



# Promotion and Protection of **HUMAN RIGHTS**

Women in Brazil march for women's rights.



### KEY PROGRAMMES

- Supporting human rights treaty bodies
- Supporting the Human Rights Council, its subsidiary bodies and mechanisms
- Advisory services, technical cooperation and field activities
- Human rights mainstreaming, the right to development, research and analysis



### INDICATIVE RESOURCES

**\$318M**

\$127M regular assessed, \$2M peacekeeping assessed and \$189M voluntary contributions



### SELECT MANDATES

- Universal Declaration of Human Rights, GA resolution 217 (III)
- Declaration on the Right to Development, GA resolution 41/128
- High Commissioner for the Promotion and Protection of all Human Rights, GA resolution 48/141
- Strengthening and Enhancing the Effective Functioning of the Human Rights Treaty Body System, GA resolution 68/268
- Human Rights Council and Universal Periodic Review, GA resolutions 60/251 and 65/281



### SELECT ENTITIES

- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)





Marta Sodano speaks about "My educational journey and what 'Leave No One Behind' means to me" on World Down Syndrome Day.



ALIGNMENT WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## CONTEXT

Seventy years ago, with the adoption of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights by the General Assembly in its resolution 217 (III), Member States proclaimed the articles of the Declaration to be the common standard of achievement for all peoples and nations. They committed to striving to secure the universal and effective recognition and observance of those rights and freedoms.

Over the past seven decades, there have been encouraging gains in the mission to promote and protect all human rights for everyone. However, the global march for equal rights has left many people behind. People continue to bear the brunt of the turmoil and suffering in conflicts, resulting in displacement on an unprecedented scale, while

all of humanity is confronted with the urgent existential threat of climate change. Outside of conflict, rising inequality and unresolved grievances are fueling resentment, hatred and violence. The values and progress universalized and promoted through the multilateral system are being tested.



“The work we do is vital, because people’s human rights are vital: every individual has value, and a right to dignity.”

*Michelle Bachelet, High Commissioner for Human Rights, OHCHR*







UN Photo/Paulo Figueiras

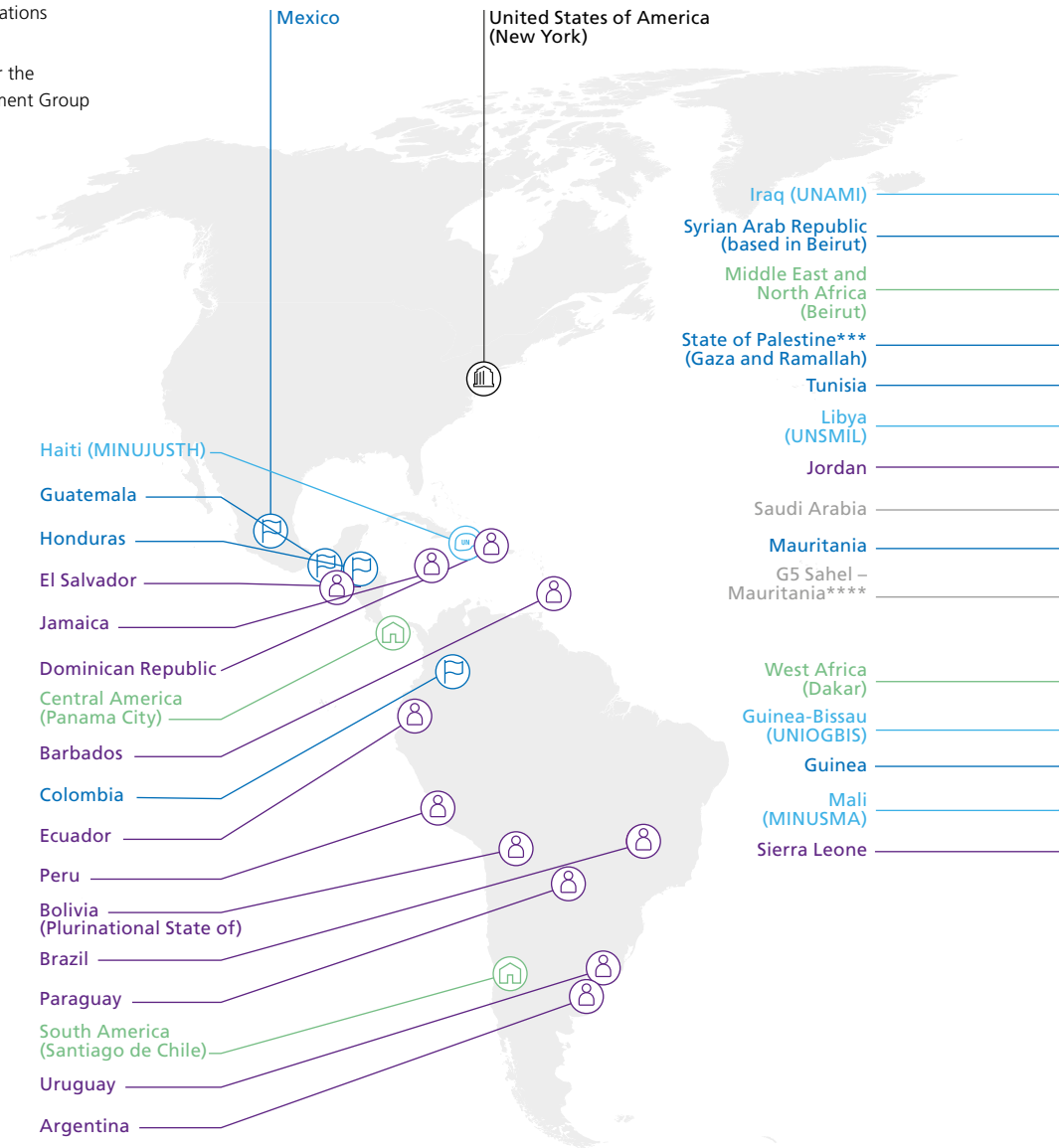


UN Photo/Harandane Dicko

MINUSMA team composed of investigators from its Division of Human Rights and Protection, the United Nations police and the Technical and Scientific Police Unit, in the village of Sobane Da, Mopti region, central Mali. The team is conducting an investigation to establish the facts of the attack on the village on 9 June 2019, which killed dozens of civilians, including women and children.

## THE UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS PRESENCE SPANS 77 LOCATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

-  Headquarters
-  Country/Stand-alone Offices/Human Rights Missions
-  Regional Offices/Centres
-  Human rights components of United Nations Peace/Political Missions
-  Human Rights Advisers deployed under the framework of United Nations Development Group
-  Other types of field presences



\* Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

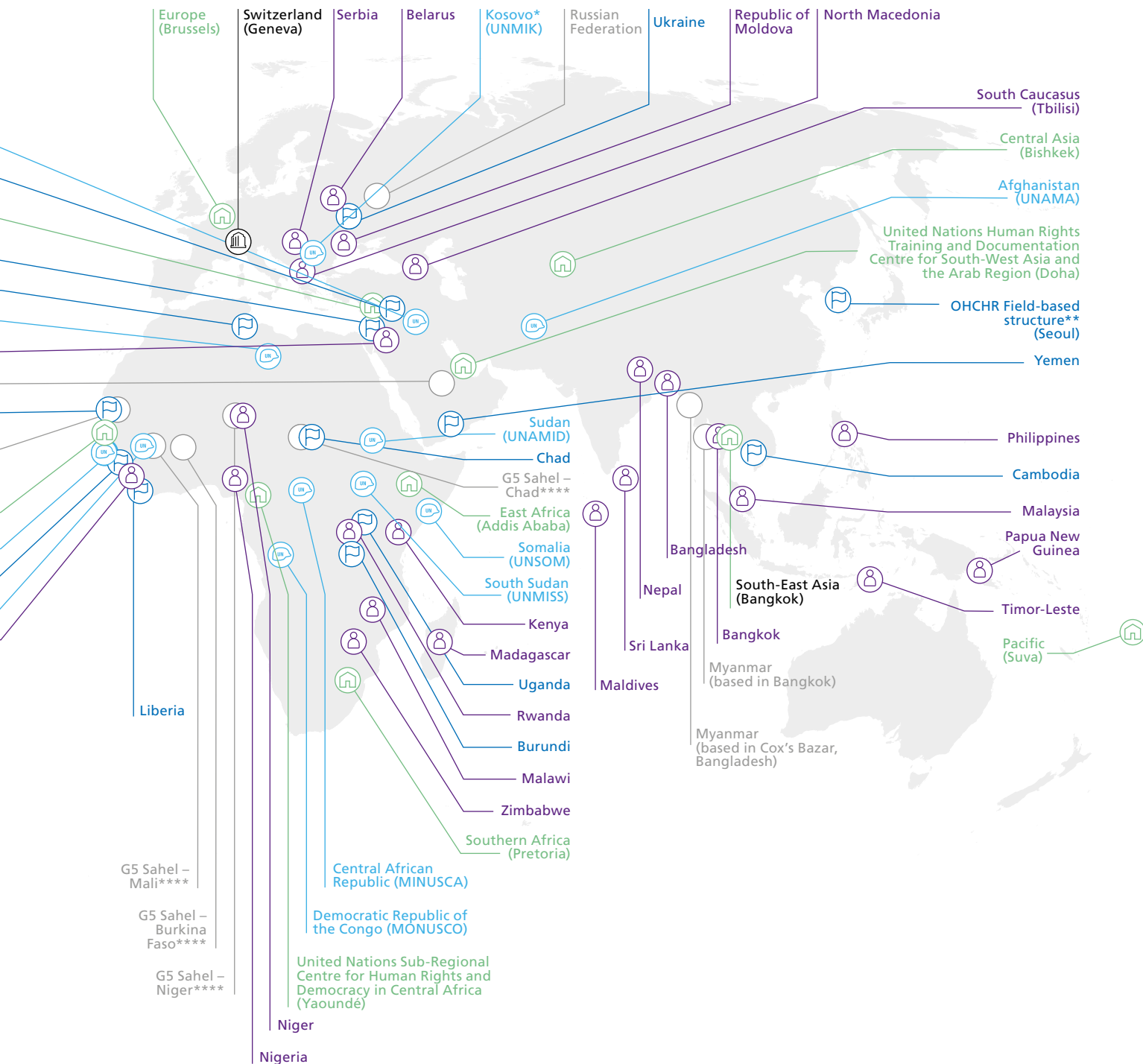
\*\* Mandated by Human Rights Council resolution 25/25.

\*\*\* Reference to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with General Assembly resolution 67/19.

\*\*\*\* G5 Sahel Joint Force Compliance Framework Project (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger).

Source: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

The depiction and use of boundaries, geographic names and related data shown on maps are not guaranteed to be error free, nor do they necessarily imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.





## KEY OBJECTIVES

In response to those challenges, the United Nations and its relevant subsidiary organs promote and encourage respect for fundamental freedoms for all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion. In accordance with its mandate, the Organization focuses on mainstreaming human rights, promoting the right to development and conducting research and analysis aimed at the further integration of all human rights in the work, programmes and activities of the United Nations system, as well as enhancing the national capacity of Member States. The Organization supports human rights treaty bodies and the Human Rights Council and provides advisory services to enhance the capacity of Member States, stakeholders and partners on the ground in advancing human rights for all, including in crisis situations.



Participants at the opening of the eighteenth substantive session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues themed "Traditional knowledge: generation, transmission and protection."

## KEY RESULTS

### **Increasing implementation of outcomes of the international human rights mechanisms**

As in prior years, United Nations-supported special procedures of the Human Rights Council, treaty bodies, commissions of inquiry and fact-finding missions generated information to help Member States make informed decisions and address concerns in a timely manner. Through its technical cooperation projects, the United Nations enhanced the capacity of more than 50 Member States in 2018.

### **Strengthening rule of law and accountability for human rights violations**

The United Nations helped to strengthen the rule of law capacities of Member States, at their request, and supported them in establishing and enhancing accountability mechanisms. Accountability is essential for resolving past conflicts and grievances, while also contributing to the prevention of violations and abuses. The United Nations provided expertise on the establishment of transitional justice mechanisms and supported their daily work, as well as the work of judicial and civil society actors, including by contributing to the protection and participation of victims.

### **Preventing violations and strengthening protection of human rights**

Promoting the human rights agenda is a key tool for preventing human rights violations. The United Nations continued to engage in alternative dispute-resolution measures to ensure that the rights of vulnerable persons were protected, for example in land disputes and in cases involving tensions between internally displaced persons, refugees and host communities in West Africa. The Organization developed human rights-based early warning tools, which help to protect civilians and prevent the emergence of new tensions by allowing stakeholders to be better prepared and intervene earlier.



Human Rights and Alliance of Civilizations Room at the Palais des Nations during the high-level segment of the Human Rights Council's regular session.

## WE OFFER EXPERTISE AND SUPPORT TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES

### TREATY-BASED BODIES

- |   |   |   |  |   |
|---|---|---|--|---|
| <p><b>1</b><br/>Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination</p> | <p><b>2</b><br/>Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights</p> | <p><b>3</b><br/>Human Rights Committee</p>  | <p><b>4</b><br/>Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women</p> | <p><b>5</b><br/>Committee against Torture</p> |
| <p><b>6</b><br/>Committee on the Rights of the Child</p>                  | <p><b>7</b><br/>Committee on Migrant Workers</p>                      | <p><b>8</b><br/>Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment</p> |  |   |

### CHARTER-BASED BODIES

- |  |   |  |  |
|--|---|--|--|
| <p><b>9</b><br/>Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities</p> | <p><b>10</b><br/>Committee on Enforced Disappearances</p> | <p><b>1</b><br/>Human Rights Council</p> | <p><b>2</b><br/>Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council</p> |
|--|---|--|--|



## 79 COUNTRIES WITH INSTITUTIONS THAT ARE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE PARIS PRINCIPLES

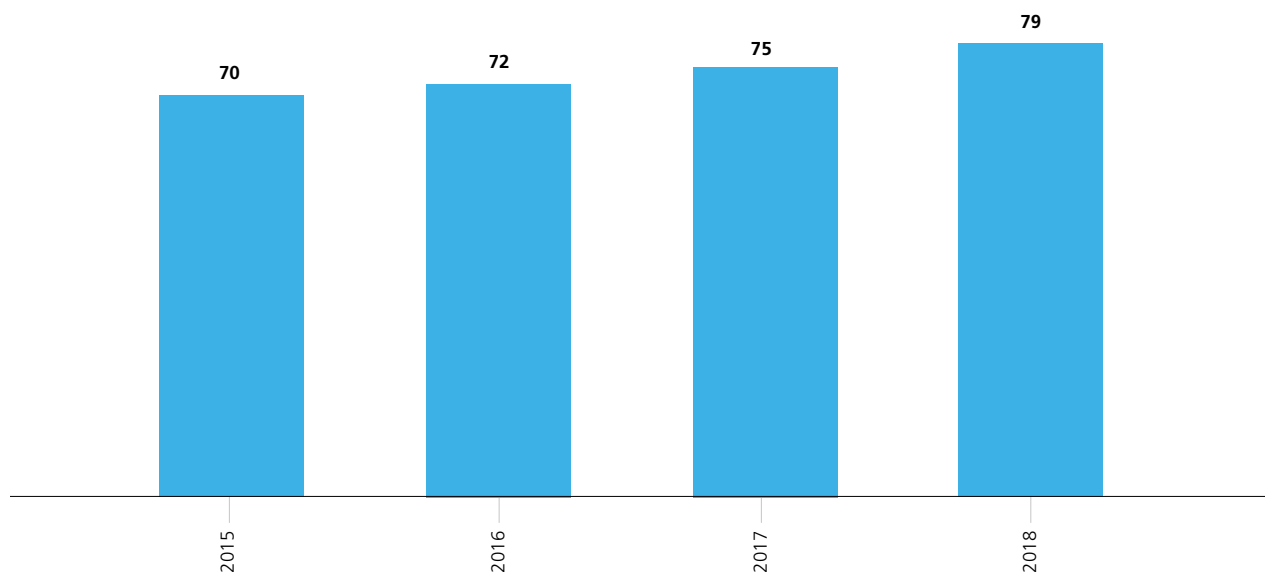
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## INCREASING NUMBER OF COUNTRIES WITH INDEPENDENT NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS

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Source: OHCHR

## OUR HUMAN RIGHTS MAINSTREAMING AND FIELD SUPPORT



# 12

out of 14 United Nations  
peacekeeping missions have a  
**human rights component**



# 7,500+

**monitoring missions** undertaken to  
investigate and document human  
rights situations



# 40,000

**victims of torture** in 78 countries  
received rehabilitation support



# 10,000

direct **victims of contemporary  
forms of slavery** in 27 countries  
obtained assistance



# 10

States supported in establishing  
**transitional justice** mechanisms

## Enhancing equality and countering discrimination

Climate change is at the origin of an increasing number of migratory flows, posing existential threats and deepening inequality. Through in-depth research on climate change and human rights protection for cross-border migrants (see A/HRC/38/21 and A/HRC/37/35), the United Nations contributed to the development of a rights-based approach to climate-related migration.

## Inclusion of persons with disabilities

The pledge to “leave no one behind” places the human rights principles of equality and non-discrimination at the heart of the 2030 Agenda. The Secretariat worked with United Nations system agencies to bring about a change in understanding regarding a human rights-based approach to disability. Progress has been made in moving from a medical to a social and on to a human rights-based approach to disability in United Nations system policies, which now better reflect human rights principles and standards.

## Enhancing participation and protecting civic space

In its *World Development Report 2017*,<sup>7</sup> the World Bank estimated that, after continual expansion over the past decades, civic space is shrinking globally. Amid a crisis of youth unemployment and marginalization, young people are becoming one of the most vulnerable groups in society, at risk of exploitation, violence and insecurity. Making the voices of youth and children heard in the work of the United Nations is a matter of the utmost priority. In 2018, the Committee on the Rights of the Child led by example and broke with tradition by directly involving children and young people in its negotiations.

<sup>7</sup> World Bank, *World Development Report 2017: Governance and the Law* (Washington, D.C., 2017).



UW Photo/Levy Felipe

Youth advocate for Youth for Human Rights International addresses the 15th annual International Human Rights Summit.



**ENHANCING PARTICIPATION**

Universal Declaration of Human Rights, **UDHR@70 campaign** reached

**600M**  
people



**577**  
**new partnerships** established  
in the field



**60**  
**grants** awarded by the United Nations  
Human Rights Grants Committee  
(\$4M for projects in 30+ countries)



**235**  
companies endorsed the **Standards  
of Conduct for Business against  
LGBTI Discrimination**

**OUTLOOK**

The United Nations will continue to assist Member States in implementing their human rights obligations. The Organization will persist in amplifying the voices of victims, demanding redress with impartiality and being a catalyst for change to prevent further violations and abuse. This will include advocating the recommendations of human rights mechanisms to help strengthen institutions, improve legislation and save lives. The Organization will achieve this by making tools available and facilitating dialogue, advocacy and technical cooperation to ensure the effective application of international human rights standards.



UN Photo/Violaine Martin

Roben X, rapper and activist, greets participants in an event commemorating Human Rights Day (10 December) in Geneva. 2018 marked the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.