

# 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

**\$399M**

\$158M regular assessed, \$2M peacekeeping assessed (2021-2022) and \$239M 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

Participants at the twenty-second session of the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues, where regional dialogues between Indigenous Peoples and Member States focused on “Indigenous Peoples, human health, planetary and territorial health and climate change: a rights-based approach”.

(New York; April 2023) © UN Photo/Manuel Elias

Celebrating Human Rights Day in Haiti and launching the commemoration of the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

(Port-au-Prince; December 2022) © OHCHR



## CONTEXT

Collectively, we face multiple challenges to human rights: widening economic and social gaps between and within countries, aggravated by the COVID-19 pandemic, armed conflicts, impunity, rising costs of living, and the triple planetary crisis. Recognizing that human rights are essential for lasting peace, sustainable development and justice, we must ensure that human rights guide the solutions to our most pressing challenges. The seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights in December 2023 is an opportunity to reinvigorate the consensus envisioned in the Declaration and to strengthen the United Nations human rights architecture.



**LET'S ADVANCE ON THE PROMISE OF FREEDOM, EQUALITY AND JUSTICE FOR ALL**



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**“All of society needs to be engaged in dialogue on human rights, to rekindle the spirit, impulse and vitality that forged the Universal Declaration 75 years ago.”**

**Volker Türk, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights**



## KEY OBJECTIVES

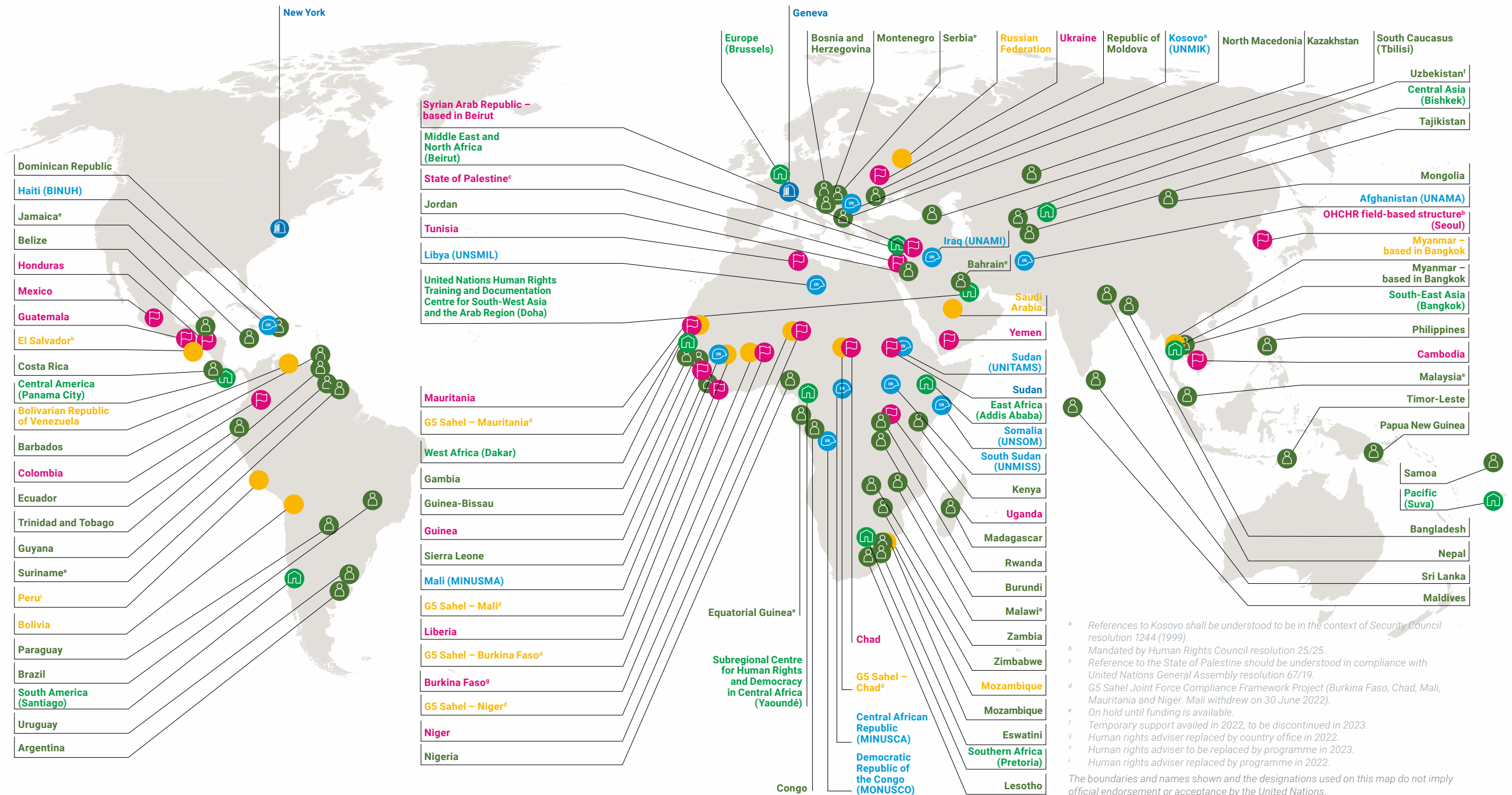
The work to advance human rights spans the three pillars of United Nations engagement, encompassing support for international human rights mechanisms, the mainstreaming of human rights within development and peace operations and the advancement of the principles of non-discrimination, participation and accountability. Our efforts extend from overcoming immediate challenges such as the onset of a pandemic to intergenerational challenges such as climate change. Under the Secretary-General’s Call to Action for Human Rights, a range of practical, cross-pillar activities are inspiring commitment across the United Nations system. They include addressing the shrinking civic space; climate justice; addressing violations in the digital sphere; and using human rights as a tool to meet the Organization’s broad objectives.

At a polling station in Nairobi, United Nations human rights teams work with the national human rights commission, the police, civil society organizations and grass-roots defenders to support peaceful elections in Kenya.

(Nairobi; August 2022) © OHCHR

# UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS IN 103 LOCATIONS AROUND THE WORLD

-  **2** Headquarters
-  **19** country/stand-alone offices/ human rights missions
-  **12** regional offices/centres
-  **11** human rights components of United Nations peace/political missions
-  **50** Human rights advisers deployed to United Nations country teams in consultation with Governments
-  **9** other types of field presences



<sup>a</sup> References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).  
<sup>b</sup> Mandated by Human Rights Council resolution 25/25.  
<sup>c</sup> Reference to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.  
<sup>d</sup> G5 Sahel Joint Force Compliance Framework Project (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger. Mali withdrew on 30 June 2022).  
<sup>e</sup> On hold until funding is available.  
<sup>f</sup> Temporary support availed in 2022, to be discontinued in 2023.  
<sup>g</sup> Human rights adviser replaced by country office in 2022.  
<sup>h</sup> Human rights adviser to be replaced by programme in 2023.  
<sup>i</sup> Human rights adviser replaced by programme in 2022.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.



A United Nations human rights team monitors a protest to commemorate eight years since the disappearance of 43 students from the Raúl Isidro Burgos rural teachers' school in Mexico.

(Guerrero, Mexico; September 2022) © OHCHR

## OUR HUMAN RIGHTS WORK



**47,000**  
victims of torture in 92 countries received rehabilitation support



**13,000**  
victims of contemporary forms of slavery in 33 countries obtained assistance



**11**  
human rights components in United Nations peace missions, including 558 human rights staff



**50**  
human rights advisers deployed in United Nations country teams

## KEY OUTCOMES

### SUPPORT FOR INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

As COVID-19 lockdowns subsided, we helped human rights mechanisms to resume in-person work. This included the regular sessions of the Human Rights Council as well as its special sessions on Ukraine and the Islamic Republic of Iran, 55 in-country visits by special procedures mandate holders, and the reinstatement of events involving nongovernmental organizations at the Human Rights Council and the sessions of the Working Group on the Universal Periodic Review. Our activities contributed to greater engagement from national parliaments on human rights, a more involved civil society, and stronger national human rights institutions.



United Nations human rights officers speak to an internally displaced person in a sports complex in Ukraine.

(Uzhhorod, Ukraine; March 2022) © OHCHR

## HUMAN RIGHTS WITHIN DEVELOPMENT EFFORTS

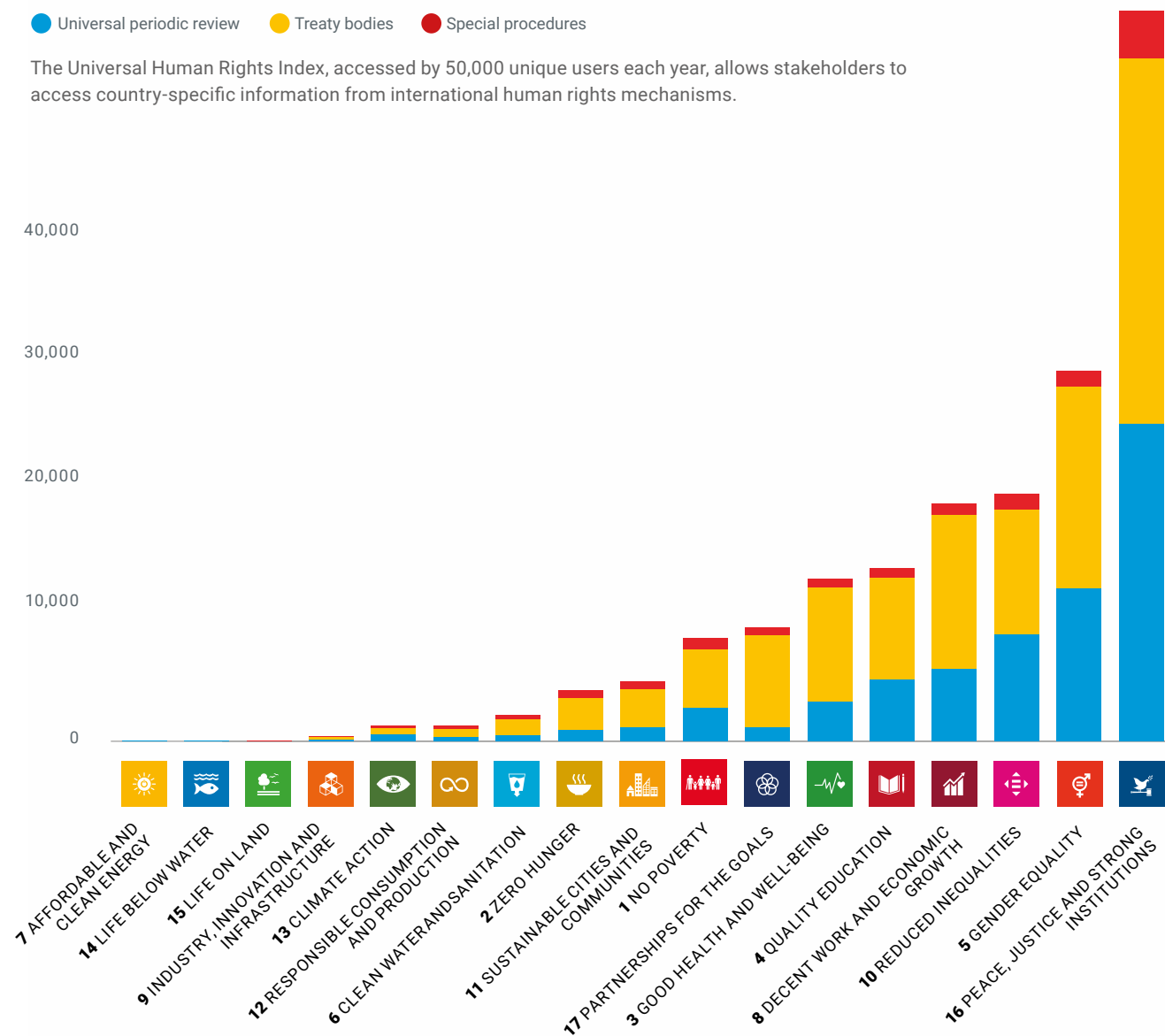
Human rights are central to our development work. Human rights analysis informed 51 common country analyses and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks that were concluded in 2022. Under the Secretary-General’s Call to Action for Human Rights, we developed a self-assessment tool to support United Nations country teams in integrating human rights into analyses, programming and advocacy. Our work on the Sustainable Development Goal indicators

resulted in better data on discrimination, civilian deaths in conflict and killings and disappearances of human rights defenders, journalists and trade unionists. We also developed guidance for country teams to support Member States in integrating human rights into their voluntary national reviews.

### Universal Human Rights Index: recommendations cover all Sustainable Development Goals

● Universal periodic review ● Treaty bodies ● Special procedures

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



## Human rights for sustainable development

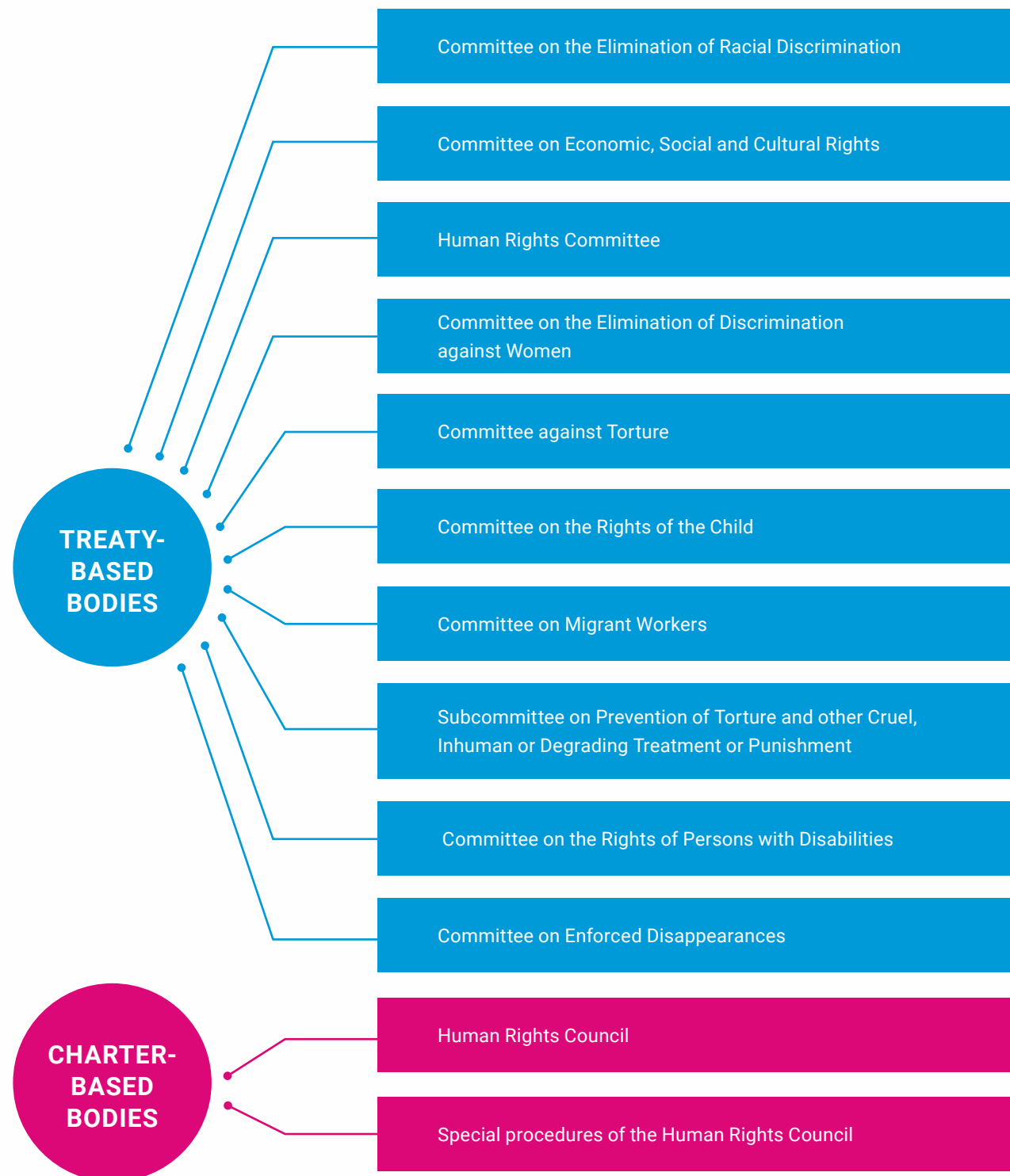
We provided advice on budgeting for human rights, enhancing fiscal transparency, leaving no one behind in the design of social and economic rights measures, and empowering grass-roots organizations to monitor national development plans.



A United Nations human rights team speaking to environmental defenders in San Pedro la Laguna by Lake Atitlán, Guatemala. Indigenous leaders and attorneys benefited from litigation training to support their conservation efforts.

(Lake Atitlán, Guatemala; October 2022) © OHCHR

## EXPERTISE AND SUPPORT TO THE HUMAN RIGHTS BODIES



“With Us Not For Us”: World Down Syndrome Day conference at United Nations Headquarters.

(New York; March 2023) © UN Photo/Evan Schneider



## PEACE AND SECURITY

We trained defence and security forces in over a dozen countries and territories, promoting respect for international human rights standards. In addition, human rights emergency response teams were deployed in seven regional offices, strengthening our capacity to anticipate and respond to human rights crises and enhancing inter-agency cooperation on the prevention agenda. We also developed a new policy that formally recognizes the linkages between sexual exploitation and abuse and human rights and provides practical guidance on a human rights-based, victim-centred approach to preventing and responding to sexual exploitation and abuse. We are working closely with United Nations country teams and United Nations entities on its implementation.

## NON-DISCRIMINATION

With our support, over 700 participants from States, civil society and the United Nations took part in the inaugural session of the Permanent Forum on People of African Descent. This event will contribute to a United Nations declaration on the promotion, protection and full respect of the human rights of people of African descent. We deployed anti-racial discrimination advisers to our regional human rights offices in Bangkok, Beirut, Brussels, Pretoria and Santiago to strengthen our capacity and support actions and stakeholders at the national level. We launched the “Learn, speak up and act!” campaign to raise awareness about racism, xenophobia and racial discrimination. We also introduced an online platform for companies to assess their compliance with United Nations standards of conduct for businesses to help to reduce discrimination against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex people.

## PARTICIPATION

To help to preserve and expand civic space, we focused on safety for participants in public debates and decision-making, including by establishing human rights observatories and citizen platforms. We built awareness and advocacy around this issue with a report on the human rights impact of Internet shutdowns. We also promoted the participation of the least developed countries and small island developing States in the Human Rights Council.

## ACCOUNTABILITY

We supported investigative mechanisms established by the Human Rights Council, with mandates in more than 10 countries and territories. Our advocacy contributed to the establishment of the International Independent Expert Mechanism to Advance Racial Justice and Equality in Law Enforcement. This initiative marks an important step in the landmark agenda towards transformative change for racial justice and equality.



## OUR SUPPORT TO MEMBER STATE COOPERATION



**10**  
treaty actions: **7** ratifications and **3** accessions



**38**  
Governments hosted **45** visits by special procedure mandate holders



**99**  
State party reports reviewed by treaty bodies



**3,000**  
official documents submitted for meetings of human rights mechanisms, the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council

Celebrating Human Rights Day and commemorating the Sharpeville massacre that took place during Apartheid on 21 March 1960.

(Pretoria; March 2022) © OHCHR