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### Technical assistance and capacity-building

## Report of the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights\*, \*\*

### *Summary*

The present report is submitted pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 18/18, in which the Council invited the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights to present a comprehensive report on the Board's work on an annual basis, starting from the twentieth session of the Council. Pursuant to Council resolution 36/28, the present report is submitted to the Council at its forty-third session, in March 2020. It provides an update on the work of the Board of Trustees of the Fund since the previous report of the Chair of the Board (A/HRC/40/78).

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\* Agreement was reached to publish the present report after the standard publication date owing to circumstances beyond the submitter's control.

\*\* The annexes to the present report are circulated as received, in the language of submission only.



## **I. Introduction**

### **A. Background**

1. The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, established by the Commission on Human Rights in its resolution 1987/38, receives voluntary contributions from Governments, organizations and individuals. The objective of the Fund is to provide financial support for technical cooperation aimed at building and strengthening national and regional institutions, legal frameworks and infrastructure that will have positive long-term impacts on the implementation of international human rights standards.

2. The Board of Trustees has been operational since 1993, and its members are appointed by the Secretary-General for a three-year term, renewable once. The mandate of the Board is to assist the Secretary-General in rationalizing and improving the technical cooperation programme. It meets twice a year and reports on its work to the Secretary-General and the Human Rights Council. Its current members are Morten Kjaerum (Denmark) (Chair), Lin Lim (Malaysia), Esi Sutherland-Addy (Ghana), Valeriya Lutkovska (Ukraine) and Santiago Corcuera-Cabezut (Mexico). Mr. Corcuera-Cabezut was nominated in August 2019 to replace the seat vacated by Carmen Rosa Villa (Peru). At its forty-ninth session, the Board elected Ms. Sutherland-Addy as Chair; her mandate will run until 30 November 2021. The position of Chair is held on a rotational basis, covering at least two sessions of the Board and an annual Human Rights Council oral update.

### **B. Mandate**

3. The Board of Trustees continued its refocused approach, as set out in the annual report of the Secretary-General to the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/16/66). The support provided through resources of the Fund to assist States in developing their national capacities to promote the effective implementation of human rights obligations continued to be appreciated, as reflected by national partners on the ground with whom the Board met and in Human Rights Council resolution 42/32. In 2019, the Board continued to provide advice to OHCHR on ways to strengthen technical cooperation in the areas identified as priorities in the Office's programme of work for 2018–2021 and designed with partners.

4. The visits to field presences continued during the period under review through the organization of one of the Board's sessions per year in a country or region where OHCHR is present. In 2019, the Board completed a first round of visits to all types of field presences in every region of the world, which provided the Board with opportunities to observe and discuss with partners how the Office continues to maximize the impact of its programmes.

5. As members also of the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review, the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights continued to offer policy guidance in order to enhance the effectiveness of technical assistance and financial support to States in implementing the recommendations made in the context of the universal periodic review and other international mechanisms. Following the advice of the Board, provided within its mandate, the Office continues to strengthen the strategic use of the resources under the Voluntary Funds to maximize their impact, especially in the areas of capacity-building and advisory services on the ground.

6. In its eight previous oral presentations and reports to the Human Rights Council, the Board has presented its observations on good practices in the context of technical cooperation. The sharing of those practices continues to encourage States to approach and partner with OHCHR to receive advisory services and technical assistance in the field of human rights. The Board welcomes the presentations by States at the sessions of the Human Rights Council, which are helping to broaden understanding of the importance of soliciting and receiving sound technical cooperation and advisory services from OHCHR, which are

based on the results of the analysis of situations on the ground, in close cooperation with national partners, in order to propose the best possible programmes. The Board has observed that such partnerships help to implement policies and practices that advance the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and human rights for all. The Board has observed with satisfaction how there is an increase in the cross-fertilization of practices and programmes across regions, with OHCHR enhancing its capacities and opportunities to promote knowledge-transfer across its field presences.

7. In line with its mandate to promote and solicit contributions and pledges to the Voluntary Funds, during the period under review, the Board continued actively participating in outreach events, a number of which were organized jointly with the OHCHR External Outreach Service. The outreach events are also proving to be a very useful way for the Board to communicate its views and observations. There has been growing interest on the ground in the Board's findings and suggestions regarding engagement with OHCHR for technical cooperation. National partners at the sessions in South Africa and Latin America identified a need to increase support to promote economic, social and cultural rights, as well as to address other critical frontier issues, such as corruption, migration and business and human rights.

## **II. Activities of the Voluntary Fund and the Board of Trustees**

8. The Board of Trustees held its forty-eighth session in Geneva from 19 to 21 March 2019 and its forty-ninth session at the Regional Office for Southern Africa in Pretoria from 4 to 6 November 2019, with some members visiting the OHCHR project in Mozambique on 7 and 8 November 2019. The sessions were chaired by Mr. Kjaerum. The Board reviewed the status of implementation of the workplan and cost plan for the Voluntary Fund, reviewed in detail the programmes to be covered by the Fund in 2020 and formally endorsed them.

9. The Board met with the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and the United Nations Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights in Geneva and provided them with a briefing on the recent activities of the Board, on the views, perspectives and good examples and practices of the work of the Office, as observed by the Board during their visits to all types of OHCHR presences across all regions, and on the particular relevance of and support to programmes under the frontier issues identified in the programme of work of OHCHR.

### **A. Forty-eighth session (Geneva)**

10. The Board took the opportunity of its meeting in Geneva, coinciding with the fortieth session of the Human Rights Council, to receive an update and follow up on various discussions regarding technical cooperation programmes. In particular, the Board focused most of its forty-eighth session in its capacity also as the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review to continue providing policy guidance on the operationalization of that Fund and the complementarities and lessons learned with regard to the support being provided through the two Funds. Discussions included ways to continue supporting enhanced capacities on the ground for reporting and follow-up to the work of the international human rights mechanisms, taking stock of the implementation of the programmes supported by the two Funds and developing its future programme of work.

11. The universal periodic review process is a unique opportunity for the United Nations system to strengthen follow-up action at the country level by enhancing coordination at the national, international and United Nations entity levels and improving the alignment of plans for the realization of human rights and for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. At its meetings at the country and regional levels, the Board has observed how the current United Nations development system reform is providing practical avenues for strengthening cooperation between OHCHR and United Nations country teams, supporting the work of the human rights advisers and assisting States in responding to the

recommendations emanating from the universal periodic review process and in engaging with the United Nations human rights mechanisms. Those efforts are critical in the development of programmatic tools, including the new iterations of sustainable development cooperation frameworks. The Board noted in particular how human rights indicators are effectively being used as an analytical tool to identify those who would potentially be left behind in a crisis situation.

12. In the fifth and sixth components of its recommendations for good technical cooperation, the Board noted that technical cooperation efforts should be aimed at supporting the implementation of and follow-up to recommendations by human rights mechanisms. That is a critically important core element of human rights integration across the work of all United Nations programmes on the ground. The Board regards those two components as particularly critical in the current efforts for updating the United Nations programmatic tools to better support States in the profound transformations envisaged in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Board therefore welcomes the United Nations guidance for the new sustainable development cooperation frameworks and the clear statement therein of the Organization's commitment to its normative role and to leaving no one behind in implementing the 2030 Agenda, including by taking a human rights-based approach to development, gender equality and the empowerment of women.

13. Together with the recommendations of the treaty bodies and the special procedures mandate holders, which are an integral part of the universal periodic review process, recommendations emanating from the universal periodic review mechanism represent a great asset for bolstering national human rights institutions and national capacities. They create a conducive environment for addressing the root causes of inequalities and other human rights challenges and, as such, they play an important role in the work of the United Nations on early warning and prevention. The work of the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women and the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination to link their recommendations with specific targets of the Sustainable Development Goals is one such example. The third cycle of the universal periodic review is providing an opportunity to strengthen engagement with all States on the implementation of and follow-up to the recommendations of international human rights mechanisms through cooperative efforts and the sharing of best practices among States and other stakeholders.

14. To facilitate that work, OHCHR has invested in efforts to provide better access to information on and to distinguish different types of recommendations, such as the National Recommendations Tracking Database, which the Board views as a key instrument to better supporting States in practical terms. The OHCHR treaty body capacity-building programme continues to support States in implementing treaty obligations. The Office has enhanced its capacity to better assist States in that regard through its regional presences, and the Board has observed at its sessions held in various regions how the programme and the work of OHCHR is critical, including in supporting permanent government structures with a mandate to coordinate and prepare reports to and engage with the international and regional human rights mechanisms and coordinate and track national follow-up and implementation efforts.

15. The Board discussed the draft guidelines on the use of the Voluntary Fund for the implementation of recommendations arising in the context of the universal periodic review. Their purpose is to provide guidance on the use of the Fund, in particular in the light of developments at the national and international levels, including an increased focus on the creation and/or strengthening of national capacities for coordination and implementation, the streamlining of reporting and implementation, pursuing the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and assisting in the strategic choice of the implementation of specific thematic recommendations and policy directions, as outlined by the Secretary-General in his report on strengthening United Nations action in the field of human rights through the promotion of international cooperation and the importance of non-selectivity, impartiality and objectivity (A/72/351).

16. The draft guidelines included criteria for the evaluation of project proposals, the underlying principles of which are the channelling of resources to support the most pressing thematic human rights issues in the State and the building of national capacities for implementation that are efficient and sustainable. The criteria include the promotion and

implementation of key recommendations emanating from the universal periodic review, strengthening the capacity of United Nations country teams, establishing and/or strengthening national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up, creating a plan and database on the implementation of recommendations and strengthening parliamentary capacities for implementation.

17. With the Office and partners, the Board continued to explore the relevance of and opportunities for the provision of advisory services and technical cooperation in areas identified as priorities, such as corruption, climate change, inequalities and the displacement and movement of people. The Board has found the expertise and experience of OHCHR in those areas to be essential in supporting a broader and better understanding of the human rights dimensions and implications linked with the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Board has considered the challenges that corruption poses for human rights at all levels and the type of interventions, through research, advocacy, advisory services, training and technical cooperation, that could be useful to support States. Corruption affects the basic human rights of millions of people around the world, due to the impact that it has on the already often reduced public funds for the provision of basic services, including for education, health and pensions. The Board found the efforts that the Office is putting into enhancing its thematic capacities to better advise partners in those areas to be very relevant and is encouraged by the type of programmes that are in place on the ground and being implemented together with main partners in the regions it has visited.

## **B. Forty-ninth session (Pretoria and Maputo)**

18. In accordance with its practice of holding one of its two sessions each year in a State where OHCHR has a field presence, the Board held its forty-ninth session in Pretoria, where OHCHR has its Regional Office for Southern Africa. The Board also used the opportunity to visit the Regional Office's technical cooperation project in Mozambique and its main implementing partners there.

19. The main purpose of the session was to increase the understanding of the type of technical cooperation that OHCHR provides in a regional context and to give relevant guidance to the Office on continuing to strengthen the technical cooperation components of its programmes on the ground. As was the case in its previous sessions in other regions, the Board also explored the experiences and expectations in the priority areas, in particular the impact of corruption in addressing inequalities and the human rights situation regarding the movement of people, with the Office and its partners. In South Africa, the Board learned about specific and locally based projects in the host country and other countries in the region, including Mozambique and Malawi.

20. With the session in Southern Africa, the Board has completed a first round of visits to all types of OHCHR field presences in all regions. The sessions have provided another dimension to the Board's advisory role, given that its members have been able to continue building a better understanding of the type of technical cooperation that OHCHR is best placed to offer and how the results of the Office's monitoring role and analysis of challenges and opportunities on the ground serve to develop sound technical cooperation programmes, together with partners, to address those challenges and build on opportunities yielding visible results.

21. The physical presence of the Office in the region and the Office's strategy to expand its regional presence and technical capacity is enabling it to enhance the value of its unique mandate and to engage actively with key partners in the region. The Board observed how the highly qualified technical expertise of the Office in Pretoria, working in close interaction with all actors on the ground, had established the necessary trust to gather the evidence-based information necessary to provide relevant advice to State entities and other key actors on effective policies and programmes.

22. During the session, the Board learned about the support being provided in Malawi to the United Nations country team and national partners through the deployment of a human rights adviser. The deployment is facilitated, as is the case in 37 countries around the world,

under the United Nations Sustainable Development Group strategy to enhance human rights capacity in the United Nations on the ground through the Voluntary Fund. That human rights capacity supports the entire United Nations system in enhancing opportunities to reinforce the human rights analysis required to better support national partners through technical support, early warning and prevention. In the context of the widespread demonstrations in Malawi since the presidential elections held in May 2019, the Board was informed about the technical cooperation programme designed by the human rights adviser, with national partners, to prevent serious human rights violations and encourage peaceful solutions to the unrest. An analysis of the situation from a human rights perspective identified weaknesses and gaps in the human rights protection system, as well as a number of human rights-related root causes to the civil unrest. That work has resulted in new technical cooperation engagement between the United Nations and the police service, with civil society and with the national human rights institution. In addition, the United Nations is integrating an understanding of the human rights-related root causes of the civil unrest into their programming to support the Government of Malawi to build an environment that sustains peace.

23. In South Africa, the Board met with representatives of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, the South African Human Rights Commission, the United Nations country team, the diplomatic community and a variety of civil society organizations. In Mozambique, the Board met with representatives of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Justice, the National Human Rights Commission, the United Nations country team, the diplomatic community and civil society organizations. From the discussions the Board held with counterparts in both countries, it was evident that the Office was fully present and that its expertise was recognized, for example, in the engagement with the human rights mechanisms and in particular in providing assistance with fulfilling reporting obligations in a timely manner. It is also recognized for its support on early warning and prevention, expanding civic space and participation, addressing discrimination and integrating human rights into the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. That has been the case in South Africa, where the Office has contributed to the response to gender-based violence, gender-related killings and xenophobic attacks against foreign nationals. Southern Africa is a region with countries that have the highest levels of inequality in the world, and there are real opportunities to demonstrate how human rights considerations addressed from the outset can serve to accelerate progress towards the implementation of the Goals. It also reconfirms the need to address development challenges as more than economic challenges and the value of centring human rights in addressing entrenched inequality, which acts as a barrier to development. It also underscores the importance of the Regional Office for Southern Africa and the opportunities that should be maximized.

24. The meetings and discussions with government representatives from the Ministries of Justice of South Africa and of Mozambique confirmed the extremely valuable contributions of the technical expertise provided by OHCHR in assisting States with the ratification and incorporation into national law of the international human rights treaties and the development of policies and practices aimed at the realization of human rights for all. In particular, the important role of the Office in supporting the States concerned with their overdue reporting obligations and facilitating consultations and coordination was highlighted. The Board discussed those expectations also in the light of the implementation of the recommendations received in the context of the universal periodic review and the actions towards the implementation thereof.

25. In South Africa, the Board was very pleased to learn of the progress made regarding the Prevention and Combating of Torture of Persons Act, 2013, to give effect to the obligations of South Africa under the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, the support of the State for the ratification of the Optional Protocol thereto, as part of the accepted recommendations arising from the universal periodic review, and the technical support available from OHCHR in that regard. Similarly, the Board was informed by the national partners in South Africa of the adoption of the national action plan against racism and discrimination and the ongoing actions to establish the required structures for its implementation, for which the support from the Regional Office is expected. The interest in establishing a national mechanism for reporting

and follow-up was also noted during the discussions in both South Africa and Mozambique, and the Office is supporting both States in their identification of the most appropriate mechanism.

26. The Board was pleased to note the positive impacts achieved through the placement of expert staff at the Regional Office under the OHCHR treaty body capacity-building programme, as mandated in General Assembly resolution 68/268. Pursuant to the dedicated technical assistance extended, eight countries, namely, Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mauritius, Mozambique, Seychelles, Zambia and Zimbabwe, all of which had more than six overdue reports at the outset of 2016, re-engaged with the treaty bodies and began tackling their backlogs. They advanced or institutionalized their engagement with all human rights mechanisms through the creation of standing governmental coordination structures, known as national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up, in Botswana, Eswatini, Lesotho, Mauritius, South Africa and Zambia. Some 12 outstanding reports were submitted to the treaty bodies, and a number of additional human rights treaties were ratified.

27. At its sessions, the partnerships with national human rights institutions are always one of the focus areas of the engagement by the Board with national counterparts. At its meeting with the South African Human Rights Commission, the Board was provided with a briefing about the programmes in place and the cooperation from and support provided by OHCHR. The role that OHCHR plays as a bridge-builder with national human rights institutions was particularly stressed. That important role has also been emphasized in all the meetings that the Board has held in other regions.

28. The Board was provided with a briefing on the ongoing efforts by OHCHR to better equip teams on the ground with specialized expertise and capacity to step up support to United Nations resident coordinators and United Nations country teams in the context of the new United Nations sustainable development cooperation frameworks. The proposal to incorporate economic and social rights experts into the overall human rights programme at the regional level will bolster the expertise of the Office to meet that new and critical demand. The interrelatedness and interconnectedness between economic, social, cultural, political and civil rights must be better understood within the United Nations, and OHCHR is well placed to develop that understanding. The Board would like to commend the Office for its efforts in that area of work.

29. The United Nations agencies and programmes in South Africa stressed that the relevant technical capacity and advisory services that the Regional Office provided were critical to ensuring a rights-based perspective in the work of the United Nations on the ground. OHCHR has, for example, worked closely with the United Nations team in South Africa in developing a joint proposal under the Sustainable Development Goals Fund, together with the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. The joint programme will support the development and strengthening of a comprehensive, inclusive, integrated and universal system of social protection in South Africa that leaves no one behind. OHCHR will work closely with the agencies and programmes involved on the integration of human rights into the implementation of the joint programme. That includes analysis and advocacy in relation to leaving no one behind, consultations with rights holders and linkages to the implementation of the relevant recommendations of the United Nations human rights mechanisms.

30. The Board has been particularly pleased to see the strategic direction of OHCHR in its engagement with Mozambique from the Regional Office for Southern Africa in Pretoria, in particular how the understanding of the key support that OHCHR can provide expands when it comes closer to the realities on the ground. The United Nations partners on the ground informed the Board about the work of the team in Mozambique and its ability to provide essential support in the aftermath of Cyclones Idai and Kenneth. The Board discussed the relevance of the programmes of the Office, including supporting the Government in its protection efforts, operationalizing a protection strategy, providing guidance to humanitarian responses and the affected population on relevant legal standards, supporting the engagement with the justice system and assisting the humanitarian

community with advocacy and the referral of cases, which were fully in line with the expectations from partners on the ground.

31. The partners with whom the Board met all corroborated that the support from OHCHR had been and continues to be of great importance. Partners rely greatly on the expertise of and advice from OHCHR when strengthening national protection systems. Particularly appreciated in the current phase of the United Nations development system reform is the efficient strategy of the Office to enhance the capacities of the United Nations country teams in the region to better support national efforts for the promotion and protection of human rights. In Mozambique, both national and United Nations partners highlighted the technical expertise and relevance of the technical cooperation support provided by the Office to support the analysis of human rights challenges, including in the context of the violence experienced in the northern province of Cabo Delgado, as well as to identify the groups at risk of being left behind not just in situations of emergency, but also in a broader development context, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals. The Board considers that that experience should provide the grounds to ensure a more permanent basis for the Office's engagement in Mozambique in order to ensure that the team on the ground has the opportunity to deliver on the expectations and engagement required and that the results can be sustained.

32. In Mozambique, the Board also observed in situ the integration and complementarities of the various funding tools of OHCHR. The support that is being provided to the Ministry of Justice through the universal periodic review voluntary trust fund supervised by the experts at the Regional Office is a good example that should be further supported by the trust fund. Support for the implementation of complex recommendations, such as those arising in the context of the universal periodic review, requires short-term and long-term coordinated strategies and multidisciplinary interventions.

33. In Johannesburg, South Africa, the Board visited the Bienvenu Shelter, a project supported by the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, and observed how the Office directly assisted victims. The Board met with refugee women and children escaping violence and was very pleased to observe how the full toolbox of OHCHR was used to support efforts on the ground that had an impact on the daily lives and situations of those women and children.

34. The Office in the region also provides direction on the human rights dimensions in numerous thematic areas, such as economic, social and cultural rights and, in particular, the protection of women's rights, including the challenges surrounding violence against women. Strengthening the capacities of the regional offices to provide enhanced thematic expertise to ensure technical support to States on actions regarding the promotion and protection of human rights, in particular of groups identified as target populations and those left behind, is needed. The Board was very pleased to note that women's rights and gender inclusiveness were fully integrated into all the regional programmes, despite the limited staff capacity on the ground. The thematic technical expertise and policy advice from the Women's Human Rights and Gender Section at headquarters and the strategy of OHCHR to ensure enhanced capacity with regard to women's rights and gender equality in all its regional presences were welcomed by the Board. It has observed how, in a complementary way, the Office maximized the use of the scarce available resources around a key priority issue. At its sessions in regions where the strengthening of that capacity has materialized, the Board has observed tangible impacts and results, such as those achieved in Central and South America by the regional offices, and is of the view that those efforts could serve to inspire their replication in other regions. For that reason, the Board would like to encourage States to continue supporting that initiative, in particular through stronger financial support to the Regional Office for Southern Africa, especially in the light of the serious inequality and discrimination faced by populations in a number of countries in the region, as a means to accelerate achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals in the current decade of action and to implement the United Nations development reform agenda.

35. The Board was particularly impressed with the results of the Office's investment in building capacity and sustainability in the Regional Office for Southern Africa. Civil society organizations stressed to the Board how the reformed structure of the Office was



clearly expanding the opportunities to engage strategically in the region and support greater cooperation. The experiences and impacts shared by partners at the session evidenced how the Office was present in the region and how it responded in a timely and efficient manner to requests for technical cooperation, while also anticipating and identifying through early warning and preventive work actions requiring enhanced support, despite its currently very limited staff capacity compared with other United Nations entities covering a similar number of countries.

36. The Regional Office for Southern Africa is one of the regional offices of OHCHR that does not receive United Nations regular budget resources, which is often the case for offices in regional settings. Furthermore, it faces the additional challenge of securing extrabudgetary contributions for regional work, given the middle-income status of many countries. As stressed in various studies, including by the Economic Commission for Africa, the region is grappling with high levels of inequality amid economic growth. All partners with whom the Board met recognized the importance of promoting inclusive, human rights-focused policies, in line with the goal of the 2030 Agenda to leave no one behind. Women are key drivers of change in the region, and States should be supported in addressing gender inequality and enhancing the empowerment of women. It is critical to invest in ensuring a more robust human rights expertise and capacity in the region, and OHCHR should be fully supported in that endeavour.

37. At its meetings in both South Africa and in Mozambique, the Board also met with interested Member States supporting technical cooperation programmes in the region, in close cooperation with the OHCHR Donor and External Relations Section, and noted the relevant interest in the results achieved and in continuing to enhance support to the Office's programmes on the ground. The Board therefore encourages Member States to expand their financial contributions through allocating a robust portion of the regular budget and ensuring enhanced extrabudgetary resources to the Office, in particular for the areas and projects identified as requiring financial support.

### III. Technical cooperation

#### A. Technical cooperation in the field of human rights: key components of sound technical cooperation programmes

38. In 2012, the Board brought to the attention of the Human Rights Council a series of seven components for effective technical cooperation efforts by OHCHR and other United Nations entities. The components had become evident through its experience overseeing the management of the programmes financed through the Voluntary Funds and providing overall policy advice on technical cooperation. The context of the components has been elaborated in detail in each of the annual reports and in the oral presentations of the Chair of the Board to the Human Rights Council. The components have been noted with appreciation by Member States in various resolutions of the Human Rights Council, most recently in resolution 42/32, as a way to identify good practices. Over the past eight years, the Board has been guided by the components when identifying good practices and consulting with national partners on the ground. The experiences on the ground and information gathered on good practices have been used to refine and update the components in the context of efforts to achieve the commitments and pledges under the 2030 Agenda. The Board takes the opportunity of the present report to set out the redefined and updated components for easy reference by all partners.

##### 1. Technical cooperation programmes must be based on the universality and indivisibility of all human rights – economic, civil, cultural, political and social rights – and must include both elements for the protection and the promotion of human rights.

39. Through the field visits conducted and discussions held in 2019, the Board has observed how the challenges of and impediments to the enjoyment of economic and social rights affect and have a negative impact on the enjoyment of civil and political rights, whereas on the other hand, restricted civil and political rights constrain the enjoyment of

economic and social rights and lead to violence in many parts of the world. Inequalities, such as in income, access to resources and access to justice, constitute fundamental challenges to the principles of equality and dignity. Corruption, poor governance, lack of strong human rights-based institutions and discrimination of all types are root causes of violations and impediments to the enjoyment of all human rights.

**2. Effective technical cooperation is focused on building and strengthening national frameworks and institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights.**

40. The term “national frameworks and institutions” incorporates the whole range of mechanisms available to States to fulfil their international human rights obligations. It includes the rule of law, legal and political accountability, democratically elected parliaments, independent courts, independent national human rights institutions, national development institutions, strong civil society organizations and protection of the civic space. An effective technical cooperation strategy is one directed towards the strengthening of those mechanisms to ensure that national frameworks and institutions are able to effectively promote and protect human rights and can function sustainably even when the technical support comes to an end. Technical cooperation must be focused explicitly on the establishment and strengthening of national human rights institutions in compliance with the principles relating to the status of national institutions for the promotion and protection of human rights (the Paris Principles).

**3. Effective technical cooperation should reflect national development objectives to ensure the highest levels of ownership and sustainability and to respond to genuine national interest, commitments and efforts in the promotion and protection of human rights.**

41. On the one hand, for technical cooperation in the field of human rights to have effective and sustainable results, it must be closely aligned with national development objectives. On the other hand, sustainable socioeconomic development hinges on a human rights-based approach. The human rights-based approach is both a perspective and a process that can lead more directly to increased enjoyment of human rights and socioeconomic development. Development processes are increasingly focused on the enjoyment of rights, based on the convictions that human rights and development are closely interrelated and mutually reinforcing and that the respect of human rights is critical for the sustainability of development, as set forth in the 2030 Agenda.

**4. The formulation and implementation of technical cooperation programmes should be based on the broadest possible participation of all elements of national societies and, where relevant, should also be linked with regional and sub-regional human rights mechanisms.**

42. Effective technical cooperation must be based on the broadest possible participation and consultation with all the elements of national society, a key element to achieving two key objectives of technical cooperation, namely, to improve the promotion and protection of human rights for all and to ensure the sustainability of outcomes. Participation should be understood as an inclusive term that refers to engagement with all relevant actors in all the stages of the technical cooperation process, from needs assessments to the design, formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the impact of those programmes. It should be noted that both the process and the outcome are equally important and mutually interdependent. Participation is a fundamental human rights principle – a human right in itself – and central to the efficiency and sustainability of development efforts, including through technical cooperation and assistance.

**5. Technical cooperation should be linked to the follow-up on the implementation of the recommendations and concluding observations made by international human rights mechanisms.**

43. The existing international human rights standards and protection framework defines the fundamental human rights norms that should be respected and protected. To be effective, technical cooperation programmes in the field of human rights should, therefore,

be solidly based on that international framework so as to ensure the implementation of the required obligations by duty bearers by strengthening capacity-building and empowering rights holders to claim their rights. The Board considers that, for technical cooperation in the field of human rights to have effective and sustainable results, it should be aimed at translating into reality the obligations and commitments of Member States within the international human rights legal framework. Member States face increasing requirements and expectations when implementing their treaty obligations, such as with regard to the results of their engagement with international and regional mechanisms and the implementation of the recommendations of the international mechanisms, including the universal periodic review. The relevance and strength of the existing international human rights framework, and in particular the recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms, should be an integral part of the efforts made to implement the 2030 Agenda and realize the Sustainable Development Goals.

**6. It is of critical importance that human rights are integrated into the work of all United Nations programmes on the ground to effectively support national efforts for the promotion and protection of human rights.**

44. The Board regards an integrated human rights perspective as a particularly critical element in the context of the current transformative actions being taken as a result of the support to States in their efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda and realize the Sustainable Development Goals. Throughout all sessions in countries and regions where OHCHR has a presence, the Board has observed how strong United Nations leadership on the ground is critical to supporting States in their efforts to achieve the sustained realization of human rights. When supported on the ground with sound human rights expertise, analysis and technical capacity, the United Nations is able to engage on critical issues and have a more profound impact.

**7. To be effective and have widespread impacts, technical cooperation in the field of human rights should be anchored in and build on the programmatic priorities and focus of the work of OHCHR throughout its programmatic cycle, which will also optimize the use of all types of resources available.**

45. The Board is routinely made aware, from its observations on the ground, that the level of resources, both of specialized personnel and funding, available for technical cooperation in the field of human rights is woefully inadequate, despite increases in the past few years. Careful analysis of needs, good strategizing of objectives and priorities and coordination of the delivery of technical assistance is therefore essential. The multi-year strategic programming process of OHCHR is the most comprehensive process for identifying, in consultation with partners, human rights strategies and priorities for technical cooperation in the realization of human rights. It is based on solid data and evidence and undertaken through a broad consultative process. The visionary plan for the period 2018–2021 also includes a focus on a series of priority issues and target populations, which the Board finds to be fundamental in the efforts to leave no one behind. For those reasons, the Board has observed that the plan of OHCHR is to provide the best platform upon which States and United Nations partners can plan and undertake other forms of technical cooperation for human rights.

46. From the experiences observed on the ground, the Board is of the firm view that OHCHR, with its expertise and experience, is the strongest possible reference point for guiding partners on the ground, including the United Nations system. OHCHR should assert its key normative role to help to ensure that human rights are explicitly integrated into all policies and programmes. The Board welcomes the efforts of OHCHR under its current programme, for the period 2018–2021, under the High Commissioner's leadership, to enhance capacity on the ground to assist States in developing dynamic courses of action through policies and practices aimed at enhancing synergies between civil and political rights and economic, social and cultural rights.

## **B. Measuring the results of technical cooperation and the response of the Office of the High Commissioner**

47. The Board continues to benefit from the reports and information provided and facilitated through the OHCHR performance monitoring system and the continuous efforts by the Office to ensure a consistent process of evaluation and assessments of its programmes, drawing lessons learned and applying them to strengthen the overall OHCHR programme. The Board has noted the remarkable achievements made by the Office in the implementation of its evaluation function and culture, which is now fully institutionalized and its value fully understood across programmes. The Board has also observed how its views and policy advice have been taken into account in the evaluation plans and how evaluations and assessments are enhancing the strategic quality of support on the ground. The Board welcomes the interest of the OHCHR services in charge of the evaluation functions in learning and taking into account the Board's views and advice when undertaking evaluations and internal assessments.

48. The Board has benefited from the discussions with the various teams on the status of implementation of the strategy on the management plan of the Office for the period 2018–2021, which is aimed at investing in transforming and enhancing the way in which it operates in line with its trajectory as a fully results-based entity. The Board appreciates in particular the actions taken to foster innovation and to ensure dynamic knowledge initiatives in 2019.

## **IV. Status of funding and donors**

49. At its forty-eighth session, in Geneva, and its forty-ninth session, in South Africa, the Board was provided with updates on the overall financial status of the Voluntary Fund. It discussed and analysed the status of implementation of the workplan for the Voluntary Fund for 2019. It endorsed the plans for 2020, at its meeting in South Africa. An analysis of funding trends between 2008 and 2019 (see annex I) continued to show a slight increase in 2019. The increase is a good reflection of the strategic vision and enhanced capacity to communicate, as well as the crucial results achieved in supporting States. However, increased financial resources are still very much needed, in particular unearmarked funds providing the Office with the flexibility and predictability needed for stability and to expand as needed in view of the demands of the human rights presences and programmes on the ground.

50. The total expenditure of the Voluntary Fund as at 31 December 2019 was \$15,538,451. The cost plan increase in 2019, as well as the slight increase in contributions, are due to the increase in voluntary contributions received by the Office in 2019, in particular related to the expansion of the coverage of the human rights advisers deployed under the United Nations Sustainable Development Group strategy launched in 2012. As at 31 December 2019, the Fund had received a total of \$17,540,670 in pledges and contributions, including interest and investment income. The Fund once again has broken the deficit that previously had to be covered by its reserves (according to the Financial Regulations and Rules of the United Nations, trust funds must ensure a reserve of 15 per cent of projected expenditure). Although the level of contributions tightly earmarked to specific projects, rather than to technical cooperation work of the Office, has resulted in a slight increase of available funding, that does not address the degree of flexibility required to ensure adequate coverage of programmes across regions.

51. The Voluntary Fund provided resources for technical cooperation programmes designed to build strong human rights frameworks at the national level in 45 regions, countries and territories, through 34 human rights advisers and human rights mainstreaming projects, in Argentina, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Brazil, Bolivia, Ecuador, Guyana, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, the Niger, Nigeria, Rwanda, Zimbabwe, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Montenegro, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, the Philippines, Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and the South Caucasus region (Georgia); 7 human rights components of peace missions, in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic,

Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Libya, Somalia and the Sudan (Darfur); and 4 country and stand-alone offices, in Chad, Mauritania, Mexico and the State of Palestine.

52. Through the Voluntary Fund, OHCHR continued facilitating national efforts to incorporate international human rights standards into national laws, policies and practices, with particular emphasis placed on follow-up to the recommendations made by international human rights mechanisms and the development of online mechanisms to facilitate such follow-up. Particularly relevant during the period under review have been the technical cooperation and advisory services provided in the context of the support of States' efforts on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It has also contributed to the establishment and strengthening of national structures, institutions and capacities to ensure adherence to those standards. Activities to strengthen the administration of justice, including support for increasing capacities for access for individuals and groups facing discrimination and exclusion and increasing the capacity to promote gender equality and women's rights and combat inequalities, have also featured prominently and were linked to the particular Sustainable Development Goal. United Nations resident coordinators and country teams have continued to see their human rights capacity strengthened. Detailed information on income and expenditure under the Voluntary Fund, its financial status in 2019 and a list of donors and contributors are contained in annexes to the present report (see annexes II–IV).

## V. Main findings and recommendations

53. The Board has been particularly pleased to observe how the priority areas and target populations identified by OHCHR are serving to solidify new areas of support through technical cooperation. It coincides with the expectations and needs on the ground, as observed by the Board after holding sessions in all regions. The Board has paid attention in particular to the issue of corruption and its profound impact on the enjoyment of human rights and noticed how that issue has increasingly been included in training and capacity-building initiatives and policy dialogues. The Board continues to observe how the investment of the Office in furthering the understanding of the dimensions of corruption, in the initial years of implementation of the plan of OHCHR, is triggering specific areas of support through the technical cooperation provided by OHCHR. The Board recommends that OHCHR begin taking steps to further mainstream those results into its programmes and projects. Furthermore, the Board has noted with appreciation the enhanced focus in addressing inequalities, in particular the profound focus on gender equality issues and combating gender-based violence. The Board recommends that OHCHR continue developing that area further, in particular to explore how local authorities and communities can be further engaged in addressing the deep-seated root causes of inequalities and exclusion.

54. Those issues and the realization of human rights are central imperatives of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. The Board welcomes in particular the partnership with the United Nations Sustainable Development Group to ensure that resident coordinators and United Nations country teams are well equipped with the knowledge, experience and expertise on human rights necessary to better support States. According to the findings of the Board, the expanded deployment of human rights advisers contributes greatly to the strengthening of capacity and contributes to ensuring that all United Nations programming processes are rooted in human rights, as envisioned in the 2030 Agenda. The solid efforts to ensure human rights inclusion throughout the programmatic United Nations tools, including the new iteration of the United Nations sustainable development cooperation frameworks, as key components to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, are welcomed by the Board. The Board commends national partners and resident coordinators and their teams on the ground who are developing practical mechanisms to fully integrate human rights into the ongoing sustainable development programmes, through the incorporation of the outcomes of the international human rights mechanisms as key reference points to guide priority-setting and programmatic interventions.

55. The experience in Mozambique shows the commitment, knowledge and capacity of the Office's staff and how the Office and the national partners work jointly building the

trust needed to offer adequate spaces for dialogue and joint work supporting positive change on the ground. The Board noted in particular how the United Nations country team, using human rights indicators as an analytical tool in specific humanitarian crisis situations, identified persons with disabilities and older persons who were at high risk of being left behind in destitution. Those and other examples should be analysed and disseminated as good practices throughout the United Nations system.

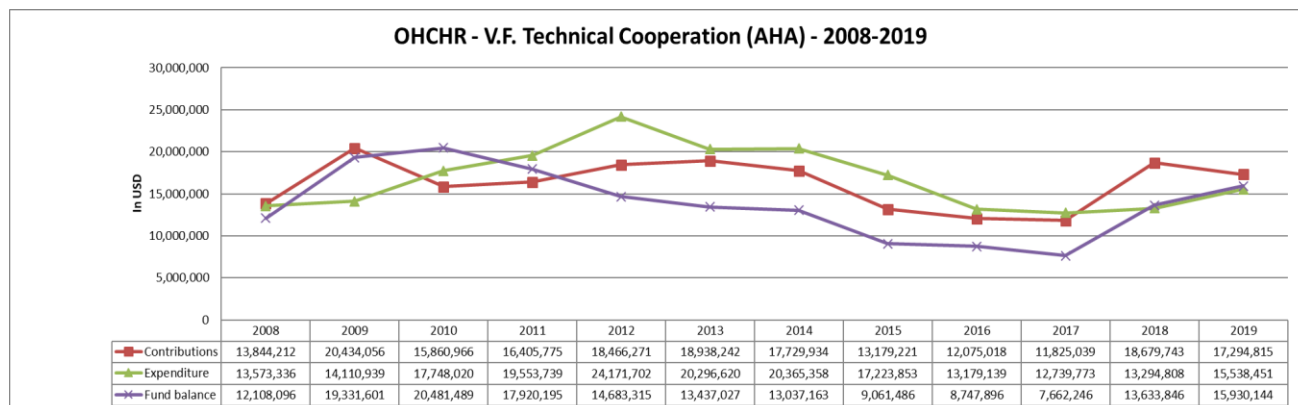
56. As often illustrated in the reports of the Board, OHCHR has a rich experience in specific steps that can be taken to address human rights challenges, however, that important knowledge often remains with the specific actors, and those examples should be analysed and more widely disseminated throughout the United Nations system. The Board welcomes the efforts of OHCHR to upgrade its outreach and communications mechanisms and methodologies, including the much needed upgrade of its Internet tools.

57. The Board is encouraged by the acknowledgement by the Human Rights Council of the usefulness of its contributions. It is also encouraged by the increasing number of States publicly recognizing the achievements made and stressing the difference that it makes having a presence of the Office with adequate financial and human resources on the ground operating in line with the High Commissioner's mandate.

58. The Board welcomes the increase in contributions through the various financial instruments managed by OHCHR, including the Voluntary Funds. It emphasizes the importance of not only ensuring an increase in resources but also of supporting sustainability, predictability and flexibility in the use of those contributions within the overall OHCHR programme.

## Annex I

### Contributions to the Voluntary Fund and expenditure trends (2008–2019)



## Annex II

## Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation cost plan for 2019




## Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation (AHA)

|   |   |                 | Cost Plans 2019       |                      |               |            | Expenditure       |
|---|---|-----------------|-----------------------|----------------------|---------------|------------|-------------------|
| Project Number  | Field Operations & Technical Cooperation Division   | Number of staff | Staff costs (CP 2019) | Activities (CP 2019) | PSC (CP 2019) | Total USD  | USD at 31.12.2019 |
| (a) HR Advisers/HR Mainstreaming in UNCT (35 countries):    |   |                 |                       |                      |               |            |                   |
| Europe and Central Asia (6 countries)                       |   |                 |                       |                      |               |            |                   |
| SB-009371.05  | - Belarus */  | 1               | 219,043               | -                    | 15,333        | 234,376    | 128,433           |
| SB-010245   | - Belarus (National Action Plan)  | n/a             | 66,155                | 313,800              | 49,394        | 429,349    | 175,165           |
| SB-002068   | - Moldova   | 4               | 141,621               | 93,051               | 30,507        | 265,179    | 221,478           |
| SB-009371.15  | - Moldova */  | 1               | 134,953               | -                    | 9,447         | 144,400    | 92,152            |
| SB-009371.14  | - Montenegro */   | 1               | 137,432               | -                    | 9,620         | 147,052    | 107,600           |
| SB-002067.01  | - Russian Federation  | 6               | 264,196               | 550,450              | 105,904       | 920,550    | 832,915           |
| SB-002065   | - Southern Caucasus, Georgia  | 6               | 436,830               | 226,298              | 83,207        | 746,335    | 689,549           |
| SB-002365   | - Serbia  | 2               | 289,652               | 117,450              | 52,923        | 460,025    | 352,653           |
| Africa (7 countries)  |   |                 |                       |                      |               |            |                   |
| SB-002085   | - Rwanda  | 2               | 58,462                | 138,749              | 25,637        | 222,848    | 183,093           |
| SB-009371.10  | - Rwanda */   | 1               | 219,632               | -                    | 15,374        | 235,006    | 210,261           |
| SB-002063   | - Kenya   | 5               | 429,845               | 259,954              | 89,674        | 779,473    | 748,931           |
| SB-009734.04  | - Malawi */   | 1               | 221,581               | -                    | 15,511        | 237,092    | 117,474           |
| SB-002066   | - Niger   | 1               | 171,386               | 186,884              | 46,576        | 404,846    | 212,240           |
| SB-009734.01  | - Nigeria */  | 1               | 292,183               | -                    | 20,453        | 312,636    | 305,000           |
| SB-002077   | - Madagascar  | 3               | 77,076                | 112,998              | 24,710        | 214,784    | 150,108           |
| SB-009371.09  | - Madagascar */   | 1               | 214,855               | -                    | 15,040        | 229,895    | 249,889           |
| SB-009371.02  | - Zimbabwe */   | 1               | 278,893               | -                    | 19,522        | 298,415    | 283,007           |
| MENA (1 country)  |   |                 |                       |                      |               |            |                   |
| SB-009371.04  | - Jordan */   | 1               | 237,380               | -                    | 16,617        | 253,997    | 208,931           |
| Americas (11 countries)                                     |   |                 |                       |                      |               |            |                   |
| SB-009575   | - Argentina, Barbados, Brasil, Peru, Ecuador, Uruguay, Belize, Trinidad&Tobago, Guyana (nationals) */ | 9               | 786,821               | -                    | 55,077        | 841,898    | 602,616           |
| SB-9734.02  | - Jamaica */  | 1               | 212,520               | -                    | 14,876        | 227,396    | 335,351           |
| SB-002072   | - Paraguay  | 3               | 127,612               | 41,350               | 21,965        | 190,927    | 148,948           |
| Asia & Pacific region (9 countries)                         |   |                 |                       |                      |               |            |                   |
| SB-009371.03  | - Bangladesh */   | 1               | 223,356               | -                    | 15,635        | 238,991    | 227,636           |
| SB-009558   | - Malaysia, Mongolia, Nepal (nationals) */  | 3               | 133,550               | -                    | 9,349         | 142,899    | 108,405           |
| SB-009371.12  | - Maldives */   | 1               | 201,253               | -                    | 14,088        | 215,341    | 2,826             |
| SB-002064   | - Papua New Guinea  | 2               | 147,792               | 259,861              | 52,995        | 460,648    | 259,830           |
| SB-009371.08  | - Papua New Guinea */   | 1               | 241,372               | -                    | 16,896        | 258,268    | 293,940           |
| SB-007555   | - Philippines   | 1               | 258,264               | -                    | 18,078        | 276,342    | 251,623           |
| SB-002083   | - Sri Lanka   | 4               | 443,426               | 68,035               | 66,490        | 577,951    | 554,861           |
| SB-009371.07  | - Timor Leste */  | 1               | 213,096               | -                    | 14,917        | 228,013    | 154,947           |
| SB-002099   | - Timor Leste   | 3               | 148,670               | 105,470              | 33,038        | 287,178    | 207,412           |
| Overall HRAs' other costs                                   |   |                 |                       |                      |               |            |                   |
| SB-009371.16  | - HRAs' operating and equipment costs */  | n/a             | -                     | -                    | -             | -          | 89,811            |
| SB-009371.17  | - HRM/HRBA & CLP workshops */   | n/a             | -                     | -                    | -             | -          | 28,309            |
| sub-total HR Advisers:                                      |   | 68              | 7,028,907             | 2,474,350            | 978,853       | 10,482,110 | 8,535,394         |
| (b) Human Rights Components of UN Peace Missions (7)        |   |                 |                       |                      |               |            |                   |
| SB-006018   | - Afghanistan (UNAMA)   | n/a             | 15,000                | 251,725              | 34,674        | 301,399    | 370,475           |
| SB-007199   | - Somalia (UNSOM)   | -               | -                     | 211,262              | 27,464        | 238,726    | 202,364           |
| SB-007197   | - Sudan Darfur (UNAMID)   | -               | -                     | 69,369               | 9,018         | 78,387     | (6,785)           |
| SB-006152   | - Guinea Bissau (UNIOGBIS)  | n/a             | 15,150                | 71,000               | 11,200        | 97,350     | 66,307            |
| SB-007195   | - Central African Republic (MINUSCA)  | -               | -                     | 77,000               | 10,010        | 87,010     | 44,102            |
| SB-002088   | - Haiti   | 5               | 563,119               | 72,800               | 82,669        | 718,588    | 680,433           |
| SB-007116   | - Haiti (local expenses MINUSTAH)   | -               | -                     | 62,993               | 8,189         | 71,182     | 65,460            |
| SB-002092   | - Libya   | -               | 60,500                | 112,800              | 22,529        | 195,829    | 75,926            |
| sub-total Peace Missions:                                   |   | 5               | 653,769               | 928,949              | 205,753       | 1,788,471  | 1,498,282         |
| (c) Country/Standalone Offices (4)                          |   |                 |                       |                      |               |            |                   |
| SB-002089   | - Chad  | 9               | 764,555               | 309,288              | 139,600       | 1,213,443  | 1,182,253         |
| SB-002069   | - Mauritania  | 12              | 766,300               | 389,062              | 150,197       | 1,305,559  | 924,829           |
| SB-002062   | - State of Palestine  | 7               | 796,212               | 400,993              | 155,637       | 1,352,842  | 820,911           |
| SB-008426   | - Mexico (MacArthur Foundation funding)   | n/a             | 77,325                | 63,856               | 18,354        | 159,535    | 155,388           |
| SB-009658   | - Mexico (Ford Foundation funding)  | n/a             | 46,278                | 17,750               | 8,324         | 72,352     | 21,269            |
| SB-002059   | - Mexico  | 26              | 1,896,274             | 581,081              | 322,056       | 2,799,411  | 2,449,467         |
| sub-total Country /Standalone Offices:                      |   | 54              | 4,346,944             | 1,762,030            | 794,168       | 6,903,142  | 5,553,817         |
| Accounting adjustments related to closed projects           |   |                 |                       |                      |               |            |                   |
| Total (including programme support costs)                   |   | 127             | 12,029,620            | 5,165,329            | 1,978,774     | 19,173,723 | 15,538,451        |
| PSC = 13% except for funding from UNDP/MPHF/DIF with PSC 7% |   |                 |                       |                      |               | 19,173,723 | 81%               |
| Footnote: */ Funding from MPIF-UNDP-DIF                     |   |                 |                       |                      |               |            |                   |





## Annex III



## Financial status of the Voluntary Fund (2019)

|  |                     |                      |  |
|--|---------------------|----------------------|--|
|   |                     |                      | PSMS/FBS/Reporting<br>Trust Fund: AHA<br>Prepared on: 24/01/2020 |
| <p style="text-align: center;">United Nations Voluntary Fund<br/>for Technical Cooperation (AHA)</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>Financial report of Income and Expenditure<br/>for the period 01 January - 31 December 2019</b></p> |                     |                      |  |
| <b>I - Income</b>  |                     |                      | <b>USD</b>   |
| <b>Contributions received</b>  |                     |                      |  |
| - Voluntary Contributions earmarked to the VFTC  |                     |                      | 7,500,936.21   |
| - Voluntary Contributions earmarked to specific VFTC projects  |                     |                      | 3,812,543.77   |
| - Voluntary Contributions UNDP/MPTF/DTF earmarked to specific HRAs projects  |                     |                      | 5,225,537.10   |
| - Gain/loss on exchange  |                     |                      | 11,034.05  |
| <b>Pledges received</b>  |                     |                      |  |
| - Voluntary Contributions earmarked to the VFTC (USA)  |                     | un-paid              | 172,500.00   |
| - Voluntary Contribution UNDP earmarked to specific HRA projects (Malawi/Bangladesh)   |                     | un-paid              | 159,761.40   |
| - Voluntary Contribution MPTF earmarked to specific HRA project (Costa Rica/ HRBA-CLP workshop)  |                     | un-paid              | 303,350.00   |
| - Voluntary Contributions earmarked to specific VFTC projects  |                     | un-paid              | 109,152.59   |
| Interest and miscellaneous income  |                     |                      | 245,854.95   |
| <b>Total Income (I)</b>  |                     |                      | <b>17,540,670.07</b>   |
| <b>II - Expenditure */</b>   |                     |                      | <b>Total</b>   |
| <b>Category</b>  | <b>Commitments</b>  | <b>Actuals</b>       | <b>Expenditure</b>   |
| CL010 - Staff costs  | 531,827.62          | 8,529,213.79         | 9,061,041.41   |
| CL010 - Other Personnel costs (consultants' fees)  | 65,072.95           | 373,878.18           | 438,951.13   |
| CL160 - Travel of Staff and consultants  | 75,575.50           | 510,013.65           | 585,589.15   |
| CL160 - Travel of Representatives/Participants to meetings/seminars  | 75,889.12           | 397,720.84           | 473,609.96   |
| CL120 - Contractual Services   | 144,338.46          | 239,767.54           | 384,106.00   |
| CL125 - General Operating & Other Direct Costs   | 640,273.46          | 1,657,684.92         | 2,297,958.38   |
| CL130 - Supplies, Commodities & Materials  | 20,795.61           | 29,939.36            | 50,734.97  |
| CL135 - Equipment, Vehicle & Furniture   | 155,562.73          | 161,628.46           | 317,191.19   |
| CL140 - Transfers and Grants to Implementing Partners (>\$50,000)  | 5,956.52            | 186,156.35           | 192,112.87   |
| CL145 - Grants out (<\$50,000) & Fellowships   | 27,524.89           | 100,312.51           | 127,837.40   |
| CL155 - Programme Support (Indirect) Costs   | n/a                 | 1,609,318.54         | 1,609,318.54   |
| <b>Total Expenditure (II)</b>  | <b>1,742,816.86</b> | <b>13,795,634.14</b> | <b>15,538,451.00</b>   |
| */ Actuals and commitments   |                     |                      |  |
| <b>Net excess/(shortfall) of income over expenditure (I-II)</b>  |                     |                      | <b>2,002,219.07</b>  |
| <b>III - Opening balance</b>   |                     |                      | <b>13,633,846.13</b>   |
| Opening balance (01.01.2019) with unpaid pledges 2018  |                     |                      | 13,633,846.13  |
| <b>IV - Other adjustments</b>  |                     |                      | <b>294,079.36</b>  |
| Accounting adjustments - Prior period loss on exchange on local operations   |                     |                      | (6,720.64)   |
| Transfer adjustments (TRF from HCA) - Russia 2017 funding for NAP in Belarus   |                     |                      | 300,800.00   |
| Refunds to donors / Write-off  |                     |                      | -  |
| <b>Available Funds Balance (I+III+IV-II)</b>   |                     |                      | <b>15,930,144.56</b>   |

## Annex IV

## Donors and contributors (2019)

|  <b>UN Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation (VFTC)</b>  |                     |                     |                       |                        |   |
|---|---------------------|---------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---|
| Voluntary contributions in 2019   |                     |                     |                       |                        |   |
| Donor   | Pledge<br>USD\$     | Paid<br>USD\$       | Gain/loss on exchange | Unpaid pledge<br>USD\$ | Earmarking  |
| Denmark   | 4,209,893.25        | 4,233,901.50        | 24,008.25             | 0.00                   | VFTC  |
| Finland   | 909,090.91          | 879,120.88          | -29,970.03            | 0.00                   | VFTC  |
| Germany   | 479,452.05          | 477,815.70          | -1,636.35             | 0.00                   | VFTC  |
|   | 625,000.00          | 625,000.00          | 0.00                  | 0.00                   | VFTC  |
| India   | 200,000.00          | 200,000.00          | 0.00                  | 0.00                   | VFTC  |
| Russian Federation  | 100,000.00          | 100,000.00          | 0.00                  | 0.00                   | VFTC  |
| United States of America  | 1,150,000.00        | 977,500.00          | 0.00                  | 172,500.00             | VFTC  |
| <b>(a) total contributions earmarked to VFTC</b>  | <b>7,673,436.21</b> | <b>7,493,338.08</b> | <b>-7,598.13</b>      | <b>172,500.00</b>      |   |
| Australia   | 67,796.61           | 68,465.37           | 668.76                | 0.00                   | Activities in the Asia-Pacific region (allocated to Papua New Guinea)                         |
|   | 188,394.88          | 166,807.64          | -21,587.24            | 0.00                   | HRA in Philippines  |
|   | 101,694.92          | 102,698.06          | 1,003.14              | 0.00                   | Activities in the Asia-Pacific region (allocated to Afghanistan)                              |
|   | 67,796.61           | 68,465.37           | 668.76                | 0.00                   | Activities in the Asia-Pacific region (allocated to Sri Lanka)                                |
|   | 67,796.61           | 68,465.37           | 668.76                | 0.00                   | Activities in the Asia-Pacific region (allocated to Timor Leste)                              |
|   | 294,507.44          | 295,622.71          | 1,115.27              | 0.00                   | HRPG's civic space activities in Somalia  |
| Ford Fondation  | 52,150.00           | 52,150.00           | 0.00                  | 0.00                   | Mexico (Strengthen capacities of victims of forced disappearances to defend their rights)     |
| France  | 66,889.63           | 68,493.15           | 1,603.52              | 0.00                   | Chad  |
|   | 78,037.90           | 79,908.65           | 1,870.75              | 0.00                   | Mauritania  |
| Lithuania   | 5,500.55            | 5,580.36            | 79.81                 | 0.00                   | Georgia/South Caucasus  |
| Mac Arthur Foundation   | 40,000.00           | 40,000.00           | 0.00                  | 0.00                   | Mexico  |
| Netherlands   | 202,546.30          | 117,693.71          | 0.00                  | 84,852.59              | Kenya/Democratic Space  |
| NHRC of Qatar   | 0.00                | 0.00                | 0.00                  | 0.00                   | OPT   |
| Norway  | 324,956.67          | 330,632.36          | 5,675.69              | 0.00                   | Haiti   |
|   | 541,594.45          | 551,053.95          | 9,459.50              | 0.00                   | Chad  |
|   | 108,318.89          | 110,210.79          | 1,891.90              | 0.00                   | Niger   |
|   | 433,275.56          | 440,843.15          | 7,567.59              | 0.00                   | Mauritania  |
|   | 454,939.34          | 462,885.31          | 7,945.97              | 0.00                   | OPT   |
| Russian Federation  | 450,000.00          | 450,000.00          | 0.00                  | 0.00                   | Russian Federation Hr Master Programme + Ombudspersons Russia (National Human Rights Adviser) |
| Saudi Arabia  | 200,000.00          | 200,000.00          | 0.00                  | 0.00                   | OpT   |
| UNDP/MPTF   | 260,472.00          | 260,472.00          | 0.00                  | 0.00                   | HRA in Myanmar  |
|   | 62,062.00           | 62,062.00           | 0.00                  | 0.00                   | HRA in Americas/Belize  |
|   | 70,000.00           | 70,000.00           | 0.00                  | 0.00                   | HRA in Papua New Guinea   |
|   | 97,000.00           | 97,000.00           | 0.00                  | 0.00                   | HRA in Rwanda   |
|   | 306,933.50          | 171,043.50          | 0.00                  | 135,890.00             | HRBA CLP workshop   |

| <div>  <b>UN Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation (VFTC)</b>  </div> |                      |                      |                       |                        |   |
|--|----------------------|----------------------|-----------------------|------------------------|---|
| Voluntary contributions in 2019  |                      |                      |                       |                        |   |
| Donor  | Pledge<br>USD\$      | Paid<br>USD\$        | Gain/loss on exchange | Unpaid pledge<br>USD\$ | Earmarking                                |
| UNDG/MPTF  | 828,183.00           | 660,723.00           | 0.00                  | 167,460.00             | HRA Burkina Faso, Malaysia and Costa Rica |
| UNDP/UNCT-Bangladesh   | 139,762.00           | 0.00                 | 0.00                  | 139,762.00             | Bangladesh                                |
| UNDP/UNCT-Malawi   | 83,263.00            | 63,263.60            | 0.00                  | 19,999.40              | HRA in Malawi                             |
| UNDP/DOCO  | 260,000.00           | 260,000.00           | 0.00                  | 0.00                   | HRA in Maldives                           |
|  | 201,800.00           | 201,800.00           | 0.00                  | 0.00                   | HRA in Montenegro                         |
|  | 201,800.00           | 201,800.00           | 0.00                  | 0.00                   | HRA in Moldova                            |
|  | 139,100.00           | 139,100.00           | 0.00                  | 0.00                   | HRA in Trinidad and Tobago                |
|  | 71,900.00            | 71,900.00            | 0.00                  | 0.00                   | HRA in Guyana                             |
|  | 70,000.00            | 70,000.00            | 0.00                  | 0.00                   | HRA in Nepal                              |
|  | 227,500.00           | 227,500.00           | 0.00                  | 0.00                   | HRA in Madagascar                         |
|  | 24,504.00            | 24,504.00            | 0.00                  | 0.00                   | HRA's general operating costs             |
| UNDP/DOCO  | 181,901.00           | 181,901.00           | 0.00                  | 0.00                   | HRA's general operating costs             |
|  | 264,504.00           | 264,504.00           | 0.00                  | 0.00                   | HRA Nigeria                               |
|  | 215,712.00           | 215,712.00           | 0.00                  | 0.00                   | HRA Jamaica                               |
|  | 137,388.00           | 137,388.00           | 0.00                  | 0.00                   | HRA Malawi                                |
|  | 159,558.00           | 159,558.00           | 0.00                  | 0.00                   | HRA Bangladesh                            |
|  | 107,203.00           | 107,203.00           | 0.00                  | 0.00                   | HRA Belarus                               |
|  | 169,458.00           | 169,458.00           | 0.00                  | 0.00                   | HRA Jordan                                |
|  | 223,374.00           | 223,374.00           | 0.00                  | 0.00                   | HRA Zimbabwe                              |
|  | 228,064.00           | 228,064.00           | 0.00                  | 0.00                   | HRA Timor Leste                           |
|  | 260,515.00           | 260,515.00           | 0.00                  | 0.00                   | HRA in PNG/Rwanda/Nigeria                 |
|  | 629,956.00           | 629,956.00           | 0.00                  | 0.00                   | National HR Officer in Americas           |
|  | 66,736.00            | 66,736.00            | 0.00                  | 0.00                   | National HR Officer in Asia/Pacific       |
| USA  | 24,300.00            | 0.00                 | 0.00                  | 24,300.00              | PMS in Lybia                              |
|  | 151,200.00           | 151,200.00           | 0.00                  | 0.00                   | HRA in Sri Lanka                          |
| <b>(b) total contributions earmarked to specific projects</b>  | <b>9,610,344.86</b>  | <b>9,056,713.05</b>  | <b>18,632.18</b>      | <b>572,263.99</b>      |   |
| Unearmarked funds allocated to VFTC  | 0.00                 | 0.00                 | 0.00                  | 0.00                   |   |
| <b>(c) total unearmarked funds</b>   | <b>0.00</b>          | <b>0.00</b>          | <b>0.00</b>           | <b>0.00</b>            |   |
| <b>TOTAL (a) + (b) + (c)</b>   | <b>17,283,781.07</b> | <b>16,550,051.13</b> | <b>11,034.05</b>      | <b>744,763.99</b>      |   |