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FOREWORD BY THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

It is an honour to present the annual appeal of my Office for 2020. My first year as High Commissioner has reaffirmed my conviction that your political and financial investment is crucial for the success in our efforts to promote and protect human rights.

Fostering peaceful societies and sustainable development begins with steps to support and promote human rights. By bringing States, civil society, business actors and many others together behind the universal commitment to rights, we can address the root causes of the crises that challenge our societies. The advocacy, monitoring and technical cooperation advanced by my Office in 2019 has generated progress for people around the world. We will continue to advance under the pillars that shape our work: our support for the international human rights mechanisms; our efforts to drive mainstreaming of human rights within the UN’s development and peace and security efforts; and our work to help States fulfill the core human rights principles of non-discrimination, accountability and participation.

New issues are surging forward to challenge human rights – and old issues continue to create suffering. This appeal highlights the five “frontier” issues in which we are strengthening our work, and where the human rights agenda can have powerful impact in improving lives. Climate change, digital space, inequalities, corruption, and human rights concerns related to the displacement and movement of people constitute forceful challenges to the inalienable human rights of every person. At the same time, policies and programmes grounded in human rights principles, analysis and guidance can constitute the most effective approaches to each of these issues. These are policy areas which involve multiple, complex risks that cross cultures, national boundaries and legal jurisdictions. Although they can be conceived as separate issues, they are intertwined – forming tight knots that strangle the freedom and dignity of individuals, and the peace and sustainable development of societies.

We cannot tackle climate change, vast movements of people, rising tensions and conflicts or sustainable development unless we also deal with corruption and inequalities. Resolving the interlocking issues, which shape and accentuate inequalities is a vital part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – an unprecedented, once in a lifetime opportunity to end extreme poverty on the basis of a cooperative and global plan. And this, in turn, will require comprehensive work to advance the whole spectrum of rights – including economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights, by working in synergy.

In the following pages, we outline the strategies and partnerships we are devising to tackle these challenges. To successfully deliver real human rights impact in these areas, we know we also need to align our organizational processes and working methods – to foster more innovation, cross-cutting teamwork, and fluid communication across all our teams, including in the field. Mindful of the complexity of each of these issues, as well as the connections between them, we will also be deepening our work with the Human Rights Council’s Special Procedures, and the Treaty Bodies.

As you read through some of the examples of the work we have begun – from analysing the gender-differentiated effects of climate change, to bringing tech companies and NGOs together to discuss practical action to address online abuses – I encourage you to consider how you can best further our work to prevent and defuse threats; protect the vulnerable; promote human rights principles of transparency, participation and accountability; and expand our impact.

Human rights work is an investment. It is an investment many of you have chosen to make, in order to ensure greater justice, security and sustainable development across the world. I believe that today’s challenges mean our expertise is vitally needed. We appreciate the support we have received from our 78 donors in 2019, 63 of them being Member States. The US$171.1 million they provided to the Office constituted a small, but worrying decrease of some 8 per cent from contributions in 2018. I am also concerned that many contributions continue to be earmarked, hampering our ability to use these funds rapidly and effectively. Most importantly, at this level of under-funding, UN Human Rights cannot respond positively to all the requests for assistance that we receive in any given year.

We can do better – with your help. On behalf of all the people we work through, with and for, I extend sincere thanks to all our donors. Your support is crucial to everything we do.

MICHELLE BACHELET
United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

* Figures are estimated as of 15 December 2019 and will be adjusted and confirmed upon the final closure of the 2019 accounts.
UN HUMAN RIGHTS IN 2019

Mandate

Promote and protect all human rights for all

Rationalize, adapt, strengthen and streamline the United Nations human rights machinery

Coordinate human rights promotion and protection activities throughout the United Nations system

Recommend that bodies of the United Nations system improve the promotion and protection of all human rights

Provide technical assistance to States for human rights activities

Coordinate United Nations human rights education and public information programmes

Promote and protect the right to development

Enhance international cooperation for the promotion and protection of all human rights

Engage in dialogue with governments in order to secure respect for all human rights

Work actively to remove obstacles to the realization of human rights and to prevent the continuation of human rights violations

UN HUMAN RIGHTS IN 2019

Highlights in 2019

MEMBER STATE COOPERATION

39 treaty actions
2 signatures
19 ratifications
18 accessions

55 countries visited
over 68 visits by special procedures mandates

3,027 official documents produced for meetings of human rights mechanisms, General Assembly and ECOSOC

128 State party reports reviewed by the treaty bodies with

7 States parties visited by the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture

PEOPLE CENTRED

35,997 victims of torture in 77 countries received rehabilitation support

8,544 victims of contemporary forms of slavery in 23 countries obtained assistance

77 fellows (41 female and 36 male) from indigenous, Afrodescendant and minority communities in 56 countries, participated in the UN Human Rights Fellowship Programme

HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS SUPPORT

92 resolutions adopted by the Human Rights Council

23,645 submissions related to individual complaints and Committee on Enforced Disappearances urgent actions received

HUMAN RIGHTS INTEGRATION IN THE UN

12 Human Rights Components in UN Peace Missions, including 577 staff supported by UN Human Rights

36 Human Rights Advisers (14 female and 22 male) deployed in UN Country Teams under the framework of the UNSDG

CIVIL SOCIETY ENGAGEMENT

2,521 Oral statements delivered by NGOs during Human Rights Council sessions

Over 2,420 participants in the 8th Forum on Business and Human Rights

251 grants awarded to civil society organizations, NHRIs and academic institutions for a total amount of $11,539,113

Data available at the time of printing.
Global presence in 2019

**UN HUMAN RIGHTS APPEAL 2020**

**UN HUMAN RIGHTS IN 2019**

**2019 Funding overview**

**STAFF GENDER DISTRIBUTION**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Gender</th>
<th>Field</th>
<th>HQ</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Males</td>
<td>56%</td>
<td>44%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Females</td>
<td>44%</td>
<td>56%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**STAFF IN THE FIELD**

- **55% HQ**
- **13.5% Africa**
- **12% Americas**
- **7% Middle East & North Africa**
- **6.5% Asia Pacific**
- **6% Europe & Central Asia**

**STAFF NATIONALITIES AMONG STAFF**

- **60% international staff**
- **40% national staff**

**FIELD PRESENCES**

- **1,425 staff**
- **142 nationalities**
- **33 JPOs sponsored by 13 member states**

**56% international staff**

**44% national staff**

**63% field staff**

**53% HQ staff**

**GENERAL SERVICE**

- **53% general service**
- **57% professional and above**

**REGULAR BUDGET ALLOCATION**

- **$106.9m**
- **$149.4m** unmet extrabudgetary requirements
- **$172.1m** voluntary contributions

**VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS**

- **$172.1m**

**BREAKDOWN OF DONORS BY BRACKETS OF CONTRIBUTIONS**

- **52.8 (31%) unearmarked**
- **47.2 (29%) earmarked**

**EC, Norway, USA, Sweden, Netherlands, Donors***

**$1-2m (5.6%)**

**$2-5m (12.4%)**

**$5-10m (20.8%)**

**$10-20m (47.9%)**

**More than $20m (5.6%)**

**$10-20m (20.8%)**

**$5-10m (20.8%)**

**$1-2m (5.6%)**

**Less than $1m (11.2%)**

**BREAKDOWN BY GEOGRAPHIC GROUP**

- **3 African Group**
- **15 Asia-Pacific Group**
- **14 Eastern European Group**
- **6 Latin American and Caribbean Group**
- **25 Western European and Others Group**
- **15 non-state donors (private, multilateral donors, etc.)**

**Total amount received**

**$172.1m**

**Unmet extrabudgetary requirements**

**$149.4m**

**Voluntary contributions received**

**$172.1m**

**78 donors of whom 13 are Member States**

*The 2019 regular budget allotment reflects a number of across-the-board reductions of between 5 and 25 per cent on several budget lines decided by the General Assembly.*

**Donors are listed according to their level of contribution.**

**Figures are estimated as of 15 December 2019 and will be adjusted and confirmed upon the final closure of the 2019 accounts.**

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ROADMAP TO 2021

This Annual Appeal presents the financial requirements of our work in 2020, under the Secretary General’s Strategic Framework and as guided by our Management Plan (OMP) through to the end of 2021. The Plan provides a robust results framework based on six Pillars, four Shifts and three Spotlights.

OMP at a glance
“Frontier” issues: exploring emerging human rights concerns

To leverage greater human rights impact, we seek to “shift” our overall approach to obtain greater coherence across all we do, wherever we do it. To this end, in each of our six pillars, we integrate focused emphasis on four “shift” areas. These shifts help to better focus and unite our efforts across and within the pillars so that, as one Office, we deepen our expertise, strengthen our partnerships and scale up our human rights results.

In the 2018-2021 period, one of the areas we are shifting our focus on are emerging human rights concerns (“frontier” issues).

Many of the complex challenges that the world faces also have critical human rights dimensions that, if left unseen or misunderstood, will hamper efforts to find (human rights-based) solutions. For this reason, over the coming years, we will also focus on new “frontiers” for human rights – issues whose connections with human rights are not well understood or well documented.

The “frontier” issues on which we are focusing are climate change, digital space, inequality, corruption and people on the move.

We examine all our work through the lens of these “frontier” concerns. We work with the international human rights mechanisms to identify opportunities to fill associated protection gaps. We explore associated implications in the contexts of development and peace and security and we work to bring the principles of accountability, participation and non-discrimination alive in the context of these issues.

Our aim is to increase human rights expertise on frontier issues, explore their human rights dimensions, and call for human rights solutions that emphasize the participation of affected people themselves.
Climate change is the defining issue of our time. The world has never seen a threat to people of this scope. Climate change is increasingly impacting the effective enjoyment of a broad range of human rights including those to water and sanitation, housing, food, health, development and even life itself. Those who have contributed the least to climate change are often those most affected by it. In line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Preamble of the Paris Agreement on climate change, UN ‘Human Rights’ aim is to ensure that human rights inform the implementation of the Paris Agreement so that mitigation and adaptation measures are shaped by and contributed to by human rights principles and mechanisms in the application of their mandates to the context of climate change and environmental degradation; and help build capacity of human rights and environmental defenders, civil society and government officials to monitor, research and advocate on the linkages between climate change and human rights.

In 2020, we will assist human rights mechanisms in the application of their mandates to the context of climate change and environmental degradation; and help build capacity of human rights and environmental defenders, civil society and government officials to monitor, research and advocate on the linkages between climate change and human rights. The Office will continue to collaborate with partners to integrate human rights standards in climate change laws and policies, including in adaptation and mitigation measures, and advocate for the inclusion of all people in relevant decision-making processes as well as for their access to information and effective remedies for victims.

The Office will also advocate on behalf of environmental human rights defenders and support efforts by the UN system to protect them; support Member States in developing rights-based approaches to environmental and climate action; and conduct research and advocacy to address human rights harms in this context, particularly to groups in vulnerable situations. The Human Rights Council, its special procedures mechanisms, the human rights treaty bodies, and the Office have brought renewed attention to the relevance of human rights in the context of climate change and environmental degradation through a series of resolutions, reports, and activities on the subject, and by advocating for a human rights-based approach to all climate action.

Several important developments took place in recent years. These included the adoption of Human Rights Council resolution 40/11 on environmental human rights defenders in 2019 and the Human Rights Committee’s general comment 36 (2018) on the right to life, which explicitly references the environment and climate change, as well as reports, joint statements and country visits by special procedures mechanisms, which focused on the human rights impacts of climate change.

With the implementation of the Paris Agreement, focus and action shifts to the national level, including the nationally determined contributions that embody a country’s efforts to reduce emissions and adapt to the impacts of climate change. In this context, it is even more crucial to work with domestic institutions to support effective follow-up on country-specific recommendations of UN human rights mechanisms. This deepening engagement by human rights mechanisms with climate change is critical to make sure that no one is left behind.

In the next two years, the Office will provide strategic guidance on integration of environmental issues in national reporting to human rights mechanisms and guidance and tools to support the engagement of environmental organizations with human rights mechanisms and vice versa. For example, in the Pacific, the Office will undertake such work with Fiji, Marshall Islands, Samoa and Vanuatu and in 2020 specifically, provide training on national reporting in Cook Islands, New Zealand, Niue, Samoa and Tonga.

Ensuring sustainable development that benefits all people involves addressing environmental harms and building community resilience based on human rights. The implementation of the Paris Agreement and of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presents a unique opportunity to foster this at the national and international levels. The High Commissioner, who has called for global recognition of the human right to a healthy environment, including through her statement to the Human Rights Council focusing on climate change, is leading directly the Office’s engagement on this front.

In 2019, UN Human Rights signed a Memorandum of Understanding with UN Environment to advance together our work on human rights and the environment. With support from the Office, the UN Environment Assembly adopted its first resolution 4/17 on women’s rights and gender equality. UN Human Rights supported the launch of UN Environment’s Environmental Rights Initiative, which specifically focuses on environmental human rights defenders. The Office also organized workshops on human rights and climate change with the Paris Committee on Capacity-Building at the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.
Change (UNFCCC) and on integrating human rights in nation-level determined contributions. The Office further support the development of the UN system as it is modelled to environmental and socio-safety goals and calls for the effective regulation of businesses to limit environmental impacts.

In 2020, UN Human Rights will undertake work in Colombia, Guinea, Liberia and Madagascar related to the environmental impacts of mining and continue ongoing work on the human rights impact of mega-infrastructure projects, including hydro-electric dams in Guatemala and Mexico. The UN Human Rights Regional Offices for East Africa and Southern Africa will expand the focus on human rights and climate change on food security in the Pacific. In the Pacific, the Office will convene a Regional Pacific Business and Human Rights Forum in order to promote experiences of businesses between State authorities, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), civil society organisations (CSOs) and the private sector.

The Office will work to understand linkages between climate change and the negative impacts on their human rights situations. In the Pacific, the Office will work to ensure that adaptation and mitigation plans are developed in consultation with affected groups, publicly available, and transparently financed. For example, in the Pacific, the Office will convene a Small Atoll meeting in the Republic of the Marshall Islands focusing on the Mamber States – Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Maldives and Tuvalu - at the forefront of the most profound impacts of climate change. In Liberia, the Office will continue its ongoing work to ensure that early warning and prevention measures address the human rights impacts of periodic flooding and storm surges in low-lying coastal areas. The Regional Office for Southern Africa will hold a capacity-building workshop and training for the environmental human rights defenders in the region, in follow-up to its 2019 study, which identified environmental human rights defenders and leaders of social movements related to the mining industry to be at particular risk of human rights harm.

Working to mainstream human rights and strengthen partnerships for the integration of human rights in climate and environmental action, the Office will reinforce the efforts of the UN system, including UN Country Teams and relevant human rights mechanisms, to respond to the protection needs of environmental human rights defenders and help promote protection of the environment.

**Taking Early Action on Climate Through Early Warning and Prevention**

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**Protecting Vulnerable Groups against the Adverse Human Rights Impacts of Climate Change and Environmental Degradation**

Effective climate adaptation measures will be those that empower women, indigenous peoples, youth and others who live in vulnerable areas, many of whom are members of marginalised and discriminated communities. This requires governments to involve these communities in seeking solutions and to dedicate resources to upholding their rights, including through equitable and improved access to social protection and a just transition towards greener jobs.

In the past year, we have prepared a number of reports on the gender-differentiated impacts of climate change, made submissions to the UNFCCC regarding renewal and extension of its Gender Action Plan, supported the work of the local communities and indigenous peoples platform at the UNFCCC, participated in the first meeting of the signatories to the Escazú Agreement, contributed to the Youth Climate Summit, and co-convened the Peoples’ Summit on Climate, Rights and Human Survival. All of these efforts aimed at strengthening protection for groups in vulnerable situations and promoting their participation, access to information and justice in the context of environmental decision-making. In 2020, we will continue this work with a particular focus on the rights of persons with disabilities.

In 2020, the West Africa Regional Office will begin a new project on climate-related displacement in the Sahel, and the East Africa Regional Office will continue to work on climate change, trade and human rights. UN Human Rights Regional Offices in Southeast Asia and the Pacific will continue addressing the human rights situations of persons displaced by climate change. In the Pacific specifically, the Office will work on building and strengthening alliances for climate justice, partnering with human rights and environmental defenders, including young people.

Focusing on climate impacts, the Office will continue to reinforce efforts to promote the rights of people on the move. We will also work to prevent conflict, improve early warning, expand civil society space, strengthen human rights mechanisms, reduce inequalities, address multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, and implement the 2030 Agenda. For example, our field presence in Brazil, Cambodia and Mexico will continue to work on indigenous peoples’ land rights with support from ongoing processes within the human rights system, including the elaboration by the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) of a general comment on the right to land and a study on land by the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP). Our East Africa Regional Office will carry out work on the impacts of climate change on the livelihoods and rights of women and girls.

We will promote the equitable distribution of the benefits of sustainable development and the meaningful and effective participation of all persons in environmental decision-making processes, with the objective of protecting the rights of persons disproportionately affected by environmental harms and addressing the root causes of their exclusion and disadvantage. We will continue our work to promote access to information and access to justice in environmental matters, including through our field presences in the Latin American and Caribbean region and the Middle East and North Africa to promote the effective implementation of the Escazú Agreement on Access to Information, Public Participation and Justice in Environmental Matters in
In the past year, the Office worked with a number of NHRIs and government entities to increase their capacity to ensure accountability and provide better access to remedies for human rights impacts of climate change. UN Human Rights continued its efforts to support the climate justice movement and protect environmental human rights defenders and helped to promote accountability for perpetrators of environmental harms. In the coming years, the Office will support Southeast Asian and Pacific countries by providing technical assistance to NHRIs at national and regional levels in monitoring and advocating economic, social and cultural rights, in the context of climate change. Similar work will be carried out in Guatemala, Mexico and Uruguay.

To ensure accountability, we will continue to advocate for access of civil society to environmental forums, decision-making processes, information, justice and effective remedies. In so doing, the Office will promote the equal, meaningful, informed and effective participation of all persons in environmental decision-making processes, particularly those disproportionately affected by environmental harms, and promote access to information, justice and effective remedies related to environmental actions and harms.

In 2020, UN Human Rights will also continue to provide legal advice and technical support to Member States on human rights obligations and human rights-compliant action, including by drawing on the expertise of the human rights mechanisms and facilitating international cooperation and experience sharing. The Office will conduct research and advocacy to address the human rights harms caused by climate change and environmental degradation, particularly in relation to groups in vulnerable situations. Such research and advocacy will include provision of strategic guidance on integrating human rights standards in environmental policies and laws and promotion of international human rights law as a tool to establish legal standing in court and obtain redress for human rights violations linked to environmental harms.

Pacific islanders are already experiencing the tragic effects of climate change on their daily lives. Reduced access to water and food insecurity means more and more people have been forced to leave their homes. Land used for traditional agriculture has been eroded, crops have been damaged and many have lost their livelihoods.

Predictions by climate scientists say the crisis will devastate future generations. However, human rights have been notably absent from ongoing climate discussions.

UN Human Rights has been exploring potential strategies and solutions to help address the crisis. In July 2019, the Office convened the inaugural Human Rights and Climate Change Conference in Nadi, Fiji, bringing together representatives from 14 Pacific nations, as well as civil society organisations, private sector and National Human Rights Institutions. The conference explored the linkages between climate change and human rights, and the relevance of this to government policies.

In recent years, the Pacific region has taken a global lead in recognising the realities of climate change and in taking measures for climate resilience, mitigation and adaptation, said High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet.

The Pacific islands are a clear linkage between the rights to water and sanitation, health, education, food, work, adequate housing and the right to self-determination.

The conference provided a knowledge-sharing platform for stakeholders from and outside of the region by bringing climate change and human rights practitioners together, thus preparing the ground for future UN Human Rights’ work in building effective alliances for climate action.

“At the national level, this requires Pacific stakeholders to consider the human rights implications of climate-induced migration, to prioritise the plight of low-lying atoll countries; to develop strategies that empower communities and ensure meaningful participation of all in the formulation and implementation of climate policies; and to collaborate with other stakeholders to mobilise resources for climate action.

Globally, stakeholders can and should utilise all available human rights mechanisms and international fora to help address the phenomenon.

In her message to the conference participants, Bachelet urged that immediate steps are taken to address the crisis. “We are facing an emergency. An emergency that threatens immense damage to your unique islands and the cultures your communities preserve and cherish. The international community has an obligation to take action to stop the climate crisis from deepening and to provide resources and technical support for your adaptation efforts.”

“Mr. Lavetanalagi Seruiraduvatu, Coordinator, Alliance for Future Generations, Fiji”

Ms. Louknikini Vili, Director Office of the Ombudsperson, NHRI Samoa

“’I really enjoyed and learnt from the Commissioner from the National Human Rights Commission of the Philippines, who shared their experience on holding a national enquiry on climate change. There is a clear linkage between climate change violations and human rights.'”

“This important meeting in a region endangered by the consequences of climate change is most welcome,” said High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet, as she opened the conference via video message.

“The people of small island States are amongst those immediately affected, with a daily impact on the effective enjoyment of the rights to water and sanitation, health, education, food, work, adequate housing and the right to self-determination.”
DIGITAL SPACE AND EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES

TOWARDS A HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH FOR TECH COMPANIES

Building on our extensive engagement with tech companies in recent years, and with a growing uptake of human rights principles in tech companies’ policy development and practice, we will launch the B-Tech project – a project for application and research to embed respect for human rights in line with international human rights norms and standards.

UN Human Rights is working to foster cross-sector dialogue to address these challenges. Our authority and experience can be applied to help strengthen public policy regimes and company practices, both to avoid harm as well as to leverage new tools in support of rights. As a global leader and convener on human rights, we can also help leverage new technologies to advance human rights everywhere, for everyone.

Digital technology offers the world unprecedented opportunities. It is driving widespread social change and can play a critical role in building prosperity, protecting our environment, and securing peace. However, new technologies also bring new and grave challenges to our societies, our states, and our lives: challenges that can only be addressed effectively if their human rights implications are considered as they are designed, developed and deployed.

The digital space raises many difficult challenges, in relation, among others, to privacy, freedom of expression and gender equality. It is fostering new forms of hate speech, discrimination, violence and exploitation. The rise of powerful technology companies is daunting, challenging the capacity of States and requiring new strategies to ensure human rights protection. Technology companies and States must recognize and assume their responsibilities to respect and protect human rights in line with international human rights norms and standards.

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Over the course of 2019, UN Human Rights established pilot partnerships with tech labs from leading universities to enhance our field monitoring and investigations, strengthening the capacity of human rights teams, for example, in the Central African Republic to monitor online hate speech, and in the State of Palestine to integrate data from open sources into monitoring. In the framework of the Secretary-General’s Strategy and Action Plan on Hate Speech, we will expand these partnerships in 2020. This will include supporting efforts by the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) to monitor hate speech and a partnership with UN Global Pulse to develop a technological tool to enhance monitoring and analysis of hate speech by UN field presences. We will also strengthen our engagement on cybersecurity issues to ensure that related policies are centred on protecting and promoting human rights.

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UN Human Rights is working to foster cross-sector dialogue to address these challenges. Our authority and experience can be applied to help strengthen public policy regimes and company practices, both to avoid harm as well as to leverage new tools in support of rights. As a global leader and convener on human rights, we can also help leverage new technologies to advance human rights everywhere, for everyone.

Digital technology offers the world unprecedented opportunities. It is driving widespread social change and can play a critical role in building prosperity, protecting our environment, and securing peace. However, new technologies also bring new and grave challenges to our societies, our states, and our lives: challenges that can only be addressed effectively if their human rights implications are considered as they are designed, developed and deployed.

The digital space raises many difficult challenges, in relation, among others, to privacy, freedom of expression and gender equality. It is fostering new forms of hate speech, discrimination, violence and exploitation. The rise of powerful technology companies is daunting, challenging the capacity of States and requiring new strategies to ensure human rights protection. Technology companies and States must recognize and assume their responsibilities to respect and protect human rights in line with international human rights norms and standards.

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Over the course of 2019, UN Human Rights established pilot partnerships with tech labs from leading universities to enhance our field monitoring and investigations, strengthening the capacity of human rights teams, for example, in the Central African Republic to monitor online hate speech, and in the State of Palestine to integrate data from open sources into monitoring. In the framework of the Secretary-General’s Strategy and Action Plan on Hate Speech, we will expand these partnerships in 2020. This will include supporting efforts by the United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo (MONUSCO) to monitor hate speech and a partnership with UN Global Pulse to develop a technological tool to enhance monitoring and analysis of hate speech by UN field presences. We will also strengthen our engagement on cybersecurity issues to ensure that related policies are centred on protecting and promoting human rights.

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In 2020, the Office will step up the engagement between international human rights mechanisms and the technology community, leveraging the work of the Office, the special procedures, and the treaty bodies to advocate for a human rights-based approach to the development and use of digital technologies. For example, we will further upgrade the Universal Human Rights Index (UHRI), which compiles all country-specific recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms, to make it more user-friendly and improve the accuracy of tagging of the recommendations against human rights themes and the SDGs. This will facilitate human rights analysis and the use of the recommendations by all stakeholders. We will also offer to States the National Recommendations Tracking Database (NRTD), which States can customize to record the progress they are making towards the realization of human rights.

Building on fruitful missions in 2018 and 2019 by Special Rapporteurs on freedom of expression, violence against women, and freedom of assembly and association, we will support engagement by these and other rapporteurs and facilitate direct engagement with tech companies on special procedures reports and recommendations.

We will expand our reporting to the Human Rights Council on key issues impacted by digital technology, including the right to privacy in the digital age and the impact of new technologies on the right to peaceful assembly.

We will also continue to support the work of the Advisory Committee of the Human Rights Council and treaty bodies on the enjoyment of human rights in the digital age.
Corruption exists in all countries’ public and private spheres, no matter their economic and political systems or their level of development. It is a transnational phenomenon whose solutions require international cooperation, including for the recovery of stolen assets. Corruption is a major obstacle to the full realization of human rights and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. It undermines a State’s ability to mobilize and allocate resources for the delivery of services essential for the realization of human rights and it leads to discriminatory access to public services in favour of those able to influence authorities. Efforts to stop corruption and realize human rights are mutually reinforcing. Both demand accountability, participation and transparency.

The Convention against Corruption is one of the most widely ratified international treaties, demonstrating the importance that States worldwide attach to the fight against corruption. The commitment to fight corruption is also firmly anchored in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda. Sustainable Development Goal 16 calls upon Member States to, inter alia, substantially reduce corruption, bribery and illicit financial flows and to strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels. The General Assembly’s special session on corruption, scheduled for the first half of 2021, provides an important opportunity to make progress towards a rights-based approach to corruption. Our aim is to help explain how human rights can support the ant corruption movement, and to raise greater awareness about the potential of human rights to combat corruption.

In addressing corruption, UN Human Rights will work closely with key UN actors with an explicit mandate and specialized expertise in this area of corruption, such as the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the UN Development Programme (UNDP). For example, in Jamaica, the Office will cooperate with UNODC to ensure anti-corruption efforts and human rights are integrated within the United Nations Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework (UNMSDF).

UN Human Rights is committed to step up its work on corruption, including with regard to prevention, investigation and prosecution, international cooperation and asset recovery. In particular, the Office intends to further strengthen its capacity to support countries in their efforts to move towards rights-based anti-corruption laws, support the important work of the human rights mechanisms on corruption, and protect civil society in its fight against corruption.

Corruption and its varied forms constitute a major obstacle to the full realization of human rights. The Convention against Corruption and in the outcome of the UN summit on corruption in 2021. It is increasingly being highlighted by treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). In addition, special procedures and Commissions of Inquiry are addressing corruption in their work. We will continue to provide hands-on support to countries with the implementation of recommendations of human rights mechanisms. The Office in Cambodia, for example, continued to facilitate the development of a criminal case database with a view to enhance the transparency of the judicial process and forestall judicial corruption. Beyond providing support to the implementation of international human rights mechanisms recommendations, we will also continue to provide specialized expertise at the country level to help national human rights institutions in their fight against corruption.

In 2020, UN Human Rights will undertake research on approaches and methods for measuring and investigating corruption and its impact on the enjoyment of human rights, with a view to identifying victims of corruption from a human rights perspective. In this context, we will develop principles and guidelines for the human rights-compliant return and use of seized and confiscated assets. For example, in Madagascar, at the request of the Government and in line with the National Development Plan, we will work on tackling corruption, through the implementation of capacity-building programmes targeting the Anti-Corruption Pole (ACP), Madagascar’s anti-corruption court, including human rights training for the Magistrates within the ACP. In Central America, in partnership with the Inter-American Commission on Human Rights, we will convene workshops on the impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights in order to mainstream human rights principles and standards in the regional debate on corruption. In the Central African region, UN Human Rights will work with the national institutes of statistics to strengthen the collection and treatment of data on natural resources management and social expenditure to better document and measure the negative impact of corruption on the enjoyment of human rights.

The Office will continue to support human rights mechanisms’ work on corruption within their respective mandates. Corruption, as a systemic root cause of human rights violations, is increasingly being highlighted by treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR). In addition, special procedures and Commissions of Inquiry are addressing corruption in their work. We will continue to provide hands-on support to countries with the implementation of recommendations of human rights mechanisms. The Office in Cambodia, for example, continued to facilitate the development of a criminal case database with a view to enhance the transparency of the judicial process and forestall judicial corruption.

Beyond providing support to the implementation of international human rights mechanisms recommendations, we will also continue to provide specialized expertise at the country level to help national human rights institutions in their fight against corruption.

Promoting a human rights-based approach to fight corruption

In line with the Doha Declaration on “Integrating Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice into the Wider United Nations Agenda to Address Social and Economic Challenges and to Promote the Rule of Law”, the Office will promote a holistic, victim-focused approach, with the aim of integrating human rights principles and norms into the design of anti-corruption strategies. We will support countries in working towards rights-based national anti-corruption laws, policies and practices. By putting people – the rights holders, and States – the duty bearers, at the centre of the human rights-based approach to anti-corruption, there is the potential to increase the effectiveness of strategies.

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Supporting and leveraging the work of human rights mechanisms on corruption

Civil society actors play a crucial role in combating corruption. They provide critical information on corruption and help document its negative impact on human rights. In important ways, their work complements that of official mechanisms established to monitor progress in implementing anti-corruption measures. Treaty bodies look to their work when they consider the obligations of States to protect and investigate human rights violations tainted by corruption. To strengthen the capacity of civil society actors to contribute to the fight against corruption, we have worked with the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights and the Centre for Civil and Political Rights on a guide for anti-corruption actors on how to leverage the work of human rights mechanisms in their efforts to combat corruption. Over the coming years, the Office will endeavour to increase civic space in the international discourse, including the intergovernmental debate, in follow-up to the implementation of the UN Convention against Corruption and in the outcome of the UN summit on corruption in 2021.

Supporting and protecting civil society in its fight against corruption
As all Member States agreed, in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), on targets, and indicators for action on the economic dimensions of inequality and the prohibited grounds of discrimination, the Agenda also presents a unique opportunity to challenge structural forms of discrimination, exclusion and inequality and to make real the promise to “leave no one behind”. Drawing on the opportunities of the UN development system reform and building on the Secretary-General’s call for a decade of action and acceleration to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030, UN Human Rights is uniquely placed to support the transformation of States’ human rights obligations and recommendations from the UN human rights mechanisms into concrete SDG policies and practices.

In 2020, at a time of growing unrest over spiralling inequalities, we will step up our contribution to the efforts by Member States and the UN system to address discrimination and economic inequalities. We will support the strengthening of analyses and recommendations in order to secure the most sustainable and equitable economic policies and development plans. We will increase focus on how public investment, debt sustainability, budgets, tax policies, social protection, elimination of corruption and illegal financial flows, and governance of natural resources can better promote the reduction of inequalities and the realization of economic, social and cultural rights and the right to development.

As the UN reasserts a role in supporting governments on “Economic Transformation,” UN Human Rights will highlight how a human rights-based approach to economic policy-making can contribute to economies that place people and planet at the centre of prosperity. We will provide technical support on these issues in countries that face high levels of inequalities, including in our new field presence in Sudan and the transition from the human rights component in the peace mission (MINUSTAH) to the human rights unit in the new special political mission (BINUH) in Haiti, and in specific countries within the regions of Southern Africa and South Central America, as well as Asia-Pacific. We will step up our technical assistance on economic inequalities under the framework of SDG implementation to show how issues of public investment, budgets, tax policies, elimination of corruption and illegal financial flows, and debt sustainability relate to the realization of gender equality and human rights, especially economic and social rights. Building on the Memorandum of Understanding recently signed with UNEP, we will escalate work countering the disastrous impact of environmental degradation and climate change on enjoyment of human rights, with due recognition that those who bear the brunt are often the most indigent and vulnerable populations.

We will also address the human rights impacts of austerity measures, which tend to have disproportionate consequences on those already marginalised. In select countries, we will pilot the provision of human rights-based economic analysis and policy advice. In addition, we will encourage and assist States and partners to apply human rights impact assessments and analysis to trade and investment policies, environmental and social risk management, and development finance, including by promoting the application of the Guiding Principles for Human Rights Impact Assessment of Economic Reform Form Policies.

We will help create and maintain safeguard-policies and independent accountability mechanisms for development financing institutions and will support populations affected by them. We will further play a leadership role within the UN development system to ensure the implementation, monitoring and review of the targets to reduce inequalities and eliminate discrimination that are included in SDGs 5, 10 and 16. The rolling out of the Chief Executives Board for Coordination’s Shared UN System Approach for Action on inequalities and the UNSDG Operational Guide for the UN system on Leaving No One Behind present unique opportunities for UN Human Rights to engage at the global and national levels. We will pilot work under the UNSDG Operational Guidance for Cameroon, Nepal and Tunisia and integrate lessons for country implementation in the context of the UN development reforms. As the reform of the UN development system is rolled out through the new Common Country Analyses (CCA) and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCFs), we will work to help UN Country Teams (UNCTs) apply a human rights-based approach to development, “leaving no one behind.” We will support work for gender equality and women’s empowerment (in line with the UNSDG’s Guiding Principles) and on rights-based risk analysis for prevention.

Economic inequalities and other forms of economic injustice are key drivers of social unrest and conflict. As the 2018 UN World Bank report, Pathways for Peace, makes clear, “addressing inequalities and exclusion, making institutions more inclusive, and ensuring that development strategies are risk-informed are central to preventing the fracturing of the social fabric that could erupt into crisis.” Applying human rights principles and practices, our work with the rest of the UN system will help identify and address inequality and its root causes.

Denial of economic and social rights can also be important drivers of conflict while disputes over land and natural resources are a pre-eminent cause of grievance. We will work to ensure that State authorities pursue land and housing policies that protect the rights of people and consider free, prior, informed consent for decisions affecting individuals and communities, especially indigenous peoples and their ancestral land and territories. As climate change also poses a significant threat to the realization of the 2030 Agenda, we will assess the human rights impact of climate change on the most vulnerable communities to help ensure that government responses meet the needs of affected populations in line with human rights. For example, in 2020, we will conduct a global assessment of forced evictions, making institutions more inclusive, to protect the rights of people and consider free, prior, informed consent for decisions affecting individuals and communities, especially indigenous peoples and their ancestral land and territories. As climate change also poses a significant threat to the realization of the 2030 Agenda, we will assess the human rights impact of climate change on the most vulnerable communities to help ensure that government responses meet the needs of affected populations in line with human rights.

In the context of crises, especially protracted crises, to prevent the exacerbation of inequality, it is important to protect human rights also in humanitarian responses. In 2020, we will work to advance a human rights-based approach specifically to the right to health in humanitarian settings (including for sexual and reproductive health) and support implementation of international commitments on bringing humanitarian and development action closer together.

The resurgence of right-wing populism or political nationalism in many countries can be attributed, in part, to the growth of inequality and the widespread neglect and denial of economic, social and cultural rights. Against this backdrop, we will work to strengthen the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights, as well as to ensure public accountability and access to justice for violations of these rights as a critical part of redressing this imbalance.

In 2020, we will strengthen efforts to support authorities to integrate human rights standards when they draft and implement laws, policies and strategies on land and housing, assist accountability mechanisms to address forced evictions, homelessness, displacement, land grabs and other violations of housing, land and related rights such as food, water and sanitation; strengthen partnerships to increase awareness of the right to housing and the right to land; and develop and implement approaches to implement the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind with respect to housing, land and related human rights, including by integrating a gender perspective.

We will build partnerships and engage with key stakeholders (including international financial institutions) on the design of social protection, food security and universal health coverage to ensure that they protect human rights and target those furthest behind.

As the official “custodian” for four SDG indicators, the Office has developed the methodology and metadata to measure the discrimination targets, which now needs to be adopted in the collection of data at national level. In 2020, we will promote a human rights-based approach to data, advocating for the disaggregation of data based on the prohibited grounds of discrimination. We will work with experts and practitioners to improve the capacity of national institutions to collect, analyse and disaggregate data, move beyond the averages and understand better the discrimination, deprivation and inequalities faced by certain groups, keep track of core human rights obligations and the progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights, and apply more inclusive data life cycles. The Office will continue to nurture more systematic institutional collaboration between UNHRDs and national statistical offices, as we have in Kenya and Uganda, and strengthen our partnerships with UN Women, UNFPA, UNDP and regional mechanisms in this critical area.

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR), special procedures mechanisms, the human rights treaty bodies and the Office have worked to focus more attention on economic, social and cultural rights and the 2030 Agenda. In 2020, we will continue to strengthen the implementation of the recommendations of the human rights mechanisms, recognizing that such advances can also speed up progress in achieving the 2030 Agenda. We will support country-level data disaggregation and work to build bridges between the human rights and SDG reporting and review mechanisms with support to National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMFRs). For example, in Tunisia, the Office has been advocating for the integration of the NMFR into the National Development Action Plan (NDAP) to record progress they are making towards the realization of human rights, and to prepare their Voluntary National Reviews.

In 2020, we will advocate for expanding civil society participation in SDG monitoring, particularly for those who are most marginalized and left furthest behind. We will continue to promote enabling environments for civil society and advocate on the critical role of NRHRs in this regard. We will build the evidence base for why civil society is good for societies and develop effective advocacy, as well as policy and legal advice, to expand the civic space within which human rights defenders can operate (e.g., Europe, Southern and East Africa, South-East Asia, Middle East and Central Africa Regional Offices). We will advocate for better protection of civil society with States, NRHRs and UN entities. Building on our protection mandate, we will strengthen documentation of the specific challenges that human rights defenders face, including women and LGBTI human rights defenders, working on inequalities, discrimination, gender issues, economic, social and cultural rights, land, environment and the rights of indigenous peoples and make trends that relate to online and offline civic space visible.

1 UN Human Rights supported the South African Human Rights Commission to embed better human rights standards when they draft and implement the discrimination targets.
COUNTING PEOPLE WITH ALBINISM: A STELLAR STEP FOR INCLUSION IN KENYA

“When we are counted, we begin to count,” says Nicolas Fasel, chief statistician at UN Human Rights.

And counting people – or deciding not to do so – is not neutral. In Kenya, the ambition to “leave no one behind,” in the context of the 2030 Agenda, has found its way through the 2019 National Population and Housing Census.

UN Human Rights supported the preparation of the 2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census that took place in August 2019. Through its partnerships with the Kenya National Bureau of Statistics and the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR), the Office influenced the inclusion of questions in the census questionnaire – in particular, on disability, persons with albinism, intersex and indigenous peoples.

“When the census was counted, the first time that persons with albinism were counted in Kenya. For members of the Albinism Society of Kenya, who had started a campaign to be counted in 2009, this is a great milestone!”

“UN Human Rights was instrumental in advocating for the inclusion of albinism in the census instruments,” recalled Ms. Mukaindo.

“The clamour for our inclusion into the mainstream society hasn’t been easy. Persons with albinism must count in decision-making,” claimed Mr. Isaac Mwaura, national coordinator of the Albinism Society of Kenya, and first Member of Parliament and senator with albinism in Kenya.

The inclusion of people with albinism in the 2019 census will contribute to better policies and programmes that will benefit them.

“Having accurate numbers on persons with albinism will help the State in improving its services to persons with albinism, and in particular, the albinism support programme,” notes Ms. Mukaindo.

Ikponwosa Ero, the UN Independent Expert on the enjoyment of human rights by persons with albinism, declared that Kenya “was set to become a regional leader on the issue.”
Migration is the story of humanity since its earliest times – a story of the many women, men and children who have sought out safety, dignity and new horizons abroad. Migration can be a safe, positive and empowering experience but not so for an increasing number of people on the move – those compelled to leave their homes for reasons of poverty, food insecurity, lack of access to healthcare or education as well as the consequences of environmental degradation and climate change. In addition to the perhaps more readily recognised drivers of forced displacement such as persecution, violence and conflict.

Many of today’s 272 million international migrants face pervasive intolerance and xenophobia, discrimination and a wide range of other human rights violations. Many continue to move, live and work in the shadows, marginalized and excluded. The absence of human rights-based migration governance systems at the local, national, regional and global levels only contributes to their plight. Some current responses to migration challenge universal values and long-respected norms of international law established to ensure the respect, protection and fulfilment of all human rights for all people. Effective protection of migrants’ human rights, no matter where they are or how or why they are on the move, must be a central concern if we are to “leave no one behind”.

UN Human Rights has a major role to play in helping build human rights protection for migrants. The Office is uniquely placed to bring in-depth understanding of the human rights situation of migrants on the ground to the national, regional and global levels. Our well-established monitoring and reporting of human rights violations ensures our contributions are both credible and impactful.

In collaboration with the UN human rights mechanisms and other stakeholders, the Office will enhance its support for the implementation of the GCM. The Office will continue work at the global, regional and national levels, in the spirit of a whole-of-UN-system approach, to ensure that norm-based and protection-focused responses effectively guaranteeing the human rights of all migrants are appropriately integrated throughout the UN system and in Member States’ responses to international migration. As a member of the Network’s Executive Committee, established by the Secretary-General to provide system-wide support to this endeavour, the Office will co-lead or participate in a number of work streams, including on support to Member States as they develop GCM national implementation plans, strengthening capacities to expand pathways for admission and stay for migrants in vulnerable situations based on human rights or humanitarian grounds, ensuring returns are safe and dignified, and ensuring the economic, social and cultural rights of migrants are respected including through health, housing and education services.

The Office will further strengthen its support for the Human Rights Council, its bodies and mechanisms, as well as the treaty bodies, in their work for the human rights of people on the move, including by promoting and contributing to the implementation of their recommendations at the country, regional and global levels. We will build on the work of the Special Rapporteur on trafficking in persons to engage with private sector companies and trade unions for the protection of migrant workers, tackling their vulnerability to trafficking and severe exploitation. The Office has helped produce guidance material for businesses on how to design worker-led grievance mechanisms. The new agreement between the Government of Ireland and the International Transport Workers’ Federation addressing cases of severe exploitation and trafficking in persons, which grants new immigration rights to non-European Economic Area workers in the fishing industry, is a related result. Building on this success, UN Human Rights will reinforce its engagement with non-traditional actors to promote their use of outcomes of the international and regional human rights mechanisms.
In a continued effort to address harmful narratives on migration and against migrants, UN Human Rights will strengthen its engagement on issues related to countering hate and reshaping narratives on migration. The Office will launch a global communications initiative to help counter these narratives, focused on universal values, our common humanity and solidarity. UN Human Rights will adapt the initiative for relevance to specific regional contexts, such as those of Central America, Southern Africa, Asia-Pacific and Europe. In the Asia-Pacific region, for example, to help reframe harmful narratives, the Office will produce and disseminate a series of videos on the stories of migrants from Asia-Pacific. This will contribute to the implementation of GCM commitments on eliminating all forms of discrimination and on reshaping perceptions of migration, as well as the Secretary-General’s UN Strategy and Plan of Action on Hate Speech.

Migratory movements around the world are increasingly precarious. In this context, UN Human Rights has enhanced its focus on the protection of the human rights of migrants, giving specific attention to the needs of migrants in vulnerable situations – those who are particularly at risk of being left behind. To better identify the specific human rights protection gaps that migrate face and to strengthen the design and implementation of human rights-based responses, the Office has dispatched monitoring teams to border and transit locations around the world, including in Austria, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Italy, Mexico, Niger, Peru and Tunisia. In 2020, the Office will continue to monitor and report on the human rights challenges faced by people on the move in all phases of the migration cycle, including in Asia-Pacific, Central America, and West Africa and along the central Mediterranean route. In addition, we will provide technical assistance, guidance materials and legal expertise in support of human rights-based approaches to migration governance, and advocate for specific protections for migrants in vulnerable situations. For example, in Guatemala, the Office will work together with the UN Country Team to monitor, and raise awareness about the human rights situation of migrants, including during transit, detention and return. In particular, the Office will provide technical assistance to Member States to ensure the implementation of the Migration Code in the context of the Cooperation Agreement on Protection Claims, the so-called “safe third country” agreement signed by the Governments of Guatemala and the United States of America. In Libya, the Office will continue to work with the UN Support Mission in Libya (UNSMIL) to monitor and report on human rights abuses against migrants, including in detention centres, at sea and international borders, and upon return. UN Human Rights, in collaboration with the UN Office on Counter-Terrorism, has developed a training package, based on its Recommended Principles and Guidelines on Human Rights at International Borders (2014). In the past two years, the “human rights at borders” training materials have been piloted in a series of regional workshops in Southeast Asia, Southern Africa, the Sahel and Northern Africa with frontline border officials. The Office will continue these efforts, expanding the geographical scope of the regional workshops and providing targeted trainings at the national level, including in the MENA region, Asia-Pacific and in the Americas.
“Before 2014 we had about 100 migrants coming through each year. As of 2015, we had a million.”

The Serbian Ombudsman’s office, strengthened with support from UN Human Rights, has played a leading role in solving regional migration crises and is now one of the country’s most trusted institutions.

“We had to cope quickly,” said Jankovic. “As we visited centres and border crossings, we heard about pushbacks and about how refugees were being treated. Our problem was how to help these refugees while they were on Serbian territory and keep them out of the hands of smugglers and off the streets.”

The Ombudsman’s office made recommendations to government about how to support migrants and refugees while respecting their rights.

“We didn’t know much about migrants so UN Human Rights gave us information and helped us build up our knowledge.”

THE LONG JOURNEY

Farkundeh* has been living in an asylum centre in Kikinda for two years, waiting for passage to Hungary and beyond.

She is in Serbia because of the Taliban who rule her corner of Afghanistan. Her husband once worked for a government hospital, a suspicious activity in the eyes of anti-government Taliban. Her family also belongs to the Hazara tribe, a visible minority of Mongolian descent whose members often face discrimination because of their ethnicity and religion – the Hazara are Shi’a Muslims, much hated by the Sunni Taliban.

One night, Taliban officials broke into Farkundeh’s home and abducted her entire family, throwing them into jail. They beat and tortured Farkundeh, bound her husband’s hands and feet and forced him to watch as they raped her. In her village in the foothills of the Hindu Kush, raped women are stoned to death so when the family finally escaped from prison, they could not return home. Sneaking back for a few valuables and some cash, Farkundeh, her husband and their five children stole away like thieves in the night, ashamed and afraid.

Seeking asylum, they travelled from Afghanistan to Pakistan to Iran, unwelcome everywhere and defrauded by smugglers each step of the way.

At the Turkish border, smugglers told the adults to crawl under a border fence and began throwing the children over the top. But border guards appeared unexpectedly, capturing the two older sons before they made it across, deporting them back to Afghanistan.

Farkundeh has not seen her sons since, although she knows they are alive. After waiting weeks for them in vain, she and her now reduced family embarked on a horrifying voyage far too familiar to refugees along this route: paying thousands of dollars for a ride to Greece that never came, forced into a rubber dinghy that ran out of fuel halfway across the Aegean Sea and started to sink, compelled to throw money and valuables overboard to stay afloat, and finally, rescued by the coast guard and interned in a Greek camp.

Finally, after transiting through a series of camps, the family reached Kikinda. “At least I am not hungry or cold here, and there are someone can help me and listen to my problems,” Farkundeh said, holding back tears.

That someone is a psychologist from the International Aid Network (IAN), a Belgium-based NGO with its roots in former Yugoslavia, where it assisted refugees and displaced persons.

“My memory is improving, I am less sick, and I want my husband to approach me again.”

IAN provides medical, psychological and legal support to victims of torture and their families. For Farkundeh, still suffering from the traumas of rape and separation from her two older sons, that psychological help is a lifeline.

“We were called in to do psychological assessments to Kikinda because the refugees showed so many signs of mental stress,” said Bojana Trivunovic, a psychologist with IAN. “But we cannot cure them. What we can do is help them pick up the pieces of their lives.”

The UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, administered by UN Human Rights, is one of several partners that funds IAN and helps build the capacity of civil society groups to strengthen refugee and migrant rights.

THE LONG WAIT, A SIMPLE WISH

As European countries seal their borders with walls and barbed wire, the space for migrants and refugees shrinks, squeezing them into ever-narrower corridors of freedom. One of these is Serbia, where the situation is steadily improving.

“Living conditions for refugees have been improving, and complaints about ill-treatment are becoming scarcer.”

Serbia’s legal framework for human rights is still nascent, but gaps remain and laws are still stronger on paper than in practice. The country is aligning its policies with international standards and human rights values and has signed most international treaties. With EU accession in 2025 within grasp, human rights – a key pillar of accession – is becoming an increasingly important item on the social and political agenda.

Each day, Hungary allows ten refugees to cross the border legally. And each day, Farkundeh hopes she’ll be on the master list that determines who goes first. But 4,000 others are waiting too, and there are rumours that those with money get through faster. Farkundeh’s money sits at the bottom of the Mediterranean.

She plays the waiting game, resigned.

“My wish is for my family to be together so I can finally find my place among them.”

A simple wish, a reality many of us take for granted.

* This story was originally published in 2018 on http://humanrightseurope.org.

* The name Farkundeh, not her real one, was chosen by her to remain anonymous and safe.
The UN regular budget, approved by the General Assembly, is funded by "assessed contributions" from each Member State. These are determined according to a formula that takes into account the size and strength of their respective national economies. The 2020 regular budget is the first annual budget prepared in accordance with the UN management reform agenda. Indeed, during its seventy-second session, the General Assembly approved the proposed change from a biennial to an annual budget cycle on a trial basis, beginning with the programme budget for 2020. The General Assembly will review the implementation of the annual budget at its seventy-seventh session in September 2022, with a view to taking a final decision.

The UN regular budget should finance all activities mandated by the General Assembly and its subsidiary organs, including the Human Rights Council. Human rights are Charter responsibilities, recognized as one of the three pillars of the UN system, the other two being development, and peace and security. The Secretary-General’s “Human Rights Up Front” programme clearly underscored the centrality of human rights to the work of the entire UN Secretariat. Yet, the regular budget allocates to human rights only a tiny percentage of the resources that are extended to the other two pillars. While approximately half of all regular budget resources are directed to these three pillars, human rights receive only 3.3 per cent of the total UN regular budget. The regular budget submission for the Office for 2020 is US$94.7 million, compared to an allocation of US$106.9 million in 2019, representing a decrease of 11.4 per cent. The 2020 regular budget is a continuation of “zero growth” as in previous years, but also reflects a number of across-the-board reductions decided by the General Assembly. Thus, although official human rights mandates continue to grow in number and scope, and Member States have formally requested consideration of an increase in the budget share for human rights, the reality is that the level of resources allocated to the human rights programme is in decline. As a result, UN Human Rights continues to rely heavily on voluntary contributions to finance as much as 20 per cent of the mandated activities that should be financed by the regular budget, primarily treaty body and special procedures work.

This challenging financial situation is further exacerbated by the ongoing cash flow difficulties due to Member States’ assessed contributions arrears and by the timing of allocations. Although most of the resources required for new mandates introduced by the Human Rights Council are approved each year, the delay in their presentation to the General Assembly means that the Office is forced to rely on existing resources to cover new activities with a more immediate timeline. With the UN Secretariat moving to an annual budgetary process, this issue is going to be even more acute.

Voluntary contributions, or extrabudgetary resources, represented, in 2019, around 62 per cent of the UN Human Rights’ overall budget. However, in order to respond to all requests for assistance and needs identified, the Office requires greater financial support from Member States and other donors, including the private sector.

In 2019, the Office received US$712.1 million in extrabudgetary contributions, compared to US$1081.7 million in 2018. This represents a decrease of some 8 per cent. Furthermore, only 37 per cent of these funds were unearmarked, which represents the lowest amount since 2008. While some of the increase in earmarking can be attributed to more local funding for field activities and contributions from non-traditional budget lines that are restricted as earmarked funds, other contributions that were previously unearmarked have been transformed into more circumscribed funding. While all contributions are much appreciated, the ongoing trend toward earmarking limits the Office’s capacity to allocate resources to where they are most urgently required and demands more constant budgetary adjustments over the course of the year.

Total extrabudgetary resources needed for 2020 amount to US$375.5 million. These are the funds the Office would require, in addition to the regular budget allocation, if it were to address all requests for assistance received and needs identified. Contributions need to be as flexible as possible and preferably provided in multi-year agreements to help increase the predictability and sustainability of our work. Early payment is also critical as it helps to mitigate cash flow constraints during the year.

The Office demonstrates through this Appeal the full extent of these requirements, as opposed to presenting only its operating cost plans. Nevertheless, the "needs-based" budget presented herein is still limited to what can realistically be implemented within a single year. For this reason, and due to the lengthy recruitment process to which the Office must adhere, some increases, notably in the field, remain modest. Expanding the reach of field presences requires a steady build-up of human resources and budgets over time.

** Figures are estimated as of 15 December 2019 and will be adjusted and confirmed upon the final closure of the 2019 accounts. ***
### Overview

Regular budget allocation and extrabudgetary requirements for 2020

#### Operating Resources

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Programme of Work</th>
<th>Regular Budget</th>
<th>Extrabudgetary Requirements</th>
<th>Total (Planning Figures)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subprogramme 1</strong></td>
<td>Human Rights Mainstreaming, Right to Development, Research and Analysis</td>
<td>12,128,000</td>
<td>45,679,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subprogramme 2</strong></td>
<td>Supporting the Human Rights Treaties Bodies</td>
<td>14,546,000</td>
<td>11,391,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Subprogramme 3</strong></td>
<td>Advisory Services and Technical Cooperation*</td>
<td>11,205,000</td>
<td>27,005,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subprogramme 4</strong></td>
<td>Supporting the Human Rights Council and its Special Procedures</td>
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<td><strong>Headquarters</strong></td>
<td>Executive Direction and Management and New York Office</td>
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<td>27,109,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Policymaking Organs</td>
<td>8,926,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8,926,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
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<td>3,500,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Human Rights in the Secretary-General’s Prevention Action Plan</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6,400,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Unmet requests for Human Rights Advisers (activities)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Support to the Programmes</td>
<td>4,813,000</td>
<td>11,410,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Subtotal Headquarters</strong></td>
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<td>158,653,000</td>
<td>240,035,000</td>
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<td><strong>Field Presences</strong></td>
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<td>2,596,000</td>
<td>84,005,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Americas</td>
<td>1,909,000</td>
<td>43,334,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Asia and the Pacific</td>
<td>3,515,000</td>
<td>18,326,000</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Europe and Central Asia</td>
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<td>15,565,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Middle East and North Africa</td>
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<td>32,205,000</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Regular Programme of Technical Cooperation</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Programmatic, Outreach and Administrative Functions at Regional or Country Level</td>
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<td><strong>Subtotal Field Presences</strong></td>
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<td>199,835,000</td>
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<td><strong>Total Operating Resources</strong></td>
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#### Other Trust Funds

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Trust Fund</th>
<th>Amount</th>
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<tr>
<td>Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture</td>
<td>11,500,000</td>
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<td>Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust Fund for Universal Periodic Review - Participation</td>
<td>570,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust Fund for Universal Periodic Review - Technical Assistance</td>
<td>800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust Fund for Participation of LDCs and SIDS in the HRC's work</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Fund for the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture</td>
<td>520,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total Other Trust Funds</strong></td>
<td>16,990,000</td>
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</table>

**Grand Total**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
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<tr>
<td>Regular Budget</td>
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<tr>
<td>Extrabudgetary Requirements</td>
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<td><strong>Grand Total</strong></td>
<td>472,478,000</td>
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*Does not include all regular budget allotments for the Human Rights Council.*
**FUNDING AND BUDGET**

**HEADQUARTERS**

Regular budget allocation and extrabudgetary requirements for 2020

---

### SUBPROGRAMME 1 - HUMAN RIGHTS MAINSTREAMING, RIGHT TO DEVELOPMENT, RESEARCH AND ANALYSIS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Regular Budget</th>
<th>Extrabudgetary Requirements</th>
<th>Total (Planning Figures)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coordination and Management</td>
<td>402,000</td>
<td>14,569,000</td>
<td>14,971,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Rule of Law, Equality and Non-discrimination Branch</td>
<td>4,835,000</td>
<td>12,488,000</td>
<td>17,323,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Development, Economic and Social Issues Branch</td>
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<td>18,623,000</td>
<td>23,567,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Rights Council Mandates</td>
<td>1,948,000</td>
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<td>1,948,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SUBTOTAL SUBPROGRAMME 1</strong></td>
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### SUBPROGRAMME 2 - SUPPORTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES BODIES

<table>
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<th>Regular Budget</th>
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<td>Innovation for an Effective Treaty Body System</td>
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<td>3,750,000</td>
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<td><strong>SUBTOTAL SUBPROGRAMME 2</strong></td>
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<td>11,391,000</td>
<td>25,937,000</td>
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### SUBPROGRAMME 3 - ADVISORY SERVICES AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION DIVISION

<table>
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<tr>
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<th>Regular Budget</th>
<th>Extrabudgetary Requirements</th>
<th>Total (Planning Figures)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coordination and Management</td>
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<td>3,050,000</td>
<td>5,208,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Asia-Pacific, Middle East and North Africa</td>
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<td>5,840,000</td>
<td>8,560,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Rights Council Mandates</td>
<td>1,550,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,550,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Commissions of Inquiry*</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Investigation Capacity</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>-</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SUBTOTAL SUBPROGRAMME 3</strong></td>
<td>11,206,000</td>
<td>27,055,000</td>
<td>38,261,000</td>
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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT AND NEW YORK OFFICE**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Regular Budget</th>
<th>Extrabudgetary Requirements</th>
<th>Total (Planning Figures)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coordination and Management</td>
<td>398,000</td>
<td>683,000</td>
<td>1,081,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Human Rights Council Branch</td>
<td>2,768,000</td>
<td>2,239,000</td>
<td>5,007,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Universal Periodic Review Branch</td>
<td>4,008,000</td>
<td>405,000</td>
<td>4,413,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Special Procedures Branch</td>
<td>8,236,000</td>
<td>18,332,000</td>
<td>26,568,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Procedures Branch - Earmarked/Specific Funding</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
<td>3,000,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Rights Council Mandates</td>
<td>6,467,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6,467,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUBTOTAL SUBPROGRAMME 4</strong></td>
<td>21,877,000</td>
<td>24,659,000</td>
<td>46,536,000</td>
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**EXECUTIVE DIRECTION AND MANAGEMENT AND NEW YORK OFFICE**

**POLICYMAKING ORGANS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Regular Budget</th>
<th>Extrabudgetary Requirements</th>
<th>Total (Planning Figures)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Coordination and Management</td>
<td>8,926,000</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>8,926,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Human Rights in the Secretary-General's Prevention Action Plan</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>6,400,000</td>
<td>6,400,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Unmet requests for Human Rights Advisers (activities)</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
<td>1,500,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Support to the Programmes</td>
<td>4,813,000</td>
<td>11,410,000</td>
<td>16,223,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>SUBTOTAL OTHER</strong></td>
<td>21,626,000</td>
<td>49,919,000</td>
<td>71,545,000</td>
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**OTHER TRUST FUNDS**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Regular Budget</th>
<th>Extrabudgetary Requirements</th>
<th>Total (Planning Figures)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>11,350,000</td>
<td>11,350,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust Fund for Universal Periodic Review - Participation</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>570,000</td>
<td>570,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust Fund for Universal Periodic Review - Technical Assistance</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>800,000</td>
<td>800,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trust Fund for Participation of LDCs and SIDS in the HRC’s work</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
<td>1,200,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Fund for the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture</td>
<td>-</td>
<td>520,000</td>
<td>520,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL OTHER TRUST FUNDS</strong></td>
<td>0</td>
<td>16,990,000</td>
<td>16,990,000</td>
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**TOTAL HEADQUARTERS AND TRUST FUNDS**

<table>
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<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Regular Budget</th>
<th>Extrabudgetary Requirements</th>
<th>Total (Planning Figures)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>TOTAL HEADQUARTERS</strong></td>
<td>81,384,000</td>
<td>158,653,000</td>
<td>240,037,000</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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*Does not include all regular budget allotments for the Human Rights Council.*
Field
Extradudetary requirements for 2020

AFRICA
Country Offices
Chad
2,272,000
Guinea
4,172,000
Liberia
6,770,000
Mauritania
1,980,000
Sudan
4,919,000
Uganda
4,831,000
Regional Offices
Central Africa, Yaoundé - Subregional Centre for Human Rights and Democracy
1,076,000
East Africa, Addis Ababa
7,381,000
Southern Africa, Pretoria
3,424,000
West Africa, Dakar
7,735,000
Human Rights Advisers
Burkina Faso
364,000
Kenya
1,709,000
Madagascar
1,157,000
Malawi
482,000
Niger
859,000
Nigeria
1,012,000
Rwanda
284,000
Zimbabwe
229,000
Human Rights Components in Peace Mission
Central African Republic
98,000
Democratic Republic of the Congo
10,902,000
Guinea-Bissau
4,140,000
Mali
853,000
Somalia
580,000
South Sudan
238,000
Sudan, Darfur
89,000

AMERICAS
Country Offices
Colombia
12,587,000
Guatemala
7,303,000
Honduras
4,415,000
Mexico
4,203,000
Regional Offices
Central America, Panama City
3,370,000
South America, Santiago
3,774,000
Human Rights Advisers
Argentina
88,000
Barbados
142,000
Belize
62,000
Bolivia
410,000
Brazil
107,000
Costa Rica
165,000
Ecuador
85,000
El Salvador
413,000
Guyana
72,000
Jamaica
354,000
Paraguay
220,000
Peru
162,000
Trinidad and Tobago
139,000
Uruguay
130,000

Other
Burundi
1,560,000
Gambia
261,000
Lesotho
260,000
Mozambique
1,865,000
Sao Tome
12,502,000
SUBTOTAL AFRICA
84,005,000

Other
Burundi
1,560,000
Gambia
261,000
Lesotho
260,000
Mozambique
1,865,000
Sao Tome
12,502,000
SUBTOTAL AFRICA
84,005,000
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Region</th>
<th>Country/Office/Region</th>
<th>Funding</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
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<td><strong>FUNDING AND BUDGET</strong></td>
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</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>UN HUMAN RIGHTS APPEAL 2020</strong></td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</strong></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Country Offices</td>
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<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Nicaragua</td>
<td></td>
<td>965,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Venezuela</td>
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<td>3,041,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>SUBTOTAL AMERICAS</strong></td>
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<td>43,334,000</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</strong></td>
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<td>Country Offices</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cambodia</td>
<td></td>
<td>3,093,000</td>
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<tr>
<td>Republic of Korea - Field-based structure</td>
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<tr>
<td>Regional Offices</td>
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<td>South-East Asia, Bangkok</td>
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<tr>
<td>Pacific, Suva</td>
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<td><strong>Human Rights Advisers</strong></td>
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<td>Maldives</td>
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<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
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<tr>
<td>Sri Lanka</td>
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<td>1,018,000</td>
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<td>Timor-Leste</td>
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<td>519,000</td>
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<td><strong>Human Rights Components in Peace Missions</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td><strong>SUBTOTAL ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Human Rights Components in Peace Missions</strong></td>
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<td><strong>TOTAL FIELD</strong></td>
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* Reference to Palestine should be understood in compliance with UN General Assembly resolution 67/19.
Voluntary contributions to support UN Human Rights’ activities are channelled and managed through nine United Nations trust funds, as well as three special funds. In addition, the Office receives contributions from United Nations multi-partner trust funds. While UN Human Rights encourages funding to be unearmarked whenever possible, contributions to some of these Funds must be specifically earmarked in order to be attributed.

**UN TRUST FUNDS ADMINISTERED BY UN HUMAN RIGHTS**

- **UN Trust Fund for the Support of the Activities of the High Commissioner for Human Rights**
  - Established in 1993 to supplement regular budget resources, it is the largest fund administered by UN Human Rights and it is used to manage approximately 75 percent of all extrabudgetary funds received (especially unearmarked funds).

- **UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment and Punishment**
  - Established in 1981, it awards grants to organizations working to alleviate the physical and psychological effects of torture on victims and their families. The types of assistance provided by Fund-supported organizations range from psychological, medical and social assistance to legal and financial support.

- **UN Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples**
  - Established in 1997, it supports national efforts at building human rights protection frameworks, including strong legal frameworks, effective national human rights institutions, independent judiciaries and vibrant civil society organizations.

- **UN Trust Fund for Contemporary Forms of Slavery**
  - Established in 1991, it distributes small grants to grassroots projects that provide humanitarian, legal and financial aid to victims of contemporary forms of slavery. The Fund primarily focuses on projects that assist individuals who are suffering from the most severe forms of human rights violations occurring in the context of contemporary forms of slavery and other forms of exploitation.

- **UN Trust Fund for a Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia**
  - Established in 1992, its aim is to contribute to the development and implementation of a human rights education programme in Cambodia to promote the understanding of and respect for human rights.

- **UN Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review mechanism**
  - Established in 2008 to facilitate the participation of official representatives from developing and least developed countries in the UPR process and to provide training for the preparation of national reports.

- **UN Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review**
  - Established in 2008 to provide financial and technical support to implement recommendations issued under the UPR review process, at the request of and in consultation with the country concerned.

- **Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the work of the Human Rights Council**
  - Established in 2013 through Human Rights Council resolution 19/26 to enhance the institutional and human rights capacity of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States through the provision of targeted training courses, travel assistance for delegates attending Council sessions and fellowship programmes.

**SPECIAL FUNDS ADMINISTERED BY UN HUMAN RIGHTS**

- **Contingency Fund**
  - A Contingency Fund of US$1 million was established in 2006 by the Office to enable it to respond to human rights emergencies in a timely and adequate manner. The resolving Fund is maintained through voluntary contributions to facilitate, implement or carry out activities within the priorities, overall strategies and policies of the Office, in particular in the context of the establishment of a rapid response capacity. The Fund has greatly increased the capacity of UN Human Rights’ headquarters to provide conceptual and operational support to unforeseen mandates or situations that require a rapid response.

- **Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to the UN Convention against Torture**
  - Established in 2006 through article 26 of OP-CAT, the objective of this Fund is to help finance the implementation of recommendations issued by the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT), following a visit of the Subcommittee to a State Party, as well as education programmes on national preventive mechanisms (NPMs). Recommendations have to be contained in a report made public upon request of the State Party. Applications may be submitted by State Parties and NPMs, by national human rights institutions compliant with the Paris Principles and NGOs, provided that the proposed projects are implemented in cooperation with State Parties or NPMs.

- **Special Fund for the Participation of Civil Society in the Social Forum, the Forum on Minority Issues and the Forum on Business and Human Rights**
  - Created in 2013 by Human Rights Council’s decision 24/118, its objective is to facilitate the broadest possible participation of civil society representatives and other relevant stakeholders. It also aims to give priority to the participation of local or national-level non-governmental organizations active in relevant fields, with particular attention to participants from Least Developed Countries, in the annual meetings of the three forums.

**MULTI-PARTNER TRUST FUNDS (NOT ADMINISTERED BY UN HUMAN RIGHTS)**

- **UNSDG-Human Rights Mainstreaming Multi-Donor Trust Fund**
  - Established in 2010 and administered by the Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, it provides support to the work of UN agencies and UN Country Teams in mainstreaming human rights and strengthening coherent and coordinated responses to national needs. Over the last decade, there has been significant progress in mainstreaming human rights into the work of the UN development system. An increasing number of UN agencies are not only integrating human rights into their internal policies, but are also actively advocating for and supporting human rights through their mandated work. The Trust Fund supports the placement of human rights advisers in the offices of Resident Coordinators (RCs), and other forms of human rights support to RCs and UN Country Teams, as well as initiatives to strengthen system-wide policy coherence.

- **Multi-Partner Trust Fund of the UN Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities**
  - Established in 2011 and administered by the United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO) to achieve the objectives of the UN Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNPFIDP). The partnership aims to develop the capacities of national stakeholders, particularly governments and organizations of persons with disabilities, for the effective implementation of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The MPTF brings together ten UN entities: the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, UNDP, UNICEF, ILO, WHO, PAHO, UNESCO, UNFPA, UN Women and OHCHR.

**TRUST FUNDS**

UN TRUST FUNDS ADMINISTERED BY UN HUMAN RIGHTS

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- Established in 1981, it awards grants to organizations working to alleviate the physical and psychological effects of torture on victims and their families. The types of assistance provided by Fund-supported organizations range from psychological, medical and social assistance to legal aid and financial support.

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YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE

The opportunities for advancing human rights impact are many but our resources are too modest. Without investments to allow us to expand our reach, our interventions are too limited and our presence in many countries too small.

We can change this, but we need your support. We rely on voluntary donations from governments, as well as private donors and businesses. To carry on our mission, maintaining our independence is vital – and so is diversifying our funding mix.

MEMBER STATES

In 2019, 63 out of 193 UN Member States provided a voluntary contribution to UN Human Rights. The donations ranged from US$2,000 to US$20 million. Some countries provide the entire contribution free of earmarking while others earmark part or all of the contribution to specific themes and areas of work as set out in our Management Plan 2018-2021.

We highly encourage Member States to explore the various modalities for funding which exist within their national structures and discuss available options with the Office. While the most common budget lines used for UN Human Rights are those that correspond to human rights, there is also wide scope for the Office to receive money from other types of budget lines, such as development and humanitarian lines.

CORPORATE SECTOR

A world in which human rights are respected is more prosperous, more stable and, ultimately, better too for business. We invite companies to demonstrate their commitment to human rights, through closer engagement. Support can come in many forms:

• Making human rights central to all corporate strategic decisions and practices, taking into account the effect of its operations on supply chains, employees and customers.

• Working with us to develop policies that make your company’s commitment to human rights a reality.

• Engaging in strategic discussions to improve human rights wherever your company has business interests.

• Developing a genuine partnership with UN Human Rights, where your skills, experience and resources are used to promote and improve respect for human rights.

• Providing pro bono or financial support, to help us achieve the goals in our ambitious four-year plan.

FOUNDATIONS

The Office has been working with several foundations on country specific and thematic programmes around the world. We welcome opportunities to expand and strengthen our cooperation with foundations in the future.

INDIVIDUALS

The Office receives donations from individuals through the following website: donatenow.ohchr.org

If you, or the organization you represent, would like to make a contribution, please contact UN Human Rights’ Donor and External Relations Section in Geneva, or go to our website to make an online donation.

Tel: +41 22 917 9154
Fax: +41 22 917 9008
Email: DonRel@ohchr.org
Palais des Nations
CH 1211 Geneva 10 – Switzerland

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS
STATEMENT OF THE PLANS 2018-2021

YOU CAN MAKE A DIFFERENCE
## OMP 2018-2021: Elements Focused on Climate Change

### CONCRETE RESULTS ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE CONCERNS

**PILLAR**

- **Peace and Security (PS):** Improving understanding of climate change as a threat multiplier in order to support a rights-based and gender-sensitive prevention agenda that protects persons in vulnerable situations.

  - **PS5:** Human rights information and analyses are integrated in early warning and analysis systems and influence international and national policymaking, strategies and operations to prevent, mitigate or respond to emerging crises, including humanitarian crises and conflict.

- **Non-Discrimination (ND):** Protecting vulnerable groups against the adverse human rights impacts of climate change and environmental degradation, including by promoting participation and access to information in environmental matters.

  - **ND1:** Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to “leave no one behind”, including by addressing the root causes of inequality.

  - **ND2:** Justice systems and related institutions increasingly monitor and investigate discrimination and provide redress to victims.

  - **ND6:** The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected.

- **Accountability (A):** Ensuring accountability and access to remedies for climate change-related human rights harms.

  - **A2:** Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.

**Mechanisms (M):**

- **M2:** Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues (“frontier” issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.

- **M3:** Policy-makers, legislators and courts make increased use of the outcomes of the international and regional human rights mechanisms.

- **M4:** International human rights mechanisms contribute to the elaboration of international law and jurisprudence, in particular in the context of emerging human rights concerns (“frontier” issues).

- **M5:** Environmental and climate policies and plans increasingly respect, protect and fulfill human rights, guaranteeing those affected access to information, decision-making, public participation and remedies.

- **M6:** Human rights assessments and impact analyses mitigate, prevent or redress the negative effects of economic, trade and development policies and projects.

**Development (D):**

- **D1:** Judicial and non-judicial mechanisms hold business and other economic actors to account for rights abuses and provide remedies to victims.

- **D2:** Business actors implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights effectively.

- **D5:** Environmental and climate policies and plans increasingly respect, protect and fulfill human rights, guaranteeing those affected access to information, decision-making, public participation and remedies.

**Frontier Issue:** CLIMATE CHANGE

**Annexes**

- **OMP 2018-2021:** Elements Focused on Climate Change
OMP 2018-2021: Elements Focused on Digital Space and New Technologies

FRONTIER ISSUE: DIGITAL SPACE AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES

CONCRETE RESULTS ADDRESSING DIGITAL SPACE AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES CONCERNS

M2 - Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues ("frontier" issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.

M3 - Policy-makers, legislators and courts make increased use of the outcomes of the international and regional human rights mechanisms.

M4 - International human rights mechanisms contribute to the elaboration of international law and jurisprudence, in particular in the context of emerging human rights concerns ("frontier" issues).

D1 - Judicial and non-judicial mechanisms hold business and other economic actors to account for rights abuses and provide remedies to victims.

D2 - Business actors implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights effectively.

D5 - Environmental and climate policies and plans increasingly respect, protect and fulfill human rights, guaranteeing those affected access to information, decision-making, public participation and remedies.

FRONTIER ISSUE: DIGITAL SPACE AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES

CONCRETE RESULTS ADDRESSING DIGITAL SPACE AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES CONCERNS

Pillar: Peace and Security (PS)

PS5 - Human rights information and analyses are integrated in early warning and analysis systems and influence international and national policymaking, strategies and operations to prevent, mitigate or respond to emerging crises, including humanitarian crises and conflict.

PS7 - The use of private military and security companies, and the development and deployment of new technologies, weapons and tactics, are increasingly consistent with and respect international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

Non-Discrimination (ND)

ND1 - Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination and hate speech instead of perpetuating and reinforcing inequalities and discrimination.

ND2 - Justice systems and related institutions increasingly monitor and investigate discrimination and provide redress to victims.

ND3 - Legal and social frameworks increasingly promote women’s and girls’ autonomy and choice and protect them from violence, including in the digital space.

ND4 - Judicial institutions, media, and other sectors increasingly recognize and challenge harmful gender stereotypes and gender norms with a view to their eradication.

ND5 - Principles and practices effectively counter discrimination and hate speech in the digital space.

ND6 - The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected.

Participation (P)

P1 - Stronger laws, policies and practices protect the right to participate and civic space, including online, and the environment for civil society is increasingly safe and enabling.

CONCRETE RESULTS ADDRESSING DIGITAL SPACE AND NEW TECHNOLOGIES CONCERNS

Pillar: Peace and Security (PS)

PS5 - Human rights information and analyses are integrated in early warning and analysis systems and influence international and national policymaking, strategies and operations to prevent, mitigate or respond to emerging crises, including humanitarian crises and conflict.

Pillar: Non-Discrimination (ND)

ND1 - Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination and hate speech instead of perpetuating and reinforcing inequalities and discrimination.

ND2 - Justice systems and related institutions increasingly monitor and investigate discrimination and provide redress to victims.

ND3 - Legal and social frameworks increasingly promote women’s and girls’ autonomy and choice and protect them from violence, including in the digital space.

ND4 - Judicial institutions, media, and other sectors increasingly recognize and challenge harmful gender stereotypes and gender norms with a view to their eradication.

ND5 - Principles and practices effectively counter discrimination and hate speech in the digital space.

ND6 - The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected.

Participation (P)

P1 - Stronger laws, policies and practices protect the right to participate and civic space, including online, and the environment for civil society is increasingly safe and enabling.
OMP 2018-2021: Elements Focused on Corruption

CONCRETE RESULTS ADDRESSING CORRUPTION CONCERNS

M2 - Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues (“frontier” issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.

M3 - Policy-makers, legislators and courts make increased use of the outcomes of the international and regional human rights mechanisms.

M4 - International human rights mechanisms contribute to the elaboration of international law and jurisprudence, in particular in the context of emerging human rights concerns (“frontier” issues).

ND1 - Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to "leave no one behind", including by addressing the root causes of inequality.

ND2 - Justice systems and related institutions increasingly monitor and investigate discrimination and provide redress to victims.

ND6 - The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected.

States increasingly abide by their obligation to detect, investigate and suppress corruption and put in place an enabling environment where incentives and opportunities for corruption are reduced.

A1 - Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.

A2 - Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.

A3 - Justice systems investigate and prosecute gender related crimes more effectively.

A4 - States take measures to ensure that their decision-making, policies and actions are more transparent and the public has access to information for accountability purposes.
OMP 2018-2021:
Elements Focused on Inequalities

**FRONTIER ISSUE: INEQUALITIES**

**CONCRETE RESULTS ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES CONCERNS**

**Mechanisms (M)**

M2 - Civil society organizations, national human rights institutions, and non-traditional actors, particularly those working on emerging human rights issues (“frontier” issues), increasingly engage with the international human rights mechanisms and use their outcomes.

M3 - Policy-makers, legislators and courts make increased use of the outcomes of the international and regional human rights mechanisms.

M4 - International human rights mechanisms contribute to the elaboration of international law and jurisprudence, in particular in the context of emerging human rights concerns (“frontier” issues).

**Development (D)**

D1 - Judicial and non-judicial mechanisms hold business and other economic actors to account for rights abuses and provide remedies to victims.

D2 - Business actors implement the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights effectively.

D3 - State authorities adopt and implement laws, policies and strategies on land and housing that increasingly comply with human rights.

D4 - Public health approaches, including sexual and reproductive health policies, comply with international human rights standards and provide non-discriminatory access, especially to children, adolescents, women and migrants.

D5 - Environmental and climate policies and plans increasingly respect, protect and fulfil human rights, guaranteeing those affected access to information, decision-making, public participation and remedies.

D6 - Human rights assessments and impact analyses mitigate, prevent or redress the negative effects of economic, trade and development policies and projects.

D7 - States integrate human rights, including the right to development and human rights mechanisms’ outcomes, as they implement the Sustainable Development Goals and other development and poverty eradication efforts, and the UN supports them in these purposes, integrating human rights in its own development work.
PILLAR
FRONTIER ISSUE: INEQUALITIES
CONCRETE RESULTS ADDRESSING INEQUALITIES CONCERNS

DB - National institutions, assisted by communities, systematically collect, disaggregate and use data relevant for advancing human rights when they monitor and implement the SDGs.

PS - Peace and Security (PS)
The UN’s prevention and early warning work, as well as justice and transitional justice mechanisms, integrate a focus on economic injustice, inequalities, discrimination and ESCR, including to prevent conflict in the future.

PS4 - Justice mechanisms, including for transitional justice, provide increased accountability for conflict-related violations.

ND - Non-Discrimination (ND)
Efforts to combat discrimination take into account multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination, including gender discrimination, and its interlinkages with the root causes of economic inequality.

ND1 - Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to “leave no one behind”, including by addressing the root causes of inequality.

ND2 - Justice systems and related institutions increasingly monitor and investigate discrimination and provide redress to victims.

ND4 - Judicial institutions, media, and other sectors increasingly recognize and challenge harmful gender stereotypes and gender norms with a view to their eradication.

ND6 - The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected.

ND8 - The UN system implements a coherent and human rights-based response to inequality and discrimination, including intersecting and multiple forms of discrimination.

Accountability (A)
Strengthening the promotion and protection of economic, social and cultural rights, ensuring accountability and access to justice for ESCR violations.

A5 - UN efforts for the rule of law, justice, counterterrorism and accountability put human rights at the core.

Participation (P)
Promote the meaningful participation of people in the development, including in SDG implementation, monitoring and review.

P7 - Public recognition that human rights and accountability make important contributions to effective responses to violence, including terrorism and violent extremism, increases.
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PILLAR</th>
<th>FRONTIER ISSUE: PEOPLE ON THE MOVE</th>
<th>CONCRETE RESULTS ADDRESSING PEOPLE ON THE MOVE CONCERNS</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Mechanisms (M)</td>
<td>Supporting the systematic engagement of the international human rights mechanisms on a range of migration and human rights issues, including for the review of the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration.</td>
<td>Supporting the development and implementation of human rights-based migration policies and measures that recognize the specific experiences, views and human rights needs of migrants in vulnerable situations at national, regional and international levels. Reshaping the public narratives on migrants and migration.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Supporting the systematic engagement of the international human rights mechanisms on a range of migration and human rights issues, including for the review of the implementation of the Global Compact for Migration.</td>
<td></td>
<td>P55 - Human rights information and analyses are integrated in early warning and analysis systems and influence international and national policymaking, strategies and operations to prevent, mitigate or respond to emerging crises, including humanitarian crises and conflict.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development (D)</td>
<td>Reducing inequalities as a driver and an outcome of precarious migration by placing migrants and their human rights at the center of development planning and implementation.</td>
<td>Addressing the human rights protection gaps faced by migrants in vulnerable situations by monitoring, reporting and building capacity on migration and human rights.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Development (D)</td>
<td>Reducing inequalities as a driver and an outcome of precarious migration by placing migrants and their human rights at the center of development planning and implementation.</td>
<td>A1 - Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Peace and Security (PS)</td>
<td>Ensuring protection-focused responses that address the human rights and humanitarian challenges faced by people on the move, including by providing support, advice and training to UN entities and migration enforcement agencies.</td>
<td>A2 - Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accountability (A)</td>
<td>Addressing the human rights protection gaps faced by migrants in vulnerable situations by monitoring, reporting and building capacity on migration and human rights.</td>
<td>A4 - States take measures to ensure that their decision-making, policies and actions are more transparent and the public has access to information for accountability purposes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation (P)</td>
<td>Ensuring that meaningful participation of migrants in decisions affecting them.</td>
<td>P7 - Public recognition that human rights and accountability make important contributions to effective responses to violence, including terrorism and violent extremism, increases.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Discrimination (ND)</td>
<td>Supporting the development and implementation of human rights-based migration policies and measures that recognize the specific experiences, views and human rights needs of migrants in vulnerable situations at national, regional and international levels. Reshaping the public narratives on migrants and migration.</td>
<td>NDI - Laws, policies and practices more effectively combat discrimination in all forms, and responsible authorities actively work to &quot;leave no one behind&quot;, including by addressing the root causes of inequality.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Discrimination (ND)</td>
<td>Supporting the development and implementation of human rights-based migration policies and measures that recognize the specific experiences, views and human rights needs of migrants in vulnerable situations at national, regional and international levels. Reshaping the public narratives on migrants and migration.</td>
<td>ND2 - Justice systems and related institutions increasingly monitor and investigate discrimination and provide redress to victims.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Non-Discrimination (ND)</td>
<td>Supporting the development and implementation of human rights-based migration policies and measures that recognize the specific experiences, views and human rights needs of migrants in vulnerable situations at national, regional and international levels. Reshaping the public narratives on migrants and migration.</td>
<td>ND4 - Judicial institutions, media, and other sectors increasingly recognize and challenge harmful gender stereotypes and gender norms with a view to their eradication.</td>
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<td>Non-Discrimination (ND)</td>
<td>Supporting the development and implementation of human rights-based migration policies and measures that recognize the specific experiences, views and human rights needs of migrants in vulnerable situations at national, regional and international levels. Reshaping the public narratives on migrants and migration.</td>
<td>ND6 - The human rights of all migrants, particularly those in vulnerable situations, are protected.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accountability (A)</td>
<td>Addressing the human rights protection gaps faced by migrants in vulnerable situations by monitoring, reporting and building capacity on migration and human rights.</td>
<td>A1 - Laws, policies and practices increasingly address, prevent and reduce human rights violations in the context of law enforcement and justice systems.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accountability (A)</td>
<td>Addressing the human rights protection gaps faced by migrants in vulnerable situations by monitoring, reporting and building capacity on migration and human rights.</td>
<td>A2 - Strengthened national mechanisms provide redress to victims and accountability for human rights violations, including for economic and social rights.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Accountability (A)</td>
<td>Addressing the human rights protection gaps faced by migrants in vulnerable situations by monitoring, reporting and building capacity on migration and human rights.</td>
<td>A4 - States take measures to ensure that their decision-making, policies and actions are more transparent and the public has access to information for accountability purposes.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Participation (P)</td>
<td>Ensuring that meaningful participation of migrants in decisions affecting them.</td>
<td>P7 - Public recognition that human rights and accountability make important contributions to effective responses to violence, including terrorism and violent extremism, increases.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
UN Human Rights Organization chart

Abbreviations and acronyms

- **AI**: Artificial Intelligence
- **BINUH**: United Nations Integrated Office in Haiti
- **CCA**: Common Country Analysis
- **CED**: Committee on Enforced Disappearances
- **CESCR**: Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
- **CSO**: Civil society organization
- **DRC**: Democratic Republic of the Congo
- **ECLAC**: United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean
- **ECOSOC**: Economic and Social Council
- **EMBIP**: Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples
- **ESCR**: Economic, social and cultural rights
- **GCM**: Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration
- **HRC**: Human Rights Council
- **HRD**: Human rights defender
- **IAR**: International Aid Network
- **ICT**: Information and communication technology
- **ILO**: International Labour Organization
- **KNCHR**: Kenya National Commission on Human Rights
- **LDC**: Least Developed Country
- **LGBTI**: Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex
- **MENA**: Middle East and North Africa
- **MONUSCO**: United Nations Organization Stabilization Mission in the Democratic Republic of the Congo
- **MPTF**: Multi-partner trust fund
- **MPTFO**: United Nations Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office
- **NGO**: Non-governmental organization
- **NHRI**: National human rights institution
- **NMFP**: National mechanism for reporting and follow-up
- **NRTD**: National recommendations tracking database
- **OHCHR**: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
- **OMP**: Office Management Plan
- **OP-CAT**: Optional Protocol of the UN Convention against Torture
- **PAHO**: Pan American Health Organization
- **RCP**: Resident Coordinator
- **SIDS**: Small Island Developing States
- **SDG**: Sustainable development goal
- **SPT**: Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
- **UNHRI**: Universal Human Rights Index
- **UN**: United Nations
- **UNCT**: United Nations Country Team
- **UNDP**: United Nations Development Programme
- **UNESCO**: United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization
- **UNFCCC**: United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
- **UNFPA**: United Nations Population Fund
- **UNGOs**: United Nations Guiding Principles
- **UNICEF**: United Nations Children’s Fund
- **UNIPPF**: United Nations Indigenous Peoples’ Partnership
- **UNMSDF**: United Nations Multi-country Sustainable Development Framework
- **UNPRPD**: UN Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities
- **UNPBD**: Universal Periodic Review
- **UNSDCF**: United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework
- **UNSDG**: United Nations Sustainable Development Group
- **UNOSIL**: United Nations Support Mission in Libya
- **WHO**: World Health Organization