

## Protection of human rights

In 2015, the United Nations remained engaged in protecting human rights through its main organs—the General Assembly, the Security Council and the Economic and Social Council—and the Human Rights Council, which carried out its task as the central UN intergovernmental body responsible for promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms worldwide. The Council addressed violations, worked to prevent abuses, provided overall policy guidance, monitored the observance of human

equality bodies and a non-governmental organization ( ) and provided an update on activities undertaken by . It concluded that despite some progress made in combating racism and related phenomena, stronger political will and urgent measures were needed to reverse the trends that had developed in recent years of increasingly hostile racist and xenophobic attitudes and violence. States were encouraged to invite the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent and the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance to carry out country visits and to develop and implement national action plans to combat racial discrimination and related intolerance.

The General Assembly took note of the report on 17 December (**decision 70/532**).

**Working Group on people of African descent.**

At its sixteenth session (Geneva, 31 March–4 April) [A/HRC/30/56], the Working Group of Experts on People of African Descent focused on the theme of “Development and people of African descent”. The Working Group acknowledged the linkages between underdevelopment and racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance. It urged States to adopt measures consistent with the Declaration on the Right to Development, aimed at guaranteeing active, free and meaningful participation of people of African descent in all political, economic, social and cultural aspects of society. It also reiterated its recommendation for the preparation of specific programmes of action for



caust denial and the distortion of history. The Special Rapporteur reiterated the recommendations made in his previous reports to the Council and the Assembly [YUN 2014, pp. 792 & 793] as they remained applicable and valid. He also proposed, considering that there had been no major developments on the issue since his last reports, that the obligations of his mandate would be best served by submitting a single report annually to the Assembly. Other streams of his work could be used to address the issue in a more concrete way and would allow for more in-depth dialogue with Governments, States and relevant actors, enabling them to work in a concerted fashion towards implementing existing and future recommendations.

In August, pursuant to the same resolution, the Secretary-General transmitted to the Assembly another report [A/70/321] of the Special Rapporteur on implementation of resolution 69/160 on combating glorification of Nazism, neo-Nazism and other practices that contributed to fuelling contemporary forms of racism and related phenomena. The report summarized contributions from nine States and five States and other organizations. The Rapporteur remained concerned about the continued scapegoating of vulnerable groups, such as migrants, asylum seekers and ethnic minorities. He recalled recommendations made in previous reports and reiterated that they remained valid, including those on legislative and



to cooperate with representatives of UN human rights bodies gathered from 1 June 2014 to 31 May 2015, pertaining to cases in Bahrain, Burundi, China, Cyprus, Eritrea, Gambia, Honduras, Iran, Israel, Kazakhstan, Kuwait, Maldives, Myanmar, Oman, Saudi Arabia, South Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Venezuela and Viet Nam. It also provided follow-up information on cases included in previous reports on China, Malaysia, Russian Federation, Sri Lanka, United Arab Emirates and Venezuela. The report noted that in accordance with the principle of do no harm, risk assessments were conducted on a case-by-case basis, resulting in the exclusion of those cases where the risk to the safety and well-being of the individuals concerned was deemed too high. Reprisals included threats and harassment, media smear campaigns, police surveillance, physical attacks, travel bans, the forced closure of organizations, arbitrary arrest, detention, prohibition, etc.

situation of migrants in transit, including unaccompanied children and adolescents, as well as women and girls; and requested the Special Rapporteur to continue to report on practical solutions, including with respect to the situation of migrants in transit, by identifying best practices and concrete areas for international cooperation.

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to dominate society. With regard to Afro-Brazilians, however, there had been a failure to address the entrenched discrimination, exclusion and poverty faced by those communities, particularly those living in favelas, periferias, and Quilombos. She made recommendations on a wide range of issues.

**Report of Secretary-General.** Pursuant to Assembly resolution 68/172 [YUN 2013, p. 646], the Secretary-General in August submitted a report S n t Pt



tions by all stakeholders, including States, religious communities, interreligious dialogue initiatives, civil society organizations and media representatives.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 69/175 [YUN 2014, p. 806], the Secretary-General in August [A/70/286] transmitted to the Assembly the Special Rapporteur's interim report, which reviewed activities since the previous report [YUN 2014, p. 806] and focused on the rights of the child and his or her parents in the area of freedom of religion or belief. He noted that parents had the rights and duties to provide direction to the child in the exercise of his or her freedom of religion or belief in a manner consistent with the evolving capacities of the child. In terms of practical application, the Rapporteur discussed issues related to religious socialization; religious instruction within the family; participation in religious community life; religious education in schools; the voluntary display of religious symbols inioolf9 chil7all3ioidis5-19.2

citement to hatred was for the most part criminalized and often prohibited on several grounds, including religion or belief.

**Report of Secretary-General.** In accordance with Assembly resolution 69/174 [YUN 2014, p. 810], the Secretary-General in October submitted a report [A/70/415] summarizing information received from 17 States on steps taken to combat intolerance, negative stereotyping, stigmatization, discrimination, incitement to violence and violence against persons, based on religion or belief.

**Human Rights Council action** On 27 March [A/70/53 (res.

*Against:* Canada, Israel, Marshall Islands, Micronesia, Nauru, Palau, United States.

*Abstaining:* Cameroon, Honduras, South Sudan, Tonga.

## **Mercenaries**

**Reports of Working Group.** In a July report [A/HRC/30/34], the Working Group on the use of mercenaries as a means of violating human rights and impeding the exercise of the right of peoples to self-determination described the activities undertaken since its last report [YUN 2014, p. 813] and presented the results of its ongoing global study of nat(i)-(2n)-92FEFF00e/3t al

**Human Rights Council action.** On 26 March [A/70/53 (res. 28/7)], by a recorded vote of 32 to 13, with 2 abstentions, the Council extended the Working Group's mandate for two and a half years.

On 1 October [A/70/53/Add.1 (res. 30/6)], by a recorded vote of 32 to 14, with 1 abstention, the Council requested States to exercise the utmost vigilance against any kind of recruitment, training, hiring or financing of mercenaries, and in banning the use of private companies offering international military consultancy and security services when intervening in armed conflicts or actions to destabilize constitutional regimes. It also requested the Working Group to continue work on strengthening the international legal framework for the prevention and sanction of the recruitment, use, financing and training of mercenaries; and to report to the General Assembly's seventy-first (2016) session and the Council's thirty-third (2016) session.

On the same date [A/70/53/Add.1 (dec./15 1720.5 59 (e0154)6.8 ] -1.06 Td

on non-discrimination and the protection of persons with increased vulnerability in the administration of justice, in particular in situations of deprivation of liberty and with regard to the causes and effects of overincarceration and overcrowding.

### Rule of law

**Human Rights Council action.** On 26 March [A/70/53 (res. 28/14)], by a recorded vote of 35 to 0, with 12 abstentions, the Council established a forum on human rights, democracy and the rule of law to provide a platform for promoting dialogue and cooperation on issues pertaining to the relationship between those areas, and to identify and analyse best practices, challenges and opportunities for States in their efforts to secure respect for them. It also decided that the Forum would meet biennially for two days allocated to thematic discussions; and that the theme of the first session in 2016 would be “Widening the democratic space: the role of youth in public decision-making”.

### Truth, justice, reparation and non-recurrence

**Reports of Special Rapporteur.** Pursuant to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2014, p. 821], the Special Rapporteur on the promotion of truth, justice, reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence, Pablo de Grei (Colombia), in September submitted a report [A/HRC/30/42] that presented his activities between July 2014 and June 2015 and addressed the topic of establishing a policy on guarantees of non-recurrence in the aftermath of mass violations. The Rapporteur called for more focused attention to challenges arising in areas of weak governance for the effective satisfaction of rights and for protecting the rights of marginalized groups and individuals, including civilians trapped in the cross-fire of a conflict. He made recommendations to be enacted at the institutional level; in the sphere of civil society; and in the cultural and the individual spheres. The Special Rapporteur mentioned the importance of legal empowerment and the creation of an enabling environment in order for civil society to discharge its crucial role.









Commission, civil society organizations, the United Nations and other intergovernmental organizations, and other stakeholders.

In April 2015, Oman submitted its comments on the report of the Special Rapporteur [A/HRC/29/25/Add.4].

Following his visit to Kazakhstan (19–27 January) [A/HRC/29/25/Add.2], the Special Rapporteur noted that authorities made reference to the rule of law to justify restrictions to the enjoyment of freedom of peaceful assembly and of association, yet in practice the Government's policies seemed more driven by an adherence to "rule by law", which was likely to erode the essence of those rights. He expressed concern that the State's approach had had an adverse effect on public discourse. Focus had been put on economic reforms to empower people, but the younger generation had greater aspirations and wanted to take ownership of their society by participating in public affairs. The Special Rapporteur invited the authorities to disseminate his report widely to serve as a springboard for a public dialogue on expanding civic space. Noting that Kazakhstan had made remarkable progress in the economic realm since independence, he believed that the country was capable of replicating that progress in the realm of human rights.





ill-treatment than adults. The detention of children, including pretrial and post-trial incarceration, as well as institutionalisation and administrative immigration detention, was linked with the ill treatment of children. Their particular vulnerability imposed a heightened obligation on States to take measures to ensure their human rights. The Rapporteur recommended that children should be charged, tried and sentenced within a State's juvenile system and never within the adult criminal justice system. An important safeguard against torture and ill-treatment for children in detention was support given to maintain contact with parents and family through telephone, correspondence and regular visits). He noted that in the context of administrative immigration enforcement, the deprivation of liberty of children based on their parents' migration status was never in the best interest of the child. The Rapporteur made recommendations for States regarding legislation; the vulnerability of

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direction, substantial changes were needed to ensure that many of the legal measures and policies adopted worked effectively to prevent and eliminate torture and mistreatment. He noted that many of the recommendations issued in 2012 continued to apply. Expressing concern about allegations of reprisals against detainees who had complained of torture and mistreatment,





**Human Rights Council action.** On 2 October [A/70/53/Add.1 (res. 30/15)], the Council, by a recorded vote of 37 to 3, with 7 abstentions, looked forward to the upcoming plan of action of the Secretary-General on preventing violent extremism; reaffirmed that the Council had a complementary role to play in supporting the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy; urged States to ensure that any measures taken to prevent and counter violent extremism complied with their obligations under international law; decided to convene a panel at its thirty-first (2016) session to discuss the human rights dimensions of preventing and countering violent extremism; and requested to prepare a summary report on the panel discussion and to submit to the Council's thirty-third (2016) session a compilation report on best practices and lessons learned on how protecting and promoting human rights contributed to preventing and countering violent extremism.

### Right to peace

**Working Group activities.** The Human Rights Council in 2012 [YUN 2012, p. 680] established the Open-ended Intergovernmental Working Group on the Draft United Nations Declaration on the Right to Peace, with the mandate of negotiating a draft on the basis of the one submitted by the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee [ibid.]. The first and second sessions of the Working Group were held in 2013 [YUN 2013, p. 682] and 2014 [YUN 2014, p. 839].

By a 4 February note [A/HRC/WG.13/3/1], the Secretariat informed the Human Rights Council that a revised draft text based on the discussions held during the first and second sessions of the Working

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conflicts resulted in resource constraints, States were required to prioritize the availability, accessibility and acceptability of good-quality health and education facilities, and goods and services to groups rendered vulnerable by conflict. He recommended that States





## Foreign debt

**Reports of Independent Expert.** In response to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2014, p. 853], the Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights, Juan Pablo Bohoslavsky (Argentina) submitted a report [A/HRC/28/59] focusing on the question of financial complicity in lending to States engaged in gross human rights violations. It was intended to contribute to a better understanding of when financial support might contribute to, or sustain the commission of, large-scale gross human rights violations. The Independent Expert reviewed the empirical evidence of the relation-

the incorporation of human rights considerations in the management of returned stolen assets. The Independent Expert concluded with recommendations on how the goal of curbing illicit financial flows could be operationalized within the United Nations post-2015 development agenda.

**Human Rights Council action.** On 26 March [A/70/53 (res. 28/5)], by a recorded vote of 33 to 2, with 12 abstentions, the Council called on States to accede to the United Nations Convention against Corruption; enact legislation to address offences by business enterprises, which deprived Governments of domestic sources of revenue for implementing their development

sized the importance of the Government and businesses listening to the voice of the most marginalized

preliminary observations, the implementation strategy for the mandate and some projected activities.

In response to the same resolution, the Secretary-General in August transmitted the Special Rapporteur's report [A/70/345] which provided a preliminary review of the human rights adversely affected by unilateral coercive measures and formulated tentative recommendations on how to minimize their impact. It presented the rights that were the most vulnerable to unilateral coercive measures, and referred to past or existing cases in which economic sanctions imposed by the Security Council or unilaterally by regional organizations or States had had an adverse impact on human rights. Those rights included the right to life; self-determination; development; adequate standard of living; health; and education, as well as other rights potentially affected by such measures. The Rapporteur concluded that there was a need to exert additional effort in defining ex ante strategic options to be pursued by unilateral coercive measures and exit strategies, as well as to seek ways to reduce the adverse impact of those measures. He noted that the complement or alternative to unilateral coercive measures was engagement. That was the principal message of the successful non-proliferation negotiations between the five permanent members of the Security Council and Iran.

The General Assembly took note of that report on 17 December (**decision 70/553**).

#### Panel discussion.

of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights and to promote accountability. The report included case studies on the Gaza Strip, Cuba, Iran, Pakistan and Zimbabwe, which highlighted some of the main adverse effects of unilateral coercive measures on the enjoyment of human rights in targeted and non-targeted States.

**Human Rights Council action.** On 1 October [A/70/53/Add.1 (res. 30/2)], by a recorded vote of 33 to 14, with no abstentions, the Council called on States to stop adopting, maintaining or implementing unilateral coercive measures not in accordance with international law, international humanitarian law, the United Nations Charter and the norms and principles governing peaceful relations among States, in particular those of a coercive nature with extraterritorial effects; condemned the continued unilateral application and enforcement by certain powers of such measures as tools of political or economic pressure against any country; reaffirmed that essential goods, such as food and medicines, should not be used as tools for political coercion and that under no circumstances should people be deprived of their own means of subsistence and development; and stressed the need for an independent mechanism of the UN human rights machinery for the victims of unilateral coercive measures to address the issues of remedies and redress with a view to promoting accountability and reparations.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 17 December [meeting 80], the General Assembly, on the recommendation of the Third Committee [A/70/489/Add.2], adopted **resolution 70/151 (Human rights and unilateral coercive measures)** by recorded vote (135-54-0) [agenda item 72 (b)].

#### RECORDED VOTE ON RESOLUTION 70/151:

*In favour:* Afghanistan, Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bahamas, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Benin, Bhutan, Bolivia, Botswana, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Cambodia, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Chad, Chile, China, Colombia, Comoros, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Cuba, Democratic People's Republic of Korea, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Dominica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Equatorial Guinea, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Fiji, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Guyana, Haiti, Honduras, India, Indonesia, Iran, Iraq, Jamaica, Jordan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Kiribati, Kuwait, Kyrgyzstan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Lesotho, Liberia, Libya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritania, Mauritius, Mexico, Mongolia, Morocco, Mozambique, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Panama, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Solomon Islands, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Suriname, Swaziland, Syrian Arab Republic, Tajikistan, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Tonga, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkmenistan, Tuvalu, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of





remedies in accordance with the Optional Protocol to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. She also addressed issues related to extraterritorial obligations in relation to the right to food. She recommended that States provide mechanisms that offered remedies in cases of violations of the right to food; guarantee women's basic right to access adequate food and implement gender mainstreaming in relation to domestic policies on agricultural, property and inheritance rights; ensure that rights holders had access to information pertaining to the right to food; develop the legal structure to protect resources directly related to the right to access adequate and nutritious food, such as water sources, access to land and seed production; and consider requesting an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice to determine the legal obligations relating to the extraterritorial implementation of the right to food.

In accordance with General Assembly resolution 69/177 [YUN 2017] p 1^EEX p à" g%A" W ÇG fi W aw étw> EE :

Goals (see p. 000); and requested the High Commissioner to prepare a report in consultation with States, UN entities, particularly the International Labour Organization ( ), and other stakeholders on the realization of the right to work, including challenges and best practices, and to submit the report prior to the Council's thirty-first (2016) session.

**Report of High Commissioner.** Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 28/15 (see above), the High Commissioner in December submitted a report [A/HRC/31/32] on the realization of the right to work, which presented an overview of the scope of and applicable standards relative to the right to work; an overview of the recognition of that right in international human rights and international labour law; interpretation of the right by UN treaty bodies and the ; and examples drawn from national experiences. The High Commissioner concluded that the gap between the realities of work in the world and the normative standards of the right to work demonstrated the need to further strengthen its protection. Work was critical to equality, dignity, justice and human development. He emphasized that States had an obligation to establish comprehensive policies and to take legislative and administrative measures necessary to ensure the full realization of that ao (at)-3dg ho 4 (e m)4.4 (e)-

groups in vulnerable situations, such as women and persons with disabilities; underlined the growth of informal, unplanned settlements without adequate services; and noted the high cost of electricity and water and the need to implement safeguards for low-income households that might be forced to jeopardize other essential services to afford housing-related expenses. The Special Rapporteur made recommendations to assist in prioritizing the betterment of housing conditions and ensuring that the right to housing was secured for a greater portion of the population.

Following her visits to Serbia (18–25 May) and Kosovo (26–27 May)

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view of the obstacles they faced; presented the type and severity of the human rights violations involved; summarized actions taken at the international level and by [redacted] in response to the issue; and recommended initiatives for addressing some of the problems identified in the study.

**Human Rights Council action.** On 26 March [A/70/53 (res. 28/6)], the Council appointed, for a period of three years, an Independent Expert on the enjoy-

advantage of the opportunities in the ongoing water sector reform, revise the Water Code, prioritize rural water and sanitation, and invest in rehabilitation and reconstruction of old infrastructure, as well as in the maintenance of new and existing services.

Following his mission to Botswana (9–17 November) d 0-

available. Yet they also gave patent-holders the power to deny access to others, thereby limiting or denying the public's right of participation to science and culture. The Special Rapporteur concluded the report with recommendations on ensuring transparency and public participation in law-making; ensuring the compatibility of patent laws, policies and practices with human rights; exclusions, exceptions and flexibilities; adopting policies fostering the right to science and culture; and indigenous peoples and local communities.

The General Assembly took note of that report on 17 December (**decision 70/533**).

**Human Rights Council action.** On 26 March [A/70/53 (res. 28/9)], the Council extended the Special Rapporteur's mandate for three years; and requested the Rapporteur to report annually to the Council and the Assembly.

**New Rapporteur.** In October, the Council appointed Karima Bennoune (United States) as new Special Rapporteur.

### Cultural diversity

**Report of Secretary-General.** Pursuant to General Assembly resolution 68/159 [YUN 2013, p. 708], the Secretary-General in July submitted a report [A/70/167] which summarized submissions from 13 States and the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organin (a)-34.2.3 (u)-48.8 (r)-40.9 (s)-32.7 (u)G.6







forms of slavery in supply chains. She applauded the passing of national laws, which reflected an increasing global concern with transparency, reporting and human rights due diligence obligations, and noted that the framework emerging from the UN system had provided greater clarity on how to operationalize the responsibility of business to respect human rights and the obligations of States to address business-related human rights abuses. The Special Rapporteur concluded the report with recommendations to States on ratifying international instruments on prohibiting slavery; enacting a national action plan on business and human rights; strengthening institutional frameworks and enforcement mechanisms; prohibiting fraudulent and abusive recruitment practices; and researching, collecting and analysing data on the scope and prevalence of contemporary forms of slavery in supply chains.

**Mission report.** Following her visit to Belgium (19–26 February) [A/HRC/30/35/Add.2], the Special Rapporteur analysed the normative framework and the multidisciplinary and multi-level institutional mechanism to combat contemporary forms of slavery. She examined economic exploitation and forced labour, domestic servitude, forced child begging

in voluntary contributions from Member States, \$230,471 in public and private donations and \$61,923 in interest income. The Fund had an unspent balance of \$16,908.

**GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION**

On 4 November [meeting 46]

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to present a summary report on the discussion to the Council's thirtieth (2015) session.

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**OHCHR report.** Pursuant to a Human Rights Council request [YUN 2014, p. 873], in March submitted a report [A/HRC/29/20 & Corr.1] on good practices and challenges in preventing and eliminating female genital mutilation ( ), which provided an overview of issues related to the practice and the applicable legal framework; a summary of initiatives undertaken by States, UN entities, s and other organizations to eliminate it; and an analysis of the continuing challenges. O concluded that States had the obligation to protect and fulfil the right of women and girls to live free from , and stressed that good practices in a number of countries should be supported, increased in scale and replicated. e report called on States to adopt and implement legislation that prohibited ; develop policies to address ; promote the education of girls; undertake

who shared their experiences in prevention efforts and in the protection of and assistance to victims of trafficking. The report concluded with

discrimination against women and girls in cultural and family life. It found that the cultural construction of gender made women's subjection to gender-based discrimination and violence appear to be immutable.

The patriarchal family was the product of that construction and the most important social mechanism for its perpetuation. The Working Group stressed the need to apply the principle of women's right to equality in all forms of family law, in secular family law systems, State-enforced religious family law systems and plural systems. Concluding that States must act as an agent of change by fostering and creating a culture free of all forms of discrimination against women, the Working Group made recommendations, drawing on good practices, for the establishment of true equality between the sexes in cultural and family life.

**Mission reports.** Following its visit to Senegal (7–17 April) [A/HRC/32/44/Add.1], the Working Group found that despite progress made in terms of its legislation and policies for the promotion of women's rights and gender equality, the country must redouble its efforts by strengthening the rule of law; combating cultural resistance to women's full enjoyment of their rights; no longer invoking freedom of religion to justify discrimination against women; providing women with access to quality education and income-generating activities; and suppressing corruption and impunity to ensure their access to effective justice.

The Working Group concluded the report with recommendations on ways to eliminate discrimination and promote equality.

Following its visit to the United States (30 November–11 December) [A/HRC/32/44/Add.2], the Working Group concluded that women were left behind in terms of international standards regarding their public and political representation, economic and social rights, and health and safety protections.

The extreme polarization of politics had affected the Government's ability to ratify the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and introduce measures to guarantee women's human rights; and women in certain groups were in a situation of heightened vulnerability, including women who were poor; Native American, African-American, Hispanic and Asian women; ethnic minority women; migrant women; lesbian, bisexual, transgender or intersex persons; women with disabilities; and older women. The Working Group presented its recommendations for further progress in eliminating discrimination and promoting equality.

**Human Rights Council action.** On 2 July [A/70/53 (res. 29/4)], the Council called on States to ensure women's equal enjoyment of all human rights; take measures to eliminate discrimination against women in matters relating to marriage and family relations; and accelerate efforts to ensure accountability and due diligence for acts that violated women's rights. It also urged States to recognize the role

[YUN 2006, p. 916]. These initiatives had helped to shape the post-2015 development agenda; promoted standards to address violence against children in the criminal justice system; consolidated cross-regional commitments to children's protection from violence; and strengthened national policy and legal action aimed at preventing and eliminating violence. The report also highlighted the potential and risks associated with children's use of new information and communication technologies.

In response to Assembly resolution 69/157 [YUN 2014, p. 764], the Special Representative in August submitted to the Assembly a report [A/70/289] that highlighted the progress achieved, but noted that further efforts were needed to translate the vision of the UN study on protecting children against violence.

on the Regulation and Punishment of Acts Relating to Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Protection of Children. She concluded the report with further recommendations.

**Human Rights Council action.** On 27 March [A/70/53 (res. 28/19)], the Council decided to focus its next (2016) full-day meeting on the rights of the child on the theme “Information and communications technology and child sexual exploitation”; requested to submit a report on that issue to the Council’s thirty-first (2016) session; and requested the High Commissioner to circulate a summary report on the next (2016) full-day meeting.

**OHCHR report.** Pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 28/19 (see above), in Decet0 (o)]TJ3 2-2.7 772 (u)825ue9uw [(0cnh1.8 (, )]-22.51u5.

killed or maimed children, committed rape and other forms of sexual violence against children, or engaged in attacks on schools and/or hospitals in situations of armed conflict. The report highlighted the increasing trend of mass abductions; responses to extreme violence; engagement with non-State armed groups; and the launch, in collaboration with the United Nations Children's Fund, of the "Children, Not Soldiers" campaign [YUN 2014, p. 879], which aimed to

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**Older persons**  
**Report of Independent Expert.**



rather than a differentiated approach placing the individual at the centre of attention. She encouraged Mauritius to ratify all human rights treaties to which it was not a party and concluded the report with recommendations to the Government, the international community and business.

Mauritius in September [A/HRC/30/43/Add.4] submitted its comments on the report.

#### GENERAL ASSEMBLY ACTION

On 17 December [meeting 80], the General Assembly,

that many of the proposed goals and targets in the post-2015 development agenda could positively affect the situation of ... there was a need to transform protracted displacement situations from neglect and reliance on humanitarian assistance to durable solutions and sustainable development. The Special Rapporteur recommended that States affected by displacement develop national legal frameworks and policies on internal displacement; make budgetary provisions to implement them; include ... as target populations and partners in policies, programmes and national action plans to implement the ...; improve disaggregated data collection on, and needs assessments of, ...; ensure national tailoring of targets to address ... and displacement situations and evaluate the impact of development programmes; and implement livelihood programmes and vocational training to bridge the gap between the skills of ... and those required for entry into the labour market.

In accordance with Assembly resolution 68/180 [YUN 2013, p. 724], the Secretary-General in August transmitted the Special Rapporteur's report [A/70/334], which outlined his activities since his previous report [YUN 2014, p. 883] and considered positive practices in establishing governance structures for preventing and responding to the different stages of internal displacement that could be adapted to the given national and local contexts. The Special Rapporteur concluded that national authorities bore the primary responsibility to respond to internal displacement and that adequate institutional arrangements needed to be established for the response to be well coordinated and implemented. Without adequate governance structures and the necessary financial resources and expertise, responses to internal displacement were likely to be ad hoc and uncoordinated. It was essential for States to establish effective governance structures at the national, regional and local levels to respond to all phases of internal displacement. The Special Rapporteur made recommendations for States affected by internal displacement, national human rights institutions, civil society and volunteers, donor States, the international community and regional human rights mechanisms.

**Mission reports.** Following his mission to Iraq (9–15 May) [A/HRC/32/35/Add.1], the Special Rapporteur noted that the humanitarian situation of ... was of great concern. Violence perpetrated by the Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant appeared to be part of a systematic strategy to remove some ethnic and religious communities permanently from areas where they had lived for centuries. Some ... women and girls had experienced sexual violence, forced marriage and sexual slavery and required greater protection and support. Meanwhile, new waves of displacement had increased pressure on the Government and had overstretched humanitarian partners. The Special Rapporteur concluded that intensified efforts by the Government were required to meet the humanitarian needs and protect



p. 884] and presented a study on the situation of indigenous women globally, including a thematic analysis

continue the questionnaire survey on best practices and implementation strategies to attain the Declaration's goals, and present a final summary of responses to the Council's thirty-third (2016) session. The Council also decided to hold at that session a half-day panel discussion on the causes and consequences of violence against indigenous women and girls, including those with disabilities.

On 1 October

approved the provisional agenda for its fifteenth session (**decision 2015/250**); and decided that the fifteenth session of the Permanent Forum would be held in New York from 9 to 20 May 2016 (**decision 2015/249**).

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An international expert group meeting on the theme “Dialogue on an optional protocol to the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples” (New York, 28–29 January) [E/C.19/2015/8] expressed concern at the implementation gap of the Declaration and concluded that action and compliance with the Declaration’s standards by authorities whose responsibilities affected the lives of indigenous peoples were required to compel better implementation. Needed reforms in administrative practices, policies and legislation could come about only through domestic executive and legislative action.

The annual meeting of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Peoples’ Issues (Geneva, 26–27 October) finalized the system-wide action plan to ensure a coherent approach to achieving the ends of