

Human Rights

Objectives

The High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) assists Governments, such as expertise and technical trainings in the areas of administration of justice, legislative reform, and electoral process, to help implement international human rights standards on the ground.

We are tasked with mainstreaming human rights within the United Nations, which means injecting a human rights perspective into all United Nations programs.

The mission of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) is to work for the protection of all human rights for all people; to help empower people to realize their rights; and to assist those responsible for upholding such rights in ensuring that they are implemented.

History

Organizationally, it started as a small division at United Nations Headquarters in the 1940s. The division later moved to Geneva and was upgrade to the Centre for Human Rights in the 1980s. At the World Conference on Human Rights in 1993, the international community decided to establish a more robust human rights mandate with stronger institutional support. Accordingly, Member States of the United Nations created OHCHR by a General Assembly Resolution in 1993.

Drafted as 'a common standard of achievement for all peoples and nations', the Declaration for the first time in human history set out basic civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights that all human beings should enjoy.

December 10, the day of its adoption, was observe worldwide as International Human Rights Day.

Alongside the development of international human rights law, a number of United Nations human rights bodies has been established to respond to changing human rights challenges.

The United Nations Commission on Human Rights, established in 1946 and reporting to the Economic and Social Council, was the key United Nations intergovernmental body responsible for human rights until it was replaced by the Human Rights Council in 2006. In addition to assuming mandates and responsibilities previously entrusted to the Commission, the newly created Council, reporting directly to the General Assembly, has expanded mandates.

Commissioners

On September 1, 2018 Michelle Bachelet assumed her functions as the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights was established in 1993 and Ms. Bachelet is the seventh Commissioner.

- Vojislav ŠUC, President of the Human Rights Council, Twelfth Cycle (2018)
- H.E. Mr. Evan P. GARCIA (Philippines), Vice-President
- H.E. Ms. Antje LEENDERTSE (Germany), Vice-President (1 January to 18 April 2018)
- H. E. Mr. Cristóbal GONZÁLEZ-ALLER JURADO (Spain), Vice-President (7 May to 31 December 2018)
- H.E. Ms. Marta MAURÁS PEREZ (Chile), Vice-President and Rapporteur (10 January to 12 May)
- H.E. Mr. Juan Eduardo EGUIGUREN (Chile), Vice-President and Rapporteur (4 June to 31 December)
- H.E. Mr. François Xavier NGARAMBÉ (Rwanda), Vice-President

Members

As of January 1, 2018, 107 UN Member States will have served as Human Rights Council Members:

Afghanistan, Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Brazil, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Gabon, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Guatemala, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Libya, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Norway, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Togo, Tunisia, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay, Venezuela, Vietnam, and Zambia.

References:

United Nations Human Rights Office of High Commissioner. (2018). OHCHR. Retrieved from: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/WhoWeAre.aspx>