

António Guterres, Secretary-General, meets with members of the International Disability Alliance. (New York; October 2021)  
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# Promotion and Protection of Human 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

**\$336M**

\$121M regular assessed, \$2M peacekeeping assessed (2020/2021) and \$213M voluntary contributions



## SELECT MANDATES

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



## SELECT ENTITIES

- Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights



Delegates from Nagaland in north-east India (left) and Nepal (right) attend the human rights dialogue during the twenty-first session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues. (New York; April 2022) © UN Photo/Manuel Elías



ALIGNMENT WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

## CONTEXT

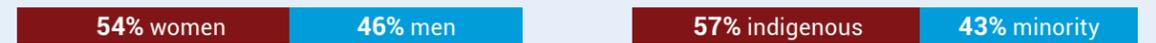
The COVID-19 pandemic, political and economic instability, and deep structural inequalities are affecting human rights and protection around the globe. Placing people's rights and dignity at the heart of our responses to these challenges offers an opportunity to build a more equal, inclusive, safer and healthier world and to realize the full promise of the Charter.

## KEY OBJECTIVES

The work to advance human rights spans the three pillars of United Nations engagement, encompassing support for international human rights mechanisms; mainstreaming of human rights within development and peace operations; and advancing the principles of non-discrimination, participation and accountability. Our efforts extend from overcoming immediate challenges, such as the pandemic, to intergenerational challenges, such as climate change.

## 2021–2022 SENIOR INDIGENOUS AND MINORITIES FELLOWSHIP PROGRAMMES

The OHCHR senior minority and indigenous fellowship programmes provide an intensive learning opportunity for minority or indigenous human rights advocates to increase their expertise on international human rights mechanisms and advance their work to protect the rights of their communities. In 2020–2021, the programme attracted **35** senior fellows deployed in **28** locations.





## KEY OUTCOMES

### Support for international human rights mechanisms

In the context of COVID-19, the Human Rights Council and other international human rights mechanisms continued their work. The Council held special sessions on Afghanistan, Ethiopia, the Sudan, Ukraine and the Occupied Palestinian Territory; adopted the landmark recognition of the human right to a sustainable environment; and established the Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights in the context of climate change.

Treaty bodies also resumed in-country missions. The Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment travelled to Brazil, and the Committee on Enforced Disappearances visited Mexico. Treaty bodies also issued guidance concerning migrants' right to liberty and freedom from arbitrary detention and children's rights in relation to the digital environment.



“The appeals for peace and security, development and human rights from individuals all over the world warn us that our future must be a world anchored to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.”

*Michelle Bachelet, High Commissioner for Human Rights*

### OUR HUMAN RIGHTS WORK



**46,000**

victims of torture in **92** countries received rehabilitation support



**54**

human rights advisers deployed in United Nations country teams



**13,000**

victims of contemporary forms of slavery in **33** countries obtained assistance



**63%**

increase in the protection of disability rights across **79** countries



**11**

human rights components in United Nations peace missions, including **561** human rights staff



**432,000+**

recommendations issued by the Universal Human Rights Index across all 17 Sustainable Development Goals



Over 85,000 individuals have pledged to #StandupforHumanRights through the United Nations campaign to build a global constituency for human rights. (Bishkek; January 2021) © OHCHR

### EXPERTISE AND SUPPORT TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES



Youth and indigenous activists at the Stockholm+50 meeting call on Governments to respect the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment. Stepping up efforts to realize this right – which was first recognized by the Human Rights Council in 2021 – was a key recommendation of the summit. (Stockholm; June 2022) © UNEP/Duncan Moore

### Human rights within development efforts

We continued to place human rights at the heart of our development work, with human rights analysis informing 19 of 21 common country analyses and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks concluded in 2021 and another 43 that will be concluded in 2022. Through our surge initiative, we advised 15 countries on fiscal policy and budgets to reverse decades of underspending on public services. Partnering with multilateral development banks, we contributed to four operational policy reviews, provided advice on the African Development Bank independent accountability mechanism, and released the report *Remedy in Development Finance*.

### Peace and security

Maintaining a strong focus on human rights in our peace operations, we trained over 500 mission managers and trainers, contributed to education materials for over 75,000 uniformed staff and led the implementation of the human rights due diligence policy across our field presences. We also supported efforts to establish a framework for compliance of African Union peace operations with international human rights and humanitarian laws. Prioritizing prevention, we deployed three additional emergency response teams and helped to integrate human rights into the African Union early warning system.

### Non-discrimination

We helped to develop investigation protocols for gender-related killings in Chile and Honduras and a gender equality law and strategy in North Macedonia. Our engagement on migrants' rights saw us strengthen capacities across several regions, contribute to the new protocol of the Ibero-American Federation of Ombudsmen on migrants and advance the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration. In the context of racial discrimination, we also supported the establishment of the Permanent Forum of People of African Descent.

### OUR SUPPORT TO MEMBER STATE COOPERATION



24

treaty actions: 1 signature, 7 accessions and 16 ratifications



24

Governments hosted 26 visits by special procedure mandate holders



81

State party reports reviewed by treaty bodies



2,800+

official documents submitted for meetings of human rights mechanisms, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

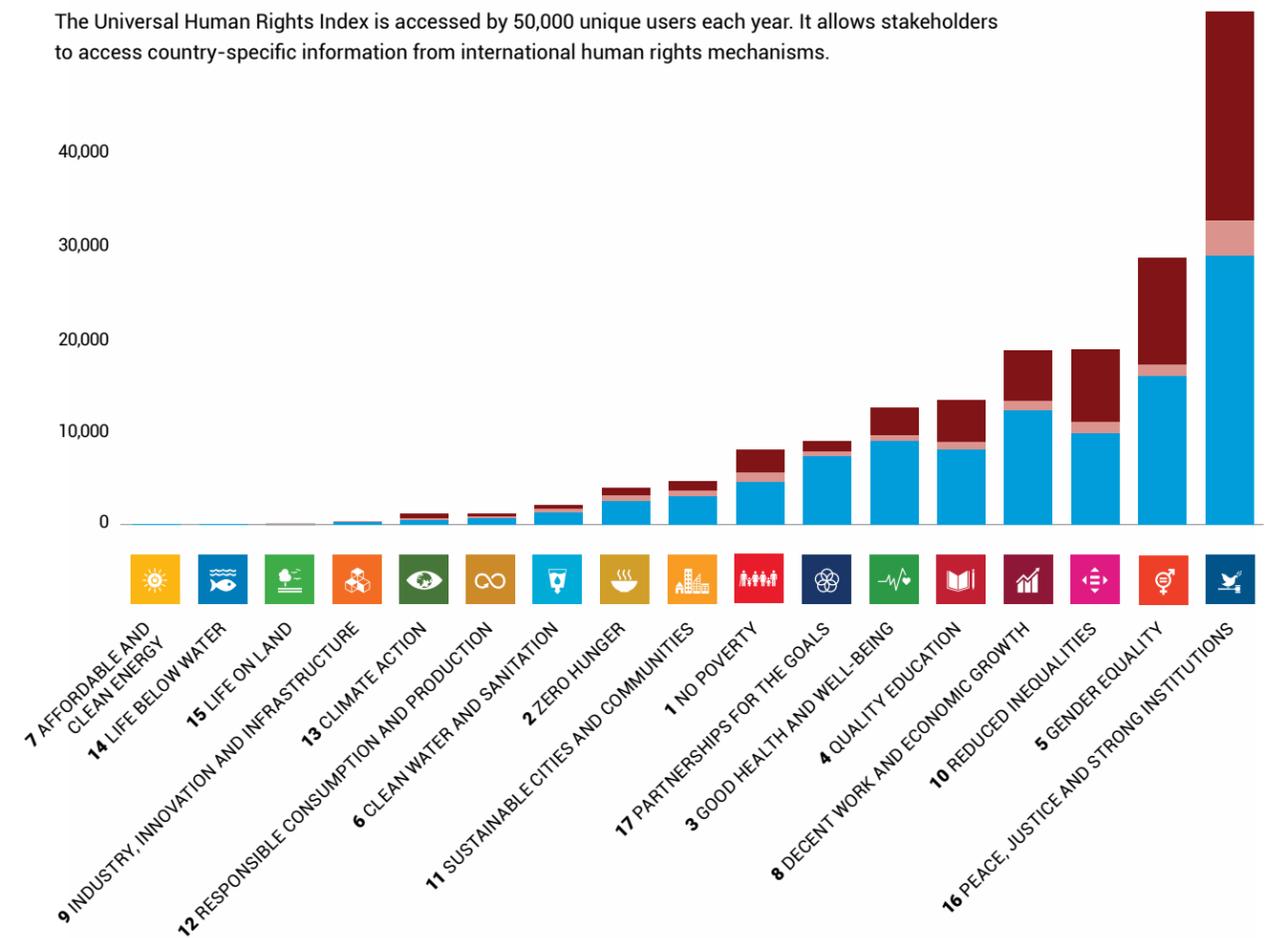
### Participation

We continued our work to expand civic space, including by bolstering national mechanisms protecting media freedoms and journalists and deepening our cooperation with the Inter-Parliamentary Union. We also strengthened networks of women's rights and human rights defenders in the Pacific and East Africa and in several countries facing elections. We intensified our advocacy for online content governance based on human rights standards.

### UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS INDEX: RECOMMENDATIONS COVER ALL SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

● Treaty bodies ● Special procedures ● Universal periodic review

The Universal Human Rights Index is accessed by 50,000 unique users each year. It allows stakeholders to access country-specific information from international human rights mechanisms.



### Accountability

We supported investigative and accountability mandates established by the Human Rights Council in more than 11 countries and territories. We also provided technical assistance in the design and implementation of inclusive, context-specific and victim-centred transitional justice processes in over 13 countries.

### A NEW AGENDA FOR RACIAL JUSTICE AND EQUALITY

In 2021, we delivered a landmark agenda towards transformative change for racial justice and equality. We advocated for Member States to translate the agenda into action plans and established an independent international expert mechanism to advance racial justice and equality in the context of law enforcement.