United Nations geographical regions to promote and protect human rights through national capacity-building, national plans of action, the ratification and implementation of international conventions, and the pursuit of regional cooperation.

Within these broad objectives, technical cooperation projects are planned for Africa, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean and in Europe and Central Asia. The High Commissioner emphasizes building strategies and cooperation at the regional level both to foster inter-governmental collaboration and to improve efficiency. The proposed technical cooperation projects will require US\$ 17.8 million in 2000.

Human rights experts are now recognized as playing a cru-

cial role in peace-making and peace-building. Thus, OHCHR will maintain its offices in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Colombia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia and Cambodia. To fulfill its monitoring mandate in field locations, OHCHR will require US\$ 9.8 million in 2000.

A fund for urgent projects initiated by the High Commissioner enables her to take prompt action on complex issues such as human rights and extreme poverty, trafficking in persons and the protection of minorities. Donors are asked to contribute US\$ 1.6 million to this fund.

OHCHR has been entrusted with the preparation and organization of the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance to be held in South Africa in mid-2001. This priority activity will require US\$ 4.0 million in voluntary contributions.

Maintenance of the Human Rights Funds, including funds for the Victims of Torture, Contemporary Forms of Slavery, Indigenous Populations and the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People, will require US\$ 11.4 million early in 2000.

The international treaties on human rights form the core of the global system for the promotion and protection of human rights. It is OHCHR's ambition to dramatically increase its support to the treaty bodies, which monitor the implementation of these human rights treaties, over the next two years. Member States are asked to contribute to this effort by providing US\$ 1.9 million in 2000.

The Special Procedures system has become one of the pillars of the United Nations's efforts to protect and promote human rights. The system has grown substantially and now comprises 21 thematic and 14 country mandates. Support to the Special Procedures system is urgent and requires US\$ 3.7 million.

OHCHR must build its capacity to advance its objectives. In 2000, the Office will focus on improving its information technology system and web site, expanding its public information outreach and building its capacity to mobilize resources. This will require US\$ 2.7 million.

The Revolving Fund will be maintained and strengthened to allow the Office to respond swiftly in emergencies and to start implementing activities before contributions are paid. It is hoped that this Fund will contain US\$ 500,000 by the end of 2000.

# The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

## Mandate

The priorities of OHCHR are set by the General Assembly and are contained in a document entitled 'The Medium-term Plan for 1998-2001'. This plan derives from the 1993 Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (created following the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights) and the UN Charter. It contains a wide-ranging mandate, which includes promoting the right to development, increasing recognition of economic, social, and cultural rights, improving the treaty monitoring and 'special procedures' systems, helping states implement human rights plans of action at the national level, designing preventive strategies, integrating the rights of women and children into the UN system, developing effective measures to combat racism, and conducting an education and public information programme.

## Structure

The position of High Commissioner for Human Rights was established by a General Assembly Resolution of December 1993 following a recommendation contained in the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action. In September 1997, in connection with the UN programme of reform, the then Centre for Human Rights and the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights were consolidated into a single unit known as the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

The Office, a full department of the UN Secretariat, with enhanced authority to play a leading role in promoting the universal enjoyment of all human rights, is headed by a High Commissioner for Human Rights, who has the rank of Under Secretary-General. The current High Commissioner is former President of Ireland, Mary Robinson. As High Commissioner, she is the United Nations official with principal responsibility for United Nations human rights activities. She is assisted in her work by a Deputy High Commissioner.

In addition to its mandated responsibilities, the Office is now leading efforts to ensure that human rights principles are integrated throughout the entire UN system, in accordance with Secretary-General Kofi Annan's 1997 UN reform programme.

OHCHR headquarters is located in Palais Wilson in Geneva. The Office is divided into three primary management units, known as branches :

### Research and Right to Development Branch

This branch engages in research and has primary responsibility for the promotion and protection of the right to development. This right includes principles of self-determination, economic and social justice, popular participation, and sovereignty of people's natural wealth and resources and embraces all human rights – civil, political, economic, social, and cultural. In addition to advancing the right to development, this branch conducts research into various issues of interest to UN human rights bodies and manages the Office's information services and databases. The branch also includes a methodology team.

### Activities and Programmes Branch

This branch prepares, plans, and evaluates technical cooperation activities and other field activities and missions; supports the activities of special rapporteurs, experts, and working groups (known, collectively, as the 'special procedures'), which track and investigate specific, systematic human rights violations; and provides the UN Commission on Human Rights with information on these violations. Activities are generally related either to thematic mandates, in which violations are tracked and responded to by type, or to the geographic desks, which gather and analyze country information and provide support to a wide range of in-country initiatives, including the establishment of national human rights

institutions, the work of the special rapporteurs, and the Office's own field presences.

### **Support Services Branch**

This branch services the deliberations of the human rights treaty bodies, as well as the Commission on Human Rights and related working groups, the Sub-commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and the various Human Rights Funds. This branch prepares and submits the documents that inform the various treaty bodies, processes communications submitted to treaty bodies, and follows-up on the decisions taken at meetings of those bodies.

### **Presence in the field**

To implement human rights at the field level, the Office has significantly expanded its field presence: in 1992, there was only one human rights country operation; today there are 23. OHCHR has offices in Burundi, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia, Colombia and Cambodia.



# Funding and budget

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights has rapidly expanded its activities and the geographic scope of its field presences over the past few years. Demands being placed on the Office can currently not be satisfied from the regular budget alone; so it is of vital importance that adequate funding and support for the Office be secured from additional voluntary contributions. Ideally, such contributions should be provided in a timely and predictable manner, allowing the Office to plan cost-effective activities over a longer time-frame. So far, donors have generously provided the contributions necessary to meet most of the increasing demands on the Office.

## Contributions

OHCHR receives contributions from Governments, non-governmental organizations, foundations and other private donors. Many Governments – 61 in 1998 – made small or large contributions to fund the work of the Office. The value of small contributions lies in more than the amount given : they are important indications of support for the work of the Office. However, a small number of donors provide most of the funds in absolute terms. Over the past couple of years, OHCHR has received important financial support from foundations, as a result of efforts to broaden its donor base.

### Voluntary contributions in US\$:

1994	8,290,687
1995	15,022,503
1996	24,710,732
1997	24,373,532
1998	37,286,178
1999 (projected as of mid-December)	24,000,000

## Funding arrangements

Contributions provided in a predictable and timely manner help the Office plan activities and use its financial resources effectively and efficiently. It is therefore the wish of the Office to receive funding or indications of funding as early in the year as possible and under arrangements that provide a maximum of stability in the funding. Unlike some other United Nations Offices and Agencies, the OHCHR can only spend money that has already been deposited. It is therefore important that contributions are paid as soon as possible after a pledge so the Office can begin implementing its programmes.

Most contributions to the OHCHR are earmarked. Less rigid earmarking would give the Office more flexibility in the use of funds. The Office hopes that by improving the information about and reporting on its activities and the use of funds, fewer funds will be earmarked in the future.

OHCHR plans to issue an Annual Report in 2001 which will review the implementation of activities and the use of funds as outlined in this Annual Appeal.

## Financial requirements in 2000

US\$ 21,714,950 (US\$ 43,429,900 for the biennium 2000-2001) will be allocated from United Nations regular budget. US\$ 53,077,221 is required from voluntary contributions.

**Budget in US\$**

(Required from voluntary contributions)

<b>Urgent projects initiated by the High Commissioner:</b>	<b>1,554,090</b>
Contingency fund for new initiatives	300,000
Human rights and extreme poverty	167,030
Trafficking in persons	754,840
Protection of minorities	332,220
<b>Human Rights Funds:</b>	<b>11,400,000</b>
Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture	10,000,000
Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary forms of Slavery	300,000
Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations	600,000
Voluntary Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People	500,000
<b>World Conference against Racism</b>	<b>3,994,799</b>
<b>Technical cooperation activities:</b>	<b>17,823,615</b>
Global projects	1,835,670
Projects in Africa	5,255,523
Projects in Latin America and the Caribbean	4,581,595
Projects in Europe and Central Asia	2,264,268
Projects in Asia and the Pacific	3,886,559
<b>Human Rights support for peace-making, peacekeeping and peace-building activities</b>	<b>9,519,616</b>
<b>International human rights conventions: support to the treaty bodies</b>	<b>1,917,796</b>
<b>Response to human rights violations: support to the Special Procedures</b>	<b>3,694,987</b>
<b>Strengthening the capacity of OHCHR</b>	<b>2,672,318</b>
<b>Revolving fund</b>	<b>500,000</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>53,077,221</b>

**Regular budget in US\$**

(for the biennium 200-2001)

<b>Policy-making organs:</b>	<b>5,172,800</b>
Commission on Human Rights	211,500
Sub-commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities	753,100
Human Rights Committee	1,223,700
Special Committee to Investigate Israeli practices Affecting the Human Rights of the Palestinian People and Other Arabs of the Occupied Territories	247,800
Committee on the Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	622,200
Committee on the Rights of the Child	1,116,800
Committee against Torture	321,800
Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination	625,500
Meetings of persons chairing the human rights treaty bodies	50,400
<b>Executive direction and management:</b>	<b>5,549,300</b>
Posts	5,043,600
Other staff costs	92,100
Travel	385,500
General operating expenses	8,400
Supplies and materials	7,700
Furniture and equipment	12,000
<b>Programme of work:</b>	<b>29,727,800</b>
Right to development, research and analysis	8,183,800
Support to human rights bodies and organs	7,401,200
Advisory services, technical cooperation, support to Human rights fact-finding procedures and field activities	14,142,800
<b>Programme support:</b>	<b>2,374,400</b>
Posts	1,115,000
Other staff costs	511,800
Travel	14,200
Contractual services	294,500
General operating expenses	112,800
Hospitality	14,800
Supplies and materials	41,800
Furniture and equipment	269,500
<b>Committee on missing persons in Cyprus</b>	<b>605,600</b>
<b>Total</b>	<b>43,429,900</b>



# Urgent projects initiated by the High Commissioner

Funding can be used to finance core activities and to address urgent human rights issues that would benefit from the United Nation's strategic involvement. These may be complex issues, such as trafficking in persons, the protection of minorities, human rights and extreme poverty and initiatives in the field of business and human rights. OHCHR is working increasingly with business leaders and associations to ensure that basic human rights, labour standards, and environmental principles are reflected in management practices, to develop effective monitoring systems, and to share best practices. In addition, the High Commissioner has sent personal representatives to a number of countries to make first-hand assessments of the human rights situation. These representatives report directly to the High Commissioner and made recommendations for further action. These initiatives have allowed the High Commissioner both to be kept informed of emerging developments at the country level and to respond constructively. The fund enables the High Commissioner to take initiatives of this kind promptly.

## Budget in US\$

Contingency fund for new initiatives	300,000
Human rights and extreme poverty	167,030
Trafficking in persons	754,840
Protection of minorities	332,220

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**Total** **1,554,090**

## Human rights and extreme poverty

### Background and context

Extreme poverty, as a violation of human rights, has appeared prominently as a priority topic of all the major United Nations conferences convened over the past five years (i.e., 1993 World Conference on Human Rights and 1995 World Summit for Social Development). In 1995, the General Assembly adopted a resolution proclaiming the First United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (1997-2006).

In 1998, an Independent Expert was appointed by the Commission on Human Rights to examine the following issues: the relationship between the promotion and protection of human rights and extreme poverty at national and international levels; the obstacles encountered and progress made by women living in extreme poverty; and best practices observed during the Expert's country visits. The Expert was asked to make recommendations and proposals in the sphere of technical assistance, report on these activities to the Commission at its fifty-sixth session and make those reports available to the Commission for Social Development and the Commission on the Status of Women for their sessions (particularly to the preparatory committee for the World Summit for Social Development, to be held in 2000).

### Objectives

- contribute to the implementation of the "UN Global Strategy for Action to Halve Extreme Poverty by 2015" and improve coordination of human rights activities for the eradication of poverty. Such activities include the treaty bodies, relevant mandates of the Commission on Human Rights, thematic and country-specific procedures and efforts by other organizations, notably those participating in the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) working group on poverty and Bretton Woods institutions.
- enhance OHCHR's capacities to ensure timely imple-

mentation of the activities covered by the Independent Expert's mandate, provide substantive contributions to the work of UNDG, UNDP, the World Bank, and global conferences, and ensure OHCHR's participation in events related to the mandate of human rights and extreme poverty, such as seminars, round tables, the International Day for Poverty Eradication, publication of articles, etc.

At present, one staff member is assigned to all these activities. The support of an additional professional staff and a consultant's expertise are required.

To achieve the above objectives:

- Operational support will be provided to the Independent Expert and substantive support will be provided to the Administrative Committee on Coordination (ACC), UNDG, the Executive Committee on Economic and Social Affairs (EC-ESA) and other relevant UN bodies and agencies on UN strategies for poverty eradication.
- In-depth studies will be prepared on specific topics, such as the human rights dimension in national and regional practices for combating poverty.

### Activities

**Drafting** reports for use by the General Assembly, ECOSOC, the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, and the Commission for Social Development. Articles, speeches and papers will also be drafted for seminars, workshops and panel discussions.

**Organizing field missions** and providing on-site support for meetings and assistance in drafting substantive mission reports.

**Participating in OHCHR and UN activities** including the regular sessions of the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights and the treaty bodies, and in meetings, seminars and round tables organized in cooperation with the treaty bodies, regional organizations and specialized agencies.

**Researching poverty** by analyzing States' reports, General Comments of relevant treaty bodies, conclusions and recommendations by Special Rapporteur/Independent Experts and Working Groups, and the Independent Expert's mission reports. A consultant will conduct in-depth research on four specific themes: the impact of globalization; the human rights dimensions in national and regional practices for combating poverty; a UN legislative history related to poverty from a human rights perspective; and the experience of women in extreme poverty in rural and urban areas.

### Beneficiaries

The ultimate beneficiaries of the project are the extremely poor. It is also expected that the project will

strengthen the capacity of OHCHR to assist governments in designing sound strategies to alleviate poverty and help secure the rights of the extremely poor.

### Coordination

Under the UNDG Action Strategy for Halving Extreme Poverty by the Year 2015, OHCHR will work closely with UN agencies and programmes, NGOs and, especially, the poor and their communities.

### Budget in US\$

Staff	48,950
Consultant	98,864
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>147,814</b>
13% Programme support cost	19,216
<b>Total</b>	<b>167,030</b>

## Trafficking in persons

### Background and context

Each year, hundreds of thousands of individuals – the vast majority, women and children from less-developed and transitional countries of Asia and Eastern/Central Europe – are tricked, sold, coerced or otherwise induced into situations of exploitation from which they cannot escape. These women and children are the commodities of a transnational industry that generates billions of dollars and, almost without exception, is conducted with a frightening level of impunity. The issue of trafficking is now high on the international political agenda. Governments, NDGOs and UN agencies are becoming increasingly involved in the search for effective solutions to this problem.

The High Commissioner for Human Rights has committed herself and her Office to working for the elimination of trafficking of human persons. The role of OHCHR is not to duplicate the efforts of other organizations and agencies, but to ensure that they fully reflect and reinforce the relevant international human rights standards. OHCHR can also act as a catalyst in identifying and establishing national, regional and international strategies and mechanisms for the elimination of trafficking in humans.

OHCHR's contribution is essential because the characterization of trafficking as a *human rights issue* (as opposed to a migration, organized crime, development or public order issue) has a fundamental effect on the way in which the efforts and resources of others are directed. OHCHR's work in this area thus far has been widely supported and has generated measurable results. However, there is a clear need to capitalize further on OHCHR's "moral leadership" by strengthening the Programme and its intervention capacities.

### Outline of the project

The project has a two-year timeframe (2000-2001) and aims to develop an expanded Programme on Trafficking. Its objective is to contribute to the elimination of trafficking in persons, particularly women and children, and to ensure that the rights of victims of trafficking are respected and protected. A small team, composed of a field-based "special representative" on trafficking (responsible for representing the High Commissioner and coordinating field-based activities), a programme manager and an administrative assistant, will run the Programme. Activities will be undertaken in four sectors:

**Policy and leadership:** This sector will enhance the High Commissioner's capacity to provide policy guidance and leadership on the issue of trafficking. A principal product will be the publication of the *United Nations Guidelines on the Integration of Human Rights into National, Regional and International Anti-trafficking Initiatives* (for dissemination to all inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations working on this issue). A Policy Group on Trafficking will be established to meet occasionally with the High Commissioner to identify priorities and strategies and to plan an *International Conference on Trafficking, Migration and Human Rights* to be held in 2001.

**Internal capacity-building:** This sector will strengthen the capacity of OHCHR and the UN human rights system to deal with the human rights dimensions of trafficking. The sector will produce an OHCHR-sponsored information and data network for external and internal use; sensitize treaty bodies and extra-conventional mechanisms to trafficking as it relates to their mandates and help integrate this issue into their work; and improve the capacity of OHCHR's field presences to respond effectively to trafficking.

**Support to United Nations agencies and programmes:** The principal objectives of this sector are to ensure the integration of a human rights perspective into the anti-trafficking work of other UN agencies and programmes (with particular attention to regional and sub-regional strategies); and to raise awareness and knowledge of trafficking as a human rights issue throughout the UN system. OHCHR will support, both substantively and financially, selected UN projects and activities which adopt or promote a rights-based approach to trafficking.

**Support to external organizations and initiatives:** The targets of this sector are external international, regional and national organizations and institutions which are, or could be, working on the issue of trafficking. Key objectives are to raise awareness and knowledge of trafficking as a human rights issue and to ensure the integration of a human rights perspective into anti-trafficking activities. OHCHR will support, both substantively and financially, selected projects and activities which adopt or promote a rights-based approach to trafficking. Other activities under this sector will include one international and a series of regional workshops/seminars on trafficking for national human

rights institutions and the preparation of materials to assist national institutions in integrating the trafficking issue into their protection and promotion activities.

## Beneficiaries, links and impact

The ultimate beneficiaries of the project will be the victims and potential victims of trafficking. However, it is also expected that OHCHR's contributions will directly benefit other UN and external agencies, programmes and organizations working in this area by enhancing their effectiveness. The project's emphasis on integrating a human rights approach reflects the commitment to mainstreaming human rights throughout the United Nations; the attention to national human rights institutions underscores the need to link different areas of OHCHR's expertise and experience. The impact of the project is expected to include an increased understanding of the human rights dimensions of trafficking and enhanced skills in using human rights-based law and policies to fight these practices.

## Budget in US\$

Development of High Commissioner's guidelines on a human rights approach to trafficking (one consultant, one meeting)	35,000
Establishment of a policy group on trafficking to advise and guide the High Commissioner	30,000
Catalytic funding of human rights-based anti-trafficking initiatives within the UN	100,000
Catalytic funding of human rights-based anti-trafficking initiatives of external organizations	100,000
Organization of one regional and one international meeting of national human rights commissions (NHRC) to promote and facilitate NHRC activity against trafficking	50,000
Staff and travel	353,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>668,000</b>
13% Programme support cost	86,840
<b>Total</b>	<b>754,840</b>



## *The protection of minorities*

### Background and context

Numerous States have one or more minority groups within, or beyond, their territories, characterized by their own national, ethnic, linguistic or religious identity. Harmonious relations among minorities, and between minorities and majorities, and the respect for each group's identity are essential for preserving the multi-ethnic and multi-cultural richness of our global society. However, the situation of minorities often leads to social tensions and conflicts. These conflicts have resurfaced and escalated in recent years, and today contribute to destabilization—threatening not only the economic, social and political fabric of States, but also their territorial integrity. Meeting the aspirations of minorities and ensuring their rights allows for dignity and equality for all individuals, furthers participatory development, and thus contributes to the reduction of tensions—all of which are key to guaranteeing stability and peace among people and nations.

In recent years, the international community has grown increasingly aware of the need to protect minorities. In 1992, the General Assembly adopted the United Nations Declaration on the rights of persons belonging to minorities, and in 1995 a Working Group on Minorities was established. This Working Group is entrusted with reviewing the practical realization of the Declaration, examining possible solutions to problems involving minorities and recommending further measures for their protection. OHCHR has thus far implemented the recommendations of the Working Group. However, there is now a clear need to provide additional support to the Working Group by strengthening the capacity of OHCHR to provide the necessary support.

### Outline of activities

The one-year project aims to enhance the capacity of OHCHR to promote and protect the rights of minorities by implementing a plan of action for minorities, the activities of which are drawn from recommendations adopted by the Working Group. The plan of action will be implemented by a project leader and an assistant. Activities will be undertaken in the following areas:

**Building the capacity of OHCHR:** This activity will strengthen the capacity of OHCHR to: respond to requests for information on the implementation of the Declaration; provide substantive input, as and when required, for the preparation of papers by the Working Group; draw the attention of the treaty bodies, special rapporteurs and working groups to minority issues as they relates to their mandates; and continue to foster inter-agency cooperation in the field of minority protection.

**Disseminating the Declaration:** This activity will involve the preparation, translation and dissemination of an explanatory manual on the Declaration and on ways in which minorities can address regional and international organizations. The manual will be translated into the six main languages of the United Nations and disseminated among governments, UN agencies, regional and non-governmental organizations and minority groups.

**Realizing the principles of the Declaration:** This activity will focus on the organization of two seminars to be held during the year. These include a seminar in Africa on issues pertaining to minorities, and a seminar for representatives of UN agencies, the treaty bodies, international, regional and non-governmental organizations, on their activities in minority protection and on ways in which minority rights can be better protected through the Declaration.

**Collecting information on situations involving minorities:** This activity will help highlight situations involving minorities that require particular attention. Support will be provided for minorities to be able to attend the Working Group, additional information on minority situations will be requested from Governments, information on best practices will be collected, visits to countries will be undertaken and a database on minorities will be established.

### Beneficiaries

The ultimate beneficiaries of the project are minorities. In addition, it is expected that the project activities will strengthen OHCHR in minority protection and increase awareness of minority rights among the international community. Project activities will also enhance the capacity of the treaty bodies, agencies, international and non-governmental organizations to address issues pertaining to minorities.

### Budget in US\$

Project leader	120,000
1 computer and 1 desktop printer	3,000
2 expert seminars of 15 experts each + staff and members of the Working Group	90,000
Information-gathering on minorities for a special section on the web	25,000
Travel costs for 20 representatives of minorities to participate in the Working Group	40,000
Travel costs for two country visits for staff and two members of the Working Group	16,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>294,000</b>
13 % Programme support cost	38,220
<b>Total</b>	<b>332,220</b>



# Human Rights Trust Funds established by the United Nations General Assembly

## *Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture*

### Background

Torture is still used worldwide, despite enhanced efforts by governments and organizations to enforce provisions, contained in domestic law and international human rights conventions, which seek its total eradication.

The effects of torture should not be underestimated. The physical and mental consequences of torture can endure for years and may be irreversible, often affecting not only thousands of victims but also their relatives. The damaging effects of torture can be mitigated by providing victims and their families with medical, psychological, social, legal and humanitarian aid. With this mind, the General Assembly created the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture in December 1981.

### Main outline of the Fund and its objectives

The Fund receives voluntary contributions and distributes them through established channels of assistance to NGOs that provide medical, psychological, legal, social, financial, humanitarian or other assistance to victims of torture and their relatives, and to projects that train health-care workers or other professionals who assist victims of torture.

### Beneficiaries

The Fund directly benefits victims of torture and their families in all parts of the world. The Fund assisted more than 60,000 victims and their families in 1997. Grants allocated to organizations are used to treat asylum-seekers and refugees who have been subjected to one or more forms of torture in their countries of origin. In 1999, the Fund partially funded programmes in more than 100 organizations. It is expected that, in 2000, requests for funding will increase greatly.

### Impact

Torture has long-term effects on its victims and their relatives. It leaves physical and psychological scars and can disrupt the economic and social life of the victims and their relatives. How, for example, can a breadwinner support a family when he/she was mutilated or suffers from psychological disorders? Through various rehabilitation programmes, organizations that specialize in assisting victims of torture can help victims and their relatives recover from their devastating experiences.

The Fund subsidizes such specialized organizations around the world. In North America, for instance, a treatment centre provides clinical services to victims of torture who are refugees. The 167 persons assisted in this centre in 1998 and 1999 had been subjected to rape, electric shocks and other forms of torture. Some were also obliged to perform acts of violence or murder against members of their own family. The treatment provided ranged from psychiatric and medical examinations, to crisis intervention and support counselling, psychotherapy, physiotherapy, social services, education, medical referrals, the provision of social support interpreters and legal assistance. The centre also established an art therapy programme as a way to treat children who suffer from anxiety and social dysfunctions directly related to torture. The number of victims who require assistance and treatment is increasing. A centre in Asia, whose rehabilitation programme includes medical and psychological treatment and social support to reintegrate the victim into the society, assisted 140 victims in 1997; in 1998, the centre attended to 317 victims. Victims had been subjected to various forms of torture such as beatings with sticks or rifle butts, being kicked with heavy boots, electric shocks, bamboo pressure, having nails inserted into their feet or needles inserted into their hands, having hot

water poured into their noses, having a mixture of chili and water poured into their eyes and mouths, having hot eggs pushed into their rectums, having knee-joints and the bottom of their feet beaten, having fingernails broken and/or being forced to drink urine. Assistance also included home visits to a number of victims and provides legal counselling which, in itself, is a form of therapy for the victims.

## Funding

A lack of adequate resources to fund these kinds of programmes means that treatment for victims of torture

may be interrupted—or non-existent. For some 100 organizations, the support of the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture is essential.

The Fund would have needed more than US\$ 8.2 million to meet all the requests for assistance recorded in May 1999; but only US\$ 5.2 million was available. It is anticipated that by May 2000, requests for funding, received from more than 140 organizations around the world, will approach **US\$ 10 million**.

**Contributions to this fund have to be paid before April 2000.**

## Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery

### Outline of activities

The scourge of slavery continues, unabated, in many parts of the world. The goals of the UN Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery (as established by General Assembly Resolution 46/122 of 17 December 1991) are to:

- provide financial assistance to representatives of NGOs that deal with issues of contemporary forms of slavery so they can participate in the deliberations of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery; and
- extend humanitarian, legal and financial aid, through established channels, to individuals whose human rights have been violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery.

### Beneficiaries

According to the criteria established by the General Assembly, the beneficiaries of the Fund shall be:

- representatives of NGOs dealing with issues of contemporary forms of slavery who
- a)** are so considered by the Board of Trustees of the Fund;  
**b)** would not, in the opinion of the Board, be able to attend the sessions of the Working Group on Contemporary Forms of Slavery without the assistance provided by the Fund;

**c)** would be able to contribute to a deeper knowledge of the problems related to contemporary forms of slavery; and

- individuals whose human rights have been severely violated as a result of contemporary forms of slavery and who are so considered by the Board.

At its fourth session in 1999, the Fund's Board of Trustees recommended five project grants to NGOs that provide humanitarian, legal or financial assistance to victims of child and bonded labour, domestic workers and trafficking. Twelve travel grants were also recommended so representatives of NGOs could participate in the twenty-fourth session of the Working Group. Since the main theme of the 1999 session of the Working Group was trafficking in persons, most of the travel grants recommended were for representatives of NGOs that work in this field.

### Board of Trustees

The Fund is administered in accordance with the financial regulations and rules of the United Nations by the Secretary-General, with the advice of a Board of Trustees composed of five persons with relevant experience in the field of human rights, especially in contemporary forms of slavery, who serve in their personal capacity. The members of the Board are appointed for three-year, renewable terms by the Secretary-General, in

consultation with the current Chairman of the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, with due regard to equitable geographical distribution. The Board meets annually in February/March to adopt recommendations.

## Funding

In the Board's view, given that requests for funding received

in 1999 amounted to approximately US\$ 900,000, the Fund would need an additional **US\$ 300,000** before the next session of the Board of Trustees (February 2000) to meet at least one-third of these requests.

**Contributions to this Fund have to be paid before February 2000.**

# Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations

## Outline of activities

The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Populations was established by the General Assembly to provide financial assistance to representatives of indigenous communities and organizations who wish to participate in the deliberations of several bodies: the Working Group of Indigenous Populations of the Sub-commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights; the open-ended inter-sessional Working Group of the Commission of Human Rights on the draft United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples; and the open-ended inter-sessional ad hoc Working Group of the Commission on Human Rights on the Permanent Forum.

## Beneficiaries

According to the criteria established by the General Assembly, the Fund benefits representatives of indigenous people's organizations and communities who

- are so considered by the Board of Trustees;
- would not, in the opinion of Board, be able to attend the sessions of the Working Groups without the Fund's assistance;
- would be able to contribute to a deeper knowledge of the problems affecting indigenous populations; and
- would secure broad geographical representation.

In addition, the Board of Trustees has developed several guidelines and practices, such as gender balance, which have been approved by the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

## Board of Trustees

The Fund is administered in accordance with the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations by the Secretary-General, assisted by a Board of Trustees. The mandate of the Board is to advise the Secretary-General on the administration of the Fund, through OHCHR. The Board is composed of five United Nations indigenous experts, with relevant experience on indigenous issues, who serve in their personal capacity. The members of the Board are appointed by the Secretary-General, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Sub-Commission, for three-year, renewable terms. The Board meets annually in April to adopt recommendations on travel grants.

## Funding

The Fund receives voluntary contributions from governments, NGOs and other private or public entities. To meet the substantial increase in requests for funding received during 1999, the Fund for Indigenous Populations would need new contributions amounting to **US\$ 600,000** before the next meeting of its Board of Trustees in April 2000.

**Contributions to this Fund have to be paid before April 2000.**

## Voluntary Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People

### Objectives

The Voluntary Fund for the International Decade of the World's Indigenous People was established by the General Assembly in 1993 to

- provide assistance to projects and programmes of indigenous organizations and communities advancing the goal of the International Decade (international cooperation for the solution of problems faced by indigenous people in such areas as human rights, the environment, development, education, culture and health); and
- fund activities of OHCHR within the framework of the Decade, such as studies and seminars.

### Beneficiaries

The Fund benefits indigenous people, communities and organizations, NGOs and academic and other institutions that seek small grants for projects and activities related to the Decade, in particular, those aimed at strengthening, through education, human rights training and institution- and capacity-building, indigenous organizational structures and procedures. The organizations should be not-for-profit and should have the capacity to raise additional money from other sources.

Projects should be of direct benefit to indigenous people in all parts of the world and should be prepared by or enjoy the full support of indigenous people. Particular consideration will be given to projects from underdeveloped areas in different regions and to those including a gender balance.

### Main areas of activity

- strengthening indigenous organizational structures and procedures through education, training and institution- and capacity-building, bearing in mind the need to respect traditions;
- providing education and training in human and indigenous rights;
- providing information about indigenous peoples and the International Decade;
- establishing communication and exchanges between the United Nations system and indigenous people and among indigenous people;

- developing fund-raising initiatives to promote the Decade's objectives.

### Examples of projects financed by the Fund

The following two examples illustrate the kinds of projects financed by the Fund:

- A project in Kenya helps strengthen and sustain the participation of indigenous Maasai into a meaningful development process. The project assists a Maasai organization in creating a structure for itself and in training staff in land rights and other human rights.
- A grant to a project in Guatemala helps publish a children's newspaper that transmits and strengthens the indigenous Maya identity among the young by offering visual representations of the Maya cosmology.

### Funding

Given the scarce resources available to the Fund, many activities planned for 1999—including sub-regional seminars in Africa and Asia, and a workshop for indigenous journalists—had to be postponed until new contributions are made. Financial requirements for 2000 amount to **US\$ 500,000**.

**Contributions to this Fund have to be made before April 2000.**



# World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance

## Introduction

A major priority of OHCHR during 2000 and 2001 will be the preparation and organization of the World Conference against Racism.

Despite the adoption, during the past several decades, of numerous national laws and international instruments to prohibit racial discrimination and provide remedies to its victims, the effort to eliminate racial discrimination remains a great challenge. Discrimination against minorities, indigenous peoples and migrant workers; harsh immigration and asylum policies; new and contemporary forms of racial discrimination, such as Internet hate sites; and serious ethnic conflicts persist. The gulf between the principles of legal protection and the reality of prejudice, intolerance and ethnic hatred remains far too wide.

Recognizing the danger of this situation, the High Commissioner for Human Rights has given highest priority to the World Conference against Racism, Racial Discrimination, Xenophobia and Related Intolerance, to reinforce the United Nations' policies and programmes to fight racism and racial discrimination, and to re-orient those policies and programmes to meet the challenges of the 21st century.

Activities to be implemented during the preparatory stages leading up to the World Conference respond to requests addressed to the Secretary-General and the High Commissioner for Human Rights in General Assembly resolutions 52/111 and 53/132 and Commission on Human Rights resolutions 1998/26 and 1999/78. Financial and human resources needed for the implementation of these activities are also addressed. Each activity was carefully examined to determine how it would help fulfill the objectives set out for the World Conference.

## Background

### A brief review

The elimination of racial discrimination has been a core human rights mandate since the establishment of the United Nations in 1945. That goal was recognized in the United Nations Charter, whose human rights provisions were elaborated three years later in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. Since then, the United Nations has pursued the elimination of racial discrimination with a variety of programmes, activities, conferences and legal instruments.

The United Nations General Assembly supports an ongoing programme to combat racial discrimination. The First Decade for Action to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination began on 10 December 1973 and was followed by a Second Decade in 1983, and a Third Decade in 1993. The activities of the various decades have focused on a wide range of efforts including, *inter alia*, launching a worldwide information campaign to eliminate racial discrimination and promote tolerance, ensuring adequate resource procedures for victims of racial discrimination, including the drafting of "model national legislation", recognizing the special problems of migrant workers and their families who suffer from racial discrimination, and highlighting the rights of minorities and indigenous peoples.

In addition, the United Nations General Assembly, in 1966, designated 21 March as the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination. That day was selected in commemoration of 21 March 1960, when police in Sharpeville, South Africa, opened fire and killed 69 people who were peacefully protesting against the "pass laws" of the apartheid regime.

The United Nations has also held two World Conferences against Racism, one in 1978 and one in

1983. The First World Conference reaffirmed the responsibility of the United Nations to victims of racial discrimination, as well as to those under colonial rule or alien domination. The Second World Conference recognized the central importance of national legislation and judicial and administrative action to combat racial discrimination, and underlined the importance of defined recourse procedures for the implementation of anti-discrimination laws.

### Why a World Conference now

In the preamble to its resolution 52/111 of 12 December 1997, which established a World Conference against Racism to be held in 2001, the General Assembly emphasized that the objective of eliminating racial discrimination had not been attained and that millions of persons continue to suffer from racism and racial discrimination. It also expressed concern that different types of racism and ethnic antagonism were growing, and that new and contemporary forms of racist action had emerged, such as the diffusion of racist and xenophobic propaganda via the Internet. The General Assembly also noted that racism and racial discrimination against migrant workers was continuing despite efforts by the international community to improve the status of those workers. The General Assembly indicated that a World Conference was necessary to launch more effective and sustained measures, at the national and international levels, to eliminate all forms of racial discrimination. It also stated that the World Conference should be action-oriented and focus on practical measures to eradicate racism.

### Organizational aspects of the World Conference against Racism

The General Assembly has designated the Commission on Human Rights as the Preparatory Committee (GA resolution 52/111). An open-ended working group of the Commission met during the 55th session to review and formulate proposals for consideration by the Commission and for possible forwarding to the Conference's Preparatory Committee at its first session. There will be two Preparatory Committee meetings before the World Conference against Racism, in May 2000 and 2001, immediately following the sessions of the Commission on Human Rights. There will then be a High Level Meeting prior to the World Conference to settle outstanding issues. The World Conference will take

place in South Africa sometime between June 2001 and the fall of 2001, prior to the convening of the General Assembly. The precise dates will be fixed by the Preparatory Committee.

The High Commissioner for Human Rights has been appointed the Secretary-General for the Conference and will be responsible for the Conference and its preparatory phase. A small core secretariat staff will coordinate the implementation of activities requested by the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly, and undertake activities related to the two Preparatory Committees and the World Conference, itself.

### Legislative authority

In addition to the General Assembly's resolution 52/111 of 12 December 1997, which decided that a World Conference against Racism was to be held in 2001, the General Assembly also adopted resolution 53/132 of 9 December 1999, which addresses the orientation of the World Conference against Racism. The Commission on Human Rights has adopted two resolutions as well: 1998/26 of 17 April 1998, and 1999/78. Although regular budget resources were allocated for the World Conference against Racism, it was recognized that all of the activities requested could not be financed from regular budget sources. Since voluntary contributions would then be required, the Commission on Human Rights requested, in its resolution 1999/78, that a voluntary fund be established to be used "specifically to cover all aspects of the preparatory process for the World Conference..."

### Activities

#### Internet-related activities

There are three internet-related requests in Commission on Human Rights resolution 1999/78:

- the first asks the High Commissioner to establish an Internet site for the preparatory process for the World Conference. This request is interpreted to include live Internet coverage of the World Conference, itself;
- the second asks the High Commissioner to undertake research and consultations on the use of the Internet to incite racial hatred and xenophobia and disseminate racist propaganda and to study ways of promoting international cooperation to combat this problem;

- the third asks the High Commissioner to draw up a programme of human rights education and exchanges over the Internet that focuses on the struggle against racism, xenophobia and anti-Semitism.

### **Regional expert seminars**

It is the intention of OHCHR to schedule a range of seminars to promote the objectives of the World Conference as broadly as possible.

At the request of the Commission on Human Rights and in cooperation with the Swiss Government, the Office of the High Commissioner is organizing a seminar in mid-February 2000 on resource procedures available for victims of racial discrimination. The seminar, to be held in Geneva, will also make reference to best national practices (CHR resolution 1999/78) and will examine the application of existing legislation and the need for new legislation to protect victims of racial discrimination from racist propaganda disseminated via the Internet. Seminars with similar formats will be replicated in each region.

### **Other expert seminars**

It has been suggested that an international expert seminar could be organized to discuss the situation of indigenous people, focusing on practical improvements that could be recommended to resolve their particular problems (GA resolution 52/11).

### **Public relations and information activities**

The High Commissioner has been asked (CHR resolution 1999/78) to establish, in close cooperation with the United Nations Department of Public Information, a world information campaign aimed at sensitizing world public opinion on the Conference and its objectives.

The campaign would include events and exhibitions for States, inter-governmental organizations and NGOs on specific activities which could be used to promote the World Conference against Racism. Human Rights Day on 10 December and the International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination on 21 March, for example, could provide the occasions to launch these events.

In addition, the High Commissioner has been asked to include in her information strategy (CHR resolution 1998/78) the appointment of renowned goodwill

ambassadors from the entertainment, arts, culture, sports and musical worlds, and the organization of activities in which they would participate.

Goodwill ambassadors would be invited to participate in specific events promoting the World Conference against Racism; and one or more goodwill ambassadors would also be invited to participate in the two Preparatory Committee meetings and the World Conference itself, in a public-relations capacity.

The High Commissioner has also been asked to include in her information strategy (CHR resolution 1998/78):

- inviting the sports world to become partners in the World Conference;
- disseminating among all governments, inter-governmental organizations and NGOs information handbooks and pamphlets that can be made available to the media and the public.

In addition to using the resources of the UN Department of Public Information and UN Information Centres around the world, a world information campaign could be enhanced significantly by hiring an international public relations firm to help design and execute the campaign and produce public "spots" for audiovisual media.

### **Studies requested of the High Commissioner**

The High Commissioner has been asked by the CHR (resolution 1999/78 and GA resolutions 52/111 and 53/132) to submit a number of studies to the Commission on Human Rights or the First Preparatory Committee. These studies include:

- a study on ways of improving coordination between the Office of the High Commissioner and all specialized agencies and international, regional and sub-regional organizations in the field of racism;
- a study reviewing the progress made in the fight against racism, particularly since the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and re-appraising the obstacles to progress in the field, based on a questionnaire sent to States, specialized agencies, inter-governmental and non-governmental organizations and national institutions;
- a compendium of references on racism; and

- a study on the effects of racial discrimination on the children of minorities and those of migrants.

### **Studies requested of UN bodies and mechanisms dealing with racism and with their participation in the preparatory process and the World Conference, itself**

- a study by the Special Rapporteur on racism (CHR resolution 1999/78) on preventive measures related to ethnic conflicts;
- a study by the Special Rapporteur on religious intolerance (CHR resolution 1999/78) on action to combat incitement to hatred and religious intolerance;
- studies by the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (GA resolutions, 52/111, CHR resolutions 1998/26, and 1999/78);
- studies by the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (GA resolution, 52/111; CHR resolutions 1998/26, and 1999/78); and
- travel and DSA for the Special Rapporteurs on racism and religious tolerance, and for representatives of CERD and the Sub-commission to attend the two Preparatory Meetings and the World Conference, itself (GA resolutions 52/111).

### **Activities under the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination**

The Commission on Human Rights recommended in its resolution 1998/26 that the activities of the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination be focused on the preparatory process for the World Conference.

The Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination (1993-2003), was adopted on 20 December 1993 as an annex to General Assembly resolution 48/91. Among the seminars, training courses and studies proposed in the Programme of Action, the following activities are planned for 2000:

- a seminar on the enactment of national legislation to combat racism and racial discrimination;

- a seminar on the eradication of incitement to racial hatred and discrimination, including the prohibition of propaganda activities and of organizations involved in them;
- a study on national mechanisms against racism and racial discrimination in the fields of immigration, employment, salary, housing, education and ownership of property, and;
- a study on the application of Article 2 of the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination.

### **Regional preparatory meetings**

The High Commissioner has been asked to assist States and regional organizations, upon their request, to

- convene national and regional meetings to prepare for the World Conference (CHR resolution 1999/78).

The Commission on Human Rights asked the Secretary-General to, *inter alia*,

- provide financial and technical assistance to organize the regional preparatory meetings and stressed that such assistance should be supplemented by voluntary contributions (CHR resolution 1999/78).

The regional preparatory meetings are viewed as key to the process and it is requested that the regional preparatory process include:

- launching public information and sensitization campaigns about the objectives of the World Conference;
- identifying trends, priorities and obstacles, at the national and regional levels, to combat racial discrimination; and
- formulating recommendations and presenting the results of these deliberations to the Second Preparatory Committee by 2001, at the latest.

Although the position of OHCHR has been that the costs of the regional preparatory meetings should be met by the States in the given region, and that the Office's contributions would be in documentation, expertise, organi-

zational assistance and human resources, it now appears that the regional preparatory meetings may not be held if they are not significantly financed by the OHCHR.

OHCHR has developed a two-step strategy for satisfying these requests. The first step would consist of:

- providing travel and participation of Office staff in regional preparatory meetings, including the technical working groups held in advance of these meetings to plan and organize the meetings; and
- preparing background papers for each regional preparatory meeting.

Depending on the level of voluntary contributions, the second step would consist of:

- providing significant financial contributions, from the Office, as an incentive to regional groups to move ahead with their meetings (CHR resolution 1999/78).

Funds contributed for the above purpose could be used for travel and DSA of State representatives from developing countries, interpreting services and other secretariat services as determined by criteria uniformly applied to each region, and in accordance with applicable UN rules and regulations.

### NGO participation

NGOs play an important role in mobilizing civil society for United Nations Conferences, making them indispensable to the success of these events.

The High Commissioner has been asked to

- set up a voluntary fund (which has already been established) to finance activities requested by the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights for the World Conference, including, *inter alia*, assisting NGOs, especially those from developing countries, in participating in the preparatory process for the World Conference and in the World Conference itself (CHR resolution 1999/78).

To respond to this request, OHCHR intends to:

- Pursue ongoing consultations with NGOs in Geneva, New York and elsewhere about holding a Forum before

and partly during the World Conference to inform them about:

- a) activities conducted by the Secretariat to implement GA and CHR resolutions; and
- b) the applicable rules for submitting written statements in advance and participating in the two Preparatory Committee meetings and the World Conference itself.

- Appoint an NGO liaison contact person prior to and during each Preparatory Committee, and prior to and during the World Conference itself, to facilitate:

- a) the convening of NGO meetings by booking rooms and announcing NGO meetings;

- b) the supply of adequate documentation about the World Conference;

- c) accreditation if the NGO complies with the applicable United Nations rules on accreditation of NGOs.

- Supply information of specific interest to NGOs through the Web site established for the World Conference.

### Core World Conference secretariat

The small core secretariat for the preparations for the World Conference and for the World Conference, itself, was established as of 1 October 1999. Staff for this function will include a Deputy Secretary-General of the World Conference, four professional and two general staff. Its main tasks include:

- all items listed above where the World Conference core secretariat has either principal responsibility or complementary responsibility;

- preparing and submitting reports to the Preparatory Committees and the World Conference seminars;

- preparing and submitting all documentation to the two Preparatory Meetings, the High Level Meeting and the World Conference, including forecasting tables, implementation charts, etc;

- all logistical aspects of holding the two Preparatory Meetings, the High Level Meeting and the World Conference;

- drafting documentation for these meetings including:

- a) the provisional agenda;
- b) annotations to the provisional agenda;
- c) draft rules of procedure;
- d) official reports on each of the meetings of the two Preparatory Committee meetings, the High Level meeting, and the World Conference, itself;
- e) other internal documents as requested by the High Commissioner and Deputy High Commissioner related to briefing notes, speeches, progress reports, implementation tables, etc;
- f) other internal documents related to coordination and administrative aspects of the preparatory process and the World Conference, itself;
- g) project documents for funding by UNOPS;
- h) fundraising documents for specific organizations and for the Office; and
- i) liaison activities with governments, regional organizations, specialized agencies, NGOs, foundations, academic institutions and other interested entities and persons.

The cost for facilitating the participation of NGOs will be determined after the first Preparatory Committee meeting.

## Contributions

OHCHR prefers that contributions are made to the "World Conference against Racism" rather than to specific activities.

## Budget in US\$

Internet-related activities	215,200
Regional expert seminars	410,410
Other expert seminars	88,810
Public relations and information activities	410,080
Studies requested of the High Commissioner	128,100
Studies requested of UN bodies and mechanisms dealing with racism, and their participation in the preparatory process and the World Conference	240,190
Activities under the Programme of Action for the Third Decade to Combat Racism and Racial Discrimination	258,000
Regional preparatory meetings	753,220
Core World Conference secretariat	727,210
Miscellaneous	304,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>3,535,220</b>
13 % Programme support cost	459,579
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,994,799</b>

**The estimated budget for 2001 is US\$ 1,939,928**



# Technical cooperation activities

## Introduction

### Technical Cooperation

The Technical Cooperation Programme assists countries in their efforts to build capacity for promoting and protecting all human rights at the national and regional level by incorporating international human rights standards in national laws, policies and practices and by building sustainable national capacities to implement these standards and ensure respect for human rights.

The Programme is carried out at the request of the concerned government. Projects are formulated and implemented with the broadest possible participation of all elements of national societies, including civil society and national institutions, as well as the judicial, legislative and executive branches of the government.

Among those activities comprising the Programme are: national plans of action for human rights; assistance with legislative reform; electoral assistance; support to national human rights institutions established in accordance with the Paris Principles; assistance in administering justice, the military, police and parliaments; assistance in treaty reporting, human rights education, information and documentation; strengthening of NGOs; and promotion of economic, social and cultural rights, and the rights of women. This assistance is delivered through assessments of domestic human rights needs, expert advice, training courses, workshops, seminars, fellowships, grants, information and documentation. Requests and activities have been increasing rapidly over the past few years.

OHCHR will continue developing regional strategies for these projects, since inter-governmental cooperation is stimulated and common policies and programmes can be developed using a regional approach. OHCHR is also pursuing a policy of greater collaboration with other UN actors, especially with UNDP, as a way of ensuring efficient use of resources and maximum impact of the proposed projects.

OHCHR, in cooperation with other agencies and programmes of the United Nations, undertook an analysis of technical assistance in the field of human rights provided by UN entities. Following the April 1999 publication of the report, OHCHR hosted inter-agency consultations in Geneva to begin work on responding to the report's recommendations.

### Funding

Technical cooperation activities are mainly funded through the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights. However, a few activities are funded by United Nations Regular Budget. Several global projects, as well as some technical cooperation activities, carried out in countries where monitoring take place, are funded through UNOPS. Activities in Cambodia are funded through the Trust Fund for a Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia.

OHCHR prefers that contributions to technical cooperation are made to the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation rather than to specific activities.

### Budget in US\$

Global projects:	
National institutions	813,600
System-wide technical cooperation	474,600
Education	300,000
Internally displaced persons	167,240
Training of peacekeepers	80,230
Africa	5,255,523
Latin America and the Caribbean	4,581,595
Europe and Central Asia	2,264,268
Asia and the Pacific	3,886,559

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**Total** **17,823,615**

# G

## lobal Projects

### *National Institutions*

#### Background

Independent, pluralistic national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights can play a vital, constructive role in fostering a culture of human rights. During 1998-99, OHCHR was invited by a number of governments to provide information, advice and/or assistance as they established national human rights institutions or contemplated doing so. The countries involved were: Armenia, Bangladesh, Burundi, Ecuador, Ethiopia, Fiji, Germany, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kyrgyzstan, Liberia, Malaysia, Mauritius, Mongolia, Nepal, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, the Republic of Korea, Thailand, Uzbekistan and, most recently, Ireland and the United Kingdom (Northern Ireland and Scotland), and Zimbabwe.

OHCHR also provided information, advice or material support to a number of recently established national human rights institutions, including: the Public Defender of Georgia, the Latvian Human Rights Office, the Human Rights Commission of Indonesia, the Human Rights Commission of Malawi, the Moldavian Human Rights Centre, the Nigerian Human Rights Commission, the Human Rights Commission of Rwanda, the South African Human Rights Commission, the Sri Lankan Human Rights Commission, the Ugandan Human Rights Commission and the Zambian Human Rights Commission.

With the support of the United Nations, an International Coordinating Committee (ICC) was established by national institutions and has held annual meetings since 1993. A credentials committee, set up by the ICC in 1998, examined materials submitted by a number of national institutions during 1999. The next international meeting of national institutions will be held in Marrakech in 2000.

The High Commissioner for Human Rights attaches great importance to the role national institutions play in translating international human rights norms into laws,

policies and practices which ensure respect for human rights at the local level. The establishment and strengthening of national institutions is therefore one of OHCHR's key aims and a major component of its programme of advisory services and technical assistance.

#### Objectives

Activities aim to assist established national institutions and governments which are in the process of, or committed to, establishing such bodies in accordance with the international standards for national institutions (the "Paris Principles", adopted in 1993 by the General Assembly).

It will enable OHCHR to enhance its capacity to provide such assistance to the growing number of countries requesting it, improve UN system-wide coordination in providing assistance to national institutions (particularly in cooperation with UNDP), and enhance the participation of national institutions in appropriate UN human rights fora.

#### Activities

Global activities will be developed in the following four areas:

##### **Increase UN system-wide coordination and implementation of human rights**

- facilitate the training of UN staff on the work of national institutions; and
- promote the coordination and joint implementation of technical cooperation projects to strengthen established national institutions.

##### **Enhance the effectiveness of the UN human rights machinery and national institutions**

- provide training and/or training materials on the UN human rights mechanisms to national institutions staff;

- facilitate the participation of national institutions and/or provide information on the work of national institutions to meetings of UN human rights bodies including the Commission on Human Rights, the meetings of the treaty monitoring bodies, meetings of thematic and country rapporteurs and others;
- facilitate the participation of UN human rights experts and/or provide information on the work of the UN human rights mechanisms in meetings of national institutions; and
- prepare annual and bi-annual reports on the work of national institutions to the Commission on Human Rights and the General Assembly.

### **Build national and regional capacity to promote and protect human rights**

- advise governments on suitable models for establishing an appropriate constitutional or legislative framework for any new national institution, and on the nature, functions, powers and responsibilities of such institutions;
- participate in high-level meetings, seminars and workshops, to provide advice or assistance to governments and conduct consultations with government officials, parliamentarians and NGOs concerning the establishment of new national institutions;
- lead technical cooperation needs assessment and/or project formulation missions to develop appropriate technical cooperation projects and attend steering committee meetings of on-going technical cooperation projects on national institutions;
- support new and/or established national human rights institutions to develop complaint-handling systems and databases, design effective management structures, implement human rights education and training programmes, including on economic, social and cultural rights issues, gender issues and women's and children's rights; and
- facilitate international and regional meetings of national institutions to encourage the sharing of experience and development of best practices (including the meetings of national institutions to be held in Morocco/March 2000 and in Geneva/April 2001).

### **Process, analyze and disseminate information effectively**

- provide human rights information and documentation to national institutions, including on the Decade on Human Rights Education, Decade on Indigenous Peoples, Decade to Combat Racism and other human rights issues;
- develop model legislation and prepare a compilation of legislation related to national institutions;
- produce a compilation of national institutions profiles and prepare guidelines for establishing new institutions;
- establish a Roster of Experts/Practitioners on national institutions and capacity building;
- develop training modules and information materials; and
- identify and disseminate practices concerning specific human rights issues, such as the role of national institutions in promoting the rights of children and the rights of women.

The global project will be implemented by a small National Institutions Team, headed by a qualified and experienced practitioner in this field, which will consist of two additional professionals with knowledge and expertise in relevant technical cooperation and capacity-building areas, two administrative assistants and consultants as necessary. The Team will work with the assistance/support of OHCHR's Geographic Desk Officers, Field Offices and other relevant OHCHR services (Research and Right to Development Branch, Support Services Branch, Gender Team, Methodology Team, Thematic Teams and Consultants/Practitioners) to guarantee monitoring and follow-up to the services.

### **Expected impact**

The building of national and regional capacities to promote and protect human rights will contribute to the implementation of principles embodied in the Bill of Rights and other international human rights instruments

at the national and regional levels. At the end of the project, the following will have been achieved:

- at the request of member States, new independent national institutions will have been established, in accordance with the international standards;
- at the request of member States, established national institutions will have strengthened their capacity;
- the main UN human rights machinery, including treaty-monitoring bodies and thematic/country rapporteurs of the Human Rights Commission, will have a better knowledge and understanding of the role and work of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights, and vice versa;
- UN agencies and programmes and other multilateral and regional organizations will have improved their understanding of the role and work of national institutions in the promotion and protection of human rights; and
- established national institutions will have improved their coordination through the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions as well as through regional networks.

### Coordination

The global programme will be implemented in close cooperation with other UN agencies and programmes, as well as with other multilateral and regional organizations. In particular, OHCHR will continue its coordination of activities with UNDP, UNVs, UNICEF, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the Council of Europe, the Organization of African Unity, the Asia Pacific Forum of National Institutions, the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Andean Commission of Jurists, the Inter-American Institute for Human Rights and others. All technical assistance to be provided will continue to be coordinated within the overall framework of the UN efforts at the national level.

### Lessons learned

In early 1998, an independent professional evaluation of the national institutions programme was conducted. The evaluation highlighted the important role OHCHR played at the international level and made specific recommendations for strengthening the work of OHCHR in this

area. The present proposal has been prepared in response to key recommendations of the evaluation, which include: consolidating the capacity of OHCHR, including for follow-up, consulting and monitoring services; mainstreaming national institutions into the work of OHCHR; strengthening the National Institutions Team to meet the increasing demand for assistance by member States; and attracting increased financial support from both regular and voluntary resources.

### Budget in US\$

Advice for the establishment of new institutions and/or established institutions: Special Advisor, consultants, secretary, travel	420,000
International meeting of the ICC : International participants, staff/resource persons; cost of the meeting; publications and other	230,000
Research and publications	40,000
Unforeseen and urgent requests for Assistance	30,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>720,000</b>
13% Programme support cost	93,600
<b>Total</b>	<b>813,600</b>



## System-wide Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights

### Background

As part of the UN Reform Programme, the Secretary-General asked the High Commissioner for Human Rights to undertake an analysis of technical assistance provided by United Nations entities in human rights-related areas and to formulate proposals for improving the complementarity of action and responses to the needs of Member States.

Follow-up to the High Commissioner's report of April 1999 on the system-wide analysis of technical cooperation has been initiated. Two inter-agency meetings at headquarters level have taken place in Geneva.

### Objectives and strategy

The main objective is to enhance coordination and improve complementarity of action in technical assistance provided by UN entities in areas related to human rights.

Follow-up to the system-wide analysis will include activities at the headquarters level and at the regional level. At headquarters level, inter-agency meetings will be continued and complemented by a workshop. An inter-agency working group has been established to coordinate and support follow-up to the analysis and implementation of the recommendations of the report. The report suggests a regional approach for implementing its recommendations. Some agencies, including OHCHR, have had positive experiences with such an approach, as it stimulates inter-governmental and inter-agency cooperation, provides a forum in which experiences and best practices can be exchanged, and can lead to the design of complementary policies and programmes.

The purpose of regional cooperation is to assist governments in implementing international human rights standards and preventing human rights violations. Inter-agency cooperation at the regional level should help make technical assistance offered by the United Nations at the national level consistent with international human rights standards and make that assistance more effective and cost-efficient. The regional approach does not aim to create new structures, but rather to build frameworks designed at the regional or sub-regional level that reflect local needs.

Regional cooperation should involve UN agencies and programmes active in the region, international and regional organizations, financial institutions and the donor community, as well as representatives of governments and civil society. Regional consultations should be carefully structured to reflect the role and needs of different partners.

### Activities

#### Headquarters Level

At headquarters level, inter-agency consultations and meetings will continue and a workshop has been proposed at the UN Staff College in Turin for inter-agency exchange on activities, strategies and *modus operandi*. The following tasks have also been identified:

- creation of a web site with system-wide information on technical cooperation projects;
- development and adoption of a system-wide glossary of standard definitions, terms and concepts related to human rights assistance, governance, democracy, and the rule of law; and
- development of manuals and handbooks, for example related to the right to health, to education, to adequate housing, etc.

#### Regional Level

At the regional level, workshops will be held and a first regional workshop will be convened in Latin America during the first half of 2000.

Objectives for regional workshops:

- promote human rights as a component of technical cooperation programmes of the United Nations;
- train relevant staff of UN agencies and programmes in human rights;
- offer training in methodology of technical cooperation in human rights-related areas;
- enhance coordination and cooperation within UN technical cooperation activities in human rights; and

- identify regional priorities for technical cooperation in human rights-related areas.

Central issues to be addressed in regional workshops:

- international human rights standards and their importance in technical cooperation;
- identification and specification of training, needs-targeted, job-specific, human rights training for UN staff engaged in the design, development, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of technical cooperation projects;
- review of human rights assistance methodology, including needs assessments for human rights assistance, project formulation, monitoring and evaluation, and impact assessment and evaluation to identify best practices and to share lessons learned; common country profiling, CCA-UNDAF;
- developing common, system-wide indicators and benchmarks for human rights programming;

- modalities of inter-agency cooperation, including means of expanding access to human rights information through information focal points; and

- country models for testing cooperative mechanisms.

### Budget in US\$

Headquarters level:	
Inter-agency workshop	50,000
Web site with system-wide information on projects	100,000
Glossary, handbooks and manuals	110,000
Preparation and follow-up to regional activities	60,000
Regional level:	
Two regional workshops	100,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>420,000</b>
13% Programme support cost	54,600
<b>Total:</b>	<b>474,600</b>

## *Education*

### *UN Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004)*

#### Background

The universal protection of human rights can only be achieved through informed and continuing demands for such protection by the very people whose rights may be violated. Human rights education is thus defined as not only teaching and learning about human rights, but also as empowering individuals to defend their own rights and those of others. Effective human rights education promotes the understanding that the protection of human rights is everyone's responsibility. In helping prevent human rights violations, human rights education can also help prevent conflict. While the international community must respond when human rights violations occur, it is even more imperative that preventive efforts be developed and supported.

During the United Nations Decade for Human Rights Education (1995-2004), governments, international organizations, NGOs, professional associations, civil societies and individuals are encouraged to establish partnerships and concentrate efforts on education, training and public information campaigns that highlight human rights.

The 1994 UN General Assembly proclaimed the Decade and asked the High Commissioner for Human Rights to coordinate the implementation of the Decade's Plan of Action. Activities completed so far include:

- elaboration of Guidelines for National Plans of Action for Human Rights Education (published in 1997);
- development of OHCHR's database of translated



versions of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (available on-line at <http://www.unhchr.ch/udhr/index.htm>, and containing translations into more than 270 languages of the Declaration);

- publication of relevant materials (including the new OHCHR Decade Series);
- monitoring international implementation of the Plan of Action, including correspondence with all partners; and
- preparation of mandated reports to the General Assembly and the Commission on Human Rights.

### Objectives and strategy

The strategy follows the contents of the Plan of Action for the Decade, for which the High Commissioner has primary responsibility. In particular, OHCHR is focusing on:

- establishing *ad hoc* partnerships, according to the specific activity to be implemented, within OHCHR's various departments, with other agencies in the UN system (such as UNESCO and its National Commissions, DPI and its UN Information Centres, UNDP and its national offices, and ITU), and with others (regional inter-governmental organizations, governments, national institutions, human rights institutes and NGOs);
- encouraging and facilitating human rights education initiatives undertaken by other partners of the Decade; and
- supporting human rights education capacities by developing education, information and training materials and disseminating them through existing networks of both governmental and non-governmental organizations, through OHCHR's Technical Cooperation Programme and other channels.

### Activities in 2000

- Establish OHCHR's Resource Collection on Human Rights Education;
- Prepare the mid-term review report of the Decade (to be submitted to the General Assembly in 2000);

- Prepare a collection/analysis of human rights education "best practices", in the framework of the mid-term review of the Decade;
- Develop three methodological studies (on human rights education programming, evaluation of human rights education programmes, and the establishment of documentation and resource centres for human rights education);
- Translate and print selected OHCHR's publications;
- Finalize OHCHR's database on human rights education programmes, materials and organizations and make it available through the OHCHR website;
- Finalize six training packages (for prison officials, primary and secondary school teachers, judges and lawyers, national and local NGOs, journalists, and human rights monitors);
- Finalize two handbooks (on conflict resolution, and human rights and parliaments).

### Beneficiaries

OHCHR has a mailing list of about 2,000 organizations and individuals and receives about 600 requests each month for human rights publications, educational materials and related information. Interested individuals and organizations visit OHCHR Headquarters (and other OHCHR Offices) daily to obtain related information. In addition, OHCHR conducts technical cooperation projects in about 55 countries, which, in most cases, have an education and public information component. OHCHR also offers various regional and international training programmes. During 1999, the OHCHR's web site attracted approximately 20,000 visits per week. Through the Decade programme, all institutions, organizations and individuals conducting educational activities in conjunction with OHCHR will be provided with information, materials and methodologies to help them prepare and deliver human rights education programmes.

### Impact

Under the Decade programme, OHCHR has developed human rights education materials that are used by vari-

ous partners all over the world. The Office has contributed to a better flow of information among international, regional and national governmental and non-governmental organizations and agencies; it has developed joint projects with some of those partners; and it has provided materials and advice in response to the many requests received from governments, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations, academic institutions, students and other individuals and organizations.

In view of its coordinating role, OHCHR is in the best position to act as a facilitator between governmental and non-governmental institutions (at the national level) and among international organizations (at the international level) in the field of human rights education.

## Budget in US\$

Establish a Resource Collection on Human Rights Education	50,000
Prepare the mid-term review report of the Decade	18,000
Prepare a collection/analysis of human rights education "best practices"	60,000
Elaborate three methodological studies	30,000
Translation and printing of selected OHCHR publications	100,000
Finalize OHCHR's Database on Human Rights Education (accessible through the OHCHR's website)	50,000
Finalize six training packages	70,000
Develop/finalize two handbooks	60,000
Project manager salary	110,100
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>548,100</b>
13% Programme support cost	71,253
<b>Total</b>	<b>619,353</b>
Less balance from 1999	319,353
<b>Total requirements</b>	<b>300,000</b>

## Background

An estimated 20 to 25 million people in more than 40 countries have been uprooted from their homes and are displaced within their own countries. The primary responsibility for the protection of internally displaced persons rests with the State in question; but when States are unable or unwilling to fulfill this obligation, they are expected to request, or at least accept, international assistance. Yet international responses to these situations have been ad hoc, as there is no single agency mandated to assume responsibility for internally displaced persons. In the absence of formal institutional responsibility, a collaborative effort by relevant agencies and organizations has evolved, headed by the Secretary-General's designate, the Emergency Relief Coordinator. Within this framework, OHCHR has been repeatedly called upon to contribute to the protection of internally displaced persons.

## Internally Displaced Persons

### Objectives and strategy

The activities aim to enhance the capacity of the UN human rights system to protect and promote the rights of internally displaced persons, in collaboration with the Secretary-General's Representative on Internally Displaced Persons and other UN partners. This will be achieved by identifying, developing and incorporating specialized programming in human rights field operations, technical-cooperation activities and advisory services that protect the rights of internally displaced persons in accordance with the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement.

### Focus for 2000

Activities in 2000 will focus on training and programming with existing OHCHR field presences to address immediate protection needs in countries with internal

displacement problems. It will also provide support to the growing operational requirements of the Secretary-General's Representative on Internally Displaced Persons by reviewing and initiating follow-up action on his country report recommendations. A Fact Sheet will be prepared and disseminated with other material on the rights of and protection strategies for internally displaced persons.

### Beneficiaries

By strengthening the capacity of the UN human rights system to address protection issues related to internally displaced persons, the ultimate beneficiaries of the project will be States, international partners and, ultimately, internally displaced persons by strengthening international responses to their protection.

### Budget in US\$

Staff	120,000
Travel	20,000
General operating costs	2,000
Computer and printer	6,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>148,000</b>
13% Programme support cost	19,240
<b>Total</b>	<b>167,240</b>

## *Human rights training for peacekeepers*

### Background

In response to the significant increase in the number and complexity of United Nations peacekeeping operations in recent years, the United Nations and its Member States have sought ways to ensure that national personnel are adequately prepared to serve in those operations. The development of training materials and the provision of specialized training have become important parts of the United Nations' effort in this regard. Most modern peacekeeping operations involve multi-faceted mandates, often combining traditional military with complex civilian tasks, including administrative, humanitarian and human rights functions. To help Member States prepare their personnel for assignment to peacekeeping operations, the United Nations Department of Peacekeeping Operations and OHCHR established (on a pilot basis, in 1996) the First United Nations Training Programme for Civilian Police and Military Trainers on Peacekeeping, Human Rights and Humanitarian Assistance. The Programme, the first of its kind organized by the United Nations, was directed at national military and police trainers in charge of pre-deployment training for military and CIVPOL contingents assigned to peacekeeping operations. Following the pilot course, the programme was consolidated in a regular DPKO/OHCHR activity and was offered twice a year between 1996 and 1999. UNHCR and the UN Staff

College Project joined in sponsoring subsequent training courses. The programme for 2000 is being designed by organizations based on their assessment of the eight courses organized to date.

### Objectives and strategy

The project aims to improve the capacity of United Nations Member States to train military and police personnel who will be deployed to peacekeeping operations in peace-keeping concepts and procedures, including the operational, human rights and humanitarian aspects of peacekeeping, consistent with the relevant standards elaborated by the United Nations.

More broadly, the project tries to improve the effectiveness of peacekeeping operations by: harmonizing the preparation provided by contributing countries to the national personnel who are deployed in United Nations peacekeeping operations; providing peacekeeping personnel with comprehensive training to prepare them for the varied tasks they are required to perform (which increasingly involve human rights, humanitarian assistance, and cooperation with other actors in the mission area); and strengthening Member States' capacity to provide effective preparation to their military and police personnel who are assigned to serve in peacekeeping operations.

These objectives will be achieved by organizing training

programmes for national trainers and training planners and distributing training materials on peacekeeping, human rights and humanitarian assistance.

## Activities in 2000

For the year 2000, the project includes:

- one training programme jointly organized by the Department of Peacekeeping Operations, OHCHR, UNHCR and the United Nations Staff College for 25 to 30 national training planners and trainers of military and police contingents to be deployed to peacekeeping operations; and
- translation into French and Spanish of the OHCHR Trainer's Guide on Human Rights and Law Enforcement for CIVPOL and the OHCHR Trainer's Guide on Human Rights for Military Peacekeepers.

Military and police participants will be selected from among officers responsible for training national personnel assigned to peacekeeping operations, or for planning or supervising such training programmes. They will be selected from countries to be agreed upon among the organizers, based upon the following general criteria: countries which make major contributions of military and police personnel to peacekeeping missions and require United Nations assistance to strengthen peacekeeping training at the national level; and countries which have concluded stand-by agreements with the United Nations.

## Beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries of the project will be 15 military trainers and 15 police trainers (plus two observers) who will participate in the course and who will help develop a training capacity in human rights during peacekeeping within the police and the armed forces of their countries of origin.

The indirect beneficiaries will be the military and police officers in the participating countries who will, in turn, be trained by the participants in the training programme. The ultimate beneficiaries of the project will be the citizens of the countries to which the military and police officers trained through this project will be assigned.

## Coordination

The programme is organized jointly by DPKO, OHCHR, UNHCR, and UNSCP. Common programme costs are shared among the organizing departments, while each bears the costs related to the participation of its own staff and experts. OHCHR is responsible for conducting the segment of the course focusing on human rights standards applicable to the work of military and police peacekeepers.

## Budget in US\$

Participants' accommodation and miscellaneous costs	11,000
Translation of training materials	30,000
Training	30,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>71,000</b>
13% Programme support costs	9,230
<b>Total</b>	<b>80,230</b>



# Africa

## Regional overview

### Background

OHCHR's activities in Africa have expanded considerably over the past few years. Activities range from full-fledged offices with a technical cooperation and monitoring mandate to field presences in conjunction with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations or the Department of Political Affairs, to the implementation of technical cooperation projects. Many countries in the region have also submitted new requests for technical assistance from OHCHR to sustain their effort in building the rule of law and democratic institutions. OHCHR attaches great importance to the development of regional strategies for the promotion and protection of human rights. In accordance with the Statement made by the High Commissioner for Human Rights in her April 1999 address to the OAU First Ministerial Conference on Human Rights (held in Grand Bay, Mauritius), OHCHR has adopted a Framework of Regional Technical Cooperation Programme in Africa which aims to strengthen regional/sub-regional capacities to promote and protect human rights in Africa.

### Objectives and strategy

The long-term objective is to contribute to the improvement of the human rights situation in Africa. The immediate objective is to strengthen capacities of relevant national institutions and organizations, both governmental and non-governmental, to develop national plans of action, provide human rights education, establish functional national institutions and realize the right to development and economic, social and cultural rights.

### Outline of activities

National capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights will be strengthened through activities

implemented at regional and sub-regional levels in the following areas:

- Development of National Plans of Action for the protection and promotion of human rights and the strengthening of national capacities;
- Human rights education;
- National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights;
- Strategies for the realization of the right to development and economic, social and cultural rights;
- Extension of support to the African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights; and Support to the Southern Africa project.

### Beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries will be national institutions and organizations, as well persons who will attend the workshops and receive relevant documentation in the framework of the above-mentioned activities to be carried out during 2000. The ultimate beneficiaries will be government officials and civil society, who will have a better understanding of their rights and benefit from strengthened national, sub-regional and regional capacities to promote and protect human rights.

### Coordination

The project will be implemented in close cooperation with UN partners, governments, national institutions, NGOs, and sub-regional and regional organizations in Africa.

## Implementing arrangements

The Human Rights Advisors to be made available at the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the Economic Communities of Central African States (ECCAS), and the Advisor now working with the Southern African Development Community (SADC) will be involved in the implementation of the project.

## Budget in US\$

1 Sub-regional workshop on National Plans of Action	120,000
Regional workshop on human rights education	120,000
Third Regional Meeting of African National Institutions	80,000
Regional workshop on the Right to Development and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights for English and French-speaking countries	130,000
1 Sub-regional workshop on National Plans of Action for Portuguese-speaking countries (in cooperation with the <i>Comunidade dos Países de Língua Portuguesa-CELP</i> )	80,000
Support to the African Commission	200,000
Support to the Southern Africa project	165,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>895,000</b>
13% Project support cost	116,350
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,011,350</b>



## Country projects

### Burundi

OHCHR’s office in Burundi carries out both technical cooperation and monitoring activities. These are described under “Human Rights support for peace-making, peacekeeping and peace-building activities” on page 79. Total requirements, including monitoring amount to US\$ 2,750,031.

The budget in US\$ for technical cooperation activities is presented below:

#### Budget in US\$

Human rights promotion, education and training and assistance to the administration of justice	885,000
13% Programme support cost	115,050
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,000,050</b>

### Cameroon

#### Background

In 1992, the National Assembly of Cameroon established the National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms. Cameroon has ratified a number of international human rights instruments; and the national penal code affirms that ratified human rights instruments take precedence over domestic legislation in case of conflict of laws. The National Commission on Human Rights and Freedoms, responsible for the protection and promotion of human rights in the country, conducts inquiries and investigations into violations of human rights and freedoms and reports to the President. The Commission

also inspects prisons, police stations and gendarmerie brigades and, when necessary, coordinates the activities of NGOs wishing to contribute to the Commission’s work.

#### Objectives and strategy

The immediate objective is to strengthen the capacity of the Human Rights Commission to develop and implement its programmes effectively, especially concerning investigations of human rights violations, human rights promotional activities, coordination of Government-sponsored human rights programmes, and the development of a national plan of action in human rights.

#### Activities in 2000

OHCHR plans to:

- provide advisory services to the National Commission and to the ad hoc Inter-ministerial Committee on Human Rights for the development of a National Plan of Action;
- support the promotion of the human rights of women and children by convening two Joint Workshops with the National Commission and Human Rights Focus on Women and Children (HRFWC) on street children and the protection of young girls’ rights, respectively; and
- support vulnerable groups and minorities by convening a Joint Workshop with the National Commission and the local NGO CIREPE on the protection of Indigenous People (Mbororos and Baka), within the framework of the UN Decade of the World’s Indigenous People.

#### Beneficiaries

Beneficiaries of the project include members and staff of the National Human Rights Commission, as well as

civil servants, NGOs, members of women's associations, and lawyers.

## Implementing arrangements

OHCHR will recruit a National Coordinator, who will be located within UNDP in Yaounde and will work closely with UNDP, the Government and the NHRC. The NHRC will nominate a member to be liaison officer for the project. The project will be managed through UNDP Yaounde, in coordination with UN partners, bilateral donors and international human rights NGOs working in Cameroon.

## Budget in US\$

Training courses	44,000
Advisory services	12,000
Support to NGOs	20,000
National project management	30,000
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>106,000</b>
13 % Programme support cost	13,780
<b>Total</b>	<b>119,780</b>

## Central African Republic

### Background

As a component of a United Nations peacekeeping mission, the Human Rights Section's (HRS) mandate is defined by the mandate of MINURCA (*Mission des Nations Unies en Republique Centrafricaine*) created by Security Council Resolution 1159 (27 March 1998).

### Present activities

Despite very limited resources, the Human Rights Section has successfully carried out the following activities: produced radio programmes on human rights on Radio MINURCA in French and Sango; commemorated the 50th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights; published international and regional human rights standards in both languages; organized a conference entitled "Human Rights and National Reconstruction" held in June 1999 and attended by over 200 participants, including Government representatives and members of different sectors of civil society (this

conference will be followed-up by another meeting in October 1999 to adopt a "National Plan of Action on Human Rights" under Government auspices); provided human rights training to Government security forces (specifically, law enforcement agents, soldiers of the Armed Forces, police agents and Gendarmes), and collected individual complaints from the local population regarding human rights violations.

In October 1999, the Security Council decided (resolution 1271) to terminate the mandate of MINURCA by 15 February 2000. At the same time, the Security Council welcomed the Secretary-General's proposal to send a team (DPA, DPKO, UNDP, OHCHR) to examine with the Government of the Central African Republic, and other national and international stakeholders, the conditions for the maintenance of a United Nations political presence after the withdrawal of MINURCA. The mission took place in November 1999.

Based on the observations and recommendations of the mission, the Secretary-General proposed to the Security Council the establishment of a United Nations Peace-Building Support Office in the Central African Republic (BONUCA). The Office will be effective as 16 February for an initial period of one year. BONUCA's Human Rights Section will build upon MINURCA's accomplishments and aim to strengthen national human rights capacities.

### Outline of the project

#### *Institution-building*

The BONUCA's Human Rights Section will assist the Government in strengthening justice and the rule of law by providing guidance in human rights matters to the judicial authorities, the security forces and others, including representatives of the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the National Human Rights Commission. Specific activities will include human rights training for members of the security forces (the Central African Armed Forces, FORSDIR, *Gendarmerie*, and police), assistance to the National Assembly's human rights-related activities and human rights training for judicial authorities focusing on human rights and fair trials.

#### *Strengthening civil society*

The Human Rights Section will continue its programme of human rights training for different sectors of Central African society (women, *chefs de quartier* [traditional leaders], journalists and NGOs). The HRS will draw on local expertise and work in partnership with a number of national and international organizations.



**Human rights education, promotion and mass awareness**

The HRS will continue to disseminate information on international and regional human rights standards as well as other human rights materials. Through the human rights awareness programme, the HRS will help the Government and local NGOs promote human rights. Public awareness campaigns will aim to promote understanding of non-discrimination, equality before the law, access to justice, tolerance and the protection of vulnerable groups such as women, children, refugees and ethnic minorities. Specific activities will include special events targeting calendar dates that are significant for human rights, production of human rights materials and publications, particularly in Sango, and a radio project, including radio plays, which will broadcast human rights information.

**Beneficiaries**

Direct beneficiaries will include civil servants, law enforcement officers, NGOs, civil society (media, *chefs de quartiers*), and victims of human rights violations.

**Coordination and implementing arrangements**

BONUCA will work in partnership with the Government and UN agencies and other international organizations working to support the justice and law enforcement sectors. Specifically, the HRS will work in close coordination with UNDP’s “Good Governance” project. In 2000, the DPA will ensure the staffing and operating costs (2-3 international human rights officers and 7 nationals).

**Budget in US\$**

Technical Cooperation:	
Building Government institutions	53,070
Strengthening the civil society	27,696
Human rights education and promotion activities	20,010
13% Programme support cost	13,101

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**Total** **113,877**

# Chad

**Background**

The Commission on Human Rights recommended that OHCHR provide technical assistance to the Government to develop national capacities in the field of human rights and, in particular, to strengthen the operational capacity of the National Commission on Human Rights.

**Objectives and strategy**

The immediate objective is to strengthen the capacities of human rights institutions, enable them to develop and implement programmes, plans of action and training to better promote and protect human rights.

**Activities in 2000**

Technical assistance to relevant Government and non-governmental bodies dealing with human rights will consist of:

- advisory services in law reform;
- training courses for judges, police and security and armed forces;
- support to the National Commission on Human Rights;
- development of human rights educational materials for primary and secondary schools and universities; and
- provision of documentation and support to human rights NGOs.

**Beneficiaries**

The direct beneficiaries will be civil servants, NGOs, members and staff of the National Commission of Human Rights, lawyers, police officials, security officers and soldiers who will be trained in human rights.

**Coordination**

As this project is jointly funded and implemented by UNDP and OHCHR, UNDP will recruit an international expert as project coordinator. He/she will be located within UNDP and will work closely with OHCHR’s project manager, the Human Rights Commission and the Government’s liaison officer. The international expert/coordinator of the project will facilitate and develop cooperation between OHCHR and UNDP, and among UN partners and the Government.

## Budget in US\$

Training courses, fellowships	40,000
Legal reform	40,000
Support to the National Commission	30,000
Support to human rights NGOs	30,000

**Sub-total** **140,000**

13% Programme support cost 18,200

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**Total** **158,200**

## The Democratic Republic of the Congo

OHCHR's office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo carries out both technical cooperation and monitoring activities. These are described under "Human Rights support for peace-making, peacekeeping and peace-building activities" on page 83.

The budget for technical cooperation activities is presented below. Total requirements for OHCHR's activities in DRC amount to US\$ 1,521,048.

## Budget in US\$

Technical cooperation project management	680,383
Training and technical assistance projects	317,678
13% Programme support cost	129,747

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**Total** **1,127,808**

## Gabon

### Background

Gabon adopted a multi-party political system in 1990. Since then, a Ministry of Human Rights was created and a draft law that would create a National Commission on Human Rights is under consideration by the Parliament.

### Objectives and strategy

The project aims to:

- support the establishment of the National Commission on Human Rights;
- bring national legislation in line with international human rights standards; and
- strengthen the capacity of the judicial system, security and defense forces, and prison administration to respect and protect human rights.

### Activities in 2000

- offering training courses for members of the National Commission on Human Rights and of the Inter-ministerial Committee on reporting obligations;
- providing advisory services to the National Commission on Human Rights;
- establishing an information and documentation centre at the Ministry of Human Rights;
- acquiring equipment, office supplies and publications for the National Commission and the Ministry;
- providing study fellowships for members of the National Commission; and
- participating in a regional seminar on treaty reporting.

These activities will be carried out in close cooperation with the UNDP in Libreville and the Government of Gabon.

### Beneficiaries

Groups targeted include members and staff of the National Commission on Human Rights, staff of the Ministry of Human Rights and from other ministries, representatives of civil society, and apprentice judges. These groups will participate in the courses and training workshops organized by OHCHR and will receive computer equipment and office supplies under the project.



## Coordination

The project management team, consisting of a project director and a member of the National Commission on Human Rights, is responsible for project implementation, in coordination with OHCHR, UNDP and other UN agencies (UNICEF, UNESCO, etc.). It will work closely with the UNDP country office.

## Budget in US\$

Training courses	40,000
Fellowships	25,000
National Commission on Human Rights	30,000
Documentation Centre	20,000
Support to the Ministry of Human Rights	10,000
Information/media/publications	20,000
National programme management	30,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>175,000</b>
13% Programme support cost	22,750
<b>Total</b>	<b>197,750</b>
Less balance from 1999	140,000
<b>Total requirements</b>	<b>57,750</b>

# Guinea-Bissau

## Background

In April 1999, the Security Council supported the decision of the Secretary-General to establish a Post-Conflict Peace Building Office in Guinea-Bissau (UNOGBIS) under the leadership of a Representative of the Secretary-General (Resolution 1233 of 6 April 1999). The Office provides the political framework and leadership for harmonizing and integrating UN activities in Guinea-Bissau during the transitional period leading up to general and presidential elections. It will also facilitate the implementation of the Abuja Agreement in close cooperation with the parties concerned, the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), the ECOWAS monitoring group (ECOMOG) and other national and international

partners. OHCHR and the UN Department of Political Affairs, which is responsible for UNOGBIS, decided that two officers will work on human rights issues within UNOGBIS to create an environment for restoring and consolidating peace, democracy and the rule of law beyond the elections of 28 November 1999.

## Activities in 2000

The Human Rights Unit (HRU) will assist in establishing a National Action Plan for Human Rights in Guinea-Bissau. Specific activities in the framework of technical assistance will include: creating radio programmes, training former combatants, raising awareness among parliamentarians on human rights issues, providing training in the preparation of human rights reports, publishing human rights pamphlets and brochures in Creole, and launching special events during UN and national days.

## Beneficiaries

The Government, NGOs, and other civil society associations for women and minorities will benefit from the project.

## Structure of OHCHR's presence

There will be two Human Rights Officers working within UNOGBIS.

## Budget in US\$

The budget only reflects the expected contribution from OHCHR, which is in addition to the UNOGBIS regular budget.

Developing a National Plan of Action	18,000
Radio programmes	8,000
Training on report writing	18,000
Training for former combatants	23,000
Publication and translation of human rights material	13,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>80,000</b>
13 % Programme support cost	10,400
<b>Total</b>	<b>90,400</b>

## Lesotho

### Background

At the Government's request, a comprehensive assessment of the country's needs for the protection and promotion of human rights was conducted in 1996. Further action on a technical cooperation project was delayed as a result of the problems that followed the 1998 election. The newly appointed Minister for Justice and Human Rights has again requested that UNDP and OHCHR implement the project.

### Objectives and strategy

The proposed project will offer advice and training to the law reform commission, members of the Parliament, the judiciary, police officials, the prison service, the Ombudsman, and the Lesotho Defense Forces. The project will also support the establishment of a national human rights commission and the formulation of national strategies on gender issues, and provide training on the human rights aspects of elections. In addition, it will provide technical advice to the UN Resident Coordinator on human rights and rule of law issues.

### Activities in 2000

Assistance will be provided in:

- reviewing the Constitution with a view to bringing it into conformity with international human rights standards;
- establishing a human rights commission in accordance with the Paris Principles;
- training judicial officers and assisting in the law reform process; and
- conducting voter education for the forthcoming local and national elections.

### Coordination

The project will be coordinated with UNDP, which will fund most of the activities under this project.

### Budget in US\$

(OHCHR's part of the budget)

Project management	130,000
13 % Programme support cost	16,900
<b>Total</b>	<b>146,900</b>

## Madagascar

### Background

A new constitution was adopted in 1992, leading to multi-party elections. An Ombudsman of the Republic was established in 1992 and a National Commission on Human Rights in 1996.

### Activities in 2000

OHCHR seeks to assist in building national human rights capacities and focuses its efforts, *inter alia*, on supporting the National Commission on Human Rights. To that end, a national project manager has been recruited and a limited number of international experts will be contracted. Activities will include:

- four workshops and training courses;
- expert consultation missions;
- documentary and logistical support, including provision of necessary equipment, publications and documentation;
- training for fellows;
- logistical and documentary support for NGOs; and
- an information campaign on human rights.

### Target groups

Parliament, the Ombudsman, representatives of the administration of justice, members of the National Commission on Human Rights, officers from different ministries, NGOs, teachers, judges, youth groups and women's organizations will be involved in and benefit from the project.

### Implementing arrangements

The project will be implemented by a national manager who works with UNDP, the Government and the National Commission on Human Rights. The national manager is appointed by OHCHR and located at UNDP.

## Budget in US\$

Training course	41,730
Fellowships	24,000
National Commission on Human Rights	77,960
Documentation	25,000
Support to the Ministry of Justice	78,560
National project management	84,340
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>331,590</b>
13% Programme support cost	43,107
<b>Total</b>	<b>374,697</b>
Less balance from 1999	130,000
<b>Total requirements</b>	<b>244,697</b>

## Malawi

### Background

The move towards a democracy in Malawi has included the establishment of independent national human rights institutions, the growth of an independent and free press and the emergence of vibrant human rights NGOs. OHCHR has supported this process through its Consolidation of the Democratic Process project.

### Activities in 2000

The project for the Consolidation of the Democratic Process is based on Government needs identified in the Joint Declaration of 1994 and reflects the priorities enumerated in the Human Rights National Plan of Action adopted by the Government in 1995. The project supports the effective functioning of existing democratic institutions (the Human Rights Commission, the Law Commission, and the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Human Rights and Democracy), and offers training to law enforcement officials. It also supports a permanent OHCHR representation, based at UNDP Lilongwe, to advise the Government and provide technical backstopping for the UN Resident Coordinator on rule of law, democracy and human rights matters.

## Impact

The activities envisioned will help strengthen the capacity of human rights institutions to fulfill their role and foster a culture of respect for human rights.

## Implementing arrangements

A project officer will be located in Lilongwe based in the UNDP office in Malawi.

## Budget in US\$

Project management	65,000
Training courses	45,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>110,000</b>
13 % Programme support cost	14,300
<b>Total</b>	<b>124,300</b>
Less balance from 1999	100,000
<b>Total requirements</b>	<b>24,300</b>

## Morocco

### Background

Discussions between OHCHR and the Government of Morocco began following a visit to Morocco by the High Commissioner in April 1998. To support the Government in promoting human rights, OHCHR developed a project to establish a National Human Rights Documentation and Training Centre in Morocco, in cooperation with UNDP.

### Objective and activities

The objective of the project is to provide Morocco with a Human Rights Documentation and Training Centre that will be instrumental in promoting a culture of human rights which, in turn, will encourage sustainable economic and social development. The Centre will provide relevant documentation and basic knowledge in the field of human rights to targeted groups involved in promoting human rights, including leaders of local NGOs and national institutions, teachers and professors in schools

and universities, and law enforcement personnel (police, security forces, magistrates and other auxiliaries in the judiciary system, penitentiary personnel, etc.). In addition, the Centre will promote new information techniques for the dissemination of human rights issues. It will also provide logistical support to research fellows or other key actors in civil society. The Centre will, *inter alia*,

- provide training in human rights;
- compile human rights and legal documentation;
- conduct research;
- computerize listings of available audio-visual material;
- set up a specialized human rights library;
- assist local NGOs in meeting their documentation needs; and
- launch other promotional activities.

## Beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries will be teachers and research fellows, students, civil servants, members of local and other interested regional or international NGOs, members of national institutions, magistrates and auxiliaries in the judiciary system, and other key actors in the public and private sectors.

## Implementing arrangements

The project will be implemented by the Moroccan Ministry for Human Rights and OHCHR, in cooperation with UNDP, which will co-fund the project.

## Budget in US\$

Human Rights Documentation and Training Centre	427,500
13 % Programme support cost	55,575
<b>Total</b>	<b>483,075</b>
Less balance from 1999	180,000
<b>Total requirements</b>	<b>303,075</b>

# Namibia

## Background

OHCHR and the Government signed an agreement for a technical assistance programme in 1997 and activities were carried out from 1997 through 1999. The programme aims to support the Government in integrating constitutional and international human rights standards into domestic law and practice, and to support both Government and civil society in developing a deeper understanding of human rights guarantees and responsibilities.

## Objectives and strategy

The project will support the promotion and protection of human rights by providing human rights education and supporting human rights research. Human rights education will be provided through a series of training courses for the police, judicial officers, penitentiary officials and traditional leaders. Human rights research will be encouraged through support to the Human Rights and Documentation Centre at the University of Namibia for the acquisition of human rights documentation and the development of expertise in managing that documentation.

## Activities in 2000

- training in human rights for law enforcement officers, judicial officers, members of the correctional services and traditional leaders;
- a grant to the Human Rights Documentation Centre of the University of Namibia in Windhoek for the acquisition of materials and for staff fellowships; and
- training of staff of the Documentation Centre on managing human rights information.

## Beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries of the project will be the staff of the Human Rights Documentation Centre of the University of Namibia, law enforcement and prison officials, judicial officers, and traditional leaders. Students and others who use the services of the Documentation Centre will also benefit from the project.

## Implementing arrangements

The major implementing partners for the project are the Ministry of Justice and the Documentation Centre of the University of Namibia. Project implementation is overseen by a Project Steering Committee composed of rep-



representatives of the Government, the University of Namibia, the Justice Training Centre, the Human Rights Documentation Centre, the Law Reform and Development Commission, human rights NGOs, the Regional Programme Advisor for UNESCO and the UN Resident Coordinator.

### Lessons learned

The initial project target (conventional law-enforcement agencies and judicial officers) was expanded to include traditional leaders, who adjudicate most cases at the local level, in order to support the Government's efforts to harmonize traditional practices on inheritance and gender with international standards.

#### Budget in US\$

Project management	26,488
Training courses	144,106
Support for the Documentation Centre	20,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>190,594</b>
13 % Programme support cost	24,777
<b>Total</b>	<b>215,371</b>
Less balance from 1999	153,500
<b>Total requirements</b>	<b>61,872</b>

## Rwanda

### Background

Human rights activities have been undertaken in Rwanda since 1994. A Human Rights Field Office in Rwanda was withdrawn in July 1998. OHCHR is now helping to develop a national human rights infrastructure. After the Government established a National Human Rights Commission in May 1999, OHCHR provided sponsorship for training in human rights law for the seven commissioners. After their training session, held in Strasbourg, France in July 1999, the commissioners were invited to OHCHR headquarters.

### Main outline of activities

The project is designed to facilitate the effective functioning of the National Commission on Human Rights. Rwanda also established two additional commissions—the National

Unity and Reconciliation Commission and the Constitutional Commission—which are designed to complement the activities of the National Commission on Human Rights. OHCHR plans to support these Commissions, as well.

### Beneficiaries

OHCHR's Rwandan counterpart in the implementation of the project will be the HRC, i.e., the direct beneficiary. Through its capacity-building component, the programme will also benefit other agencies, such as the judiciary, civil service, NGOs, women's associations, lawyers, and law enforcement officials who will be trained in the field of human rights.

### Objectives and strategy

The project aims to help create a human rights culture and eradicate the formerly prevalent culture of impunity and violence in Rwanda. The immediate objective is to strengthen the capacities of the HRC to enable it to develop and implement its programmes effectively.

#### Budget in US\$

Office equipment and supplies	20,000
Training courses	170,594
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>190,594</b>
13% Programme support cost	24,777
<b>Total</b>	<b>215,371</b>

## Sierra Leone

### Background

In its Resolution 1181 of 1998, the Security Council established the UN Observer Mission in Sierra Leone. Included in the mission's mandate was the monitoring of human rights and the provision of assistance to the Government in addressing its human rights obligations. Since its inception, the Human Rights Unit of the United Nations Mission in Sierra Leone (UNAMSIL), has worked closely with OHCHR and has recently provided support to OHCHR missions concerning the establishment of the Truth and Reconciliation Commission and the National Human Rights Commission. OHCHR has provided UNASMIL with advice on legal matters and on the preparation of technical cooperation projects. (For example,

OHCHR and the World Conference on Religions and Peace jointly offer human rights awareness training for some 160 religious workers, a project which is monitored by the UNASMIL Human Rights Unit.) The Unit will also be entrusted with the implementation of projects presented in the Consolidated Appeal for Sierra Leone.

### Outline of activities

The project will support the establishment and functioning of a Truth and Reconciliation Commission, which will deal specifically with the question of human rights violations committed since the beginning of the armed conflict in 1991. The Commission will provide a forum for both victims and perpetrators to tell their stories and facilitate genuine healing and reconciliation. Moreover, the Commission will, *inter alia*, recommend measures for the rehabilitation of victims of human rights violations.

OHCHR's support will consist of advisory services carried out by a consultant. It is expected that a consultant will join the Commission for a period of six months and will provide the necessary expertise. Another one-week mission will be required to terminate the work of the Commission.

During her visit to Sierra Leone, the High Commissioner proposed establishing a United Nations Commission of Inquiry to investigate and assess human rights and humanitarian law violations and abuses perpetrated by all parties to the conflict. The High Commissioner appointed an expert, Mr. B. Kiplagat from Kenya, to study the nexus between a Truth and Reconciliation Commission and a Commission of Inquiry and to make recommendations for OHCHR's future action on these initiatives.

### Coordination

OHCHR will implement its programme in close cooperation with UNAMSIL, UNDP and other partners.

### Budget in US\$

Truth and Reconciliation Commission:	
Fee for the consultant	24,000
Travel costs	9,000
Commission of Inquiry:	
Travel costs	23,080
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>56,080</b>
13% Programme support cost	7,290
<b>Total</b>	<b>63,370</b>

## Somalia

### Background

This project will be implemented as a follow-up to the recommendations of the Independent Expert in her report to the Commission on Human Rights (E/CN.4/1998/96), Commission resolution 1998/59, in which the Commission welcomed the decision of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to appoint a Human Rights Officer in the framework of the Office of the United Nations Resident and Humanitarian Coordinator for Somalia, and resolution 1999/75, in which the Commission stressed the importance of implementing such a decision.

### Objectives and strategy

Technical assistance in the field of human rights is provided to various actors in Somalia, particularly at the grass-roots level, within the context of work carried out by the other United Nations agencies. OHCHR will provide assistance in:

- integrating a human rights component in all UN programmes and activities in Somalia;
- reinforcing local capacities in law enforcement and the administration of justice;
- raising awareness of human rights issues among Government bodies, human rights defenders and NGOs, particularly women's groups; and
- promoting the culture of human rights.

### Implementing arrangements

The project will be implemented by OHCHR. Human rights staff will be posted for an initial period of 12 months in the UNDP premises in Nairobi, Kenya, and will employ the logistical and administrative resources of that office. OHCHR will provide policy direction and substantive technical supervision while the Chief of the United Nations Coordination Unit (UNCU) in UNDP/Somalia will supervise the administration of the project. A National Project Coordinator will support the work of the Human Rights Officer.



## Budget in US\$

Project management	134,000
Support to NGOs	75,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>209,000</b>
13 % Programme support cost	27,170
<b>Total</b>	<b>236,170</b>
Less balance from 1999	100,000
<b>Total requirements</b>	<b>136,170</b>

## South Africa

### Background

Human Rights Institutional Strengthening is a joint project of OHCHR and the South African Government. It was conceived against the background of South Africa's transition to democracy to strengthen national human rights capacities within institutions and Government departments so they can develop programmes and policies that protect and promote human rights. The project has a three-pronged approach, namely: providing direct grants to institutions, providing experts and organizing training aimed at capacity-building.

The project has already provided training in treaty reporting to representatives of Government institutions, ministries and parastatals, including the South African Human Rights Commission. Under the project, training was provided for the correctional services, armed forces (in peacekeeping), magistrates and public prosecutors. The project supported the development of the South African National Plan of Action.

### Outline of activities

The activities focus on providing training for the South African Police Services, the South African National Defense Force, the correctional services and other Government departments. The project has supported training in legislative drafting, international human rights standards and treaty reporting to representatives of a cross-section of Government ministries and departments as well as commissioners of the South African Human Rights Commission. Under the project, funding is provided to the UNESCO Oliver Tambo Chair of Human Rights at the University of Fort Hare for a human rights

trainer and the development of a human rights documentation centre. The project supports one resource person each at the South African Human Rights Commission, Justice College and the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights.

Activities for 2000 will focus on:

- supporting the Department of Justice to ensure effective implementation and monitoring of the National Plan of Action for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights;
- providing ongoing support to Justice College to provide training and assistance for magistrates and public prosecutors, especially in constitutional law and international human rights;
- providing ongoing support to the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights to build capacity for land reform;
- supporting the Department of Land Affairs to build capacity to deal with evictions and security of tenure;
- providing a grant to the UNESCO Oliver Tambo Chair of Human Rights at Fort Hare University for a Human Rights Documentation Centre and a Human Rights Training Officer and institute; and
- supporting the office of inspecting judge and independent prison visitors.

The project is due to terminate in 2000, but because of its staggered commencement, it is planned to be extended to 2001 so its goals can be achieved and an evaluation undertaken.

### Beneficiaries

The immediate beneficiaries are the South African Human Rights Commission, students and researchers at the Human Rights Centre at University of Fort Hare, the Commission on the Restitution of Land Rights, Justice College and the various Government departments.

### Structure of OHCHR's presence

The project supports a national project officer at the South African Human Rights Commission, a project officer at the Justice College, and the Commission on Restitution of Land Rights. It also makes a direct grant to the Oliver Tambo Chair of Human Rights at the University of Fort Hare. The individual project officers are responsible for the implementation of the project within their delegated institutes, but the national project

manager coordinates the whole project while implementing the components concerning the South African Human Rights Commission.

## Budget in US\$

Project management team and ancillary costs	289,700
Support to Fort Hare University (Documentation Centre)	83,000
Training courses	64,000
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>436,700</b>
13 % Programme support cost	56,770
<b>Total</b>	<b>493,470</b>
Less balance from 1999	246,800
<b>Total requirements</b>	<b>246,670</b>

## Uganda

### Background

The Ugandan Constitution, adopted in 1995, has been widely praised for its incorporation of the full range of human rights prescribed by the major international human rights instruments. These rights are to be protected by several basic institutions and structures, including an independent Human Rights Commission.

### Objectives and strategy

This project aims to support efforts to establish mechanisms for the protection and promotion of human rights in Uganda. This will be done by developing the capacities of the Ugandan Human Rights Commission and other collaborating institutions.

### Activities in 2000

OHCHR's part of the project provides funds for the employment of an Institutional Development Advisor (IDA ) and for OHCHR and Commission travel. The IDA will undertake, in close cooperation with Commission members, the following activities during 2000:

- develop the complaints, correspondence and financial computerized management systems;
- organize training in human rights and functional skills (i.e., mediation, participatory training methodology, etc.);
- organize study tours for Commission staff to support functional training;
- facilitate review of the operations of the Documentation Centre by an international expert, procure necessary documents, provide training to the librarian, etc.;
- recruit a media expert to help develop a media strategy and train relevant staff;
- recruit an international expert for training in treaty monitoring and reporting and provide training;
- review the complaints-handling system and develop training and procedures;
- meet with stakeholders and NGOs to get their views on the Commission planning process;
- attend the international meeting of national institutions in April in Marrakech, Morocco; and
- organize at least two visits by OHCHR staff to the Commission in Uganda.

### Beneficiaries

The Uganda Human Rights Commission, whose coordinating role will have been strengthened, will be the primary beneficiary of the project. The Uganda Human Rights Commission, and all other agencies which will be advised in the implementation of their work, will also benefit, as will society, in general.

### Coordination

The project includes the establishment of a number of support structures, detailed below, which will help the management of the Commission develop and implement strategies and programmes.

The National Execution Unit (NEX), in the Ministry of Planning and Economic Development, executes the project in close collaboration with all project partners. If NEX requires support in implementing certain components, the UNDP country office and/or OHCHR and/or the Commission will provide such support.

A Project Steering Committee (PSC) guides and reviews the project three times a year. It addresses the issues of project funding, project implementation, and its own monitoring and advisory plan. Working closely with the Uganda Human Rights Commission, the PSC provides cost-sharing partners with information about the activities and progress of the project.



The project is implemented by a Project Support Team (PST), integrated into the Commission, which works closely with the management and staff of the Commission. Senior members of the PST support the Commission management in making decisions on priorities and programme strategies. The PST includes:

- one project professional from the Human Rights Commission who acts as National Project Coordinator;
- one Institutional Development Adviser;
- one national administrative assistant who provides support services to the Institutional Development Adviser and the National Project Coordinator; and
- various national legal and technical consultants.

### Budget in US\$

(OHCHR's part of the budget)

Staff	225,000
Travel	25,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>250,000</b>
13% Programme support cost	32,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>282,500</b>
Less balance from 1999	148,617
<b>Total requirements</b>	<b>133,883</b>

## Other countries in Africa

OHCHR has ongoing discussions with a number of African countries, at their request, for technical cooperation activities in the priority areas identified in the regional strategy. Depending on the availability of resources during the year and on the capacity of OHCHR to implement additional activities, a number of technical cooperation projects may be carried out with UNDP under the Hurist (Human Rights Strengthening) project or by OHCHR directly.

# Latin America and the Caribbean

## *Regional Overview*

### Background and objectives

The Latin-America and Caribbean region has well-developed regional instruments and institutions (the Organization of American States, the Inter-American Convention on Human Rights, the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court of Human Rights, etc.). OHCHR has cooperated with regional institutions in several activities: In Central America, OHCHR worked on projects with the Inter-American Institute for Human Rights (IIDH) and the Latin American Crime Prevention Institute, ILANUD. In the Caribbean countries, OHCHR offered training in reporting to treaty bodies for English-speaking Caribbean countries. In the Andean region, OHCHR has been engaged in several activities in cooperation with the Andean Commission of Jurists, with which it has recently signed an MoU.

The Technical Cooperation Programme provides assistance to individual countries upon their request. In 1998, approximately one-third of the OHCHR budget for technical cooperation covered projects in the LAC region. There are on-going projects in Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Guatemala, Haiti, Nicaragua, Panama and Peru. OHCHR has a field presence in Colombia, El Salvador, and Guatemala. The Office has received new requests for technical assistance from Mexico, Uruguay, and Chile. It is hoped that such requests will lead to concrete activities in the future.

OHCHR activities in the region are conducted in close cooperation with UNDP and other United Nations agencies.

The long-term objectives of the Regional Strategy for Latin America and the Caribbean are to:

- contribute to the development and strengthening of national and regional human rights capacities through the exchange of expertise and experiences among countries in the region;
- facilitate the development and implementation of national human rights action plans; and
- promote ratification of and accession to international

and regional human rights instruments, and ensure their application at the national level.

### Regional initiatives

In cooperation with the Government of Ecuador, OHCHR organized a regional workshop in Quito in early December 1999. The objective of the workshop was to review lessons learned and best practices concerning: national plans of action for human rights and the strengthening of national human rights capacities; national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights; national plans of action on human rights education; strategies for the realization of the right to development and economic, social and cultural rights; and the promotion of children and women's rights as well as those of vulnerable groups. The workshop launched a regional framework for technical cooperation in human rights for the Latin American and the Caribbean region and identified next steps for regional/sub-regional and national action.

### Structure of the regional approach

The main activities of the LAC Regional Strategy, which will be carried out over a one-year period, cover the following five main themes:

#### **National Human Rights Plans of Action**

OHCHR will provide technical assistance to requesting governments for the development, implementation and periodic evaluation of national plans of action for human rights.

#### **Human rights education**

OHCHR will provide technical assistance in the development of national capacities for human rights education.

#### **National institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights**

OHCHR activities for national institutions in the LAC region will include:

- advising Member States, in consultation with the civil society and at their request, on drafting domestic legislation (constitutional law and secondary legislation) to establish new and/or strengthen established national institutions in accordance with international human rights norms and standards;
- continuing to provide assistance to established national institutions.

### Strategies for the realization of the Right to Development and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

Activities will include convening regional and/or sub-regional workshops with governments, and/or national workshops at the request of Member States, with national economic planning authorities and with the participation of regional and international development and financial institutions and development-cooperation experts. Participants will identify obstacles to the realization of these rights in the region, and propose actions to strengthen national capacities for the promotion and realization of these rights and develop strategies to overcome obstacles.

### Promotion of the rights of women, children and vulnerable groups

Activities will include regional and/or sub-regional workshops with governments, and/or national workshops at the request of Member States, with national institutions, judges, lawyers and NGOs and with the participation of international organizations and experts. Participants will propose actions to strengthen national capacities for the promotion and realization of those rights and develop strategies to overcome obstacles.

### Budget in US\$

National human rights plans of action	130,000
Human rights education plan	120,000
National institutions	160,000
Strategies for the realization of the right to development and economic, social and cultural rights	150,000
Promotion of the rights of women, children and vulnerable groups	140,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>700,000</b>
13% Programme support costs	91,000
<b>Total</b>	<b>791,000</b>

## Sub-regional project with the Andean Commission of Jurists

*“Strengthening of the Rule of Law and Promotion of Human Rights in the Andean Region”*

This two-year project, expected to begin in early 2000, will cover the countries of the Andean sub-region: Chile, Peru, Bolivia, Ecuador, Colombia and Venezuela. The main components of this new project are:

- **administration of justice:** to strengthen the capacity of the region's judicial systems to protect human rights (by systematizing constitutional jurisprudence, training judges in judicial procedures, implementing a system to evaluate the work of the judiciary, etc.);
- **national institutions:** to strengthen and promote national institutions in the region, particularly the office of the Ombudsman; and
- **civil society:** to promote the institutional and professional capacities of civil organizations whose work focuses on the promotion and defense of human rights.

The project will include: organizing human rights seminars and publishing research on the Administration of Justice and Ombudsman in the Andean region, which will make recommendations to governments on this matter. The Judicial Information Network (RIJ - the subject of an earlier joint project between OHCHR and the ACJ) will be one of the main tools for the implementation of this project. The project will be co-executed with the ACJ. The activities proposed in this project will also be coordinated with national projects of OHCHR in Colombia, Bolivia and Ecuador. The total estimated budget for this two-year project is US\$ 1,000,000. Requirements for 2000 are US\$ 310,750.

### Budget in US\$

Administration of justice: seminars, courses and consultants	125,000
Ombudsman: seminars and courses	60,000
Civil society: seminars and courses	90,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>275,000</b>
13% Programme support cost	35,750
<b>Total</b>	<b>310,750</b>

## Country projects

### Bolivia

#### Background

Bolivia is consolidating its democratization process, which started in 1992. Areas requiring urgent action in the field of human rights were those identified by a needs-assessment mission conducted by OHCHR in 1995. Project activities began in January 1999, and are aimed at strengthening the Ministry of Justice and Human Rights by training public officers on human rights matters and by compiling human rights publications for the Supreme Court. Work has focused on indigenous people, women and children. This project is co-financed by OHCHR and UNDP Bolivia. Various Government institutions have been given responsibility to address the needs of indigenous people, women and children. In addition, new institutions with human rights responsibilities have been created, such as the Ombudsperson's office and Judicatura.

#### Objectives

The Government has created a Vice-Ministry for Human Rights within the Ministry of Justice, thus raising the human-rights profile at the Ministry and, consequently, creating a focal point for actions to promote and protect human rights. The immediate objectives of the project are to:

- strengthen the Ministry of Justice, the Vice-Ministry for Human Rights and other national institutions which contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights; and
- establish mechanisms for consultations between the Government and civil society.

These objectives will be achieved by providing expert advice on establishing a documentation centre and a training centre, and by conducting a series of workshops.

#### Budget in US\$

Strengthening the capacity of the Ministry of Justice: consultant, documentation and training centre	30,000
Support to the implementation of the rights of indigenous people, women and children: national experts responsible for workshops	142,800
Fellowships	105,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>277,800</b>
13% Programme support costs	36,114
<b>Total</b>	<b>313,914</b>
Less balance from 1999	100,000
<b>Total requirements</b>	<b>213,914</b>

### Colombia

OHCHR's office in Colombia carries out both technical cooperation and monitoring activities. These are described under "Human rights support for peace-making, peacekeeping and peace-building activities" on page 83.

Total requirements for OHCHR's activities amount to US\$ 3,670,805. The budget for technical cooperation activities is presented below:

#### Budget in US\$

Human Rights assistance to:	
the Office of the Vice-President	202,000
the Ombudsman	261,500
the Attorney General	206,200
Human rights training in municipalities	158,000
Support for the National University, Faculty of Law	140,000
Assistance to the Office of the Public Prosecutor	150,000
Institutional strengthening of NGOs	120,000
Education of magistrates in application of human rights law	73,200
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1,310,900</b>
13% Programme support cost	170,417
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,481,317</b>

### Ecuador

#### Background

At the request of the Government of Ecuador, OHCHR undertook a needs-assessment mission (November 1998) and a project-formulation mission (August 1999) to identify priorities and formulate a technical cooperation project in support of the National Human Rights Plan of Action. The joint OHCHR-UNDP project will provide technical cooperation for the implementation of the Human Rights National Plan of Action, which has been elaborated by the Government with the participation of the civil society, the National Congress, the Judicial Power, academic institutions and NGOs. The Plan has established priority objectives and aims to coordinate activities for the promotion and protection of human rights.

## Objectives

The OHCHR-UNDP project will provide assistance in the following areas:

- **Support for the coordination and evaluation mechanism of the Plan:** assistance in the elaboration of sectoral strategies in thematic priority areas established by the Plan, the definition of a mechanism for “debt swap” for human rights and the preparation of assistance projects to be funded by donor agencies.
- **Support for the State’s compliance with its obligations and legal development:** establish a high-level, inter-ministerial committee to follow-up the State’s obligations in human rights and strengthen a Technical Inter-institutional Committee responsible for preparing periodic reports to the treaty-monitoring bodies.
- **Strengthening the *Defensoria del Pueblo*:** review of investigatory procedures and the handling of complaints; training of staff; and support for the establishment of a research, documentation and information centre. The OHCHR-UNDP project will prepare manuals and facilitate the production of human rights documentation for dissemination at the local level. Staff of the *Defensorias* will be eligible to participate in study tours to effectively functioning institutions.
- **Human rights education and training:** support for the implementation of the education and training sectoral plan, including training for the police, prison officials, judges, lawyers, prosecutors, the media, NGOs and teachers at the basic and secondary level. The project will also revise the curricula used by the police, prison officials and judges. Specific training materials will be developed and a training-of-trainers approach will be encouraged.

## Cooperation and coordination

UNDP Ecuador, UNESCO, UNV and UNHCR have confirmed their interest in sharing costs for the project. Other agencies, such as UNICEF, UNIFEM and UNFPA have helped prepare the Plan and will be supporting additional activities within their mandates, including in such areas as education, training, legal development and human rights documentation.

## Implementing arrangements

The project will be jointly implemented by OHCHR and UNDP, in cooperation with other partners. A Project Steering Committee will be established to oversee the project. This Committee will be coordinated by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and will be composed of the main beneficiaries and partners to the project. The Committee is expected to meet every six months to review the calendar of activities/work plan, monitor project activities and suggest amendments as necessary. The project will be headed by one full-time National Technical Director who will manage and coordinate all the activities of the project, one full-time Education and Training Advisor and three full-time national or international human rights experts/UNVs who will be assigned to three different *Defensorias* at the provincial level. The training activities and advice to the National Congress and the *Defensoria* will be provided with the support of several short-term national and/or international consultants.

## Monitoring, reporting and final evaluation

OHCHR will conduct review missions to the country (missions will be combined with other group/training/consultation activities). The National Technical Director will provide OHCHR and UNDP with monthly, quarterly, semi-annual and annual consolidated reports of activities and accounts. A mid-term evaluation will be conducted at the end of the first year if implementation of project activities is hampered by delays or obstacles. An external evaluation will be conducted at the end of the project.

## Budget in US\$

The budget presents OHCHR's requirements. Other agencies will contribute US\$ 284,000.

Coordination of the Plan: consultations at the provincial level, dissemination of the sectoral plans and human rights campaign	40,300
Reporting obligations/legal development: drafting legislation, seminars, training activities and publications	66,000
<i>Defensoria</i> : training of staff, seminars, printing human rights documentation and computer equipment	82,500
Other: two education conferences, a training course for Government officials on the administration of justice	135,000
Project management	26,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>349,800</b>
1.3% Programme support cost	45,474

**Total** **395,274**

## El Salvador

### Background

At the end of the mandate of ONUSAL, a United Nations Interim Mission for El Salvador (MINUSAL) was established to supervise the implementation of the Peace Accords, particularly the human rights agreement. The Technical Cooperation Project of OHCHR complemented the United Nations's efforts to strengthen the national capacities in the field of human rights. During 1998-1999, OHCHR implemented the first phase of its Technical Cooperation Programme.

### Objectives

The second phase of the two-year project (2000-2001), focuses on assisting the Government in elaborating a National Human Rights Plan of Action and ensuring sustainable capacities for the implementation of this Plan. The main objectives are to:

- promote knowledge, application and dissemination of international human rights standards by members of state institutions, including the Ombudsperson's Office, the Salvadorian Institute for the Advancement of Women, and civil society;
- help strengthen the system of formal education in human rights while ensuring the integration of a gender perspective; and
- assist the Parliament in integrating human rights into domestic legislation.

These objectives will be achieved by providing human rights training to representatives of the beneficiary institutions, producing human rights publications, offering direct technical assistance in integrating human rights into the domestic legal system, and helping prepare reports to treaty bodies.

### Strategy

The project will be integrated within the overall strategy of the UN Country Team (the Country Team has already agreed to design its human rights objectives for El Salvador using OHCHR technical cooperation as its main reference). To ensure effective implementation, OHCHR will work closely with beneficiary institutions. A National Steering Committee will be responsible for following-up the implementation. Project activities will draw on existing capacities in the various institutions which have benefited from technical assistance offered under the first phase of

the project, as well as new institutions. The mid-term evaluation on the first phase of the project stressed that the Office had helped make human rights an acceptable subject for discussion and created a sense of increased responsibility, among the beneficiary public institutions, for the promotion and protection of human rights.

### Budget in US\$

Project management: staff, office, training, evaluation	380,000
Public information campaigns and the integration of human rights in school curricula	27,000
Training through workshops and 15-20 fellowships	240,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>647,000</b>
13% Programme support cost	84,110
<b>Total</b>	<b>731,110</b>
Less balance from 1999	100,000
<b>Total requirements</b>	<b>631,110</b>

## Guatemala

### Background

The ongoing OHCHR Technical Cooperation Project for Guatemala is part of the United Nations effort to consolidate the Peace Process and, in particular, the 1994 general human rights agreement signed by the Government and the "Union Revolucionaria Nacional de Guatemala" (National Revolutionary Union of Guatemala - URNG).

### Objectives

The needs-assessment and monitoring missions carried out between 1996 and 1999 confirmed that there was a need to disseminate knowledge of international human rights norms, particularly among representatives of civil society and NGOs, but also among the State institutions responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights. The objective of the project is to strengthen the human rights culture by promoting knowledge of international human rights instruments. Project activities



consist of training the beneficiaries, providing fellowships for representatives of these institutions, and providing human rights publications and documentation to support the training.

The immediate objectives are to:

- strengthen the Office of the Ombudsperson by strengthening its capacity to handle complaints of human rights violations against citizens, in general, and against indigenous peoples, in particular, and by helping create a “Defensoria Indígena” (Ombudsperson for indigenous people);
- enhance the human rights training capacity of the Academy of the National Civilian Police and the Office of the Ombudsperson; and
- mainstream human rights into the work of the UN Country Team.

### Strategy

The project focuses on promoting the rights of women, children and indigenous peoples. Technical assistance will be provided to the Government for the elaboration of a National Plan of Action, a framework for the protection of these rights. Assistance will also be provided to strengthen the capacity of the State institutions responsible for the promotion and protection of human rights. The Office in Guatemala has joined the UN Country Team to maximize the project’s impact.

### Budget in US\$

Project management	180,000
National Plan of Action: international and national consultants	90,000
Fellowships, seminars and grants	85,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>355,000</b>
13% Programme support cost	46,150
<b>Total</b>	<b>401,150</b>

## Nicaragua

### Background

In response to a request from the Government in April 1998, a needs-assessment mission was fielded to Nicaragua in October 1998. The project, which has been developed as the result of this mission, will foster cooperation between the Nicaraguan National Police and the communities in which the Police operate. Often, the participation of the community in police efforts has helped prevent crime; it also serves to monitor respect for human rights in police activities. The project would help establish permanent mechanisms for the community to work with the police. In implementing the project, OHCHR will work with several UN agencies (UNDP, ILANUD) and a regional organization (the Inter-American Institute of Human Rights).

### Objectives

The objective of the two-year project is to assist the country’s National Police in developing a strategy for community work.

The main activities will be:

- developing procedures and forms through which complaints may be presented and designing crime-prevention strategies at the community level; and
- training police officers in human rights.

Training workshops for police officers will be organized, community-police human rights programmes will be developed and related materials will be published.

### Budget in US\$

Programme management: staff, consultants, equipment, travel	206,400
Training courses for police	77,600
Development of institutional plans: community-police human rights programme, human rights campaign and analysis and assistance to detained persons, especially women and children	22,000
Institution of complaint system: publication of a manual on complaints, police-community strategy, training material and programme for detained women and children	10,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>316,000</b>
13% Programme support cost	41,080
<b>Total</b>	<b>357,080</b>

# Europe and Central Asia

## *Regional overview*

### Background

OHCHR attaches great importance to the development of regional strategies for the promotion and protection of human rights in Europe and Central Asia. In the sub-regions of the Baltic states, Eastern Europe and Central Asia, OHCHR in cooperation with partner institutions, such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe, will build upon progress made in recent years in the transition toward more democratic societies; in Southeastern Europe, where conflict has occurred in some countries in recent years, OHCHR's strategy will emphasize the promotion of tolerance, equal rights without regard for nationality or ethnic background, gender equity and democratic participation.

The fundamental changes under way throughout much of the region have had a major impact on respect for human rights. While it is difficult to generalize, there have been improvements in the human rights situations in some countries, including greater freedom of movement, broader participation in elections, the development of active human rights organizations, increased support for human rights institutions, and more dynamic civil societies, including the press and NGOs. However, the level of understanding and implementation of human rights principles remains, in some instances, low and inter-ethnic conflict persists in some areas. There has also been deterioration in respect for some economic and social rights.

### Objectives and strategies

Throughout the region and sub-regions, OHCHR's objective will be the realization of rights in practical terms by:

- strengthening national human rights capacities, including support to newly established human rights institutions;
- developing human rights education programmes to increase awareness and promote a culture of rights;

- protecting vulnerable groups, in particular trafficking in women; and
- supporting human rights activities of partner organizations (e.g., training civilian police, human rights monitors, etc.).

This programme will involve cooperation with UN country teams – in particular UNDP, UNICEF, and UNHCR – at the national level to mainstream human rights activities within the UNDAF and in connection with joint UN programming efforts. On the basis of the Memorandum of Understanding between UNDP and OHCHR, greater attention will be given to integrating human rights activities into specific country programmes in the region as well as into UNDP's regional programme on governance. Emphasis will also be placed on developing more effective cooperation, complementarity and synergies with regional organizations and institutions, in particular the Council of Europe and the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), including the Office of Democratic Institution and Human Rights (ODIHR). In the sub-region of Southeastern Europe, OHCHR will build upon initiatives to strengthen civil society, such as a joint OHCHR/Council of Europe/International Helsinki Federation regional conference of NGOs. OHCHR will also contribute to activities of the Stability Pact Gender Task Force set up under the leadership of the OSCE.

OHCHR has an office in Abkhazia, Georgia, staffed in cooperation with the OSCE, as well as country offices in Croatia, Bosnia-Herzegovina, and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia. Ongoing and planned capacity- and infrastructure-building projects have been designed, in cooperation with the government involved, for Armenia, Azerbaijan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, and other countries in the region. On a sub-regional level in Central Asia, OHCHR has been active in the design of national institutions, and this activity will continue in cooperation with the OSCE and the Council of Europe.

## Country projects

### Albania

#### Background

The immediate objectives of the project are to support Albanian authorities in their reporting requirements under human rights treaties and to enable those authorities to establish an ongoing reporting mechanism and build the capacity to report regularly.

#### Activities in 2000

A workshop on reporting will be convened to provide training on the reporting requirements of UN human rights treaty bodies and discuss reporting procedures used in other countries in the region. An analysis of existing information for human rights reporting and an assessment of available means and capacities within ministries and public institutions will be carried out.

#### Beneficiaries

Direct beneficiaries are government authorities responsible for human rights reporting.

#### Budget in US\$

Preparatory assistance project on building sustainable capacity for human rights Treaty Reporting (technical assistance to the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, national workshop on human rights treaty reporting)	99,000
13 % Programme support cost	12,870

<b>Total</b>	<b>111,870</b>
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### Azerbaijan

#### Background

The Technical Cooperation Project for Azerbaijan, "Strengthening Capacities and Infrastructures for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights" (AZE/95/AH/12), was signed by the Government and OHCHR in July 1998 and will be implemented until the end of 2000.

#### Objectives

The objective of the project is to assist the Government in:

- drafting a National Plan of Action in the field of human rights,
- preparing the legal framework for the establishment of an independent national human rights institution, and
- raising human rights awareness among state officials and civil society, in particular, regarding international human rights standards and mechanisms.

#### Activities in 2000

- Five-day training-of-trainers course on teaching United Nations human rights standards, procedures, and reporting obligations of treaty- and charter-based systems for 30 educators;
- Workshop on plans of action for national human rights institutions;
- Four-day training course on human rights standards and procedures for 30 representatives of NGOs;
- Four-day training course on human rights standards and procedures for 30 representatives of the mass media;
- Assistance to the parliament in establishing a national human rights institution (an international consultant will work with the Parliament for one week);
- Evaluation of the project.

#### Beneficiaries

The primary beneficiaries of the project will be Government officials, NGOs, the legal profession, educators in higher education, and the mass media.

#### Implementing arrangements

OHCHR's Government counterpart in the implementation of the project is the Ministry of Justice. A National Project Coordinator was appointed in January 1999 to coordinate implementation of project activities with OHCHR.

#### Budget in US\$

Project management	16,600
Training courses and workshops	66,000
Support to national institutions (international consultant to assist the Parliament in drafting law)	6,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>88,600</b>
13 % Programme support cost	11,518
<b>Total</b>	<b>100,118</b>
Less balance from 1999	100,000

<b>Total requirements</b>	<b>118</b>
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## Bosnia and Herzegovina

OHCHR's office in Bosnia and Herzegovina carries out both technical cooperation and monitoring activities. These are described under "Human Rights support for peace-making, peacekeeping and peace-building activities" on page 87.

The budget for technical cooperation activities is presented below. Total requirements for OHCHR's activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina amount to US\$ 1,096,212.

### Budget in US\$

National and international staff, seminars, police training, Government and NGO training in reporting obligations	212,389
13% Programme support cost	27,611
<b>Total</b>	<b>240,000</b>

## Croatia

OHCHR's office in Croatia carries out both technical cooperation and monitoring activities. These are described under "Human Rights support for peace-making, peacekeeping and peace-building activities" on page 88.

The budget in US\$ for technical cooperation activities is presented below. Total requirements for OHCHR's activities in Croatia amount to US\$ 1,334,845.

### Budget in US\$

National and international staff, operating costs, travel, seminars, training courses, support to national institutions, Ombudsman's Office	258,050
13 % Programme support cost	33,546
<b>Total</b>	<b>291,596</b>

## The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

### Human Rights Education in Primary and Secondary Schools, Phase I

#### Background

In recent years, a number of programmes have been introduced to improve the learning environment. Several of these projects are intended to introduce students to concepts of multi-culturalism, living and working together in an inter-ethnic environment, civic responsibility, peace, justice and democracy. Courses in human rights are not yet available in public schools. However, ongoing reforms provide an opportunity to mainstream human rights throughout curricula. This issue was discussed with the Government, non-governmental and international organizations active in the country during an OHCHR needs-assessment mission in September 1999. The present project is a result of this mission and should be implemented by OHCHR's office established in FYROM five years ago.

#### Project overview

A phased approach is planned to integrate human rights education within the formal school system through a sequence of technical cooperation projects covering Dialogue on Human Rights and Education; Curricula Review and Revision; Materials Development and Piloting; and Training. The present project document covers Phase I and aims to incorporate teaching on human rights standards into primary and secondary school curricula. This objective will be achieved by establishing a National Strategy Group on Human Rights Education in Schools, convening two workshops for high-level officials, decision-makers and specialists in the education sector, and developing a plan to introduce human rights education in schools.

#### Coordination

The project includes provisions for continuous involvement of other educational projects including EU/Phare, Catholic Relief Services, UNICEF and UNDP. The project personnel will be under the general administrative supervision of the UN Resident Coordinator.



## Budget in US\$

Human Rights Education in Schools, Phase I (Technical assistance to the Ministry of Education, national workshops and consultations on human rights education)	111,000
13 % Programme support cost	14,430

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<b>Total</b>	<b>125,430</b>
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## Georgia

### Background

The following projects are ongoing in Georgia:

- The Project “Strengthening Capacities and Infrastructures for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights” was signed by the High Commissioner on 8 October 1997. The project is principally based on the findings of a needs-assessment mission which was conducted from 7 – 13 January 1995, in response to a request from the Government.
- Following UN Security Council resolution 1077 of 22 October 1996 recommending technical cooperation activities for Abkhazia, Georgia, the UN Human Rights Office in Abkhazia, Georgia (HROAG) was established on 10 December 1996. On 29 April 1997, an MOU was signed between OHCHR and OSCE providing for the deployment of one member of the OSCE Mission to Georgia, to HROAG. The field presence is a component of the peacekeeping operation (UNOMIG) and is administered through DPKO.
- The Project “Capacity Development of the Public Defender’s Office in Georgia” was signed by the High Commissioner on 22 March 1999. It is a Sub-Project of a larger UNDP Project, which was developed with the advice of OHCHR. UNDP requested a more formal assistance role and it was agreed that OHCHR would be a permanent member of the Project Steering Committee, involved in policy direction and decisions concerning the international assistance being provided to the Public Defender’s Office. Cooperation between UNDP and OHCHR is governed by the Annex to the MOU between UNDP and OHCHR of 4 March 1997 (the annex was signed on 4 March 1998).

## Objectives

The projects aim to strengthen capacities and infrastructures to promote and protect human rights and democracy under the rule of law by:

- providing access to UN human rights information for the Government and civil society;
- building the capacity for human rights promotion and protection in the Government, higher education, the legal community, NGOs and the mass media; and
- providing expertise for the Public Defender’s Office (PDO) of Georgia.

The objectives will be achieved principally by training trainers in these three areas and supporting further training by trained nationals, and by participating in the Project Steering Committee meetings of the PDO project. Teaching materials will be developed, refined, tested and published locally. Human rights reference materials will be distributed. Additional expertise will be provided for the PDO as necessary.

One project is being implemented through the NGO, “The Georgian Young Lawyers Association” (GYLA), for the eastern part of Georgia, operating out of Tbilisi. In the western part of Georgia, Abkhazia, the project is implemented through HROAG.

The same activities will be organized in both parts of Georgia, while the topics of training seminars, literature supplied and materials translated will be tailored to the needs of the specific population.

“Capacity Development of the Public Defender’s Office in Georgia” is a sub-project of a much larger UNDP project focusing on the development of the national human rights institution. Expertise and advice available from OHCHR on national institutions will be systematically incorporated into the larger project. OHCHR will provide strategic advice on policy matters, substantive human rights issues and resourcing requirements to the Project Steering Committee. Additional expertise will be provided as necessary.

### Activities in 2000

- conducting two five-day training courses on the administration of justice (first quarter of the year);
- conducting two five-day training courses on human rights for NGOs and the mass media (second quarter);
- offering a follow-up training course on UN human rights in higher education (last quarter);
- convening four meetings of the Project Steering Committee of the UNDP PDO Project;

- providing training for the PDO, as necessary;
- developing a constitutional rights television programme;
- signing a contract with the local implementing partner in Tbilisi;
- signing a contract with a local legal assistant for HROAG; and
- offering related activities (translating and publishing materials, purchasing books, offering scholarships).

### Budget in US\$

Public information	23,050
Training courses: (administration of justice, NGOs and media, follow-up training courses in higher education)	158,772
Implementing partner in Georgia	22,500
Implementing partner in Abkhazia	5,000
Support to national institutions (Public Defender's Office)	27,000
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>236,822</b>
13 % Programme support cost	30,787
<b>Total</b>	<b>267,609</b>
Less balance from 1999	2 0,000
<b>Total requirements</b>	<b>247,609</b>

## Kyrgyzstan

### Background

Further to several requests for assistance from the Kyrgyz authorities, a joint OHCHR-UNDP-OSCE project-formulation mission took place in March 1999. During this mission, the authorities declared their intention to establish an independent national institution to promote and protect human rights in 2000. In September 1999, OHCHR and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) jointly conducted a workshop in the capital, Bishkek, on national institutions. This workshop led to consultations on the development of legislation to establish a new institution and the Government set up a working group to explore this issue. During autumn 1999, extensive workshops and

consultations were held to determine what kind of independent national human rights institution would best suit the country. Based on the outcome of these consultations, OHCHR is developing the present project on technical cooperation.

### Objectives and strategy

OHCHR will assist the Government in establishing the new, independent national human rights institution, in accordance with the Paris Principles. The project to develop such an institution will be undertaken through a series of training and capacity-building activities using the expertise of OHCHR and external experts. Efforts will be aimed at developing the institution's complaints-management system, monitoring abilities and administrative management and increasing public awareness of the institution.

### Implementing arrangements

The project will be implemented in close collaboration with other organizations, such as ODIHR/OSCE, and with the Government.

### Budget in US\$

Support to national institutions (training courses, expertise, equipment)	80,000
Publications	5,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>85,000</b>
13 % Programme support costs	11,050
<b>Total</b>	<b>96,050</b>

## Moldova

### Background

Moldova became independent in 1991. Three years later, the country adopted a Constitution that provides for a multi-party representative Government, with power divided among a president, cabinet, Parliament, and judiciary. The Constitution also provides a legal framework for the protection of human rights. Its institutional structure, however, needs to be strengthened. The Moldovan Human Rights Centre was established, by law, in October 1997 as an independent national institu-



tion to protect and promote the human rights of persons living in Moldova, in accordance with the Moldovan Constitution and international human rights treaty obligations. The Centre will strengthen human rights awareness by informing the public of its rights, investigating complaints of possible human rights violations committed by public or private sectors, and providing advice and assistance in establishing or changing policies or legislation. The Centre did not, however, become operational until 1998, when the three Parliamentary Advocates were appointed and permanent premises were secured.

A joint UNDP/OHCHR project was signed in December 1997 to develop the Centre's technical and substantive capacity. OHCHR contributed US\$147,000 to the cost-shared initiative, which had a total budget of US\$772,751 (UNDP and bilateral donors contributed the remainder of funds). The project will facilitate the effective implementation of the Moldovan Human Rights Centre. Activities are aimed at developing the Centre's technical and substantive capacity and strengthening linkages between the Centre and those persons involved in promoting and protecting human rights in Moldova.

### Outline of activities

The project will run until the end of 2000 and include the following activities:

- missions of international consultants on human rights institutions programme design and implementation (for a total of 3 months); and
- mission of an international expert on conciliation to help develop a comprehensive complaints-handling and action-cycle plan, including procedures to receive, review and investigate complaints and procedures for decision-making, action, follow-up and filing of complaints (for a total of 2 months).

### Coordination

This is a joint UNDP/OHCHR project. A designated Steering Committee, composed of representatives from UNDP Moldova, OHCHR, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Parliamentary Permanent Committee on Human Rights and National Minorities and the National Project Coordinator, will be responsible for regularly monitoring the implementation of the project.

### Budget in US\$

International consultants	70,000
Special Advisor	15,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>85,000</b>
1.3% Programme support cost	11,050
<b>Total</b>	<b>96,050</b>

## Russian Federation

### Background

A project of technical cooperation was signed by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Russian Foreign Ministry in June 1999. The project focuses primarily on human rights education. The project will be administered in Russia by a national NGO, which will be responsible for overseeing implementation of activities in the seven regional focal point institutions. The Russian NGO has been selected and approved in consultation with the Russian Foreign Ministry. The NGO, the "Fulcrum Foundation", is experienced in carrying out nationwide capacity-building projects in the area of human rights. It has been successfully implementing a project for the Ford Foundation in Russia for human rights organizations, including activities in human rights education. The Fulcrum Foundation has signed a contract with OHCHR to work on the project in Russia.

### Objectives and strategy

Because of Russia's size and the size of its population, a project on human rights education must be aimed at a national audience, but be implemented regionally. The project has been designed to identify capable national partners and build on this work. Bridges between educators, NGOs, Government agencies and others will be established and strengthened by developing a human rights education network, which will be the basis for implementing the project. The project will also try to engage a wide range of people in its activities to promote future cooperation and achieve sustainability for human rights education after the project is completed. The three-year project will provide support to capacity and resource development in the area of education for human rights, democracy and rule of law. An expert meeting in early 2000 will launch a project to establish

and develop a national network of human rights educators. This network, then, will assume responsibility for the primary activities of the project.

The main aim of the project is to develop the capacity of grade school teachers in the area of human rights education. Nationwide involvement of teachers, students and education professors in this area will be supported through regional and national student competitions, training of trainers, internships and dissemination of information through television and teachers' newspapers. Core human rights publications will be provided to libraries in higher education, the judicial, legislative and executive branches of Government and to national and regional NGOs. Training fellowships in human rights standards will be offered; and a national training workshop on the UN human rights treaty system, targeted to human rights NGOs and the Government, will also be offered (as requested by the Government). The project will ensure on-site expertise by providing international and national consultants in training activities and publication development. Capacity development of national trainers will also be supported.

### Activities in 2000

OHCHR will provide:

- three training courses for pedagogical professors and graduate students from across Russia;
- six training fellowships, for representatives of the Government, NGOs and the educational system;
- fifteen fellowships for training and internships for teachers and education professors;
- one nationwide poster competition for students;
- five regional human rights essay competitions for students;
- monthly articles in teachers' newspapers, providing teaching materials and information about competitions and activities of the project;
- publication of teaching materials;
- production of a nationwide television show for students, with corresponding teaching materials and video copies of the programme for future use;
- human rights resource materials in the form of "mini-libraries" to the Government educational institutions and NGOs;
- one training course for NGOs on treaty reporting;
- development of an Electronic Information Resource Centre for human rights education materials; and
- translation and publication of one international human rights law textbook.

### Beneficiaries

Teachers, students, and education professors will be the main target groups; the recipients and users of the human rights "mini-libraries" (including members of the executive, legislative and judicial branches of the Government, members of selected human rights NGOs, law faculties, pedagogical institutes and bar associations) will also benefit from this project. Indirect beneficiaries will include anyone who gains greater knowledge about international human rights standards, procedures, teaching methodology, and related institutional development.

### Coordination and structure

Cooperation and coordination with Government and non-governmental agencies will be carried out through regular meetings of a Project Advisory Committee, made up of representatives of the regional centres of the network and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Education and OHCHR. An Executive Committee, composed of representatives of the Government and OHCHR, will meet regularly to review the implementation of the project. A national NGO will administer the project across Russia. Public information messages concerning the project will be published monthly by the two main teachers' newspapers.

### Budget in US\$

Project implementation and monitoring (administration of project by national NGO, national project manager, human rights education consultants, regional project monitoring trips, project equipment, project office, Project Advisory Committee meetings)	117,640
Public information (national childrens' poster competitions, publications and TV broadcasts, mini-libraries of human rights resource materials for Government and NGOs, monthly publication in two nationwide teachers' newspapers)	220,471
Training (courses for teachers, trainers and graduate students; internships, foreign scholarships for Government officials, NGOs and educators; regional student	

essay and speaking competitions; equipment for regional educators' network; meetings and communications)	487,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>825,111</b>
13 % Programme support cost	107,264
<b>Total</b>	<b>932,375</b>

## Ukraine

### Background

The Parliament of Ukraine appointed the first Ombudsman in April 1998. However, the resources, both human and material, of the Office of the Ombudsman need to be strengthened. The Ombudsman has a core staff of some thirty individuals, most of whom require professional training and development. The present Ombudsman has been active in proposing amendments to some 70 pieces of legislation. In addition, some 22,000 complaints have been received and processed with the basic case-management system in place. At the request of the Ukrainian authorities, a project-formulation mission took place in October 1999, which identified areas for OHCHR assistance. The project is expected to begin in March 2000 and would run through March 2002.

### Outline of activities

OHCHR aims to help expand the capacity of the Ombudsman's Office to deliver human rights services to the public by strengthening its investigation and monitoring abilities, office and administrative management, and by increasing public awareness of the Ombudsman. These objectives will be realized through a series of training and capacity-building initiatives, using the expertise of OHCHR and external experts. Consideration will also be given to assisting the Ombudsman, along with the Government of Ukraine, in developing a National Human Rights Action Plan.

### Impact

The expected impact of the project will be increased effectiveness in the Ombudsman's operation; greater public awareness of the role and responsibilities of the Office; and an improved ability to investigate and monitor respect for human rights in Ukraine.

### Coordination

The project will be executed in coordination with other international organizations (OSCE, UNDP, IOM, Council of Europe) and may include joint projects.

### Structure of OHCHR's presence

The project will be executed from OHCHR Headquarters in Geneva, in collaboration with the United Nations Resident Coordinator in Ukraine, using in-house OHCHR experts as well as external consultants, as needed.

### Lessons learned

Previous experience in developing national human rights institutions demonstrates that where the promotion and protection of human rights has not been systemic, technical assistance must be long-term and well-coordinated, with clear sustainability in mind.

### Budget in US\$

The Funds requested for 2000 are US\$ 125,000 of an overall budget of US\$ 200,000. The budget will be further elaborated after negotiations are completed with the country counterpart. An initial budget is provided as follows:

Support to national institutions (Ombudsman's Office: training, capacity-building initiatives, equipment)	109,000
13% Programme support cost	14,170
<b>Total</b>	<b>123,170</b>

## Other countries

Following needs-assessment missions projects may commence during 2000 in other countries.

# A

## asia and the Pacific

### *Regional overview*

#### Overall approach

Two objectives guide OHCHR's regional activities:

- strengthening national human rights capacities by exchanging expertise, experience and best practices among countries facing similar problems and having comparable experience ; and
- advancing the dialogue on appropriate regional and sub-regional arrangements.

For several years, OHCHR has helped organize annual regional human rights workshops in the Asia-Pacific region. Representatives of governments participating in these workshops discussed the possibilities of enhanced regional cooperation in various aspects of human rights works. Since the 1998 workshop in Teheran, cooperation has advanced significantly. In accordance with the agreements reached at this meeting, the structure of regional cooperation facilitated by OHCHR reflects four basic areas: development of national plans of action for human rights, human rights education, creating and/or strengthening national human rights institutions, the implementation of economic, social and cultural rights, and the right to development. The purpose of this cooperation is to achieve region-wide progress at the national level in the aforementioned areas by exchanging information and experience, working together on educational and analytical projects, promoting good practices and involving wider circles of government officials and civil society in human rights work.

Field presences have been established in Cambodia (OHCHR also supports the Special Representative of the Secretary-General on the human rights situation in Cambodia), Mongolia, Indonesia and Gaza, all within the framework of the OHCHR technical cooperation programme. In some other countries (e.g., Bhutan, Nepal, the Philippines, and Thailand), technical cooperation programmes have been implemented. Activities range from

human rights education to capacity building (especially of national institutions) and training of administrators of justice and law enforcement agencies.

During the last two years, OHCHR has worked more closely with UNDP and other UN agencies and programmes, thus broadening the available capacities of the United Nations to promote human rights and assist Governments, at their request. Cooperation with partner organizations helps ensure sustainability of OHCHR's goal: to strengthen national human rights capacities.

#### Structure of the regional approach

OHCHR's efforts focus on the implementation of decisions adopted in Teheran in 1998 and developed in New Delhi in 1999 within the Framework for Regional Technical Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific region. The Eighth Asia-Pacific Workshop, to be organized in the first week of March (as per Commission on Human Rights resolution 1999/69), will review progress since the New Delhi workshop and attempt to identify future plans.

This series of annual workshops organized by OHCHR, in cooperation with Governments, provides a central human rights forum in the region. Inter-sessional workshops, organized between the annual workshops, address specific thematic issues of importance to the region/sub-regions and design common policies and programmes.

To ensure appropriate coordination of assistance offered, the High Commissioner for Human Rights appointed a former Indian Chief Justice and current member of the Human Rights Committee, Mr. Justice Bhagwati, as Regional Adviser for the Asia-Pacific region. OHCHR will continue to support his activities during 2000. OHCHR is also promoting different layers of professional partnerships, e.g., between national institutions, parliamentary human rights bodies, bar associations, and NGOs. The Regional Advisor will play an important role in this context.

The regional approach complements several national-

level technical cooperation envisioned for 2000. These projects will be developed in cooperation with relevant UN agencies and bodies (primarily UNDP, UNICEF, UNHCR, etc.).

## Substantive areas of regional cooperation

### National plans of action for the promotion and protection of human rights and the strengthening of national capacities

In July 1999, an Asia-Pacific Workshop on Human Rights National Action Plans was organized in Bangkok. One of the themes of this meeting was the perception of the national action plan as a joint effort involving various government agencies and civil society. The ownership resulting from participating in designing and adopting the plan is directly connected to the responsibility for its implementation. Therefore, emphasis is placed not only on the goals and objectives of the plans but on the process of elaborating and adopting national human rights plans. As a follow-up to this meeting, OHCHR will continue to provide technical cooperation to assist Governments and civil societies in their cooperative efforts. OHCHR will also convene national workshops to prepare/launch/finalize/review national action plans, as appropriate.

### Human rights education

Following the programme adopted at the annual regional workshop in New Delhi, a regional workshop on human rights education was organized in Tokyo in early 1999. Representatives of governments, national institutions and NGOs discussed strategies, methodologies and tools required.

OHCHR, in cooperation with United Nations partners, is willing to provide technical cooperation in national programmes of human rights education, including those addressing specific professional groups and society circles. The Office will also support national institutions specialized in this area.

### Strategies for the Realization of the Right to Development and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

OHCHR will be holding a regional workshop in Yemen (Sana'a) in early 2000, with national economic planning

authorities and with the participation of international development and financial institutions as well as development cooperation experts. This workshop will identify obstacles to the realization of those rights in the Asia-Pacific region and propose relevant action to strengthen national capacities for the promotion and realization of those rights.

### Sub-regional consultations among the various sectors of civil society and professional alliances

Involvement of civil society is critical for protecting human rights and creating a human rights culture. There is great potential for regional cooperation among NGOs and the broader civil society. In this context, OHCHR is planning to organize a sub-regional workshop of South-East Asian NGOs, in May 2000; and a meeting of judges and lawyers from the South Asian sub-region in June 2000 (venue to be determined).

## Budget in US\$

Assistance for the development of national plans of action and the strengthening of national capacities	75,000
Asia-Pacific workshop on human rights education	75,000
Asia-Pacific Workshop on the Realization of the Right to Development and Economic, Social and Cultural Rights	175,000
Eight workshops on regional cooperation	152,000
Sub-regional workshops of various sectors of civil society and professional alliances	80,000
Activities of the Regional Adviser on international human rights standards	38,340
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>595,340</b>
13 % Programme support costs	77,395
<b>Total</b>	<b>672,735</b>

## Country projects

### Afghanistan

#### Background

Since 1997, Afghanistan has been the subject of an inter-agency common programming exercise which includes Principled Common Programming and the elaboration of a Strategic Framework for Afghanistan, a novel approach for countries in crisis. The crisis in Afghanistan is characterized by an unrelenting cycle of intense seasonal fighting during the ongoing war, now in its twentieth year, frequent natural disasters, the erosion of social and economic structures and the absence of a functioning government structure. At the beginning of 1999, OHCHR fielded a Human Rights Adviser for Afghanistan, who is based in Pakistan, works out of the Office of the UN Coordinator for Afghanistan, and is charged with rights-based programming. A Human Rights Thematic Group, of which the adviser is a member, was set up by the Afghanistan Country Team to discuss and identify the needs to be addressed.

#### Objectives and strategy

The project aims to analyze the human rights situation in Afghanistan and identify priorities, target groups and the means of providing assistance; improve knowledge of human rights and conduct training programmes; strengthen the capacity of aid workers and agencies to protect human rights; promote human rights education; develop a dialogue with the authorities and affected communities; develop programming tools for rights-based programming; and protect human rights, especially of civilians in armed conflict.

#### Activities

Technical cooperation activities will include promoting human rights and developing capacity through human rights education, workshops, seminars, training courses, advocacy and outreach activities. The human rights situation will be monitored, analyzed and reported. OHCHR will also support the Special Rapporteur and other CHR mechanisms. OHCHR's field presence will be evaluated.

#### Implementing arrangements

The project will be implemented through the UN Country Team, in conjunction with the Human Rights Adviser, where applicable.

#### Budget in US\$

The budget for monitoring activities is presented under "Human Rights support for peace-making, peacekeeping and peace-building activities" on page 91. These activities require US\$ 56,500. The total budget for Afghanistan amounts to US\$ 174,020.

Technical cooperation: (human rights promotion, capacity development)	104,000
13% Programme support cost	13,520
<b>Total</b>	<b>117,520</b>

### Bhutan

#### Background

A Technical Cooperation Project was signed by OHCHR and the Royal Government of Bhutan in 1996. Activities carried out during 1998-1999 included:

- strengthening the judiciary by providing specialized training courses and fellowships for judges and new law graduates at the High Court and district courts and for *Jabmis* (legal representatives) and police officers; and
- enhancing the Government's capacity to comply with reporting obligations under the human rights treaties.

#### Objectives

The Project aims to strengthen the system for the administration of justice, bolster the nation's capacity to report within the framework of international human rights instruments and train Government officials in international human rights norms and obligations.

#### Activities in 1999 and 2000

Activities already completed include: convening a seminar for High Court judges and offering training courses for paralegals and for police; providing fellowships for Government officials to study treaty reporting at the Torino International Training Centre; and providing documentation on treaty reporting. Two fellowships have been granted to judges, providing an opportunity for the judges to study in a foreign institution. The fellowships

will be used in late 1999. Another two fellowships will be offered to police and prison officials in 2000. Documentation on human rights issues will be given to the High Court library by early 2000. At the end of the project, an evaluation mission will be fielded to assess the effectiveness of the activities.

### Implementing arrangements

The Project is implemented by OHCHR in coordination with the Government of Bhutan's national project coordinator and with UNDP.

### Budget in US\$

Two fellowships, documentation for the High Court library	39,600
Evaluation mission	15,200
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>54,800</b>
13 % Programme support cost	7,124
<b>Total</b>	<b>61,924</b>
Less balance from 1999	61,924
<hr/> <b>Total requirements</b>	<b>0</b>

## Cambodia

### Background

Article 17 of the 1991 Paris Peace Agreements, which brought an end to the conflict in Cambodia, called for a continuing UN role in human rights monitoring and led to the establishment of the human rights component of UNTAC. At the end of UNTAC's mandate, the UN Human Rights Commission authorized a continued UN human rights field presence, through a 1993 resolution requesting the Secretary-General to appoint a Special Representative with the following mandate:

- maintain contact with the Government and people of Cambodia;
- guide and coordinate the UN human rights presence in Cambodia; and
- assist the Government in promoting and protecting human rights.

On behalf of the Secretary-General, the SRSGHRC reports each year to the UN General Assembly and to the Commission on Human Rights. These reports, which are based on information gathered by the Cambodia Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, assist the Government by providing an overview of all aspects of the human rights situation in Cambodia, including economic, social and cultural issues as well as civil and political rights. They note positive developments as well as those issues requiring special attention, including specific cases of human rights violations. They draw the attention of the international community to the continuing need for support in areas such as the reform of the administration of justice and other institutional reforms. The reports also emphasize the need for international assistance in support of the rights to health and education, and in defense of the rights of women, children and ethnic minorities.

In 1993, the Human Rights Commission also established a general framework for activities to be carried out by the UN field presence. The Cambodia Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (then known as the UN Centre for Human Rights) was established in Phnom Penh in October 1993. The Commission's resolution outlined activities for the Office, including:

- implementing educational and technical assistance;
- providing assistance to the Government of Cambodia in meeting its obligations under the human rights instruments recently acceded to;
- supporting bona fide human rights groups in Cambodia;
- helping create and/or strengthen national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights;
- providing assistance in drafting and implementing legislation to promote and protect human rights; and
- training persons responsible for the administration of justice.

Subsequent resolutions of the Commission further clarified the mandate and responsibilities of the Special Representative and affirmed the Office's protection role. In 1996, the resolution asked the Secretary-General, "through his Special Representative for human rights in Cambodia, in collaboration with the Centre for Human Rights, to assist the Government of Cambodia in ensuring the protection of the human rights of all people in Cambodia." This request to the Secretary-General has remained unchanged in all subsequent resolutions.

## Current situation and activities

OHCHR Cambodia continues to pursue the activities along the lines of the 1993 resolution. The Office, composed of over 60 people, including 22 international staff (seven of whom are UN Volunteers), consists of:

**The Director's Office** which is responsible for managing the Office, fulfilling reporting and other obligations to OHCHR Geneva, coordinating support to the SRSGHRC, participating in the UN system, and maintaining external and donor relations.

**The Monitoring and Protection Unit** which is responsible for all aspects of the Office's monitoring, investigation and protection activities. The Head of the Unit also serves as the Special Assistant to the SRSGHRC.

**The Legal Assistance Unit** which comments on draft legislation with human rights implications, follows the implementation of legislation, monitors the prison system and follows human rights cases through the courts. The Unit also assists judges through the Judicial Mentor Programme, which places trained lawyers in a number of provincial courts (six, at this time) to advise and train judges, court staff and the judicial police.

**The Education, Training and Information Unit** which carries out an extensive programme of training in human rights for the police, the gendarmerie, the armed forces, teachers, monks, trade unionists, women and minorities. Each year, the Unit also distributes about 100,000 copies of basic human rights documents in the Khmer language, and is responsible for the Office's programme of support to local NGOs, especially human rights organizations. The Unit is preparing three thematic projects (access to justice, poverty and women's rights) to be implemented in conjunction with local NGOs. The Unit also supports the Inter-ministerial Committee, which is responsible for reporting on the human rights treaties to which Cambodia is a party.

The Office is supported by the Administrative Unit, which provides personnel, administrative, finance, transport and logistics services to the Office.

The six offices of the Provincial Office Network serve as outposts of the Phnom Penh office, monitoring human rights violations and prison conditions, supporting training programmes and liaising with local human rights and other NGOs.

A report on the Office's activities is submitted each year to the Commission on Human Rights, and the annual resolutions of the Commission and the General Assembly call on the Secretary-General to ensure adequate resources for the continued functioning of the Office. Financial support for the Office is provided through the regular budget of the United Nations and a Trust Fund supported by the Governments of Japan, Sweden, the Netherlands, Denmark, Australia and Norway.

## Prospects for continuing cooperation

In early 1999, the Office had informal discussions with its partners about the need to seek an extension of its current mandate, due to expire early in 2000. There was strong support for a further extension, and general agreement that, despite some significant improvements in the human rights situation, some serious problems remained. Of particular concern are a range of issues regularly reported on by the SRSGHRC: impunity and the need of vulnerable groups to be protected against human rights violations; the need to professionalize the police and the armed forces and normalize their role in society; support for efforts to reform the administration of justice, strengthen the legal framework, and uphold the independence of the judiciary; freedom of operations for the non-governmental community and the promotion of civil society's involvement in the public policy debate; the need to translate the right to health and the right to education into reality for all the people of Cambodia, especially children, youth and indigenous minorities.

Based on these discussions, the Office identified seven main areas for the next two years of its work in Cambodia:

- Identification of additional assistance needed to combat impunity;
- Assistance to the Government in monitoring the human rights situation and in providing protection;
- Promotion of greater integration of the human rights dimension into health, education and other development programmes, though cooperation with development partners;
- Provision of further training to the police, gendarmerie and armed forces in support of the Government's restructuring and reform programmes;
- Support for the reform of the administration of justice and reform of the police, both directly through the

Judicial Mentor Programme and indirectly through advocacy for technical and financial support from other donors;

- Strengthening of the legislative process by assisting in the drafting of legislation and encouraging dialogue with civil society to promote informed debate on public policy matters with human rights implications, especially in economic, social and cultural rights; and
- Provision of advice and assistance to the Government and its civil society partners on the establishment of an independent national human rights institution, and the creation of a national plan of action on human rights.

This outline was presented to the Government in August 1999.

### Activities from 2000 to 2002

During the next phase of its operation with the Government, the Office, while maintaining its concern for civil and political rights, will increasingly turn its attention to economic, social and cultural rights.

The objectives are to endorse and promote the Government's commitment to establishing the rule of law and universal respect for human rights, and to promote democratic practices at all levels. Strategically, the Office will continue to combine its monitoring and reporting activities with the provision of technical assistance. The Cambodia Office is a full partner within the UN system, and will strengthen its collaboration with other UN agencies to help achieve the SG's objective. This process has already begun with the preparation of the Cambodia United Nations Development Assistance Framework, in which the Cambodia Office is fully involved.

### Impact

While the impact of the Office's activities remains difficult to measure, experience shows that the six-year programme of work which the Office has already carried out has contributed to a greater awareness of the importance of human rights issues in many levels of society. The Office is seen as a neutral forum in which different elements of society can exchange views, and as a catalyst of discussion among different parties. The Office's legal assistance and education and training activities have a reputation for quality, and demand for those activities exceeds the capacity to respond. The human rights NGO community values the Office's access to the Government, which helps ensure that NGO messages

are heard and that their present and potential roles are understood. The international community appreciates the reliability of the information collected, analyzed and disseminated by the Office, and the Office's readiness to raise sensitive issues with the Government while respecting the country's sovereignty. The Government, has recognized the usefulness of the Office's work.

### Contributions

Contributions to activities in Cambodia should be given to the "Trust Fund for a Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia".

### Budget in US\$

Support to Protection Unit	150,000
ETI training programme	250,000
Support to judicial reform and training	75,000
Support to police reform	50,000
Provincial Network Programme	350,000
Judicial Mentor Programme	200,000
Grants to national institutions and NGOs	143,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1,218,000</b>
13% Programme support cost	158,340
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,376,340</b>

## Indonesia

### Background

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed by OHCHR and the Government of Indonesia on 13 August 1999.

### Objectives and strategy

The primary objective of the programme is to support Indonesia in developing national capacities to ensure the sustainable promotion and protection of human rights. OHCHR's role is to facilitate the work of existing human rights actors and mechanisms and raise human rights awareness among the wider circles of Indonesian society. OHCHR encourages the involvement of local partners, including institutions, organizations and experts, in implementing the programme.

## Activities

OHCHR's technical cooperation activities in 2000 will primarily support the implementation of the Government's National Plan of Action on Human Rights and include:

- assistance to the National Commission on Human Rights (KomnasHAM), as a primary national protection mechanism. Cooperation will continue to be offered in KomnasHAM's general work. Assistance will take the form of grants and international expertise;
- training, education, and outreach activities to promote human rights throughout the country. These activities will involve a wide range of persons (Government officials, members of the military and the police, representatives of NGOs and the media);
- training of members of the judiciary in international human rights principles and procedures;
- assistance, upon request, in revising domestic law to bring it into full compliance with international human rights standards. Special emphasis will be placed on gender equality;
- preparation of a directory of human rights actors and a compendium of human rights activities in Indonesia; and
- a series of discussions held throughout the country.

## Beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries of the proposed programme will be the military, police, KomnasHAM, the judiciary and legislators. A broad range of NGOs, professional bodies and civil servants will also benefit from OHCHR's outreach and sensitization efforts.

## Implementing arrangements

OHCHR will cooperate with other UN agencies and programmes in the implementation of this programme and support their activities in human rights-related areas.

## Budget in US\$

Support to the National Commission on Human Rights (KomnasHAM)	30,000
Promotion team	60,000
Military (TNI) and police (POLRI) training	20,000

National Legislation Programme	20,000
Directory of Indonesian human rights actors and compendium of human rights activities in Indonesia	10,000
Wayang (shadow puppets) theatre	12,000
Series of public fora	30,000
Training of the judiciary	20,000
Cooperation with UN programmes in Indonesia	40,000
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>242,000</b>
13% Programme support cost	31,460
<b>Total</b>	<b>273,460</b>
Less balance from 1999	150,000
<b>Total requirements</b>	<b>123,460</b>

## Mongolia

### Background

Since May 1998, the Office in Mongolia has developed a human rights course for the Law School of the National University by establishing a Law School Advisory Board (LSAB) formed under the aegis of the OHCHR Office and composed of locally available international and national experts. The Office has produced a two-volume, 700-page human rights textbook and is advising the Government on revising prison legislation in accordance with international standards. A Memorandum of Understanding on Human Rights was signed by the Government and the UN Country Team on 10 December 1998. The Government is elaborating a national human rights action plan for Mongolia according to the guidelines produced in the July 1999 Asia-Pacific workshop in Bangkok.

### Main outline of activities

The Office's main objective is to enhance Mongolia's capacity to integrate constitutional and international human rights standards into national practice and to assist both the Government and civil society in developing a solid understanding of human rights guarantees and responsibilities.



## Beneficiaries

The population of Mongolia will ultimately benefit from an increased awareness of human rights, a functioning human rights commission, better protection for prisoners, prison legislation that conforms to international standards and a national plan of action for human rights.

## Objectives and strategy

The Office will remain involved in established UN country theme groups to avoid duplicating efforts (including through its leadership of the UN Theme Group on Human Rights), and participating in other relevant UN projects, such as Human Rights Strengthening (HURIST). A HURIST mission to Mongolia was undertaken from 12 to 27 October 1999 and recommended that the OHCHR Office in Mongolia serves as the project support office and coordinates contributions from the UN Country Team on HURIST.

## Impact

In addition to the above, the Office will help the Government develop a national plan of action for human rights and assist the UN country system in mainstreaming human rights into the activities of the UN system by, *inter alia*, leading the UN Theme Group on Human Rights.

## Budget in US\$

International experts	9,000
National support staff	15,000
Subcontracts	20,000
Equipment	10,000
Training	10,000
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>64,000</b>
13% Programme support cost	8,320
<b>Total</b>	<b>72,320</b>
Less balance from 1999	50,000
<b>Total requirements</b>	<b>22,320</b>

## Nepal

### Background

A Technical Cooperation Project was signed by OHCHR and the Government of Nepal in 1996. The priorities of the project include assistance in:

- developing a human rights culture within the police through training courses, human rights standing orders and a training curriculum for the National Police Academy;
- strengthening the capacity of the Government to comply with reporting obligations under the human rights treaties;
- enhancing the capacity of NGOs to promote and protect human rights, in particular through training courses and financial grants;
- sensitizing all relevant actors on the relationship between human rights and development policies, including the status of the human rights of women (especially in the context of violence against women, property rights and trafficking), thereby promoting the adoption of common strategies and cooperative approaches from a human rights perspective;
- establishing a national human rights commission; and
- launching a National Human Rights Action Plan.

### Achievements in 1999

The following activities have been completed:

- Administration of justice: offering training courses for police; drafting and publishing human rights standing orders to all police personnel; providing fellowships for prison officials in a foreign institution; convening a workshop on criminal procedure.
- Treaty accession and reporting obligations: providing fellowships for Government officials on treaty reporting at the Torino Training Centre and in Addis Ababa.
- Development and human rights: convening a workshop on development policies and human rights.
- NGOs: offering training course for NGOs.
- Human rights of women: convening a workshop on women and human rights and workshop on criminal procedure, both with particular focus on trafficking.

- National human rights commission: providing advice from the Special Advisor on National Institutions.

## Activities in 2000

While most of the Project's activities have been completed, the following activities are ongoing or planned:

- selecting and issuing grants for NGOs projects;
- completing a consultancy mission to help plan a human rights training curriculum for the National Police Academy;
- assisting in the establishment of the national human rights commission; and
- fielding an evaluation mission to assess the results of the Project.

## Beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries of the Project are the police, prison administrators, the judiciary, parliamentarians, Government officials participating in training programmes, workshops and/or receiving fellowships and advice, and NGOs. United Nations agencies in Nepal have become involved in promoting human rights through cooperative activities with OHCHR, such as the workshops on development and on women. The ultimate beneficiaries will be the population of Nepal, especially women.

## Coordination

The project is implemented by OHCHR in coordination with the Nepalese Government's national project coordinator, UNDP (also under HURIST – a programme for the strengthening of human rights – run by UNDP and OHCHR) and the United Nations Human Rights Theme Group in Nepal.

## Budget in US\$

National capacity building:

police human rights training curriculum, assistance in establishing the national human rights commission	17,600
Programme management (evaluation)	15,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>32,000</b>
13% Programme support cost	4,160
<b>Total</b>	<b>36,160</b>
Less balance from 1999	36,160
<b>Total requirements</b>	<b>0</b>

# Occupied Palestinian Territory

## Background

OHCHR's activities in the area designated as Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) are an integral part of a broad international effort aimed at developing the social and economic infrastructure of the OPT by strengthening Palestinian institutional capacities in various sectors. The OHCHR programme, which began in late 1996 and is due to be completed at the end of 2000, responds to the need for institution building in the area of the rule of law, and fits within a wider UN initiative under the umbrella of the United Nations Special Coordinator in the Occupied Territories (UNSCO).

The programme is implemented in a complex institutional setting. Since the Palestinian legal system was borne of a variety of influences, harmonization of legislation is required to ensure adequate protection of human rights. Strategic planning is necessary for judicial administration, housing, and other economic and social areas. The emerging Government institutions, ministries, the police and prison authorities and the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC) need adequate resources and training in human rights. The Territory's strong civil society should be encouraged to play an active role in both monitoring and assistance activities and should be supported as essential to establishing the rule of law.

## Objectives and strategy

Institution-building activities incorporate law, policy and institutions. They include assistance in:

- establishing a legal framework consistent with human rights standards, by providing support to and advice on the development and drafting of legislation;
- developing an official human rights policy, by supporting the elaboration of a National Plan of Action on Human Rights; and
- strengthening national structures with a crucial role in protecting and promoting human rights, focusing especially on the administration of justice (through advisory services and training for police, prisons officials, judges, prosecutors and lawyers), the Palestinian Independent Commission for Citizens' Rights (PICCR), and local NGOs.



## Activities in 2000

### Establishing a legal framework

Assistance in:

- Supporting Palestinian institutions and NGOs in law reform research and providing technical consultation on three legislative subjects;
- Providing technical and financial assistance to PICCR for the establishment of a legal library;
- Offering advisory services and training to Ministry of Justice staff on drafting legislation;
- Providing fellowships and documentation for members of the Human Rights Committee of the Palestinian Legislative Council (PLC); and
- Providing training on human rights and legal drafting techniques for staff of the PLC.

### Developing a human rights policy

- Assistance providing technical assistance in developing a national plan of action on human rights, through expert advice, consultancies to prepare strategy papers on the six NPA sectors, consultative workshops, documentation and publication of the plan.

### Strengthening national structures

- **Police** Providing training in human rights for police commanders; Offering advisory services for developing police standing orders and codes of conduct; Providing training in juvenile justice for police; and Offering fellowships for police trainers.
- **Judiciary** Training judges and prosecutors; and Providing documentation and training for members of the Bar Association.
- **Prison system** Providing advisory services for the development of prison regulations; and Offering training and fellowships for prison guards and administrators.
- **PICCR** Strengthening the PICCR's outreach capacity by maintaining field workers in the Gaza Strip and the West Bank and launching educational activities.
- **NGOs** Providing technical and financial assistance to a West Bank NGO to establish a women's rights unit; and

Providing training and documentation for various NGOs.

## Beneficiaries

Direct beneficiaries of the programme include Palestinian Authority officials, police, members of the judiciary, prosecutors, lawyers, prison officials, members and staff of the PLC, PICCR, and various human rights NGOs. Indirect beneficiaries include: the population of the OPT, through improved police services and an improved legal framework; victims of human rights violations, through the services of the PICCR and the NGOs supported by the OHCHR programme; and women's groups and individuals, through the legal-aid and public-awareness activities implemented by NGOs supported by the OHCHR programme.

## Impact

OHCHR-supported legal research activities have helped stimulate a broad public debate on the crucial issue of developing new human rights legislation, thus ensuring expert contributions to the law reform process and facilitating much-needed links between civil society and the Palestinian Authority in this area. The OHCHR's assistance to PICCR has contributed to institutionalizing the PICCR's role in the OPT, as demonstrated by the increased willingness of the OPT population to seek out PICCR services and the increased recognition of its role by the Palestinian Authority. A core group of law enforcement officials, well-versed in human rights standards relevant to their profession and committed to human rights principles, is ensuring ongoing human rights training within their respective branches.

## Coordination

The OHCHR programme relies to a large extent on existing national human rights expertise and institutions to implement programme activities. Civil society and non-governmental groups, as well as Palestinian Authority ministries, agencies and departments, contribute to the programme. A number of programme activities are specifically designed to bring together various national actors involved in, for example, law reform, or formulation of strategies in national development sectors. Various forms of coordination have also been established with other UN agencies and bilateral donors. Such coordination is facilitated by the special structure set up under UNSCO. This structure provides for a number of sectoral working groups (on issues such as the rule of law and police) that gather representatives of the United Nations, donors and the Palestinian Authority to review

the assistance provided in each area, facilitate coordination, and avoid duplication of activities.

### Structure of OHCHR's presence

The OHCHR's Office is based in Gaza, with a sub-office in the West Bank. Its staff is composed of two international and one national professionals, two national support staff, and one UNV. The office works under the coordination of UNSCO, and is administratively backstopped by UNDP/PAPP in Jerusalem.

### Budget in US\$

Establishment of legal framework (technical and financial assistance, advisory services, fellowships, documentation and training to the PLC, NGOs, PICCR and Ministry of Justice)	315,922
Development of human rights policy (National Plan of Action)	215,422
Strengthening of national structures (training courses, advisory services, fellowships, documentation, technical and financial assistance for the police, judiciary, prison system, PICCR, NGOs)	376,520
Programme monitoring and evaluation	54,600
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>962,464</b>
13 % Programme support cost	125,120
<b>Total</b>	<b>1,087,584</b>

## The Philippines

### Background

In 1995, the Philippines submitted its initial report to the Committee on the Rights of the Child. The Committee noted the Government's firm commitment to promote and protect the rights of the child and welcomed the efforts made by the Government in bringing domestic legislation in line with the Convention. The Committee also noted several areas where further efforts were needed, including a comprehensive reform of the juvenile justice system, and

encouraged the Government to seek assistance from OHCHR and the UN's Centre for International Crime Prevention (CICP). Following a request from the Government in 1996 and a subsequent needs-assessment mission, a technical cooperation project was developed by OHCHR and approved by the Government.

### Project overview

The project will provide assistance for:

- making national legislation on juvenile justice conform fully with the Convention on the Rights of the Child, the Minimum Standards for the Administration of Juvenile Justice, the Rules for the Protection of Juveniles Deprived of their Liberty, the Guidelines for the Prevention of Juvenile Delinquency and other relevant international standards;
- elaborating internal procedures, i.e., guidelines, orders for police, standing orders, etc., for professionals dealing with children in conflict with the law, such as judges, public defenders, prosecutors, police, social workers and correctional officials;
- training public officials to promote respect for the best interests of children who come into conflict with the law, including by elaborating specialized materials for training-of-trainers courses; and
- raising public awareness concerning the rights of children in conflict with the law.

### Beneficiaries

The ultimate beneficiaries of this project are children who come into conflict with the law. Direct beneficiaries are the five "pillars" of the juvenile justice system, including public attorneys, staff serving relevant committees of both chambers of the legislature and staff of the national human rights commission, representatives of NGOs and the media, those who use the internal operational guidelines and the selected audience that will be trained.

### Coordination

The project will be implemented as a follow-up to the recommendations of the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and to the Government's request for assistance. Once the project is signed by both OHCHR and UNICEF, it will become the basis for the agreement of cooperation to implement activities planned within this project



(which also fall under a broader project “Comprehensive System of Justice for Children”, included in the Fifth Master Plan of Operations agreed to by the Government and UNICEF and signed 29 September 1998).

### Budget in US\$

UNICEF will contribute US\$ 90,200 to this project. The budget below presents OHCHR’s part of the project.

Legal development of juvenile justice legislation	52,000
Guidelines and training including information campaign	75,500
Managerial activities	33,100
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>160,600</b>
13% Programme support cost	20,900
<b>Total</b>	<b>181,500</b>

## Yemen

### Background

In response to a request from the Government, OHCHR fielded a needs-assessment mission to Yemen in August 1998. The mission recommended that a permanent human rights officer be placed in Yemen to start activities in five areas: national human rights planning; administration of justice; women’s rights; children’s rights; and strengthening civil society. In May 1999, the Government of Yemen agreed with the recommendations contained in the Needs Assessment Report, including the opening of an OHCHR Office.

### Activities in 2000

#### National human rights planning

- assist the Government in finalizing a process for the development of a national plan of action to promote and protect human rights;
- help strengthen the capacity of the Supreme National Human Rights Committee and advise in the establishment of an independent national commission for the promotion and protection of human rights; and
- raise human rights awareness through the dissemination of UN human rights information among members of public institutions and civil society in cooperation with the Supreme National Committee for Human Rights.

#### Administration of justice

- assist the Government in reviewing all laws, regulations, procedures and standing orders related to the administration of justice, penalties, the police, prisons and courts, with the intent of ensuring their conformity with international human rights standards;
- provide human rights training to all personnel involved in the administration of justice; and
- provide substantive advice, and organize and participate in training programmes for police, security officials, judges, prosecutors, and prison staff. Training will be in human rights, in general, and in the Yemeni Codes of criminal law and procedures and the Constitution, in particular.

#### Women’s rights

- assist the Government and the Parliament in reviewing all laws and practices related to women’s rights, with particular emphasis on the expansion of the role of women in public life, protection from domestic violence, prevention of abuse and the establishment of shelter facilities;
- provide substantive advice, organize and participate in training programmes and workshops on human rights and gender-related issues;
- formulate, in cooperation with women’s organizations, a plan of action, with specific strategies to combat violence against women and ensure victims’ access to justice;
- provide sensitization and training in cases of violence against women for police and judges; and
- assist the Government in formulating strategies to increase women’s access to basic health care and education (85 per cent of Yemeni women are illiterate).

#### Children’s rights

- help the Government pursue its efforts to ensure full compatibility of its national law with the Convention on the Rights of the Child; and
- assist the Government in defining a policy and undertaking programmes for the rehabilitation of street children and juvenile offenders through preventive and curative means, for rehabilitating facilities for juveniles separate from those for adults, for creating separate detention centres for juveniles and for creating juvenile courts.

#### Strengthening civil society

- assist the Government, through the Ministry of Social Affairs and Ministry of Labour, and the Parliament, in

reviewing laws and policies regarding registration and licensing of associations, public meetings, and the activities of human rights groups, to further promote free assembly, association, expression, and movement, and encourage the vital activities of NGOs in human rights;

- advise and support the work of various national public institutions and NGOs involved in the promotion and protection of human rights; and
- organize workshops for NGOs to strengthen their reporting and training capacities.

### Budget in US\$

National human rights planning	50,000
Administration of justice	50,000
Women's rights	70,000
Children's rights	50,000
Strengthening civil society	50,000
<b>Sub-Total</b>	<b>270,000</b>
13 % Programme support cost	35,100
<b>Total</b>	<b>305,100</b>

## Other countries in Asia and the Pacific

In 1999, OHCHR undertook needs-assessment missions to China and Iran. Depending on the availability of funds, additional technical cooperation activities in the region may be considered during 2000.



# Human right support for peace-making, peacekeeping and peace-building activities

## Partnership activities

### Introduction

OHCHR operates a number of field presences which carry out various activities in support of peace-making, peacekeeping and peace-building.

In the past two years, OHCHR has been developing cooperative arrangements with the Department of Peacekeeping Operations and the Department of Political Affairs, aimed at maximizing the use of United Nations resources in the context of field presences. Based on such arrangements, human rights components of UN peacekeeping operations, while an integral part of the relevant peacekeeping or peace-building operation, funded and managed by DPKO or DPA, are substantively supported by OHCHR. Such support translates into methodological guidance, training, and expert advice in the various areas relevant to the activities of these presences. In addition, OHCHR is responsible for identifying human rights staff suitable for assignment to these operations. These joint presences report periodically to the High Commissioner on the human rights situation and on their activities. With regard to DPKO-managed operations, this arrangement was recently reflected in a Memorandum of Understanding signed by the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Under-Secretary-General for Peacekeeping Operations.

### Budget in US\$

Burundi	1,750,031
Democratic Republic of the Congo	393,240
Colombia	2,189,488
Bosnia and Herzegovina	856,212
Croatia	1,043,249
Federal Republic of Yugoslavia	3,230,896
Afghanistan	56,500

**Total** **9,519,616**

## Burundi

### Background

The High Commissioner and the Government signed a Memorandum of Understanding on 22 June 1995, setting in motion a three-year technical cooperation project. Five months later, a framework agreement was signed permitting the deployment of five observers from the human rights monitoring mission in May 1996. In February 1997, the High Commissioner launched a legal assistance programme through which six international lawyers participate in the sessions of the three Criminal Chambers every two or three months. OHCHR Burundi opened two sub-offices, in Ngozi and in Gitega, in June 1998. Two evaluation missions, one internal, one independent, were conducted in July 1998 and February 1999, respectively; an administrative audit was conducted in May 1999.

### Activities

OHCHR has identified national capacity building and the strengthening of the rule of law as its main contributions to Burundi's development. These activities, whose primary objective is to ensure respect for human rights, target both the institutional sector (justice, security, administration, education) and the non-institutional sector (civil society, the media, etc.). In this framework, OHCHR will carry out three main activities: human rights monitoring; human rights promotion, education and training; and assistance to the administration of justice.

### Human rights observation

**Outline:** The human rights situation will be monitored comprehensively and objectively, focusing on investigating human rights violations, monitoring detention,

observing the administration of justice, and monitoring the situation of internally displaced persons.

**Objectives and strategy:** Monitoring will include gathering information, investigating human rights violations, monitoring detention and the administration of justice, monitoring the situation of people forced to flee their homes, raising the findings with the Government, and reporting on the human rights situation.

Monitoring allows for the identification of human rights violations and abuses and of malfunctioning institutions. The observations serve as the basis for OHCHR's projects in promotion, education and training, and in providing assistance to the administration of justice, including the transfer of capacities in monitoring.

Monitors are deployed in Bujumbura (covering the western and southern provinces), Gitega (eastern provinces) and Ngozi (northern provinces). At the national level, staff compile and analyze reports from the field, refer the findings to the Government liaison unit and maintain relations with other UN agencies and the humanitarian community. Regular internal and public reports are produced.

**Impact:** The monitoring project will not only provide information about the human rights situation but also refer its findings to the competent local authorities and to the Government liaison unit mandated to follow-up on violations of human rights. Thus the project can help elicit positive responses from the authorities, such as official investigations into human rights violations or the liberation of detainees without charge. OHCHR, as a recognized neutral and objective international organization, has the credibility necessary to be accepted by all sides to conduct its monitoring activities even in situations where other organizations or institutions might be refused. In many cases, OHCHR has been the sole organization with access to certain detention or incident sites. Its very presence has a certain preventive effect. Many Burundians regularly contact the Office to report human rights violations and request intervention.

### **Human rights promotion, education and training**

**Outline:** OHCHR hopes to help build a human rights culture through education and by strengthening the role and capacity of national institutions, the civil society and the media in protecting and promoting human rights.

**Beneficiaries:** State institutions, educators, security forces, civil society, the media, internally displaced persons, women, children and the general public will benefit.

**Objectives and strategy:** The restoration of respect for human rights and the rule of law requires a general awareness of human rights and a functioning administration of justice. OHCHR will thus provide training to justice officials (police, magistrates, penitentiary staff) and promote human rights in institutions such as Government ministries (e.g., the Peace Process Ministry), the education system, the security forces and the National Assembly. It will also reinforce national human rights institutions such as the Human Rights Ministry and its Liaison Committee as well as the Centre for the Promotion of Human Rights and the Prevention of Genocide. The Office will support the development of an independent civil society capable of defending and promoting human rights. It will contribute to the development of an independent and free media, provide human rights education and build awareness of human rights issues among the general public. Human rights/social cohesion activities will be incorporated into reintegration programmes for internally displaced persons and returning refugees as part of this project.

### **Assistance to the administration of justice**

**Outline:** OHCHR seeks to strengthen the administration of justice and the rule of law through the implementation of respect for international human rights instruments, training justice officials and ensuring fair trials, thereby eradicating impunity.

**Beneficiaries:** Justice officials and persons arrested or in preventive detention and plaintiffs in the context of the post-1993 crisis, will benefit.

**Objectives and strategy:** Recovering from political crisis requires fair judgement in all criminal proceedings, but particularly those related to the events of October 1993 and the following crisis. Burundi's three appeal courts began hearing cases in February 1996, but thousands of cases related to the 1993 crisis are still pending (more than 7,000 people are awaiting trial in Burundi's prisons). In an attempt to render the trials more fair and the sentences more appropriate, OHCHR will not only monitor trials but also provide legal assis-

tance to defendants and plaintiffs by hiring international and national lawyers.

Fair judgement requires an adequate legal basis. Therefore, OHCHR will promote the implementation of and respect for international human rights instruments in Burundian domestic law. It will provide technical assistance to ensure compliance with international instruments and will promote and monitor respect for these standards.

Justice officials, such as magistrates, police and penitentiary officials, will also be trained in human rights and various technical skills. Material assistance will be provided as will support in the search for material assistance.

**Impact:** Assistance to the administration of justice has the most visible impact. It provides sought-after legal assistance to defendants and plaintiffs; and trials are obviously more fair, and hearings more substantial, than those that took place prior to the programme. Though there are still a high number of death penalties handed down, there are fewer than before the programme was put in place, and there are more acquittals. The programme has also fostered confidence and mutual acceptance between lawyers and defendants.

OHCHR helped reform several laws, including, most recently, the Penal Procedures Law, which will be effective from 1 January 2000 and which guarantees greater respect for human rights. By training justice officials, the Office has contributed to greater awareness of human rights issues, such as arrest procedures and the use of torture.

## Coordination

The UN system in Burundi has defined the promotion of human rights as its overall objective and the areas of peace and human rights as priority areas for intervention. The 1999 workplan of the UN team notes: "the design, monitoring and evaluation of all UN-supported activities in Burundi must have a strong and explicit human rights component. This is becoming increasingly important as opportunities for sustainable reinstallation and community development expand." In its Common Country Assessment, now being finalized, the UN system in Burundi commits itself to promoting human rights by:

- monitoring human rights violations throughout the country;
- strengthening state institutions, and civil society orga-

nizations, charged with the protection and promotion of human rights;

- supporting information and education efforts related to human rights;
- incorporating human rights/social cohesion activities into efforts to reintegrate internally and externally displaced persons; and
- providing technical and other assistance to ensure full implementation of international laws and conventions related to human rights, in particular those dealing with refugees, women and children.

Some of the activities conducted in the framework of human rights training and assistance to the administration of justice are already integrated in the UNDP-Government of Burundi Good Governance Programme. Promotional activities, in general, are primarily conducted in collaboration with other UN agencies working in the concerned areas.

Coordination with international NGOs takes place in the areas of monitoring and capacity building. NGOs are important sources of information about the human rights situation. OHCHR has regular contact with NGOs both through the humanitarian Contact Group, which meets weekly, and through individual relations. In addition, some NGOs carry out activities in support of national capacity building. OHCHR will engage their cooperation in drafting and executing projects to which they can offer expertise.

The relationship with the Government of Burundi is based on dialogue and collaboration, with an emphasis on involving authorities at all levels in the monitoring and protection processes, and insisting on Government responsibility in ensuring long-term improvements. All findings on human rights violations are reported to local authorities as well as to the central Government. In accordance with the Agreement between the United Nations and the Government of Burundi concerning the human rights observer mission, an inter-ministerial committee was set up in 1997 to ensure liaison with the Office. In weekly meetings with the Office, the committee reviews specific allegations and progress, or lack thereof, in key areas. If necessary, it also facilitates the Office's relations with local authorities. On several occasions, the Office and the Liaison Committee conducted joint missions, either to investigate violations or to visit detention sites.

Since the programmes of promotion, education and

training and of assistance to the administration of justice are conducted in close collaboration with the Government and state institutions, OHCHR will involve the Government in the conception and execution of its activities in these areas.

One of OHCHR's objectives is to support the development of a strong civil society through a participatory approach. Civil society organizations, particular human rights associations, can provide the Office with important information on violations through their grassroots presence. In some cases, intervention can be coordinated with these associations to increase pressure on the competent authorities. For example, OHCHR and local associations can simultaneously ask for official investigations of human rights violations or for the release of illegally detained persons. Also, specific promotional projects can be entrusted to local associations to encourage "learning by doing".

### Structure and impact of OHCHR's presence

OHCHR in Burundi is headed by the Director of the Office and is composed of three substantive units in accordance with the three projects outlined above: Observation, Promotion and Justice. Each unit is headed by an international human rights officer. All officers of the Observation unit are international, while the officers in the two other units include national staff. Security and administrative units support these units. Sub-offices are located in Gitega and in Ngozi, which cover the eastern and northern provinces, respectively. The western and southern provinces are covered by the Bujumbura office.

### Lessons learned

The political and human rights situation and the medium-term outlook do not allow for a decrease, let alone a withdrawal, of monitoring activities. With its emphasis on dialogue and involvement with the Government, OHCHR has been able to maintain its monitoring activities even in times of divergences with the Government.

### Budget in US\$

Due to budget revision this budget does not coincide with the Consolidated Appeal 2000 budget of US\$ 5,601,000.

Monitoring:	
national and international staff,	
operating costs, travel	1,548,700
13% Programme support cost	201,331
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1,750,031</b>
Technical cooperation:	
human rights promotion, education,	
training and assistance to the administration	
of justice	885,000
13% Programme support cost	115,050
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1,000,050</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>2,750,031</b>

# The Democratic Republic of the Congo

## Background

The Human Rights Office in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) was established in December 1996 after an agreement was signed in August of that year between the High Commissioner and the Government of the former Zaire. In March 1999, the Government of the DRC responded positively to the High Commissioner's proposal to amend the *Protocole d'Accord* so more human rights officers could be posted in country.

## Outline of activities

In keeping with its mandate and the recommendations of the Commission on Human Rights, the Human Rights Office in the DRC (HRFOC) will continue to monitor the general human rights situation in all regions of the country and will prepare regular reports for the High Commissioner for Human Rights and the Special Rapporteur. During 2000, the HRFOC will concentrate on:

- strengthening the Government's institutional capacity in the area of human rights by providing training on international human rights standards and relevant procedures for governmental officials, supporting the judiciary, and providing training in preparation of human rights reports;
- providing assistance to the National Human Rights Documentation Centre so it is accessible to all interested parties (NGOs, journalists, lawyers, graduates); and
- strengthening the role of civil society through human rights awareness-raising activities and training in human rights promotion and protection.

## Beneficiaries

The direct beneficiaries will be the Government officials in charge of protection and promotion of human rights (in particular, the Minister for Human Rights), teachers/educators, students, human rights NGOs, journalists and victims of human rights violations.

## Strategy

Partnerships with NGOs and other actors, and a cooperation network among the international organizations working in the DRC, will be established. Capacity-

building in the Ministry of Human Rights, which was initiated in 1999, will help HRFOC achieve its objectives in 2000. Cooperation with the specialized agencies of the United Nations, especially UNDP and UNICEF, will be strengthened by implementing joint projects, particularly in the eastern part of the country.

## Structure of proposed OHCHR presence

The Office includes four international staff (one Chief, two Human Rights Officers, and one Administrative Officer) and 16 national staff.

## Budget in US\$

Due to revision, this budget does not correspond to the one presented in the Consolidated Appeal 2000, which amounts to US\$ 3,166,301.

Monitoring:	
national and international personnel,	
equipment, operating expenses, travel	348,000
13% Programme support cost	45,240
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>393,240</b>
Technical Cooperation:	
Project management	680,383
Training and technical assistance projects	317,678
13% Programme support cost	129,747
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1,127,808</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>1,521,048</b>

# Colombia

## Background

The UN Commission on Human Rights has been closely following the human rights situation in Colombia since the late 1980s. Several UN mechanisms have visited the country and produced detailed reports with a number of recommendations. All recognized the gravity of the situation and a number suggested the need for a mechanism that would permit more constant monitoring of the human rights situation.

During its 52nd session, the Commission requested that the Office of the High Commissioner consider the invitation of the Colombian Government to open an office in

Colombia, once financial contributions were obtained. In November 1996, the High Commissioner and the Government of Colombia signed an agreement that established a mandate for the Office in Bogota. The mandate includes observation of the in-country human rights situation and the provision of technical assistance to support the formulation and application of policies, programmes and measures to protect and promote human rights. The agreement has been extended and modified on two occasions; and the Government has signaled its interest in renewing the Office's mandate beyond 2000.

## Objective

The objective is to observe the in-country human rights situation with a view to supporting the rule of law and promoting the development of a self-sustaining environment for the protection, promotion and full enjoyment of human rights by all Colombians. This will be achieved by:

- advising Colombian authorities on the formulation and implementation of policies and programmes to promote and protect human rights; and
- monitoring and reporting to the High Commissioner so that the international community remains apprised of the human rights situation in Colombia.

Specific activities include:

- providing assistance for the adoption of adequate measures for the prevention, protection, sanction or reparation by authorities of human rights violations;
- promoting respect for the standards of international humanitarian law by the parties to the conflict, in coordination with ICRC;
- facilitating the adoption of a National Action Plan for Human Rights;
- monitoring the implementation of recommendations made by international mechanisms for human rights;
- providing advice on the drafting and adoption of national legislation in accordance with international norms;
- promoting human rights standards with particular emphasis upon the adoption of the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement, in coordination with UNHCR;
- collaborating with Government and UN partners in designing and implementing an early-warning system to prevent forced displacement;
- strengthening the capacity of national human rights NGOs;

- assisting the Government in designing policies for the protection of human rights defenders, prosecutors, judges and other legal professionals;
- encouraging the adoption of a State policy concerning paramilitary groups;
- strengthening the capacity of judicial institutions in the application of human rights law through training and advice;
- promoting respect for due process guarantees and advocating measures to eliminate impunity; and
- monitoring respect for economic, social and cultural rights, with particular emphasis on labour rights and the right to education.

## Strategy and priorities for 2000

During the first two years of its existence, the Office established a strong monitoring presence. While protection continues to be the cornerstone of OHCHR's activities in Colombia, with the consolidation of the Strategic Operational Plan 1999-2000, the Office is now diversifying activities into the area of technical cooperation, using its expertise to address the root causes of Colombia's human rights problems. The Office's observation capacity is expected to increase during 2000.

### Approach to observation

Given the size of Colombia and the magnitude of its human rights problems, the Office is developing a strategic approach to observation and registering complaints. While the Office continues to ensure country-wide analysis (all complaints are registered), limited human resources have meant that specific criteria for the prioritization of "hot zones" within the country have been adopted to ensure follow-up of the most critical cases and situations. These criteria include:

- high levels of violations of the rights to life and/or personal security;
- particular political importance of the zone (e.g., the zone under the *de facto* control of the FARC guerrillas);
- zones in which the Government has special responsibilities or commitments for upholding human rights or IHL (e.g., the "communities for peace" which have declared themselves neutral and prohibit the entrance of armed actors);
- zones with a high level of civil society organization or NGO presence (where the Office can have a preventive effect);
- "abandoned" zones, where a complete absence of national mechanisms for protection leaves the populations particularly vulnerable; and

- zones which have a particular thematic importance to the office (e.g., communities of internally displaced persons).

While each officer of the observation unit has been assigned a geographic region, the zones in which several of the above criteria intersect or overlap have been adopted as priority areas for observation activities. At this time, seven such zones exist. The constant flux in Colombia's armed conflict demands that the Office reviews its "priority zones" regularly.

### Approach to Technical Cooperation

The Office's technical cooperation and observation activities are inter-linked and mutually reinforcing. A delicate balance between these two sets of tasks allows the Office to underpin its reporting obligations (through observation) with constructive dialogue for change with national authorities (through technical assistance projects).

A number of capacity-building projects are now under discussion with Colombian counterparts, including the Office of the Presidential Adviser for Human Rights (Office of the Vice President), Office of the Ombudsman, Office of the Public Prosecutor, Office of the Attorney General, the National University and Colombian human rights NGOs. Memoranda of Understanding have been signed with four institutions. A wide variety of activities is contemplated under these projects, including: assistance for the development of the National Plan of Action; training of prosecutors, judges and investigators in human rights law; design of a functional early-warning system to reduce the effects of and/or prevent forced displacement; incorporation of human rights and humanitarian law into existing curricula; design of a help-line database and web page that will systematize and maintain up-to-date information related to the recommendations of universal and regional human rights mechanisms; and a series of workshops with national NGOs to deliver training on the use of the UN Manual for the Preparation of Human Rights Reports.

### Impact

While an improvement in the human rights situation depends in large part on ending the war, not all human rights violations in Colombia stem from the armed conflict. OHCHR is having an impact and can make a difference in several significant ways:

**Prevention and protection:** Observation and monitoring activities in areas of the country where there is a high

level of violence plays an important dissuasive role. Periodic visits to "hot zones" lend support to vulnerable populations, local human rights NGOs, church groups and local authorities who are often under pressure from armed actors. Such visits lower the temperature and put armed actors on notice.

**Advice and technical support:** Colombia has signed most international human rights conventions, in addition to the four Geneva Conventions and their protocols. Yet, despite abundant legislation, much work remains to bring the domestic legal regime in line with international standards. Breaches of IHL, for example, are not reflected in national legislation. The Office considers that the sanctioning of breaches of IHL must be encouraged and so continues to promote the ratification of the Statute of the International Criminal Tribunal.

**Advocacy and lobbying:** Through well-targeted advocacy efforts during 1999, the Office raised the issue of the incompatibility of "regional" or "faceless" justice tribunals with international norms. In a series of meetings with members of Congress and in presentations in Congress itself, OHCHR generated discussion, within civil society, on a national law, which had proposed few if any changes to the system of regional justice. While the resulting law is by no means perfect, advances in human rights were made over the previous system.

**Supporting efforts for peace:** While the UN plays no political role in the Colombian peace negotiations, the Office recognizes that there are positive forces and actors within Colombian society which need and deserve the support of the international community, in general, and OHCHR, in particular. The "communities for peace" – entire rural communities which have declared their neutrality and refuse the presence of armed actors – are the object of special monitoring efforts by OHCHR Colombia, as the Office believes these grassroots peace constituencies are important sources of hope for the future of human rights in Colombia.

**A new approach to human rights promotion and enforcement:** OHCHR Colombia provides a laboratory for developing a new approach that combines oversight functions (through monitoring and reporting) with constructive solutions to address underlying causes of human rights violations (through technical cooperation).

## Coordination

The Office interacts with a wide variety of partners, including those of the UN system, international financial institutions, the International Committee of the Red Cross, Government institutions, universities, and national and international human rights NGOs.

Efforts are underway to develop a broader rights-based methodology, which would involve all UN agencies. Some advances have already been made with the completion of the Common Country Assessment, which uses human rights as its shared theme. Efforts to mainstream human rights will continue to be pursued when the UN Country Team begins work on the UNDAF. The Office continues to participate in thematic groups under the leadership of the Resident Coordinator.

As the situation of internally displaced persons grows more desperate, coordinating the protection of and assistance to those persons is becoming critical. While protection of the rights to life and security are obvious concerns, less visible but equally alarming is the violation of these people's economic, social and cultural rights.

Regular contact is maintained with members and advisers of the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights and the Inter-American Court. Public reports, information concerning cases under consideration by the regional system and press communiqués are exchanged.

## Structure of OHCHR

Under the leadership of a Director and Deputy Director, the Office is divided into four interdependent work areas. These include:

**Observation:** Responsible for consolidating data concerning cases and situations to encourage investigations by national authorities. Identifies and initiates follow-up on situations and themes requiring further analysis and preventive action.

**Public Information and Promotion:** Responsible for promoting and raising awareness of the Office mandate, functions and activities in addition to international standards and recommendations concerning human rights and humanitarian law.

**Legal Support:** Responsible for analyzing the legal and thematic aspects of human rights and international humanitarian law as applied to the Office.

**Technical Cooperation:** Responsible for identifying, formulating, monitoring and evaluating projects, relations with donors, and measuring the impact and development of indicators for Office activities.

## Lessons Learned

### Creating ownership, building national capacity and reducing dependencies

Although the seriousness of the situation in Colombia indicates that it is still too early to contemplate an 'exit strategy', OHCHR recognizes the need to ensure the early involvement of national human rights partners in as many Office activities as possible. The Office is formulating a technical assistance project that will produce a tool to systematize and institutionalize the many recommendations of UN mechanisms. The project, which is being developed in collaboration with the National University in Bogota, includes the design of a small database and web page.

This project will give OHCHR Colombia a store of information from which it can produce reports and respond to information requests from Colombian partners. It will also strengthen the national capacity for human rights promotion and protection and guarantee the sustainability of this capacity once OHCHR has withdrawn from the country, as the recommendations database and web page will be housed in a respected academic institution.

## Budget in US\$

Monitoring: (national and international personnel, operating costs, travel)	1,937,600
13% Programme support cost	251,888
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>2,189,488</b>

Technical cooperation: Assistance to the Office of the Vice-President	202,000
Assistance to the Ombudsman	261,500
Assistance to the Attorney General	206,200
Human rights training in municipalities	158,000
Support for the National University, Faculty of Law	140,000
Assistance to the Office of the Public Prosecutor	150,000
Institutional strengthening of NGOs	120,000
Education of magistrates in application of human rights law	73,200
13% Programme support cost	170,417
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1,481,317</b>

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<b>Grand total</b>	<b>3,670,805</b>
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# Bosnia and Herzegovina

## Objectives and strategy

In December 1998, OHCHR and the United Nations Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina (UNMIBH) agreed on Terms of Reference for OHCHR in Bosnia and Herzegovina. In accordance with this agreement, the Office is:

- providing expertise and guidance to UNMIBH and other United Nations agencies on ways to improve human rights protection, promotion and awareness. This includes training to the International Police Task Force (IPTF) and projects on the issues of gender and discrimination, with particular emphasis on social and economic rights of women;
- supporting the mandate of the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights;
- following the human rights situation in the country to maintain constructive cooperation with Government authorities and facilitate a dialogue between the Government and NGOs.

OHCHR's strategy is to provide, in cooperation with international and national organizations, human rights expertise in priority areas, build local capacities by training and information-sharing, and start handing over responsibility as much as possible to national partners.

## Activities in 2000

### Human Rights Training

Training of the International Police Task Force on international human rights standards is vital. In 2000, OHCHR will continue to work with the IPTF in implementing training programmes that will lead to greater awareness of human rights among international police monitors and local police. Particular attention will be paid to gender-specific training, including how to address violence against women and trafficking.

### Gender

OHCHR will continue to provide leadership and expertise in mainstreaming a gender dimension into activities and programmes through its cooperation with UNMIBH and the Gender Coordination Group. Activities will include

combating trafficking and eliminating violence against women, analyzing the gender dimension of new legislation, conducting research with a gender perspective into such areas as health care, training local women's groups, and the aforementioned training of IPTF and the local police on human rights and gender.

### Trafficking

By trying to ascertain the extent of the problem and seeking redress, OHCHR has been the lead agency in combating trafficking in women in Bosnia and Herzegovina. Expert advice has been provided to UNMIBH/IPTF, the International Organization for Migration (IOM), OSCE and others, and a rights-based approach to trafficking has been advocated to ensure the protection of victims. OHCHR has played a key role, in cooperation with UNMIBH/IPTF, in advising law enforcement agencies on procedures to ensure the protection of the rights of victims and potential witnesses. In addition, OHCHR has helped build the capacity of local NGOs to deal with trafficking. In June 1999, OHCHR organized a conference (in cooperation with the Council of Europe and the Zenica Legal Aid Center) to discuss the legal aspects of trafficking and the role local NGOs could play.

In 2000, the main activities will be creating an adequate legal framework, training relevant authorities and building local capacities, including those of NGOs, to protect the victims and provide adequate services, witness-protection schemes and safe repatriation. OHCHR will work with Government authorities at the State level and in both Entities of Bosnia and Herzegovina, advising them on protecting the rights of those trafficked.

### Violence against women

A pilot project on the prevention and prosecution of violence against women was started in October 1999, in partnership with UNMIBH/IPTF and other organizations, to ensure gender-sensitive treatment of women victims of sexual violence. The programme is targeting local police, members of the judiciary and attorneys as well as representatives of the social sector. The role of OHCHR has been to provide guidance and evaluate the training and its impact. IPTF will monitor the work of the local police. Cases that reach courts will be monitored by UNMIBH. The project will continue until Spring 2000. Based on the evaluation of the pilot project, it may be replicated throughout the country.

## Economic and social rights, Discrimination

OHCHR provides expertise to other international and national organizations and analyzes the implementation of economic and social rights. Areas covered in 1999 included employment discrimination, elaboration on fair employment principles, pension rights, disabilities, treatment of minorities and refugees and displaced persons. In 2000, OHCHR will focus on economic and social rights of various categories of persons, such as families of missing persons, demobilized female soldiers, Krajina Serbs and minority groups, and address discriminatory legislation and practices.

One of the mechanisms employed to address rights violations is the "litigation strategy", a joint project of OHCHR, OSCE and the Office of the High Representative, involving a number of qualified legal resource centres and prominent Bosnian human rights lawyers. The role of OHCHR is to provide legal expertise, in particular where there is discrimination alleged under international standards. This work will continue in 2000.

## UN Human Rights Mechanisms, including the Special Rapporteur

In 2000, OHCHR will continue to service the mandate of the Special Rapporteur, provided that the Commission on Human Rights renews his mandate. Information gathered within the HRCC will be made available to the Special Rapporteur and to other UN thematic rapporteurs and experts, in particular the Special Rapporteur on Violence against Women and the Independent Expert on Structural Readjustment Policies. OHCHR will continue to assist the Special Rapporteur in drafting his reports to the Commission on Human Rights and General Assembly, and in organizing fact-finding missions and briefings.

In 2000, OHCHR will also continue to assist Bosnia and Herzegovina in fulfilling its reporting obligations to various UN treaty bodies. Training on reporting will be organized for Government authorities and materials will be made available in the local languages. OHCHR will also provide assistance to NGOs engaged in human rights work, including in the preparation of their own reports.

## Beneficiaries

All efforts will be made to develop a strategy which would result in a reduction in human rights violations and increased respect for the rule of law. Thus, the beneficiaries of OHCHR programmes will be the victims and potential victims of human rights violations. The project will

benefit the Government by providing access to the human rights resources and OHCHR expertise. Civil society will benefit, particularly NGOs, including women's organizations, as OHCHR will provide expertise and support.

## Coordination

OHCHR is part of the Office of the SRSG, who is coordinator of all UN agencies and programmes. Human rights coordination takes place within the Human Rights Coordination Centre (HRCC) of the Office of the High Representative. OHCHR has a full-time staff member working within the HRCC and the Head of Office is a member of the Human Rights Steering Board, consisting of principals of the main agencies.

## Budget in US\$

Monitoring: (national and international personnel, operating costs, travel)	757,710
13% Programme support cost	98,502
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>856,212</b>
Technical Cooperation: (national and international personnel, seminars, police training, Government and NGO training in reporting obligations)	212,389
13% Programme support cost	27,611
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>240,000</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>1,096,212</b>

## Croatia

### Background

The field office was established in Zagreb in 1993. On 10 May 1999, the High Commissioner and the Croatian Minister for Foreign Affairs signed a Technical Cooperation Project document on "Strengthening Protection and Promotion of Human Rights" in Croatia. The Project focuses on:

- Human rights training and advice for Government officials, including military, police and prison officials,



professional groups, and national human rights NGOs;

- Human rights education in schools;
- Support for the national human rights institution;
- Human rights documentation; and
- Human rights of women.

## Objectives

The objectives of OHCHR Croatia for the year 2000 remain similar to those of 1999: technical cooperation and monitoring human rights developments.

### Technical cooperation

OHCHR plans to promote human rights awareness throughout key sectors of Croatian society, including the Government, thereby contributing to reconciliation and respect for the rule of law and the full range of human rights. Specific activities will include:

- Training police and prison officials in human rights standards;
- Providing training and expert advice to the Ombudsman's office and to national NGOs;
- Training Government officials in reporting obligations;
- Establishing a Human Rights Documentation Centre;
- Training teachers and developing curricula on human rights education;
- Training senior law students in human rights;
- Offering seminars for law-makers on legislation related to women's human rights;
- Offering a workshop for Croatian journalists on human rights reporting; and
- Training judges, lawyers and prosecutors in aspects of international human rights law.

### Monitoring human rights developments

OHCHR plans to alert authorities, directly or through the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, to identified violations so that remedial measures can be taken. OHCHR's work in this area will include:

- Assisting and facilitating the work of the Special Rapporteur;
- Monitoring the general human rights situation in the country, including through monitoring the Return Programme and the conduct of war-crimes trials;
- Participating in the training of regional human rights monitors (inter-governmental organizations and NGOs)

on UN human rights mechanisms; and

- Strengthening relationships with relevant Government offices.

## Impact

The Technical Cooperation Project is raising greater awareness of human rights in many sectors of society and thus assists in developing the means and strategies to ensure greater respect for human rights. Monitoring promotes and protects the cause of individuals and groups whose rights have been violated.

## Exit strategy

OHCHR in Croatia places emphasis on building the capacity of national institutions and NGOs. Despite the fact that there are numerous international organizations in the region, few are engaged in systematic capacity-building activities. OHCHR will thus intensify its capacity-building activities within the framework of the Technical Cooperation Project and gradually hand over its responsibilities to national partners.

## Coordination

OHCHR Croatia has weekly meetings with the major international actors in the country, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and OSCE. Over the past year, OHCHR has strengthened its contacts with relevant Government actors, including the human rights department of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministries of Justice and the Interior, the Government human rights office, and the Ministry of Education and Sports. OHCHR hosted a two-day retreat in which representatives of all of these bodies met to outline cooperation for the TCP. OHCHR relies on its strong network of contacts with NGOs for information on human rights violations.

## Lessons learned

From its experience in the former Yugoslavia, OHCHR has learned that human rights crises require a preventive, cross-border approach to problems stemming from the dissolution of States. With this in mind, OHCHR Croatia has coordinated with the office of OHCHR in Bosnia and Herzegovina, among other agencies, to address refugee-related issues, including return and property rights.

## Budget in US\$

Monitoring: (national and international personnel, operating costs, travel)	923,230
13 % Programme support cost	120,019
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1,043,249</b>
Technical cooperation: (national and international personnel, operating costs, travel, seminars training courses, support to National Institutions: Ombudsman's Office)	258,050
13 % Programme support cost	33,546
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>291,596</b>
<b>Grand total</b>	<b>1,334,845</b>

## The Federal Republic of Yugoslavia

### Background

OHCHR's office in the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia (FRY) was established in 1996 and now has offices in Belgrade, Podgorica and Pristina. OHCHR is the only international organization with mandates to help protect and promote human rights throughout the territory of the FRY. In addition to serving the mandates of the High Commissioner and the Special Rapporteur of the Commission on Human Rights, OHCHR-FRY concluded a status agreement with the Government of the FRY (in November 1998).

### Objectives

The project aims to realize its objectives by monitoring the human rights situation throughout the FRY and taking action where appropriate, and by building and strengthening the capacities of Government agencies and NGOs in human rights protection and promotion.

## Activities in 2000

OHCHR is in a good position to address concerns, expressed domestically and internationally, over the human rights situation of all vulnerable populations within the FRY. In Kosovo itself, OHCHR-FRY will remain independent outside the UN Mission in Kosovo (UNMIK), but will be fully incorporated into inter-agency human rights efforts. Throughout the FRY, OHCHR will continue to gather information on respect for the full range of human rights, including the rights to freedom of expression, assembly and conscience. OHCHR-FRY envisions a total of 12 international and 15 national staff for the year 2000, including safety and administrative personnel. With the cooperation of UNMIK, FRY authorities, family associations and others, OHCHR will continue to chair the Sub-Commission on Prisoners and Detainees in Pristina. The Sub-Commission traces detained persons, gathers information on the circumstances of detention to support interventions on the detainee's behalf and, by informing the public, addresses public fears and concerns. As part of its information-gathering efforts, OHCHR will continue to interview witnesses, advocates and relatives of detainees throughout the FRY. OHCHR will work in Montenegro with the authorities, NGOs, and IGOs on expert review of legislation on judicial administration and protection of minority rights. The field presence will also engage in protection activities for internally displaced persons and particularly Croatian refugees, including monitoring access to social services, procedures for return, property legislation, out-of-country voting, and prosecutions relating to military service. NGOs and individual advocates in south Serbia and the Sandzak region have appealed to OHCHR for capacity-building assistance, development of human rights education materials, and staff missions. Women's organizations in Montenegro have made similar requests. OHCHR will continue to implement the Assisting Communities Together (ACT) programme to meet some of these needs. In the past year, OHCHR-FRY received and funded more applications for ACT grants than any other country in which OHCHR operates. OHCHR plans to work with the Council of Europe and others in developing training initiatives on international instruments and mechanisms concerning torture, as well as on assistance available to torture victims. The field presence will also provide expert assistance on



request, including in the areas of human rights training for police, regional efforts against trafficking, and the possible creation of a human rights institution, such as an Ombudsperson, in Kosovo.

The Office will continue to submit regular reports and updates on human rights developments in the FRY, and will organize and assist in fact-gathering missions of the Special Rapporteur, the High Commissioner for Human Rights and other UN officials and mechanisms and provide follow-up.

### Beneficiaries

The project's beneficiaries will include civilians in post-conflict areas, detainees, advocates, community leaders, members of minority groups, medical and aid workers, human rights workers, independent media, displaced persons and other vulnerable individuals and groups.

### Budget in US\$

Monitoring: (national and international personnel, operating costs, travel)	2,859,200
13 % Programme support cost	371,696
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,230,896</b>

## Afghanistan

OHCHR carries out both technical cooperation and monitoring activities in Afghanistan. These are described under "Technical Cooperation Activities". The budget below presents costs for monitoring activities.

### Budget in US\$

Monitoring: analysis of and reporting on the human rights situation	50,000
13% Programme support cost	6,500
<b>Total</b>	<b>56,500</b>

# International human rights conventions

## Background

The international treaties on human rights are at the heart of the international system for the promotion and protection of human rights. The central organs of the treaty monitoring system are the treaty bodies, committees comprising 10 to 23 independent experts, appointed in their personal capacities to monitor the implementation of these human rights treaties and their optional protocols. Five of the six treaty bodies in operation today are serviced by OHCHR: the Human Rights Committee (HRC), the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the Committee against Torture (CAT) and the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC). The effectiveness of the system depends to a large extent on the effectiveness of the Secretariat, especially since Committee members meet only for a limited period two or three times per year.

The Committees monitor the implementation of the treaties through reports submitted by the States parties every two to five years. Before reports are examined by a Committee they undergo a preliminary analysis by OHCHR aimed at identifying where progress has been made and where there may be shortcomings, thereby enabling Committee members to use their limited time to delve immediately into those questions or to consider broader issues of policy. To ensure that the treaties are consistently implemented during the period between reports, several Committees are also attempting to monitor the follow-up conducted on their observations and recommendations by States parties.

States parties to the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Convention against Torture (ICAT), and the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD) may recognize the competence of the respective Committee to consider complaints from individuals who claim that their rights have

## *Support to the treaty bodies*

been violated by the State. At the end of 1998, 95 States had accepted the competence of the HRC under the OP; 25 had accepted CERD's jurisdiction; and 40 that of CAT. Given its broad scope, the ICCPR has become the main instrument for dealing with individual complaints of violations of civil and political rights. It receives some 2,500 complaints per year.

## Current situation

By 1990, 272 States Parties had ratified the ICCPR, ICAT and ICERD. A measure of the success of the system is that by 1998, that figure had increased by 49 per cent to 406. Furthermore, 191 States have become parties to the CRC in the nine years since its inception – an unprecedented rate of ratifications. While the large number of ratifications is most welcome, the system must be adequately equipped to do its work effectively. The greater the number of ratifications, the greater the number of State reports to be considered by a Committee, and the greater the amount of time and energy spent on designing measures to ensure adequate follow-up to treaty body recommendations.

The system has evolved since its early years. Treaty bodies today are seeking to establish coherent methods of work and analysis; to facilitate communication with States parties and inter- and non-governmental organizations; to formulate general comments or recommendations to assist States and others in better understanding the provisions of the treaties; and, in general, to ensure consistent monitoring under the respective treaties. This welcome effort to improve the effectiveness of the system requires considerably more support from the Secretariat than in the past.

A freeze in the UN regular budget in 1993, together with a sharp rise in the number of OHCHR mandates, however, have prevented OHCHR from increasing staff and developing the modern automation systems necessary to meet new demands. Committees have limited time to

consider State reports. As a result, a tremendous backlog of State party reports awaiting consideration has accumulated, particularly under the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and the International Convention on the Rights of the Child (ICRC). It now takes two to three years between the submission of a report by a State party and its consideration by either of these Committees.

In such conditions where treaty bodies are under pressure to make optimal use of their meeting time, including by streamlining as far as possible their examination of State reports, proper advance preparation, searching of relevant information and analysis can be critical to a meaningful dialogue with States parties.

The individual complaints procedure is particularly overburdened, given the dramatic increase in the number of new complaints received and the lack of an automated support system. Since searches for jurisprudence, tracking correspondence and sending out replies and other routine letters are done manually, there will be an anticipated backlog of some 2,500 pieces of correspondence at the end of 1999.

The Committee against Torture is also faced with increasing demands emanating from its inquiry procedure by which it considers whether there is a systematic practice of torture occurring in a State party. Under this procedure, the Committee must examine large volumes of information, often taking several years, before arriving at conclusions. As awareness about the Committee and about the inquiry procedure grows, there has been an extraordinary increase in the invocation of inquiries in recent years. Given this pace, the requirements for supporting this procedure will soon overwhelm the capacity of the secretariat to deal with them.

Some have suggested that the treaty system functions, albeit imperfectly, only because a large number of reports are overdue. If all reports were to be submitted on time, these observers say, the treaty bodies would be overwhelmed. Clearly, the sustainability of the system requires not only strengthening the capacity of treaty bodies and the Secretariat to deal with their existing workloads, but also enabling them to explore and test new and innovative approaches to their work.

At the end of 1996, the High Commissioner launched a Plan of Action to strengthen the implementation of the Convention on the Right of the Child. Based on that experience, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights then requested the High Commissioner to design the subsequently approved Plan of Action in

support of ICESCR. The implementation of those plans has contributed significantly to improving the functioning of the concerned Committees. This came to the attention of the annual meeting of Chairpersons of treaty bodies and since 1998 the meetings of Chairpersons have held advanced discussions on a draft Plan of Action in support of HRC, CERD and CAT developed by OHCHR at their request. This plan has been finalized and will now enter the implementation phase.

## Objectives

The programme has four main objectives, which are developed and adapted in the specific project proposals, as follows:

- It is hoped that by the end of 2001, the average time lapse between the receipt of a State party report and its consideration by the corresponding Committee will be reduced to one year on average, and the research and analysis support capacity of the Secretariat will be significantly strengthened.
- By the end of 2001, the time lapse between the receipt of an individual complaint and a final decision by the relevant Committee will be reduced to a maximum of 18 months.
- By the end of 2001, OHCHR will have conducted tests on and implemented new initiatives to improve the follow-up of Committee recommendations and observations by the States parties.
- By the end of 2001, OHCHR will have facilitated the continuation of the debate on rationalizing the functioning of the treaty body system.

## Strategy

In light of the situation described above, the High Commissioner for Human Rights has decided to launch a comprehensive two-year programme to improve the servicing of the entire treaty monitoring system. The point of departure of this Programme will be the situation analyses and activities foreseen in the three approved Plans of Action.

OHCHR is aware that the problems identified are complex, requiring a sustained effort over a period of time and involving a range of actors in several areas who will address immediate needs as well as work towards a long-term structural overhaul. Many of the possible courses of action still need to be tested and further considered. This programme will focus on priority areas in

which some improvement can be expected; and on exploring and testing some long-term measures that will provide the basis for structural improvements and future programmes.

OHCHR will work to improve the following areas in 2000 and 2001:

**Strengthen the capacity of the system to consider State party reports.** In-depth research and analysis capacity at the Secretariat level will be improved, as will the information-technology support system. Workflows will be revised and automated. With these improvements, the time between submission and consideration of State party reports should be reduced to an average of one year. However, only with improved Committee capacity will the CRC and CESCR be able to reach that target. To that end and in order to reach the target, the CRC has decided to increase by 50 per cent the number of reports it considers at each session CESCR has requested additional meeting time, which ECOSOSOC approved this year. OHCHR believes that with these measures the target is achievable.

**Enhance OHCHR's capacity to handle individual complaints of human rights violations expeditiously.** As a matter of priority, OHCHR will concentrate on eliminating the HRC's backlog. To avoid simply transferring the problem to the other end of the chain, OHCHR will endeavor to make the necessary exceptional arrangements to enable the HRC to deal with its backlog. OHCHR believes that the revision of its working methods together with an investment in modern automation systems will enable the Secretariat to eliminate the backlog of 2,500 pieces of correspondence, while keeping abreast of an estimated annual volume of some 3,000 pieces of correspondence.

**Improve follow-up** to Committee recommendations and observations by States parties. Measures under this objective include: facilitating follow-up meetings with States parties whose reports are overdue (HRC); raising awareness about the Committee's recommendations, either through national seminars or the establishment of thematic panels (CRC); and exploring the possibility of establishing a "good practices" database on the implementation of human rights recommendations, thus making treaty bodies a kind of "clearing house" for information envisioned in the various treaties.

OHCHR would also like to facilitate the continuation of the important debate on rationalizing the treaty body system initiated in recent years by a number of studies analyzing the functioning of the treaty body system, as well as the experimentation of some of its innovative suggestions to improve the efficiency and effectiveness of the system. As a first step in that direction, it intends to conduct the detailed analytical study, requested by the General Assembly, that compares the provisions of the six principal treaties to identify duplications. The Office will also help organize ad hoc working meetings of designated representatives of treaty bodies for in-depth discussions on how to coordinate or streamline their work. Items that could be addressed include the establishment of common approaches to the interpretation of common treaty provisions, the drafting of coordinated general comments, and the establishment of common methods of work.

To implement this comprehensive support strategy, OHCHR has developed four detailed projects:

- a) Project in support of the complaints and inquiry procedures
- b) Project in support of the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination and the Committee against Torture
- c) Project extending the Plan of Action to strengthen the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child - phase II
- d) Project in support of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

These projects are mutually reinforcing components of this programme but are designed as separate projects for managerial and practical purposes only. Projects **a)** and **b)** are aimed at supporting the work of HRC, CERD and CAT and are based to a large extent on the Plan of Action to strengthen the implementation of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination and the Convention against Torture and Other Forms of Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment. Project **a)** seeks to reinforce the mechanisms unique to these bodies that allow them to deal with complaints of human rights violations from individuals. It also seeks to strengthen the CAT inquiry procedure, whereby CAT may investigate allegations of a systematic practice of torture in a State party.



Project **b)** aims to strengthen the support provided for the reporting process and for the general functioning of these bodies, and enable effective coordination and cooperation among all six treaty bodies in their efforts to better rationalize their work and procedures.

Projects **c)** and **d)** are based on the Plan of Action to strengthen the implementation of the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Plan of Action to strengthen the implementation of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, respectively. Although these plans are already operational, they have not received sufficient funds to cover all the activities foreseen. The first phase of the Plan of Action for CRC ends on 30 June 2000.

Projects **c)** and **d)** have therefore been developed to enable the full implementation of the objectives of those plans and to extend the benefits brought by them for the entire duration of the programme.

### Managerial arrangements

The responsibility for the programme falls under the direct leadership of the Chief of Branch the Support Services Branch of OHCHR. The Secretaries of the human rights treaty bodies will be directly responsible for reaching the servicing targets established for the treaties under their responsibility. The coordinator of a proposed petitions unit in OHCHR will be directly responsible for the targets contained in the complaints project. In order to assist the Chief of SSB in the administration and management of the programme and the timely achievement of the objectives, the programme also foresees the recruitment of a senior project manager.

### Contributions

OHCHR prefers that contributions are given to the “treaty bodies”, rather than to specific activities.

### Budget in US\$

Support to the complaints and inquiry procedures	676,400
Support to the HRC, CERD and CAT	796,260
Extending the Plan of Action for CRC, phase II	779,600
Support to CECSR	455,400
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>2,707,660</b>
13% Programme support cost	351,996
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,059,656</b>
1999 balance for CRC	1,067,960
1999 balance for CECSR	73,900
<b>Total requirements</b>	<b>1,917,796</b>

# Response to allegations of human rights violations

## *Support to the Special Procedures*

### Background

The UN Commission on Human Rights has created mechanisms, commonly known as “the UN Special Procedures”, to deal with human rights problems in specific substantive areas or territories. The holders of Special Procedures mandates receive complaints from victims of human rights violations, intercede with Governments on their behalf, conduct country visits, research and study issues of concern, and present reports for the consideration of the UN Commission on Human Rights and the UN General Assembly. In some cases, they also recommend programmes of technical cooperation.

At present, there are 21 thematic mandates: the right to development; summary and arbitrary executions; torture; religious intolerance; mercenaries; sale of children; children and armed conflict; freedom of opinion and expression; xenophobia and contemporary forms of racism; independence of judges and lawyers; violence against women; internally displaced persons; involuntary disappearances; arbitrary detention; the rights of migrants; toxic waste; foreign debt; the right to education; structural adjustment policies; the expert on the right to victims of violations of human rights; and extreme poverty. Special Procedures have also been established to follow human rights situations in 14 countries. Thus, the Special Procedures system has become one of the pillars of the United Nations’s efforts to protect and promote human rights.

Mandate holders are experts from various backgrounds, including academics, lawyers, economists, and leaders of non-governmental organizations. They are appointed by the Chairperson of the Commission on Human Rights with respect given to geographical representation. In some instances they have been appointed by the Secretary-General. Mandate holders do not receive any

pay for their work. The effectiveness of the individual expert depends to a large extent on the services provided by OHCHR.

Since the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights, the number of Special Procedures mandates has grown substantially, as did their involvement in cooperation with partners within and outside the United Nations system. Yet, staffing and other resources to support Special Procedures have not increased. The High Commissioner thus asked two independent experts to prepare a study on ways to meet the needs of the Special Procedures system. The experts concluded that without appropriate support from OHCHR, based on adequate resources, the Special Procedures system would not be able to meet the requirements of the relevant mandates established by the Commission on Human Rights. The recommendations of the study endorsed by the High Commissioner focus on the following areas:

### Outline of activities

#### **Prevention and quick response: Enhancing the effectiveness of urgent actions**

Interceding on behalf of victims of human rights abuses is an essential component of human rights work. An immediate reaction, involving contacts with Governments, other parts of the United Nations system, international partners and the non-governmental community can avert human rights violations or extend the necessary protection to victims.

The holders of Special Procedures mandates send hundreds of urgent appeals to competent authorities to draw their attention to their responsibilities, refrain from violations of human rights and ensure protection to those in need. Such appeals help clarify the allegations and identify appropriate measures to be taken. The quality of urgent appeals, including the accuracy of the infor-

mation referred to, is essential to the success of intervention.

Although the urgent appeals system has acquired increasing importance in recent years, its potential remains largely unexploited due to lack of resources in OHCHR. To remedy this situation, OHCHR will create a central “Quick Response Desk”, through which all requests for urgent action will be channelled, checked, and processed. The desk will also ensure better coordination of urgent appeals that arise from several thematic procedures and/or country rapporteurs. Finally, the desk should also be able to design methods to evaluate the effectiveness of appeals and to develop and recommend strategies to increase the impact of this tool.

### **Responding to emergencies: Developing an effective approach**

The crises in Bosnia, Kosovo, Sierra Leone and East Timor have highlighted the need to develop the capacity of the United Nations human rights programme to respond to country emergency situations involving human rights, both by preventive and reactive means. Most frequently, such a response is part of a larger United Nations operations framework, in which the human rights component, guided by OHCHR, plays an important role. The Special Procedures mechanisms should be at the core of this response. As part of their work, mandate holders alert country authorities, the United Nations system and the general public to existing threats to human rights, thus initiating a process, at the national and international levels, aimed at averting crises and eventually restoring respect for human rights and the rule of law.

The independent study recommends the establishment of an in-house Emergency Response Task Force, which would collate and analyze information about emergency human rights situations that warrant special and immediate attention by the special rapporteurs and other parts of the United Nations system. The Task Force will also ensure better interaction between the Special Procedures and the United Nations system, in general. At the same time, the Task Force will be at the centre of OHCHR’s approach to emergency situations, integrating the expertise and input of OHCHR. The Task Force will help coordinate in-house activities in response to emergency situations. While developing the Task Force, OHCHR will draw on the expertise of other parts of the

UN Secretariat and UN agencies, such as UNHCR, OCHA and UNDP.

Current administrative arrangements leave OHCHR and the Special Procedures system little leeway to prepare for and conduct emergency missions. More funding is needed, as demand for these missions is growing.

### **Making the point: Improved follow-up**

The impact of the Special Procedures system and its credibility depend on regular and consistent follow-up of recommendations made by holders of the mandates, in particular at the national level. Recommendations published but not pursued contribute little to human rights protection. At present, few Special Procedures have designed and implemented comprehensive follow-up operation modes. The follow-up work includes contacts between OHCHR and Governments. All relevant Special Procedures and human rights treaty bodies should be informed about the status of the implementation of recommendations. The Quick Response Desk will continuously update information on reactions by Governments to urgent appeals and other communications. The Emergency Response Task Force will follow-up on actions undertaken to prevent or stop gross human rights violations. OHCHR will periodically review the implementation of recommendations made by all Special Procedures. The creation of in-house databases would facilitate this work.

### **Strengthening OHCHR’s analytical capacity**

The aforementioned study by independent experts also stressed the need to enhance the analytical capacity of OHCHR put at the disposal of the Special Procedures. Many thematic rapporteurs are asked to conduct comparative or analytical studies within the purview of their respective mandates. Because of lack of resources, many of these studies have not been undertaken or completed. To meet these needs, the Office should outsource studies to academic or research institutions. At present, 12 studies are outstanding. It should also be assumed that an average of two new studies will be commissioned each year. OHCHR will remain responsible for: **(a)** designing a programme of studies; **(b)** identifying appropriate institutions for the preparation of such studies; **(c)** coordinating activities related thereto; and **(d)** liaising with the holders of Special Procedures mandates and institutions concerned.

## Need for staff resources

To establish a Quick Response Desk, an Emergency Response Task Force, to ensure improved follow up, and strengthen the analytical capacity of the special procedures will require the recruitment of fourteen staff.

In addition, there is a need to extend the contracts for nine staff to maintain the support to a number of mandates, specifically: children and armed conflict; violence against women; human rights and mass exoduses; internally displaced persons; sale of children; the independent expert on Haiti; staff support in Spanish, and regional frameworks in Latin America and Africa.

### Improving the information system: Developing a database

The budget proposal for developing databases for Special Procedures activities, including a comprehensive thematic database, has been included in the information technology section of this Appeal, which covers the information technology activities of the entire Office.

## Contributions

OHCHR prefers that contributions are given to “special procedures”, rather than to specific activities.

## Budget in US\$

Staff: two heads of unit	296,600
fifteen human rights officers	1,782,900
four general staff	370,400
Studies	490,000
Missions	330,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>3,269,900</b>
13 % Programme support cost	425,087
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,694,987</b>





# Strengthening the capacity of OHCHR

Increasingly, OHCHR is asked to provide leadership and substantive support in ensuring that human rights principles are integrated throughout the entire UN system, in accordance with the Secretary-General's 1997 UN reform programme. As a result, it is important to consolidate and build the institutional capacity to respond to these demands more effectively. Some areas of strategic importance must be strengthened to advance the objectives of the Office. These include: expanding and improving public information; establishing a small publications unit and a reference library; improving OHCHR web site; upgrading OHCHR's information technology infrastructure; and building the Office's capacity to mobilize the resources needed to do its work.

## Budget in US\$

Information technology	1,111,631
Web site	717,776
Reference library and multimedia room	125,248
Public information	129,950
Publications unit	226,791
Resource mobilization	360,922
<b>Total</b>	<b>2,672,318</b>

## Information technology

In the last three years, OHCHR has made significant efforts to improve its information technology infrastructure. Four databases are now fully operational: the Treaty Bodies Database, the Charter-based Bodies Database, the News and Statements Database and the Internal Documents Database. To improve the sharing and retrieval of incoming correspondence, a Digital Registry System, also built on database technology, has been established.

The above-mentioned databases are the basic components of HURICANE (Human Rights Computerized Analysis Environment), the internal network (Intranet) which allows staff members to access information in an integrated and user-friendly way.

The public documents stored in those databases are made available to the public through OHCHR's web site. The average use of the web site ([www.unhchr.ch](http://www.unhchr.ch)) has increased from 1,000 to 20,000 user-sessions per week since its launch on 10 December 1996. As of mid-1999, more than 2 million documents per month are accessed. (*For complementary web site activities, please refer to the web site section on page XX*).

Much remains to be done in building a useful information technology network. Three recent studies identified 15 information technology initiatives which would improve the infrastructure and further develop the databases so the Office can function more effectively.

The objectives of this proposal, which will be implemented over a period of three years, are to strengthen OHCHR's operations by improving communications with external organizations and individuals, the management of information and tracking systems. These objectives will be achieved by:

- developing the infrastructure for electronic communications with external partners (governments, NGOs, IGOs, experts and Special Rapporteurs) by enabling secure extranet and advanced fax/e-mail services; and
- establishing a system to support OHCHR's workflows, including a central, digital complaints registry.

Anticipated results include:

### **Improving OHCHR's communications with its partners and external bodies/individuals**

Increasingly, the correspondence to and from OHCHR is sent by faxes and e-mail. A fax/e-mail server would allow the office to integrate this correspondence into the existing digital registry, providing the Office with a comprehensive archive of incoming and outgoing correspondence. An External Database would facilitate the sending of standard correspondence to OHCHR.

1. External Partners Database (governments, NGOs, IGO, etc.), including a fax/e-mail server for forwarding standard correspondence (e.g., invitations, *notes verbales*);
2. Linkage of the External Partners Database with the External Sources Database now under development;
3. Multi-database search engine. This will be an integrated search facility through the seven existing databases (Treaty Bodies System, Communications, Internal Documents, Charter-based Bodies, Digital Registry, Thematic Mandates and News Databases). The engine will enhance the Office's capacity for analytical research by facilitating access and integration of information by specific criteria (country, subject or mandate);
4. Packaging of Charter-based Bodies Documents. Automatic extraction of relevant paragraphs out of a pre-defined set of documents according to specific criteria (subject, country); and
5. LEXIS&NEXIS (database on national legislation) licences for Special Rapporteurs and support staff.

**Improving OHCHR's service to treaty bodies**

**6.** Enhancement of the existing Treaty Bodies Database for internal and external use (via the web site) by incorporating reporting facilities and cross-references among different types of information; and

**7.** Incorporation of a system to store and manage the workflows of the Secretariat's standard tasks in the Treaty Bodies Database.

**Improving OHCHR's management of human rights complaints**

**8.** Finalization of the Communications Database to store and manage communications handled by the respective treaty-monitoring bodies;

**9.** Common Early Entry Point System (CEEPS), for human rights complaints received at OHCHR. This would be a central registry which would receive, register and forward complaints to the relevant mandates, optional protocols, thematic mandates, etc;

**10.** Conversion of the 1503 database into HURICANE-compatible format;

**11.** Making the Thematic Mandates Database available on an Extranet. The Thematic Mandates Database, under development, will store complaints sent to OHCHR which are to be handled by the different Commission on Human Rights extra-conventional mandates. The idea is to make this information available to the Special Rapporteurs responsible for those mandates and to staff working in the field offices;

**12.** Teleconferencing facilities for Special Rapporteurs to facilitate their communications with the staff servicing them at OHCHR; and

**13.** Information technology equipment not funded under the UN regular budget.

Activities described above and reflected in the budget will be implemented over a three-year period. For the first year (2000) the requirements amount to \$ 1,111,631 which includes the costs for: 1. External Partners Database and Fax-Server, 5. Lexis&Nexis licenses, 8. Finalization of the Communications Database, 11. Extranet, 13. IT equipment, IT maintenance staff and programme support costs.

**Budget in US\$**

<b>1.</b> External Partners Database	123,675
<b>2.</b> Expand "External Partners Database" towards research capabilities	37,500
<b>3.</b> Multi-database search engine	62,675
<b>4.</b> Packaging of Charter-based Bodies Documents	20,000
<b>5.</b> LEXIS&NEXIS licences for SRs and their support staff	195,000
<b>6.</b> Enhancement and advancement of the existing Treaty Bodies System (TBS)	123,875
<b>7.</b> TBS for storing and controlling workflows of Secretariat's standard tasks	64,250
<b>8.</b> Finalization of the Communications Database	121,400
<b>9.</b> Common Early Entry Point System (CEEPS)	65,625
<b>10.</b> Conversion of the 1503 database into HURICANE compatible format	56,250
<b>11.</b> Thematic Mandates Database accessible by SRs on an Extranet	51,350
<b>12.</b> Teleconferencing facilities for Special Rapporteurs	12,000
<b>13.</b> IT equipment not covered under regular budget	412,320
IT maintenance staff	182,400
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>1,528,320</b>
13 % Programme support cost	198,682
<b>Total for 2000-2002</b>	<b>1,727,002</b>
<b>Requirements in 2000</b>	<b>1,111,631</b>

## Web site

The opening of the OHCHR web site ([www.unhchr.ch](http://www.unhchr.ch)) on 10 December 1996, and the launch of the French and Spanish versions on 19 December 1997, were milestones in OHCHR's efforts to achieve two of its major long-term objectives: making human rights information accessible and making the work of the UN human rights mechanisms and procedures transparent. Human rights education and the dissemination of a wide range of information play an important role in promoting respect for human rights worldwide. Transparency is essential to develop confidence in and support for the United Nations's work in human rights. From the outset, the Office recognized its limited resources in developing the site and gave priority to content over design, launching a web site which was relatively plain in appearance but which quickly established a reputation for having an extraordinary depth and breadth of content.

The average use of the web site has increased from 1,000 to 20,000 user sessions per week since its launch. In the second half of 1998, the web site was providing information in response to requests from more than 150 countries and from all continents. As of mid-1999, interested visitors to the web site are accessing more than 2 million documents per month.

### Enhancing the web site as a human rights information tool

Since its launch, the web site has grown to encompass the Treaty Bodies Database, the reports and resolutions from successive sessions of the Commission on Human Rights, the Sub-Commission on the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights, and the General Assembly and work of the Office in technical cooperation and field presences. Because of lack of expertise, the structure of the web site was designed according to the organizational structure of the Office. The limitations of this approach have become increasingly apparent.

The entire 55th (1999) session of the Commission on Human Rights was broadcast on the Internet in English. For future Commission sessions, OHCHR would like to make available on the Internet the debates in all six official UN languages – both live and in audio archives, allowing these proceedings to be retrieved at will by audiences in all time zones. Over time, the Office would be able to offer an archive of audio recordings of the Commission and other significant meetings. Although

the Office has gone a long way in developing its web site, more specialized staff is needed to meet future demands, develop the design of and interface with the information on the web site and respond to the challenges of new technological developments.

### Making the web site a worldwide human rights information tool

OHCHR has always been aware of the fact that language and limited Internet access in some regions could undermine the value of the web site as a human rights information tool. There is a clear need to develop Arabic, Chinese and Russian versions of the web site. To provide access to information in areas with limited, expensive or non-existent Internet access, the Office proposes the production of the web site in three languages on CD-ROMs.

### Expanding our constituencies

OHCHR's web site is a reference tool for those interested in or working with human rights issues all over the world. While important to communicate with the many human rights constituencies, there is a risk of "preaching to the converted": of communicating to those already convinced of the relevance of international human rights standards. At present, the Office lacks the resources to expand its constituency and reach audiences that might well benefit from access to the web site.

Funding permitting, there is an opportunity for OHCHR to participate with other international organizations in a number of Internet initiatives on related issues, including development, humanitarian activities, peace building, indigenous people or internally displaced issues. Current Internet network projects include: Global IDP database, OCHA's Reliefweb; Net Aid, UNDP; Devlink, UNDG; Indigenous People Development Network, World Bank, and Global Peace-building Network, World Bank. The Office's participation in these initiatives is essential if OHCHR is to be in a position to integrate human rights into the major activities and programmes of the United Nations, in line with the Secretary-General's commitment to mainstream human rights in the work of the Organization.

There is also a need to market the web site to the media and NGOs as an authoritative source of timely and relevant material on current human rights issues as well as a valu-

able archive of reports, statements and assessments of both country and thematic human rights issues. The objective is, therefore, to enhance and improve the OHCHR's use of the Internet for human rights public information and educational purposes. This will be achieved

- **by redesigning** OHCHR's web site to make its information more readily accessible;
- **by archiving** Commission sessions broadcasts;
- **by launching** Arabic, Chinese and Russian versions of OHCHR's web site;
- **by issuing** CD-ROMs of OHCHR's web site in at least three languages; and
- **by ensuring** the integration of human rights into major international Internet networks or common web sites within the United Nations system.

This will require:

- **out-sourcing the web site's design to a specialized company;**
- **out-sourcing** the archiving of Commission sessions broadcast and acquire the necessary hardware;
- **out-sourcing** the development of an Arabic, Chinese and Russian versions of the Charter-based Bodies Database and the production of main html menus in those languages;

- **out-sourcing** the production of CD-ROMs; and
- **hiring** a webmaster with the relevant expertise who would coordinate the implementation of the above-mentioned projects and keep the site competitive.

### Budget in US\$

Web site's design	150,000
Arabic, Chinese and Russian web sites (main html menus+Charter-based Bodies Documents)	169,150
Broadcasting/archiving of Commission Debates	56,500
CD-ROM production	54,800
Webmaster	148,300
PC for the webmaster	3,000
Annual fees for the participation in main UN Internet network projects (These fees are the keys to OHCHR's participation in those projects)	50,000
Travel	3,450
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>635,200</b>
13% Project support cost	82,576
<b>Total</b>	<b>717,776</b>

## Reference library and multimedia room

OHCHR has a wealth of information materials related to its activities. Books, studies, government reports, films and videos are donated regularly to the Office. A library and a multimedia room would give the public access to this unique collection of books, historic documents and audio-visual material on human rights issues that is now locked in the basement of Palais Wilson. The electronic retrieval of such information should be an integral part of the Human Rights Computerized Analysis Environment (HURICANE).

A reference library and a multimedia workstation will:

- provide public access to a unique book collection
- offer researchers easy access to historical UN documents
- give users on-line search facilities
- include a screening room for films or videos
- provide up-to-date information, via TV or radio, during emergency human rights situations.

### Budget in US\$

Furniture	58,700
PCs, screens and printers	19,500
DVD (Digital Video Display) unit with large screen	30,000
Annual fee for of copy machine	2,640
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>110,840</b>
13% Programme support cost	14,408
<b>Total</b>	<b>125,248</b>

## Public information

As the profile of human rights rises in the media, so do expectations that the United Nations will be effective in responding to violations of international human rights standards. Given this reality, it is urgent that OHCHR moves from a reactive use of public information and media to a more aggressive and strategic use of the media to advance its objectives.

There are clear mandates for OHCHR to expand its work in information and media. The 1993 Vienna Conference documents are explicit about the importance of disseminating information on human rights in every region. Article 33 states that “the dissemination of proper information, both theoretical and practical, plays an important role in the promotion and respect of human rights”. Article 39 goes further: “Underlining the importance of objective, responsible and impartial information about human rights and humanitarian issues, the World Conference on Human Rights encourages the increased involvement of the media, for whom freedom and protection should be guaranteed within the framework of national law.”

The Vienna meeting correctly recognized that there were likely to be serious resource constraints to making greater use of media and public information to promote and protect human rights. Yet, as OHCHR has been expanding its activities and earning greater recognition and respect, it has also tried to enhance its effectiveness through a properly resourced, professionally staffed public information and media programme. Two senior staff were recruited for this programme in early 1999. Programme activities aim to increase understanding and awareness of OHCHR's work in field operations, technical cooperation, the treaty bodies, the special procedures of the Commission on Human Rights and the initiatives of the High Commissioner.

Increasing the quantity and quality of human rights information available through all media will foster confidence among governments, NGOs, media, academics and the wider public that the United Nations and OHCHR are achieving results. Greater confidence, in turn, should lead to greater political and public support for the Office's work.

### Specific activities

- Expanding and maintaining contacts with national media. Existing relations with correspondents based in New York and Geneva will be supplemented by developing relationships with national correspondents who specialize in human rights issues.

- Commissioning television coverage of the work of the Office and of the Special Procedures in the field. Broadcast coverage of their work has been limited by a lack of broadcast-standard images. As a result, their reports to the Commission and other bodies are largely ignored by the powerful medium of television.
- Providing media training, support and advice to the Office's field presences including through on-site visits to the larger offices.
- Installing equipment to enable live video and audio broadcasts from the Palais Wilson. This simple project will connect the Palais Wilson to the broadcasting facilities at the Palais des Nations and help the international media arrange ad hoc interviews, at short notice, with the High Commissioner and other senior officials and experts.
- Developing information strategies for different audiences. As a global office, OHCHR has a responsibility to ensure that its work is effectively communicated to all regions, speaking to people from diverse cultures. This is resource-intensive work and will require considerable effort to develop regional and issue-specific information programmes.

### Budget in US\$

Mission to OHCHR Field Offices	15,000
Coverage of field activities by television crews	30,000
Regional training/workshops	25,000
Local consultants, travel	25,000
ISDN line and interface, basic soundproofing for radio broadcasts	5,000
Equipment for lighting, background, soundproofing for television interviews	5,000
Cabling and control panels for direct broadcasts from the Palais Wilson	10,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>115,000</b>
13% Programme support cost	14,950
<b>Total</b>	<b>129,950</b>

## Publications unit

### Context

Activities to improve public knowledge in the field of human rights are essential for achieving lasting respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Whether in printed or electronic form, publications are fundamental tools for OHCHR to disseminate human rights information and increase human rights awareness worldwide. Such publications also provide support to the training activities of the Technical Cooperation Programme.

The growth in number and importance of human rights publications followed an extensive programme of activities to celebrate the fortieth anniversary of the adoption of the Universal Declaration and the ensuing World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights in 1988. The Programme of Action for the Decade for Human Rights Education established that, in the context of the World Public Information Campaign for Human Rights, and in cooperation with relevant non-governmental organizations and agencies, OHCHR should publish fact sheets, studies and other public information human rights materials. According to the Commission on Human Rights, OHCHR should have full responsibility for all United Nations publications in the field of human rights. A Public Information Team is being established in OHCHR to convey the Office's message as clearly and consistently as possible. One of the Team's first tasks will be to examine the publications programme of OHCHR in cooperation with the Publications Board and make recommendations to the High Commissioner.

The Publications Board ensures a common publications policy and oversees the quality of the Office's publica-

tions. A Publications Officer and an Editor will be recruited to assist the Public Information Team in examining OHCHR's publications and to manage related activities on the basis of the recommendations of the Public Information Team.

### Activities

- Planning and managing the publications programme with particular emphasis on the quarterly review, *Human Rights*;
- Convening the meetings of the Publications Board;
- Liaising with other UN departments involved in producing publications (Documents Control, Conference Services, Printing Section, Sales and Marketing Unit);
- Liaising with other international organizations regarding joint publications projects or the revision of publications with a human rights component;
- Revising publications.

### Budget in US\$

Publications Officer	87,600
Editor	110,100
Two PCs and a printer	3,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>200,700</b>
13% Project support cost	26,091
<b>Total</b>	<b>226,791</b>

## Resource mobilization

Demands placed on OHCHR cannot be satisfied from the United Nations regular budget alone; and the need for additional voluntary contributions have increased substantially over the last few years. A small Fund Raising Team is being set up to manage resource mobilization and donor relations in the Office. As a first step, a Senior Fund Raising Officer was recruited in 1999. The tasks of the team are to:

- advise and brief the High Commissioner on funding strategies and issues;
- be the focal point on funding in OHCHR for governments and others who contribute funds;
- brief donors on funding;
- manage the preparation of the Annual Appeal and other funding submissions, as needed;
- manage the preparation of the Annual Report and other reports on the implementation of activities and the use of funds;
- coordinate OHCHR's contributions to the Consolidated Appeals;
- establish and maintain a system to manage contributions; and
- continue efforts to expand the donor base.

### Budget in US\$

Staff and travel	289,400
Preparation of the Annual Appeal 2001	30,000
<b>Sub-total</b>	<b>319,400</b>
13% programme support cost	41,522
<b>Total</b>	<b>360,922</b>



# Revolving fund

Apart from a limited pool of money available through a fund under the separate authority of the Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs, OHCHR has no financial resources at its disposal to use in response to emergencies. Yet the ability to deploy qualified staff on short notice is crucial if the Office is to help avert a human rights crisis. Since OHCHR can only spend funds that have already been contributed, the revolving fund will enable the Office to implement other non-emergency activities before payments are received. The revolving fund will be replenished with contributions from other sources. OHCHR will bolster the revolving fund over the coming years to a level of some US\$ 2 million and would be grateful if contributions in 2000 amounted to **US\$ 500,000**.

**ANNUAL APPEAL 2000**  
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