



# General Assembly

Distr.: General  
14 April 2022

Original: English

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## Human Rights Council

### Fiftieth session

13 June–8 July 2022

Agenda items 2 and 3

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

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

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

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

#### *Summary*

The Secretary-General's report entitled Our Common Agenda and his Call to Action for Human Rights are complementary and mutually reinforcing, aimed at advancing the full spectrum of human rights and reinforcing their centrality and indivisibility.

The present report reflects the work of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) on the implementation and enhancement of international cooperation in the field of human rights, illustrating how OHCHR contributes to enhancing human rights protection and development. Proposing possible ways to face the challenges to the promotion and protection of human rights, including the right to development, it also considers how OHCHR may further contribute to realizing Our Common Agenda and the Call to Action for Human Rights.



## **I. Introduction**

1. In its resolution 47/9, the Human Rights Council requested the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to prepare a report on the work of OHCHR on implementing and enhancing international cooperation in the field of human rights, and to propose possible ways to face the challenges to the promotion and protection of human rights, including the right to development.

## **II. Our Common Agenda and international cooperation in the field of human rights**

2. In their declaration on the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the United Nations,<sup>1</sup> Member States agreed that global challenges were interconnected and could only be addressed by interconnected responses, through reinvigorated multilateralism. Consequently, and at a defining moment in the history of humanity, the Secretary-General issued Our Common Agenda,<sup>2</sup> a road map to a sustainable future for people, the planet, prosperity and peace, united by partnership, international cooperation and solidarity.

3. Our Common Agenda emphasizes that it is time to re-embrace global solidarity and find new ways to work together for the common good. It calls for a renewed social contract anchored in human rights, and places rights at the core of the Secretary-General's vision for a more networked, inclusive and effective multilateral system. It stresses the foundational importance of trust built, inter alia, on inclusive and safe participation, including making the voices of women, youth and marginalized people heard, with a view to better understanding what matters to people and the planet. The application of human rights to new frontiers – including the ever-changing digital realm – is cited as an important area for follow-up, specifically towards clarifying and updating human rights frameworks to capture and respond to new and emerging challenges and issues. Looking beyond the horizons of today's challenges, it dedicates important space to the need for more long-term decision-making and policymaking that accounts for the rights of future generations.

4. In Our Common Agenda, the Secretary-General recommits to “The Highest Aspiration: A Call to Action for Human Rights”.<sup>3</sup> In line with his Call to Action for Human Rights, he highlights the importance of making human rights commitments a reference point in the design and delivery of United Nations programmes, development assistance and crisis prevention initiatives. Our Common Agenda seeks to shift the narrative to rights as problem-solving measures, offering an opportunity to use the full gamut of human rights much more proactively, including to strengthen institutions and increase societal resilience. Ultimately, Our Common Agenda reiterates the centrality of human rights to the collective work of the United Nations system and its partners, including by underscoring the extent to which human rights considerations are already reflected in existing blueprints for action, such as the Sustainable Development Goals.

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

### **A. Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**

#### **1. Global presences**

5. OHCHR continued to prioritize implementation of the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights, with a focus on ensuring system-wide responsibility for human rights and the required leadership across the United Nations as well as on the imperative to

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 75/1.

<sup>2</sup> See <https://www.un.org/en/content/common-agenda-report/>.

<sup>3</sup> See [www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2021-02-24/secretary-generals-general-assembly-briefing-the-call-action-for-human-rights-bilingual-delivered-scroll-down-for-all-english-version](https://www.un.org/sg/en/content/sg/statement/2021-02-24/secretary-generals-general-assembly-briefing-the-call-action-for-human-rights-bilingual-delivered-scroll-down-for-all-english-version).

step up implementation at the country level. Together with the Executive Office of the Secretary-General, OHCHR continued to support inter-agency efforts to ensure that country-level United Nations leadership and others on the ground were adequately supported and equipped to implement the Call to Action for Human Rights. The goal was to support the identification of concrete actions aimed at addressing the most critical human rights issues and at seizing opportunities to move the agenda forward to make real change in people's lives.

6. Under the Call to Action for Human Rights, OHCHR, together with 12 other United Nations entities, initiated a major review of all common country analyses and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks developed since the beginning of the United Nations reform process in 2019, on the integration of human rights, gender equality and women's empowerment and the principle of leaving no one behind.

7. Together with the Development Coordination Office, the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women) and the International Labour Organization (ILO), OHCHR held a three-day strategic workshop in May 2021 on operationalizing the "new social contract" by curbing inequalities and placing human rights front and centre in United Nations development socioeconomic advice and interventions. Through its Surge Initiative, OHCHR advised United Nations country teams on 61 common country analyses, contributed to 21 regional monthly reviews, and delivered 15 briefings and training sessions on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks guiding principles, which include the human rights-based approach and leaving no one behind. The Surge Initiative launched a new round of eight seeding change projects,<sup>4</sup> implemented together with other United Nations entities, national partners and civil society organizations, to support country teams and governments in implementing human rights-based socioeconomic responses. The Surge Initiative economists held consultations with resident coordinator office economists in 29 countries in 2021 and are also now part of the United Nations Economists' Network coordinated by the Department of Economic and Social Affairs.

8. In December 2021, OHCHR held an intersessional seminar on access to vaccines and medicines, which highlighted human rights challenges in the context of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the urgency of strengthening international cooperation and measures to improve universal access to vaccines.<sup>5</sup> In her report to the Human Rights Council,<sup>6</sup> the High Commissioner noted that the uneven rollout and distribution of COVID-19 vaccines had been a major failure in the global response to the pandemic, with serious consequences for the enjoyment of human rights, including the right to development. She reiterated her call to treat COVID-19 vaccines as global public goods, and to strengthen international cooperation to increase the supply of vaccines to the COVID-19 Vaccine Global Access (COVAX) Facility for low- and lower-middle-income countries and to support delivery efforts. OHCHR held an intersessional panel discussion on the right to social security in the changing world of work, in November 2021.<sup>7</sup> The panel highlighted the important role of international cooperation – including through the establishment of a global fund for social protection, reforms to the debt architecture and increases in official development assistance – in expanding fiscal space to create sustainable and inclusive social security systems. OHCHR published several reports<sup>8</sup> emphasizing the importance of international cooperation to mitigate the socioeconomic impacts of the pandemic.

9. The link between the enjoyment of human rights and the prevention of conflict and crisis continues to underpin the work carried out by OHCHR with the wider United Nations system in the context of the Secretary-General's prioritization of prevention and the "prevention shift". The strategic partnership being developed between OHCHR and the Peacebuilding Support Office helps to ensure that system-wide efforts to address long-term root causes of conflict are informed by human rights as a critical foundation of sustaining

<sup>4</sup> Bringing the total number since 2020 to 38.

<sup>5</sup> See [A/HRC/49/34](#).

<sup>6</sup> [A/HRC/49/35](#).

<sup>7</sup> See [A/HRC/49/33](#).

<sup>8</sup> [A/HRC/49/28](#), [A/HRC/49/33](#), [A/HRC/49/34](#), [A/HRC/49/35](#) and [E/2020/63](#).

peace. OHCHR continued to roll out the deployment of emergency response teams, including with early warning analytical capacity, within its regional offices, where they work with field presences, resident coordinator offices and country teams to identify human rights challenges as part of the common country analyses. OHCHR also supported human rights-based risk analysis at Headquarters in New York, through the United Nations Operations and Crisis Centre and the regional monthly reviews. It engaged in policy development with the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to ensure that a human rights-based approach was mainstreamed. Within the Global Protection Cluster and the Global Health Cluster, OHCHR raised awareness on people left behind and advocated the integration of vulnerable categories in responding to crises.

10. OHCHR supported mechanisms,<sup>9</sup> researched and advocated,<sup>10</sup> published reports<sup>11</sup> and produced tools<sup>12</sup> on the right to development, international cooperation and solidarity. OHCHR raised awareness, built capacity<sup>13</sup> and promoted dialogue<sup>14</sup> on operationalizing the right to development in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, in collaboration with the University for Peace and the United Nations University's International Institute for Global Health. With an emphasis, *inter alia*, on the duty to cooperate and on the fair distribution of the benefits of development, enhanced efforts to mainstream the right to development were aimed in particular at redressing asymmetries between countries in COVID-19 response, recovery, preparedness and prevention, including through revitalizing global partnerships and strengthening means of implementation. These endeavours focused, among other things, on effective multilateralism, global access to COVID-19 vaccines, sustainable finance, policy coherence, fiscal and policy space, debt relief, illicit financial flows, investment agreements, access to energy and technology, and South-South and triangular cooperation. Global cooperation was addressed at events including the intersessional seminar on the contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights in May 2021 and the meeting on mutually beneficial cooperation in March 2022.<sup>15</sup>

11. In continued engagement in the preparatory process for the fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries, OHCHR called for ambitious goals and advocated inclusion of the right to development and other human rights<sup>16</sup> in the draft Doha programme of action.<sup>17</sup> Together with UN-Women, OHCHR organized discussions on realizing these rights and gender equality in least developed countries,<sup>18</sup> including through international development cooperation and alleviating foreign debt.

12. The High Commissioner took part in the World Leaders Summit dialogue on inequality at the fifteenth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development.<sup>19</sup> She reiterated her call to enhance international solidarity and end vaccine nationalism, as a crucial test for global commitments to end inequalities. In preparation for the fifteenth United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the Assistant Secretary-General for Human Rights addressed the Annual Trade Forum on a green and inclusive recovery, in June 2021. OHCHR furthered its partnership with the Friedrich Ebert Foundation and the Economic

<sup>9</sup> Subsidiary mechanisms of the Human Rights Council.

<sup>10</sup> See <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/Pages/DevelopmentIndex.aspx>.

<sup>11</sup> See A/HRC/48/26, A/HRC/47/47 and A/76/249.

<sup>12</sup> See <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/Pages/InformationMaterials.aspx>.

<sup>13</sup> See <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/Pages/intro-training-on-rtd-and-sdgs.aspx> and <https://www.upeace.org/departments/e-course-on-the-right-to-development>.

<sup>14</sup> Including, online, at <https://www.facebook.com/groups/righttodevelopment/permalink/697777361396969/>.

<sup>15</sup> See <https://hrcmeetings.ohchr.org/HRCSessions/RegularSessions/49session/Pages/Panel-discussions.aspx>.

<sup>16</sup> See, for example, <https://www.un.org/ldc5/ldc-future-forum-programme-panel2> and [https://www.un.org/ldc5/sites/www.un.org.ldc5/files/pdf/a-conf-219-2021-ipc-crp2-\\_dpoa\\_rev4\\_20\\_dec.pdf](https://www.un.org/ldc5/sites/www.un.org.ldc5/files/pdf/a-conf-219-2021-ipc-crp2-_dpoa_rev4_20_dec.pdf).

<sup>17</sup> See [https://www.un.org/ldc5/sites/www.un.org.ldc5/files/pdf/a-conf-219-2021-ipc-crp2-\\_dpoa\\_rev4\\_20\\_dec.pdf](https://www.un.org/ldc5/sites/www.un.org.ldc5/files/pdf/a-conf-219-2021-ipc-crp2-_dpoa_rev4_20_dec.pdf).

<sup>18</sup> See, for example, <https://indico.un.org/event/20108/material/poster/7.pdf>.

<sup>19</sup> See <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/Pages/TradeandInvestment.aspx>.

Commission for Africa to analyse the human rights impacts of the Agreement Establishing the African Continental Free Trade Area.

13. Recognizing that efforts to combat corruption and promote human rights are mutually reinforcing, since both demand accountability, participation and transparency, OHCHR elaborated its Recommended Principles on Human Rights and Asset Recovery.<sup>20</sup> These are designed to support international cooperation in the context of asset recovery by detailing a human rights-based approach to the recovery and return of proceeds of corruption, and by providing best practices. It is stipulated in principle 4 that “States should ensure the progressive realization of economic, social and cultural rights by providing international assistance and cooperation to combat corruption and money laundering and to recover stolen assets.”

14. OHCHR organized three more events in the Hernán Santa Cruz Dialogue series:<sup>21</sup> in Ukraine (in April 2021) on strengthening social protection; in Guinea (in July 2021) on the interrelations of the right to development with climate change and protection of the environment, with participation and social cohesion, and with the Group of 77 and China; and in Costa Rica (in December 2021) on a Latin American and Caribbean regional perspective, on the justiciability of environmental rights and their interlinkages with development, sustainability and peace.

15. OHCHR contributed to continued inter-agency efforts to promote the global recognition and implementation of the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment, including through the United Nations Environment Management Group and the OHCHR-United Nations Environment Programme community of practice. OHCHR participated in the twenty-sixth Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, advocating the inclusion of human rights and a human rights-based approach in its outcomes. OHCHR organized a panel discussion on the impacts of climate change on the human rights of older persons, aiming, inter alia, to identify opportunities for collaboration and action, including through international cooperation, to implement an age-inclusive approach to climate action that benefits both people and the planet. Through its field presences in Kenya and Mexico, OHCHR implemented a project to catalyse rights-based environmental action. Under the Call to Action for Human Rights, OHCHR contributed to a joint commitment of heads of United Nations agencies to promote the rights of children, youth and future generations to a healthy environment and meaningful participation in decision-making, and co-led the development of system-wide guidance for the protection of environmental human rights defenders together with the United Nations Environment Programme.

16. OHCHR worked in partnership with multilateral development banks and their independent accountability mechanisms, as well as with civil society partners, to strengthen multilateral development banks’ operational policies, reprisals procedures and accountability processes. The main objectives were to positively influence operational policies of development finance institutions and to strengthen accountability mechanisms overseeing the implementation of those policies. OHCHR also organized final targeted stakeholder consultations on its “Remedy in Development Finance” project, and finalized the text for publication.

17. OHCHR conducted training to promote implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights by the business community in Rwanda and Sri Lanka. In December 2021, in collaboration with local, regional and international partners, OHCHR convened the Dialogue on National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights, in the East Africa and Horn of Africa region. This dialogue brought together experts and practitioners from government, civil society, national human rights institutions and business, and stimulated the development and adoption of national action plans on business and human rights by member States of the African Union as a first step towards enhanced implementation of the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights in Africa. In

<sup>20</sup> See [https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/OHCHR-RecommendedPrinciplesHumanRightsAssetRecovery\\_0.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/sites/default/files/2022-03/OHCHR-RecommendedPrinciplesHumanRightsAssetRecovery_0.pdf).

<sup>21</sup> See <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/ESCR/Pages/hernan-santa-cruz-dialogues.aspx>.

January 2022, OHCHR scaled up its engagement to support the development of national action plans on business and human rights in Liberia and Mozambique and the implementation of the Uganda national action plan. Engagement in Latin America continued, notably through the Responsible Business Conduct in Latin America and the Caribbean project, implemented together with ILO, the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development and the European Union. OHCHR coordinated an intergovernmental community of practice on national action plans on business and human rights in Latin American countries, and organized the sixth Regional Forum on Business and Human Rights, which brought together representatives of governments, businesses and other stakeholders in September 2021.

18. OHCHR supported and participated in the Generation Equality Forum, to mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, where the High Commissioner made 12 individual and collective commitments to accelerate gender equality. Together with States, civil society, philanthropists and the private sector, OHCHR has been co-leading the Generation Equality Forum's Action Coalition on Feminist Movements and Leadership, which is facilitated by UN-Women. OHCHR continued to implement the Free & Equal campaign, including via national campaigns, to advocate for the human rights of LGBTIQ+ persons. Regional gender advisers supported networks of women and LGBTIQ+ human right defenders. Together with the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS) and the Ministry of Health of Uganda, OHCHR developed and piloted a training package to build the awareness and capacity of health-care workers to apply the human rights-based approach in the provision of sexual and reproductive health services. OHCHR supported the integration of gender analysis and a victim-centred approach into the work of Human Rights Council investigative bodies on sexual and gender-based violence. Together with the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), OHCHR supported efforts to eliminate harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriages and female genital mutilation.

19. OHCHR enhanced its advocacy for strengthened international cooperation and solidarity on the human rights of older persons. OHCHR supported the Open-ended Working Group on Ageing in its development of proposals for an international legal instrument to promote and protect the rights and dignity of older persons. OHCHR co-led inter-agency efforts to support the implementation of the United Nations Decade of Healthy Ageing (2021–2030) by bringing together all relevant stakeholders to ensure that older persons can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment.

20. OHCHR supported conversations in Brazil and Ukraine on disability rights and mental health, and capacity-building in Panama on disability and the Sustainable Development Goals. It contributed to developing the European Union strategy for the rights of persons with disabilities (2021–2030), and to legal reform in Cuba. In collaboration with members of the Global Action on Disability Network, OHCHR supported the development of commitments on community inclusion for the Global Disability Summit, co-organized by Norway and the International Disability Alliance.

21. OHCHR promoted the rights of persons belonging to national or ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, and also the rights of stateless populations where minority groups comprise the majority. It collaborated with the Equal Rights Trust to develop "Protecting Minority Rights: A Practical Guide on Developing Comprehensive Anti-Discrimination Legislation", and with Freemuse to celebrate the Minority Artists, Voice and Dissidence series that brings together minority artists to present artwork on freedom of artistic expression. OHCHR continued capacity-building and advocacy on the rights of Roma communities, which included participation in the launch of the CHACHIPEN project and engagement with the Government of Ukraine on elaborating its post-2020 Roma strategy. With the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), it organized the virtual Round Table on Equality and Non-Discrimination in Nationality Matters to End Statelessness, in October 2021.

22. In her report pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 43/1, the High Commissioner outlined a four-point agenda towards transformative change for racial justice and equality, anchored in the lived experiences of Africans and people of African descent, and aimed at building more inclusive, more equal and fairer societies, and ensuring that these

populations are not “left behind”. Subsequently, in its resolution 47/21, the Council requested OHCHR to enhance its work and take further action globally towards transformative change for racial justice and equality. The Council established an international independent expert mechanism to advance racial justice and equality in law enforcement, with a focus on Africans and people of African descent.

23. OHCHR continued to work with the United Nations Network on Migration to support the implementation of the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. OHCHR and the United Nations Network on Migration led the development of a guidance note entitled “Regular pathways for admission and stay for migrants in situations of vulnerability”.<sup>22</sup> Together with the Office of Counter-Terrorism, OHCHR published the Trainer’s Guide on Human Rights at International Borders,<sup>23</sup> and offers training for border officials and other stakeholders to promote the adoption of a human rights-based approach to border governance. OHCHR worked with local partners to implement #StandUp4Migrants,<sup>24</sup> a toolbox and campaign to shift harmful narratives on migration into ones of hope and common values. It amplified the stories of refugees and other migrant rights defenders on World Refugee Day, and collaborated with the Free & Equal campaign and the International Organization for Migration (IOM) to highlight stories of LGBTIQ+ migrants.

24. OHCHR partnered with Amnesty International and Soka Gakkai International to develop a multimedia educational tool that draws on inspiring stories of young human rights educators. Following a global call for nominations, made jointly with several organizations, seven human rights educators – from Japan, Kyrgyzstan, Mexico, Morocco, Samoa, Serbia and South Africa – were selected to feature in the tool. In December 2021, the partnership launched a conversation series with young people on human rights education for, with and by youth.

25. Faith-based actors increasingly engaged with treaty bodies, special procedures and OHCHR through the Faith for Rights framework.<sup>25</sup> OHCHR collaborated with the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide and the United Nations Alliance of Civilizations on a peer-to-peer learning programme with religious leaders and faith-based organizations concerning hate speech, atrocity crimes, religious or belief minorities, religious sites, interfaith dialogue and gender equality. OHCHR and the European Commission held peer-to-peer learning events on using the #Faith4Rights toolkit<sup>26</sup> in the context of the European Union Gender Action Plan III, which calls upon the European Union to support the mobilization of religious actors for gender equality in line with the Faith for Rights framework.<sup>27</sup>

26. OHCHR spearheaded an inter-agency effort to develop indicators to measure the human rights impacts of COVID-19 and of the pandemic mitigation and recovery efforts both of the United Nations and of States, which were integrated into socioeconomic response plans and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks. OHCHR contributed to the third edition of *How COVID-19 is Changing the World: A Statistical Perspective*, compiled jointly by 36 international organizations convened by the Committee for the Coordination of Statistical Activities. With the African Union and the World Bank, OHCHR produced a module on a human rights-based approach to data for early warning and conflict prevention. Together with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, UNDP, UNESCO and regional economic commissions, it co-organized webinars on Sustainable Development Goal 16 indicators in the Asia, Latin America, and Middle East and North Africa regions.

<sup>22</sup> See [https://migrationnetwork.un.org/sites/g/files/tmzbdl416/files/docs/guidance\\_note-\\_regular\\_pathways\\_for\\_admission\\_and\\_stay\\_for\\_migrants\\_in\\_situations\\_of\\_vulnerability\\_final.pdf](https://migrationnetwork.un.org/sites/g/files/tmzbdl416/files/docs/guidance_note-_regular_pathways_for_admission_and_stay_for_migrants_in_situations_of_vulnerability_final.pdf).

<sup>23</sup> See <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/PublicationsResources/Pages/HR-InternationalBorders.aspx>.

<sup>24</sup> See <https://www.standup4humanrights.org/migration/en/index.html>.

<sup>25</sup> See <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/FreedomReligion/Pages/FaithForRights.aspx>.

<sup>26</sup> See <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Press/faith4rights-toolkit.pdf>.

<sup>27</sup> See <https://eur-lex.europa.eu/legal-content/EN/TXT/PDF/?uri=CELEX:52020JC0017&from=EN>, p. 3.

## 2. Country and regional presences

27. The OHCHR Regional Office for Central America and the Dominican Republic formalized its participation in the inter-agency platform on refugees and migrants from the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela. It supported women's networks on the use of law to protect sexual and reproductive rights in Central America and the Dominican Republic, and organized workshops, campaigns and training on women's rights in Belize, El Salvador and Panama. The Regional Office supported a "regional consultation of national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up in the Americas and the Caribbean". It also monitored freedom of speech in El Salvador and Nicaragua, and assisted the judiciary in Costa Rica in adopting gender perspectives in sentencing.

28. The OHCHR Regional Office for Europe continued to strengthen cooperation with the European Union. It organized a strategic dialogue between the High Commissioner and the European Union Special Representative for Human Rights, with a view to contributing to the establishment of a strategic partnership. The Regional Office coordinated a joint submission by the United Nations team in Brussels in April 2021, reflecting perspectives and recommendations on the rights of older persons from OHCHR, United Nations human rights mechanisms, ILO, IOM, UNHCR, UN-Women and the World Health Organization (WHO). In December 2021, it held a civil society consultation on the protection of journalists, media freedom and pluralism, which fed into a high-level multi-stakeholder policy dialogue in February 2022. This was organized jointly with UNESCO under the auspices of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Belgium and with support from the Netherlands.

29. The OHCHR country office in Chad organized a workshop in September 2021 to launch the European Union-funded project targeted at internal security forces, on the respect of human rights and humanitarian law during law enforcement operations in Chad, Mauritania and the Niger. Its monitoring strategy contributed to systematic monitoring of demonstrations during the electoral period, follow-up on human rights violations and the release of human rights defenders. The country office advocated mainstreaming human rights into the government road map for a successful transition. In collaboration with the International Organization of la Francophonie, it organized a workshop for 68 human rights observers of the National Human Rights Commission.

30. The OHCHR country office in Colombia worked with civil society organizations on land-related issues, and organized a forum on "the right to land in the context of rural development in Colombia" jointly with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and UNDP. It promoted the working group on gender, business and human rights, and conducted eight work sessions in 2021. The country office functioned as the technical secretary of the United Nations inter-agency focal points on ethnic issues. With the United Nations Verification Mission in Colombia and the Catholic Church, it facilitated talks between the national Government and the national strike committee.

31. The OHCHR country office in Guatemala provided training to numerous institutions, including the Ministry of Social Development, the Ministry of Energy and Mines, the Presidential Commission for Peace and Human Rights, the National Civil Police, the Public Prosecutor's Office, the Constitutional Court and the National Institute of Forests, on several issues, including social protection, business and human rights, vulnerable persons, gender and women's rights. Together with UNDP, UNICEF and UNFPA, it helped to generate the Social Register of Households and participated in working groups on agrarian conflict. The country office developed pedagogical tools for the School of Judicial Studies, and conducted seminars jointly with that School and the Supreme Court.

32. The OHCHR country office in Guinea advocated with the Government for reform of the Interministerial Committee on Human Rights and the establishment of a new national mechanism for reporting and follow-up. Together with UNFPA and IOM, it implemented projects on strengthening social cohesion and preventing inter-community conflicts. OHCHR also advocated promulgation of the law protecting the rights of persons with albinism, and supported the celebration of International Albinism Awareness Day. In follow-up to the third Hernán Santa Cruz Dialogue, it organized two seminars, on the justiciability of the right to development and of economic and sociocultural rights, for 50 judges and 47 lawyers.

33. The OHCHR country office in Honduras signed a memorandum of understanding with the Attorney-General's Office to promote investigation of human rights violations and access to justice for victims. It provided technical assistance to the national human rights institution to design an early warning mechanism to prevent violence and human rights violations, and to the National Protection Mechanism for Human Rights Defenders facilitating direct exchanges among protection mechanisms in Latin America. The country office also supported State institutions on the Reconstruction and Sustainable Development Plan, and electoral institutions in the electoral context, which contributed to an unprecedentedly peaceful and participatory election.

34. In the Philippines, OHCHR supported the development of the United Nations Joint Programme on Human Rights, which was signed by the Resident Coordinator and the Government on 22 July 2021. Developed to implement Human Rights Council resolution 45/33, in collaboration with the Government, the Commission on Human Rights and civil society actors, the Joint Programme addresses key human rights challenges.

35. The OHCHR field-based structure in Seoul published a discussion paper on the implications of the right to development for the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and other States Members of the United Nations. Under the rubric of the right to development, this paper looked at the obligations of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as the primary duty bearer, and at the obligations of the international community in (a) provision of aid; (b) moving beyond humanitarian assistance; (c) imposition of sanctions; (d) trade and investment relations; and (e) disarmament. To raise awareness and promote constructive dialogue on the right to development, OHCHR held a panel discussion at the Korea Global Forum for Peace – a multilateral forum hosted by the Ministry of Unification of the Republic of Korea to discuss peace and unification of the Korean Peninsula.

36. Together with UNESCO and the Netherlands, the OHCHR country office in Tunisia implemented a project on “empowering the education system and school communities through the promotion of human rights, global citizenship education and media literacy”. In the framework of the United Nations Partnership to Promote the Rights of Persons with Disabilities multi-partner trust fund project implemented with UNFPA and UNESCO, in June 2021 OHCHR held a workshop on “transversal approaches and prerequisites for development taking into account persons with disabilities”. It continued activities under the German-funded project to mainstream human rights inter alia among imams. OHCHR advocated freedom of speech, with UNESCO, the Embassy of the United States of America in Tunisia, the Council of Europe, Reporters Without Borders and others, and celebrated the International Day to End Impunity for Crimes Against Journalists, with UNESCO, Article 19, the Council of Europe and the National Union of Journalists.

37. The human rights monitoring mission in Ukraine coordinated joint submissions to human rights mechanisms with the country team. Together with UNDP, it represented the country team in a working group to assess implementation of the National Human Rights Strategy. With UN-Women, it worked with women human rights defenders and developed the List of Early Warning Indicators on conflict-related sexual violence. With WHO, it advocated for the rights of health-care workers to just and favourable conditions of work. The monitoring mission cooperated with UNDP and UNFPA on a joint peacebuilding fund project to engage youth from eastern Ukraine to promote social cohesion and national unity, and with the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine on civil casualty recording and protecting civilians in armed conflict. The monitoring mission worked with the Council of Europe on adoption of the Roma Strategy and Action Plan.

### **3. Integrating human rights into national policies for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals**

38. OHCHR conducted virtual workshops for national human rights institutions, national statistical offices and other State agencies in Algeria, Mongolia, the Philippines and the Republic of Moldova. It also delivered in-person workshops in Egypt, Kenya and Uganda. It provided national human rights institutions and statistics offices with guidance, technical advice and resources to enable the establishment of formal cooperation relationships to disaggregate data and integrate human rights into official development statistics.

Memorandums of understanding between national human rights institutions and national statistical offices have been established in respect of at least 11 countries. In 2021, four new cooperation agreements on human rights and Sustainable Development Goals indicators were signed, in Albania,<sup>28</sup> Jordan,<sup>29</sup> Mongolia,<sup>30</sup> the Philippines and the Republic of Moldova.

39. Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 43/19, OHCHR organized the fourth intersessional meeting for dialogue and cooperation on human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in January 2022, on “investing in sustainable recovery, advancing gender equality and strengthening partnerships: towards a renewed social contract anchored in human rights”, with a focus on Goals 5 and 17. The meeting enabled a review of measures and initiatives that are proving effective to protect and enhance partnerships, public participation and civil society space, and accountability in human rights-based recovery efforts. It also discussed how to increase the availability of high-quality, timely, reliable disaggregated data as well as data capturing gender discrimination, to monitor progress on human rights-based and gender-transformative policies. The meeting further highlighted States’ good practices to strengthen domestic resource mobilization under Goal 17 to improve domestic capacity for tax and other revenue collection in order to support human rights-based recovery efforts and long-term debt sustainability. The outcome will inform the high-level political forum on sustainable development in July 2022.

#### **4. Enhancing the role of parliaments in the area of human rights**

40. In June 2021, OHCHR and the Inter-Parliamentary Union signed a memorandum of understanding with a view to increasing mutual cooperation and coordination, including on the right to participate in public affairs and increased support for specialized human rights committees within parliaments.

41. In the context of a capacity-building process and in collaboration with UNDP, the Head of the OHCHR country office in Guinea met with over a hundred Members of Parliament of the former National Assembly of Guinea (dissolved on 5 September 2021), on the themes of “the right to development” and “the role of Parliament in the promotion and protection of human rights” on 27 May 2021.

42. In July 2021, the OHCHR Regional Office for Central Africa organized, with UN-Women, a capacity-building workshop on “gender, human rights and women’s political participation” for the Network of Women Parliamentarians of Cameroon. It was attended by 67 women parliamentarians and presided over by the Vice-President of the National Assembly. This marked the beginning of a partnership between the Regional Office, the Network of Women Parliamentarians and the country’s Parliament for the promotion and protection of vulnerable women’s rights in the context of COVID-19.

#### **5. Strengthening national and regional human rights institutions**

43. OHCHR continued to support Governments to establish national human rights institutions, and to strengthen the capacities of such institutions to perform their mandate in accordance with international standards (the Paris Principles). OHCHR continued to function as the secretariat of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions. In October 2021, the eleventh annual review meeting of the tripartite partnership between OHCHR, UNDP and the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions discussed the role of national human rights institutions in responding to COVID-19, and implementing the Call to Action for Human Rights. They also reflected on reprisals against national human rights institutions in order to improve the guidance thereon.

44. OHCHR provided advisory services to establish a national human rights institution in Guinea-Bissau, and to the Commission on Human Rights and Public Administration of Eswatini for its monitoring and reporting of unrest. It advised on amendments to legislation on the human rights commissions of Gabon and the Sudan. OHCHR held workshops for the

<sup>28</sup> See <http://mail.instat.gov.al/media/7584/ap-1307-memorandum-mirekuptimi.pdf>.

<sup>29</sup> See <https://www.nchr.org.jo/ar/الاخبار/الوطني-لحقوق-الإنسان-والإحصاءات-العامة-يقعان-مذكرة-تفاهم>.

<sup>30</sup> See <https://en.nhrm.gov.mn/news/online-workshop-successfully-held-on-the-introduction-to-human-rights-based-approach-to-data-and-indicators-for-sdg-and-human-rights-reporting-in-mongolia/>.

Defensoría del Pueblo of Panama on interaction with the international human rights system, for the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions on COVID-19 response and recovery, and for the National Council for Human Rights of Egypt on data and indicators. It also conducted a needs assessment for the National Human Rights Commission of Mauritania, and held the annual meeting of regional human rights mechanisms' focal points for exchanging best practices and experiences.

45. Through its field presences in Chad, the Niger, Serbia and Ukraine, and in Central America, among others, OHCHR provided advisory services and technical assistance to national human rights institutions, including through seminars and training for human rights observers, government officials, judiciaries, civil society organizations and others, to inform the attributes of national human rights institutions and to strengthen their capacity for human rights support and observation.

## **6. Establishing and strengthening national mechanisms for reporting on and follow-up to recommendations from international human rights mechanisms**

46. Through its treaty body capacity-building programme, OHCHR continued to support the establishment and strengthening of national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up. In the last quarter of 2021, it organized five regional consultations for such national mechanisms, pursuant to a request by the Human Rights Council.<sup>31</sup> These brought together over 700 persons, including representatives of States and all relevant stakeholders, who exchanged experiences and lessons learned on national mechanisms. The findings and recommendations from these consultations will be presented to the Council.

## **7. Enabling public participation, civic space and a safe environment for civil society**

47. In follow-up to Our Common Agenda, which highlighted the critical need to implement the Call to Action for Human Rights and the United Nations Guidance Note on the Protection and Promotion of Civic Space, as preconditions to building trust and establishing a new social contract, OHCHR, in its engagement with relevant stakeholders, continued to advocate for putting people's voices at the core of development and peace efforts. OHCHR led the United Nations civic space task team under the Call to Action for Human Rights, with a view to implementing measures for better participation and protection across United Nations pillars as per the Guidance Note. The task team focused on identifying innovative practices, such as facilitating participation of civil society in United Nations processes through online engagement, reflecting civic space issues in United Nations country programming, and providing advice on civic space in the digital sphere.

48. In partnership with the Open Governance Network for Europe, OHCHR contributed to organizing the Democracy and Governance Practice Retreat for European civil servants and civil society, aimed at strengthening understanding of the right to participate in public affairs and techniques for implementation of the right.

49. OHCHR monitored human rights, advocated and provided technical assistance in the context of electoral processes including in Chad, the Congo, the Gambia, Honduras and Mexico. In some instances, this included strengthening the capacity of State institutions and civil society to conduct early warning efforts and to monitor human rights during elections.

## **8. Administration of justice and law enforcement**

50. OHCHR organized the third session of the Forum on Human Rights, Democracy and the Rule of Law in November 2021 on the theme of "equal access to justice for all: a necessary element of democracy, rule of law and human rights protection". Chaired by the Director-General of the International Development Law Organization, the Forum saw the participation of 14 panellists from 13 countries and brought together judges, lawyers, United Nations independent experts, academics, human rights defenders, development practitioners, civil society activists and people with their own stories on access to justice. Discussions highlighted how access to justice is central to human rights, democracy and the rule of law,

<sup>31</sup> See [A/HRC/42/30](#).

and the importance of ensuring a people-centred justice that seeks to overcome structural and practical barriers faced, especially by those in situations of vulnerability, in accessing justice.

## **9. Countering hate speech**

51. OHCHR cooperated with the World Jewish Congress to hold exhibitions and panel discussions to counter antisemitism. In June 2021, together with the National Union for Developing the Poorest, the OHCHR country office in Yemen conducted a workshop on hate speech and incitement to hatred against marginalized and vulnerable communities. With the Office of the Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on the Prevention of Genocide, the OHCHR Regional Office for the Middle East and North Africa published a booklet on engaging religious actors in order to counter hate speech, prevent incitement to violence, and build inclusive and peaceful societies. It supported an initiative to develop a code of conduct for parliamentarians in Lebanon, aimed at combating incitement to hatred and discrimination. OHCHR developed human rights-based policies and frameworks for the use and governance of digital technology by States and technology companies, including in collaboration with Facebook, Google/YouTube and Twitter, with a view to better protecting human rights defenders and responding to hate speech.

## **10. Integrating human rights into humanitarian action**

52. OHCHR worked to ensure that in conflict settings, human rights analysis, advocacy and response are integrated into the humanitarian response, which includes addressing root causes of conflicts. The human rights-based approach is applied in conflict contexts through the participation by OHCHR in humanitarian mechanisms such as the protection cluster, the humanitarian country team and the humanitarian planning cycle. OHCHR endeavours to secure the participation of affected populations in preparedness, response and recovery efforts, empowering them to claim their rights and strengthening the capacities and accountability of duty bearers to meet their legal obligations under international human rights law and international humanitarian law. In 2021, OHCHR led and co-led two national clusters, engaged humanitarian country teams and participated in 18 strategic humanitarian needs overviews.

## **11. Voluntary funds and technical cooperation**

53. The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights, through its Board of Trustees, continued to expand opportunities for proactive guidance on technical cooperation and the exchange of good practices among States.<sup>32</sup> States increasingly shared good practices and results achieved through technical cooperation with United Nations entities and other partners, as reflected in Human Rights Council resolutions.<sup>33</sup> In 2021, the Board of Trustees continued to advise OHCHR and other United Nations partners on ways to strengthen technical cooperation, including with regard to “frontier issues” – emerging human rights concerns – as part of the OHCHR programme for 2018–2021.

54. By December 2021, 6,368 persons had been enrolled in the e-learning course on the Human Rights Council, launched in 2016 under the 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. They included 1,784 participants from these countries. OHCHR also conducted two online regional workshops: for Africa in April and May 2021, co-hosted by Burkina Faso and Mauritius, and for Asia in November and December 2021, co-hosted by Maldives. Membership by these countries in the Council and its Bureau increased – there were 10 least developed countries and three small island developing States on the Council in 2021.

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<sup>32</sup> See [A/HRC/49/93](#).

<sup>33</sup> See, for example, resolution 48/24.

## B. United Nations human rights system

### 1. Universal periodic review

55. With the completion of the fortieth session of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review, in January and February 2022, all 193 States Members of the United Nations had been reviewed during the third cycle. On average, States under review received 230 recommendations from 100 States, representing an increase in recommendations received, and in those accepted by States in the second cycle. A 100 per cent participation rate in the universal periodic review mechanism has been maintained so far, despite the hybrid modalities imposed by COVID-19.

56. Universal periodic review recommendations have increasingly been integrated into common country analyses and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, including in response to the Call to Action for Human Rights, and are becoming integral to planning and programming by United Nations entities, in line with their mandates and efforts to achieve Sustainable Development Goals targets and indicators.

57. Through tools developed by OHCHR (High Commissioner letter/annex; matrix; infographic), resident coordinators and country teams have expanded the implementation of accepted universal periodic review recommendations to support Governments and advance laws and practices that are more compliant with ratified international human rights treaties.

58. To support the rollout of the practical guidance<sup>34</sup> developed under the Call to Action for Human Rights, a compilation of good practices on the use of the universal periodic review by the United Nations system to support sustainable development was produced in early 2022, within the framework of a project led jointly by OHCHR and UNDP.

59. Through two trust funds (on participation<sup>35</sup> and implementation<sup>36</sup>), States – especially least developed countries and small island developing States – requested the assistance of OHCHR to participate in the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review or the Human Rights Council, or technical cooperation in implementing universal periodic review recommendations and establishing national mechanisms for reporting and follow-up and national recommendations tracking databases. Voluntary national reviews carried out in connection with the Sustainable Development Goals increasingly reflected progress on human rights.

### 2. Treaty bodies

60. On 10 December 2021, the human rights treaty bodies called on States to adopt transformative, comprehensive, multilateral and human rights-based strategies when building reconstruction policies and addressing global and COVID-19-related themes such as digital technologies and artificial intelligence or intergenerational challenges such as climate change. The treaty bodies encouraged States to emerge from the COVID-19 crisis with increased solidarity, by strengthening their commitment to universal human rights norms, and promoting inclusive governance, equality and social justice, as guarantees for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

61. The Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights issued a statement on universal affordable vaccination against COVID-19, international cooperation and intellectual property.<sup>37</sup> It called on States to honour their obligations to contribute to the enjoyment of all human rights, including the right to health globally, and to develop strategies and mechanisms for a sufficient production and a global equitable distribution of COVID-19 vaccines.

62. Between March and July 2021, treaty bodies, in coordination with the capacity-building programme, organized five regional or subregional peer-to-peer expert webinars on the impact of COVID-19 on the right to mental health, for the Europe, Asia-Pacific, English-

<sup>34</sup> See [https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/UPR/UPR\\_Practical\\_Guidance.pdf](https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/UPR/UPR_Practical_Guidance.pdf).

<sup>35</sup> See <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/TrustFundParticipation.aspx>.

<sup>36</sup> See <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/TrustFundImplementation.aspx>.

<sup>37</sup> E/C.12/2021/1.

speaking Africa, Latin America, and Middle East and North Africa regions. Their findings and recommendations recognized the need to enhance cooperation across international and regional bodies and to better define competence levels within government and with external actors to make a paradigm shift in addressing mental health, anchored in a holistic and human rights-based approach premised on transparency and accountability.

63. During a public event broadcast on 7 October 2021,<sup>38</sup> the Committee on Migrant Workers launched its general comment No. 5 on migrants' rights to liberty and freedom from arbitrary detention. It emphasized that the obligation to investigate, prosecute and punish any act of international human trafficking required judicial cooperation by all States involved.

### 3. Special procedures

64. Special procedures continued to contribute to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. Mandate holders stressed the need for a human rights-based approach and international cooperation and solidarity to successfully fight the pandemic. As at 31 December 2021, they had identified issues and trends and formulated advice, issued 158 press releases and sent over 500 communications, produced guidelines, dispatches and other reference tools, issued open letters, promoted social media campaigns, and devoted 24 official reports to addressing aspects of the pandemic.<sup>39</sup>

65. Following up on 44 communications previously sent to the World Trade Organization, the G7 and G20 States, the European Union and pharmaceutical companies, in November 2021 several mandate holders called upon States to act decisively to ensure that all people had equal and universal access to COVID-19 vaccines, particularly those in low-income countries who had largely been left out of the global response.<sup>40</sup>

66. The Independent Expert on foreign debt and human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, in her report to the General Assembly, focused on reform of the international debt architecture by examining its weaknesses and limitations and evaluating past and recently proposed reforms<sup>41</sup> in this regard.

67. The Independent Expert on human rights and international solidarity, in his report to the Human Rights Council, discussed how international solidarity in aid of the fuller realization of all categories of human rights had, or had not, been expressed by States and other actors in the context of the pandemic.<sup>42</sup>

68. The Independent Expert on the promotion of a democratic and equitable international order devoted his report to the Human Rights Council to the need for renewed multilateralism in the face of the pandemic, examining to what extent it had constituted a very serious test for multilateralism, and how it could be an opportunity for strengthened, more effective and inclusive multilateralism to address both the pandemic and future global challenges, while achieving such an order.<sup>43</sup>

69. The Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights, in his report to the Human Rights Council, recommended the establishment of a global fund for social protection to increase the level of support to low-income countries, thus helping them to establish and maintain social protection floors in the form of legal entitlements, and also to improve the resilience of social protection systems against shocks.<sup>44</sup>

<sup>38</sup> See <https://media.un.org/en/asset/k1c/k1cbu19tln>.

<sup>39</sup> See <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/COVID-19-and-Special-Procedures.aspx>.

<sup>40</sup> See <https://www.ohchr.org/en/press-releases/2021/10/information-note-experts-send-pharma-companies-states-eu-and-wto-letters>.

<sup>41</sup> [A/76/167](#).

<sup>42</sup> See [A/HRC/47/31](#).

<sup>43</sup> [A/HRC/48/58](#).

<sup>44</sup> [A/HRC/47/36](#).

#### 4. Subsidiary mechanisms of the Human Rights Council

70. OHCHR continued to support the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Right to Development<sup>45</sup> and its Chair-Rapporteur in fulfilling their mandate to elaborate a draft convention on the right to development.<sup>46</sup> One of the general principles underpinning the draft convention is the principle of international solidarity, which includes the duty to cooperate (see draft art. 3 (g)). The duty to cooperate is further elaborated in draft article 13.

71. The Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development<sup>47</sup> emphasized the centrality of solidarity, international cooperation and shared responsibility to realize the right to development.<sup>48</sup> To respond to and recover from the pandemic, States must: (a) accelerate the operationalization of this right in mobilizing the means of implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals; and (b) take individual and collective measures to eliminate fiscal obstacles. The Expert Mechanism identified racism and racial discrimination as barriers in the context of international cooperation. States should make non-discrimination, inclusive participation, and equality of opportunity for development cardinal principles in fulfilling their duty to cooperate to promote international development.

72. At its nineteenth session, in October 2021, the Intergovernmental Working Group on the Effective Implementation of the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action reaffirmed its commitment to leave no one behind, to international cooperation and multilateralism and to build trust to ensure the future we want by, inter alia, addressing inequalities within and among countries, preventing human rights violations and abuses, and addressing the root causes of discrimination in all its forms. The Intergovernmental Working Group urged States to adopt programmes to eradicate poverty and reduce social exclusion, taking into account the needs and experiences of individuals or groups facing racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, and to expand cooperation in implementing those programmes.

73. OHCHR held the Social Forum in October 2021,<sup>49</sup> which was on the fight against COVID-19, human rights, and international cooperation and solidarity, with around 40 speakers from 30 countries across the full range of stakeholders, and over 300 participants. The forum included a dialogue on overcoming global challenges in order to recover better through international cooperation, including North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation.

#### IV. Possible ways to face the challenges to the promotion and protection of human rights, including the right to development

74. As envisioned in Our Common Agenda, now is the time to re-embrace global solidarity, based on our human dignity, common humanity and diversity. The current multiple, interconnected global challenges include the triple planetary crisis of climate change, biodiversity loss and pollution; COVID-19, vaccine injustice and divergent economic recoveries; and armed conflicts and humanitarian crises. These shine a light on the prime importance of partnerships to sustain people, the planet, prosperity and peace. International cooperation is key to safeguarding human rights, and reversing inequalities and asymmetries within and among countries, which unfolding crises continue to expose and exacerbate.

75. The Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda report and Call to Action for Human Rights are complementary and mutually reinforcing in advancing the full spectrum of human rights and reinforcing their centrality and indivisibility. Building

<sup>45</sup> See <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/Pages/WGRightToDevelopment.aspx>.

<sup>46</sup> See A/HRC/WG.2/21/2 and A/HRC/WG.2/21/2/Add.1.

<sup>47</sup> See <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Development/EMD/Pages/Expert-Mechanism-on-the-Right-to-Development.aspx>.

<sup>48</sup> See A/HRC/48/63.

<sup>49</sup> See <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Poverty/SForum/Pages/SForum2021.aspx>.

better towards a new social contract and a new global deal includes renewed multilateralism rooted in human rights. Concrete examples on how OHCHR and the United Nations human rights system contribute to achieving these goals through international cooperation are illustrated in the present report.

76. Integrated approaches are essential to address the interdependence of peace, human rights and development and achieve these imperative goals. As envisioned in the Call to Action for Human Rights, ensuring that human rights are the foundation of all global actions by all States and stakeholders, from prevention to peacebuilding to development, will support sustainable peace and progress, including progress towards meeting the Sustainable Development Goals. Concerted collaborative efforts will also serve to ensure that human rights protection is at the heart of humanitarian action. Premised on the duty to cooperate, operationalizing the human right to development will advance peace, human rights and development.

77. Strengthening international cooperation through technical assistance and capacity-building to better implement the recommendations of the human rights mechanisms, including the universal periodic review, treaty bodies, special procedures and subsidiary mechanisms, will serve to close human rights gaps.

78. International cooperation, including through research, analysis and multi-stakeholder collaboration, will contribute to heeding the call in Our Common Agenda to find new ways to measure progress to complement and go beyond gross domestic product. New means of measurement must advance human rights and the environment alongside economic growth, as articulated in the right to development.

79. As highlighted in Our Common Agenda and in the Call to Action for Human Rights, civic space is central to nurturing trust and building a new social contract. International cooperation should be enhanced to optimize civic space and the right to participate in public affairs, placing the people's voice at the core of development and peace efforts. International cooperation should amplify the voice and the role in decision-making of youth and vulnerable and marginalized groups, and of women and girls among these populations. The right to development entitles every human person and all peoples to participate in, contribute to and enjoy economic, social, cultural and political development, based on free, active and meaningful participation in development and fair distribution of its benefits, within and between countries.

80. Domestically and through international cooperation, States should mobilize resources to adequately fund people's basic needs. This requires steps such as progressive taxation measures, strengthening capacity to collect taxes, fighting tax evasion and other forms of abuse, tackling corruption and curbing illicit financial flows, and increased official development assistance.

81. International financial institutions must ensure that their programmes and loans enhance States' fiscal space and capacities to deliver economic and social rights, including food, water and sanitation, health care, education, housing and social protection. International financial institutions should avoid conditionalities, such as structural adjustments and austerity measures, that limit States' ability to fund and deliver public policies and services essential to fulfilling human rights.

82. To realize transformative change, all States and stakeholders need to ensure that their COVID-19 response, recovery, prevention and preparedness are grounded in all universal and indivisible rights – civil and political rights, economic, social and cultural rights, the right to development, and the right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment.

83. International cooperation can turn the tide of divergent economic recoveries fuelled by vaccine inequality, including through economic relief measures, fiscal stimulus and social protection packages. Debt relief must extend to all countries in need, including middle-income countries, to create policy and fiscal space to expand social spending and strengthen health systems.

84. Urgent concerted action by States and stakeholders is needed to transform COVID-19 vaccines into global public goods – including through removing obstacles to

access to vaccines and treatments, and expansion of productive capacities and more support for the COVAX initiative.

85. International cooperation is key to fulfilling the ambitions of Our Common Agenda with regard to providing public goods, including universal access to the Internet by 2030. States that lack the resources to provide Internet access to schoolchildren should seek international support and cooperation, while States with resources should provide financial support and technical assistance.

86. All forms of international cooperation – including North-South, South-South, triangular and multi-stakeholder – are essential to realizing the ambitions of Our Common Agenda and the Call to Action for Human Rights. Only a reinvigorated, more networked, more inclusive and more effective multilateral system will succeed in leaving no person, community or country behind.

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