

FUNDS ADMINISTERED BY UN HUMAN RIGHTS

Voluntary contributions in support of UN Human Rights are channelled and managed through nine trust funds and three special funds that are not trust funds as defined by the UN Financial Regulations and Rules.

Additional financial information related to these funds can be found in the extrabudgetary income and expenditure report for 2019 (on pages 130-131).

United Nations Trust Fund for the Support of the Activities of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

In 1993, the United Nations Trust Fund for the Support of the Activities of the High Commissioner for Human Rights was established by the Secretary-General to supplement regular budgetary resources as a general funding pool. **It is the largest fund administered by UN Human Rights**, through which 83.6 per cent of all extrabudgetary funds, including unearmarked funds, were managed in 2019. Detailed information on the implemented activities and the voluntary contributions managed through the Trust Fund is shared in this report.

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights

The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights (VFTC) was established by the Secretary-General in 1987. It is the second largest fund administered by UN Human Rights. It provides financial support for technical cooperation aimed at building a strong human rights framework, including effective national and regional institutions, legal frameworks and infrastructures.

Since 1993, a Board of Trustees, appointed by the Secretary-General, has provided administrative and operational guidance. In recent years, its role has evolved to include the provision of advice on policy orientation, strategies on technical cooperation at a broader programme level and a global vision of the work of the Fund. In 2013, the Secretary-General entrusted the Board to also serve as a Board of Trustees for the United Nations Voluntary Fund for

Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review.

In 2019, the Board was composed of Mr. Morten Kjaerum (Denmark), Ms. Lin Lim (Malaysia), Ms. Esi Sutherland-Addy (Ghana), Ms. Valeriya Lutkovska (Ukraine) and Mr. Santiago Corcuera-Cabezut (Mexico). Mr. Corcuera-Cabezut was nominated in August to replace the seat vacated by Ms. Carmen Rosa Villa (Peru). At its forty-ninth session, in November, the Board elected Ms. Esi Sutherland-Addy as Chair. Her mandate will run until 30 November 2021.

The Board meets twice a year to review the programmes that the Fund supports and to consider thematic issues, methodologies and procedures; examine financial, administrative and fundraising matters; and brief Member States on its activities. The forty-eighth session of the Board was held in Geneva, in March.

The forty-ninth session was held at the Regional Office for Southern Africa, in Pretoria, and included a visit to the UN Human Rights technical cooperation project in Mozambique. Through these sessions, Board members observed the work of UN Human Rights field presences, evaluated their cooperation with partners on the ground and convened discussions with the staff members of UN Human Rights on the status of the implementation of technical cooperation programmes, funding trends and key challenges and opportunities for the Fund.

The Board recognized the efficacy of the strategy employed by UN Human Rights to expand its regional presence, including by setting up specific technical cooperation projects, for example in Mozambique. It also highlighted how the Regional Office for Southern Africa strengthened its thematic capacities and leveraged its technical expertise to establish the trust that is needed to gather the evidence-based information that is in turn used to advise State entities and other key actors on the development of effective responses, policies and programmes. More specifically, this enabled the Office to provide enhanced thematic expertise on economic, social and cultural rights and the protection of women's rights, with a specific focus on violence against women. In Mozambique, the Office and national partners worked to build trust and offer safe spaces for dialogue and collaborative work to support positive change on the ground. Working closely with the UN Country Team (UNCT) in response to Tropical Cyclone Idai, the Office ensured that human rights were integrated into humanitarian action, thereby enabling actions to address the risk of persons with disabilities and older persons being left behind.

The Board acknowledged that the areas identified by UN Human Rights as frontier issues and spotlight populations served to concretize new areas of support through technical cooperation, which addresses identified needs on the ground. The Board paid increased attention to the issue of corruption and the profound impact it has on the enjoyment of human rights. It also recognized the work of the Office in exploring the dimensions of corruption and its impact on the enjoyment of human rights, which was incorporated into UN Human Rights' training and capacity-building initiatives and policy dialogues.

As of 31 December, the Fund had received a total of US\$17,208,002 in pledges and contributions, compared to US\$18,789,565 in 2018. The total expenditure of the Fund in 2019 amounted to US\$15,498,086 compared to US\$13,294,808 in 2018.

In 2019, the Fund provided resources for technical cooperation programmes designed to build a strong human rights framework at the national level in 45 regions, countries and territories through 34 Human Rights Advisers/human rights mainstreaming projects in Argentina, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belize, Bolivia, Brazil, Ecuador, Guyana, Jamaica, Jordan, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Maldives, Mongolia, Montenegro, Niger, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, the Republic of Moldova, the Russian Federation, Rwanda, Serbia, the South Caucasus region (Georgia), Sri Lanka, Timor-Leste, Trinidad and Tobago, Uruguay and Zimbabwe; seven human rights components of peace operations in Afghanistan, the Central African Republic, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Libya, Somalia and the Sudan (Darfur); and four Country/Stand-alone Offices in

Chad, Mauritania, Mexico and the State of Palestine.

In 2019, emphasis was placed on supporting the efforts of States on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. With the support of the Fund, UN Human Rights continued to facilitate national efforts to incorporate international human rights standards into national laws, policies and practices, with a focus on the follow-up to recommendations issued by international human rights mechanisms. The Fund also contributed to the establishment and strengthening of national structures, institutions and capacities to ensure adherence to those standards and the development by UN Human Rights of online mechanisms to facilitate follow-up to the recommendations issued by international human rights mechanisms.

In addition, with support from the Fund, UN Resident Coordinators and UNCTs continued to strengthen their human rights capacities. The Board welcomed the partnership between UN Human Rights and the UN Sustainable Development Group, which will ensure that the UN Resident Coordinators and UNCTs are well equipped with knowledge, experience and expertise on human rights to better support States. The Board also recognized the contribution of the expanded deployment of Human Rights Advisers to ensure that all United Nations programming processes are rooted in human rights and reflect the vision of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

UN VOLUNTARY FUND FOR TECHNICAL COOPERATION (VFTC)

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2019

DONOR	US\$	EARMARKING
Denmark	4,209,893	VFTC
Finland	909,091	VFTC
Germany	1,104,452	VFTC
India	200,000	VFTC
United States of America	1,150,000	VFTC
(a) Total contributions earmarked to VFTC	7,573,436	
Australia	188,395	Human Rights Adviser in the Philippines
	305,085	Activities in the Asia-Pacific region
Denmark	294,507	Somalia
Ford Foundation	52,150	Mexico (strengthening the capacities of victims of forced disappearances to defend their rights)
	66,890	Chad
France	78,038	Mauritania
Lithuania	5,501	Georgia
MacArthur Foundation	40,000	Mexico (implementation of the 2018 National Law on disappearances through technical assistance to the Mexican authorities)
Netherlands	202,546	Kenya (strengthening the UN response to shrinking democratic space and police impunity in Kenya)
	324,957	Haiti
	433,276	OHCHR's work in the Sahel region (allocated to Chad)
Norway	108,319	OHCHR's work in the Sahel region (allocated to Niger)
	433,276	OHCHR's work in the Sahel region (allocated to Mauritania)
	454,939	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*

	200,000	Belarus (implementation of the National Action Plan on human rights)
Russian Federation	400,000	Russian Federation (consolidating the Human Rights Master's Programme)
	50,000	Russian Federation (activities of the Federal and Regional Ombudspersons for human rights in the Russian Federation)
	100,000	VFTC, in particular for its work in Africa
Saudi Arabia	200,000	OHCHR's work in the State of Palestine*
	4,991,230	Deployment of Human Rights Advisers
UNDP	306,934	Human rights mainstreaming CPL workshop
	139,762	Human Rights Adviser in Bangladesh
	83,263	Human Rights Adviser in Malawi
United States of America	175,500	Libya, Sri Lanka
(b) Total contributions earmarked to specific projects	9,634,566	
Unearmarked funds allocated to VFTC	0	Unearmarked
(c) Total unearmarked funds	0	
TOTAL (A) + (B) + (C)	17,208,002	
EXPENDITURE	15,498,086	

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

VFTC PROGRAMMES IN SOUTH AFRICA AND MOZAMBIQUE: MAKING A DIFFERENCE THROUGH STRENGTHENED THEMATIC EXPERTISE

During its 2019 session in South Africa and Mozambique, the Board met with State institutions, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), international community and civil society organizations. Discussions focused on the comparative advantage of UN Human Rights with respect to technical cooperation and how its expertise on thematic issues, particularly in monitoring human rights and providing analysis on the ground, contributes to the development of sound technical cooperation programmes that address challenges, maximize opportunities and yield positive and impactful results. Southern Africa is a region where a number of countries have some of the highest levels of inequality in the world and there are real opportunities to demonstrate how human rights considerations can accelerate the implementation and progress of the SDGs in the Decade of Action.

All partners emphasized to the Board that UN Human Rights had been effective in building bridges, convening stakeholders and establishing partnerships, increasing human rights knowledge through undertaking capacity-building activities and promoting and protecting human rights. Partners valued the technical expertise provided by UN Human Rights to assist States with ratification and the domestication of international human rights treaties, the development of policies and practices that contribute to the realization of human rights for all and in developing “Leave No One Behind” strategies that address challenges faced by spotlight populations, including women and girls who experience violence.

The physical presence of UN Human Rights in the region and its strategy to expand its regional presence, technical and thematic expertise enabled the Office to enhance the value of its unique mandate and actively engage with key partners in the region. UN Human Rights is frequently approached in the region to provide direction on the human rights dimensions of numerous thematic areas, such as economic, social and cultural rights, integrating human rights into UN development programmes, humanitarian action and responses to deteriorating

situations. In Mozambique, both national and UN partners highlighted the technical expertise and relevance of the technical cooperation provided by the Office to support the analysis of protection challenges, including in the context of the violence experienced in the northern province of Cabo Delgado, and to identify the groups at risk of being left behind.

The Regional Office for Southern Africa and relevant UN entities are supporting the preparation of the Southern African Development Community Model Law on gender-based violence, as well as a comprehensive UN framework of support to South Africa on addressing gender-based violence, following the President’s declaration of emergency on this topic. The Regional Office supported the strengthening of the capacities of the judiciary on gender stereotyping and the Board visited the Bienvenu Shelter, a project in South Africa that is supported by the VFTC, where it witnessed how the Office directly assists victims. The Regional Office and Board also met with refugee women and children who escaped from violence and observed how the support of UN Human Rights helps to rebuild the lives of torture victims.



VFTC Board of Trustees visit the Bienvenu Shelter in Johannesburg, South Africa. © OHCHR

United Nations Trust Fund for a Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia

In 1992, the United Nations Trust Fund for a Human Rights Education Programme in Cambodia was established by the Secretary-General. The aim of the Trust Fund was to contribute to the development and implementation of a human rights education programme that would promote the understanding of and respect for human rights in Cambodia. Since then, it has been used to implement all of the activities of the Office in Cambodia. In 2019, the Trust Fund received US\$891,609 in voluntary contributions. For more information, see pages 306-311 of the online report.

TRUST FUND FOR A HUMAN RIGHTS EDUCATION PROGRAMME IN CAMBODIA

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2019

Donor	US\$
Australia ¹	67,797
Sweden	823,812
TOTAL	891,609
EXPENDITURE	972,472

¹ Allocated from a contribution earmarked for activities in the Asia-Pacific region.

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism

The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Participation in the Universal Periodic Review Mechanism was established by the Secretary-General in 2008, pursuant to Human Rights Council (HRC) resolution 6/17. The Voluntary Fund facilitates the participation of developing States, particularly Least Developed Countries, in the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process. Under its terms of reference, the Voluntary Fund enables funding for a delegate to present the national report from her/his country and participate in the interactive dialogue at the Working Group session during which the delegate's country is being considered. The delegate also attends the plenary session of the Human Rights Council when the UPR outcome is adopted.

As of 31 December, the Fund had received a total of US\$147,167 in pledges and contributions compared to US\$29,240 in 2018. In 2019, the total expenditure of the Fund amounted to US\$309,562 compared to US\$349,157 in 2018.

Through the Voluntary Fund, UN Human Rights facilitated the participation of government representatives from 26 States that were under review during the thirty-second, thirty-third and thirty-fourth UPR Working Group sessions as well as in the fortieth, forty-first and forty-second sessions of the Human Rights Council, which adopted the corresponding UPR outcomes.

The Voluntary Fund provided financial assistance for global activities involving 90 Members of Parliament from 36 countries, in June, with the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and the International Organization of Francophone Countries (OIF). These activities aimed to promote the establishment of parliamentary human rights committees in compliance with the draft principles on parliamentary human rights committees (A/HRC/38/25) and to increase the awareness of parliamentarians about good practices regarding the engagement of States in the UPR cycle and the implementation of its recommendations at the national level.

UN VOLUNTARY FUND FOR PARTICIPATION IN THE UPR

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURE IN 2019

Donor	US\$
China ¹	100,000
Organisation Internationale de la Francophonie	47,167
TOTAL	147,167
EXPENDITURE	309,562

¹ China made an unallocated contribution to OHCHR in December 2018, which was registered as such in the UN Human Rights Report 2018. However, China decided in October 2019 to allocate the 2018 contribution retroactively, including an amount of \$150,000 to this Trust Fund. China decided to renew its support with a contribution of \$100,000 in 2019, which appears in the above table. Hence, although only the 2019 contribution can be reported in the above table, China's total support available to this Trust Fund in 2019 amounts to \$250,000.

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review

The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review was established, in 2008, pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution 6/17. This financial mechanism was created to provide a source of financial and technical assistance to help countries implement the recommendations emanating from the UPR, with the consent of and in consultation with the countries concerned. Since its establishment, the UPR has completed two cycles and the human rights record of every Member State has been reviewed at least twice. The focus of the third cycle, which began in May 2017, is the implementation of the accepted recommendations.

As of 31 December, the Fund had received a total of US\$417,362 in pledges and contributions compared to US\$889,541 in 2018. In 2019, the total expenditure of the Fund amounted to US\$585,112 compared to US\$16,143 in 2018.

In 2013, the Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights (see p. 112) has been entrusted by the Secretary-General to also serve as a Board of Trustees for the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the UPR.

In 2019, the Fund provided financial and technical assistance for activities in Afghanistan, Argentina, Cambodia, Costa Rica, Fiji, Guatemala, Jamaica, Maldives, Mauritania, Mongolia, Mozambique, Nigeria, North Macedonia, Peru, the Republic of Moldova, Samoa and Uruguay. The Fund's strategic focus in 2019 was on assisting States in the implementation of key UPR recommendations, the establishment and/or strengthening of the NMRFs, the creation of recommendation implementation plans and databases, as well as strengthening the UNCTs and parliamentary capacities for implementation.

Supported by the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance for the Implementation of the UPR, UN Human Rights organized a regional consultation on "UPR: Good practices, follow-up mechanisms and synergies with the 2030 Agenda," in Panama, in October. With the consent of the Government of Panama and in partnership with the DCO, the UNDP Regional Centre in Panama and the RCO, the activity gathered 70 representatives from 17 Spanish-speaking countries, including senior government officials from NMRF- and SDG-related structures, representatives from NHRIs, parliaments, civil society and officers from the UN system.

The objectives of the regional consultation were to share good practices and lessons learned at the various stages of the UPR process, especially regarding implementation of recommendations, and to identify challenges and opportunities in order to align initiatives to achieve human rights and the SDGs at the national level. It included the use of recommendations issued by the UPR and other human rights mechanisms in the preparation of voluntary national reports on SDGs.

The consultations produced an important number of good practices, which will serve as a reference for similar regional workshops for the Asia-Pacific and Eastern Europe regions, to be conducted in 2020.

UN VOLUNTARY FUND FOR IMPLEMENTATION OF THE UPR

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURE IN 2019

Donor	US\$
France	142,854
Germany	114,155
Pakistan	3,000
Republic of Korea	50,000
Saudi Arabia	75,000
Singapore	5,000
Spain	27,352
TOTAL	417,362
EXPENDITURE	585,112

Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries and Small Island Developing States in the work of the Human Rights Council

The Voluntary Technical Assistance Trust Fund to Support the Participation of Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the work of the Human Rights Council was established under HRC resolution 19/26, in 2012. The Fund became operational in 2014. The objective of the Fund is to enhance the institutional and human rights capacities of LDCs and SIDS through targeted training courses and travel assistance for delegates attending regular Council sessions and fellowship programmes. In 2019, the Trust Fund received US\$648,991 in voluntary contributions compared to US\$1,194,314 in 2018.

In 2019, 17 countries, including one new donor, contributed to the Trust Fund (there were only three in 2015). Since it became operational in 2014, the Trust Fund has provided support to 143 delegates and fellows, including 89 women, from 71 of the 72 eligible LDCs/SIDS. In 2019, the Trust Fund provided support to 33 delegates from 32 LDCs/SIDS (13 from Africa, 12 from Asia and the Pacific and seven from the Caribbean and Latin America). Among the 33 delegates and fellows, 23 were women. Nine of them represented SIDS that do not have

permanent representation in Geneva, namely, Dominica, Grenada, Kiribati, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia, Samoa and Suriname, while two of them represented SIDS that opened permanent missions in Geneva during the reporting period, namely, Marshall Islands and Nauru.⁴ For all delegates, it was their first time attending a regular session of the Council. They were able to fully participate in and contribute to the discussions and delivered a total of 112 statements (89 in their national capacities and 23 joint statements).

In 2019, the Trust Fund continued to follow up with Caribbean Member States on the action points of the Georgetown Declaration Towards 2022. Approximately 60 per cent of the action points have been implemented by the end of 2019. In May, the Trust Fund held consultations in New York with the Caucus of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the Pacific Small Islands Developing States and other interested stakeholders, including UN partners and donor and beneficiary countries. Furthermore, on 16 September, the General Assembly adopted, by consensus, a resolution on “Cooperation between the United Nations and the Caribbean Community,” calling for continued cooperation between CARICOM and UN Human Rights through the LDCs/SIDS Trust Fund and the HRC.

⁴ The Trust Fund has supported the participation of nine delegates from these two SIDS since 2016 and strongly advocated for the establishment of permanent missions in Geneva. Marshall Islands was elected to the HRC in October (2020-2022).

VOLUNTARY FUND FOR PARTICIPATION OF LDCs AND SIDS IN THE WORK OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURE IN 2019

Donor	US\$
Australia	33,898
Canada	78,555
China ¹	100,000
Denmark ²	0
France	55,741
Georgia	5,000
Germany	79,545
Ireland	55,741
Italy	22,002
Pakistan	3,000
Poland	77,363
Portugal	22,002
Republic of Korea	50,000
Singapore	10,000
Spain	10,941
Switzerland	10,000
Turkey	10,000
United Kingdom	25,202
TOTAL	648,991
EXPENDITURE	629,575

In November, following the adoption of the “Georgetown Declaration Towards 2020,” a three-day workshop aimed at enhancing participation of SIDS and LDCs from the Pacific region in the Human Rights Council was held in Fiji. The workshop was organized pursuant to HRC resolution 34/40 of 6 April 2017. This resolution, the second most sponsored resolution since the HRC was established, attracted the support of 120 countries, including all 12 Member States of the Pacific SIDS. The resolution encouraged the Trust Fund to hold a series of workshops, prior to its tenth anniversary in March 2022, in the three regions that the Trust Fund supports, namely Africa, Asia and the Pacific and the Caribbean.

The workshop focused on four key themes that are of particular importance to the Pacific region, namely the climate change crisis (noting that climate change affects fundamental human rights), the conservation, protection and sustainable use of our oceans and marine resources, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SAMOA Pathway on gender equality and empowerment, with a focus on how to combat gender-based violence. It was attended by the 2019 HRC President, H.E. Ambassador Mr. Coly Seck of Senegal, the first LDC representative to assume the Presidency of the Council since its establishment.

The participants of the workshop adopted the “Nadi Declaration Towards 2022,” which sets out a series of recommendations and priorities looking towards 2022, when UN Human Rights will produce a report outlining the activities of the Trust Fund. These priorities include undertaking concerted efforts to improve the Trust Fund, which has been operational since 2014, and ensuring that topics of particular relevance to the Pacific SIDS are discussed at the Council.

The Nadi Declaration recognizes the Pacific Workshop is the second of a series of four such gatherings to be organized before 2022. In this vein, meeting participants requested the convening of a universal session of the Human Rights Council on the occasion of the Trust Fund’s tenth anniversary, in March 2022.

At the request of the Government of Vanuatu, the Trust Fund also conducted a two-day induction course, in Port Vila, from 26 to 27 November. It was fully funded by the Government of Vanuatu and is the first time that a course on the HRC and its mechanisms was held in the country. The primary participants were members of the Vanuatu National Human Rights Committee, comprised of both government and NGO representatives, who increased their understanding of the HRC and its mechanisms.

¹ China made an unallocated contribution to OHCHR in December 2018, which was registered as such in the UN Human Rights Report 2018. However, China decided in October 2019 to allocate the 2018 contribution retroactively, including an amount of \$100,000 to this Trust Fund. China decided to renew its support with a similar contribution in 2019, which appears in the above table. Hence, although only the 2019 contribution can be reported in the above table, China’s total support available to this Trust Fund in 2019 amounts to \$200,000.

² Denmark made a contribution in 2018 (DKK2m/\$329,425) which was reported in the UN Human Rights Report 2018, but was meant to support this Trust Fund over 2018-2019 (DKK1m/year).

United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples

The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Indigenous Peoples was established by General Assembly resolution 40/131, in 1985, to ensure that the voices of indigenous peoples are heard within the UN system. Since then, the mandate and scope of the Fund have been significantly expanded by the General Assembly.

Today, the Fund provides support for the representatives of indigenous peoples to participate in various key meetings of the United Nations, such as the Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (PFII), the Expert Mechanism on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (EMRIP), the Human Rights Council, including the UPR process, the human rights treaty bodies and the consultation processes on enabling the participation of indigenous peoples' representatives in the UN that is led by the President of the General Assembly. In December, the General Assembly expanded the Fund's mandate to include the UN Forum on Business and Human Rights and meetings of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Over the past 34 years, the Fund has supported the participation of over 2,500 representatives of indigenous peoples from all regions of the world.

The development of the rights of indigenous peoples has been driven by a united and transnational movement of indigenous peoples, enabling them to bring their issues to the attention of the international community. Through the support of the Fund, the participation of indigenous peoples at the United Nations over the last three decades has led to considerable developments in international human rights standards,

including the UN Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (2007) and the creation of key UN mechanisms, such as the PFII, the EMRIP and the mandate of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples.

The Fund is administered by UN Human Rights on behalf of the Secretary-General and is advised by a five-member Board of Trustees. The Board members appointed by the Secretary-General for the period 1 January 2018 – 31 December 2020 are Mr. Diel Mochire (Democratic Republic of the Congo), Ms. Myrna Cunningham (Nicaragua), Ms. Anne Nuorgam (Finland), Mr. Binota Dhamai (Bangladesh) and Ms. Claire Charters (New Zealand).

The Board of Trustees participated in the regular coordination meetings of the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights and fundamental freedoms of indigenous peoples, the PFII and the EMRIP, which in turn disseminated information on the activities of the Fund to their respective networks. Moreover, the Special Rapporteur established an important practice of holding meetings with the beneficiaries of the Fund in parallel to the sessions of the EMRIP and the PFII.

As of 31 December, the Fund had received a total of US\$470,763 in pledges and contributions compared to US\$1,011,105 in 2018. In 2019, the total expenditure of the Fund amounted to US\$759,114 compared to US\$326,988 in 2018.

In 2019, the Fund allocated 144 travel grants to enable indigenous representatives to participate in the sessions of the PFII in New York (45), the EMRIP in Geneva (45) and the HRC, its UPR Working Group and the UN human rights treaty bodies in Geneva (40).

Additionally, 14 indigenous representatives were supported by the Fund to attend a General Assembly consultative process/interactive hearing session, in New York.

UN VOLUNTARY FUND FOR INDIGENOUS PEOPLES

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURE IN 2019

Donor	US\$
Australia	33,898
Chile	5,000
Estonia	22,222
Finland	55,741
Holy See	4,000
Norway	324,957
Peru	2,943
Spain	22,002
TOTAL	470,763
EXPENDITURE	759,114

TUKUMMINGUAQ OLSEN: THE VOICE OF THE INUIT FROM THE ARTIC IN THE UN PERMANENT FORUM



Tukumminnguaq Olsen © OHCHR

I belong to the Inuit people of Greenland and I was a grantee of the Fund to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues in 2019, with my organization, the Inuit Circumpolar Council. Before the Forum, I worked closely with my organization to prepare our participation, including our participation in the Arctic Regional Caucus, the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus and the Global Indigenous Caucus.

The Arctic Caucus enabled me to introduce myself and to prepare for the weeks of the Forum. A meeting was held every morning with the Caucus. I helped them to finalize statements and I was appointed as the head of communications. Since I am the Arctic focal point in the Global Indigenous Youth Caucus, I was also able to help and advise the Inuit youth members.

The support of the Fund was paramount because our capacity to participate is limited by the availability of resources, considering how expensive it is for us to travel from Greenland to anywhere else in the world. Our participation was very valuable as our voice was less heard than the voice of others. Personally, my participation in the Forum brought me considerable knowledge. The Fund's support for our organization enabled us to organize a side event on the situation of indigenous children in the Arctic Region, which focused on how to engage with small indigenous communities. The Inuit presence in the Forum and our active participation in several discussions, side events and informal meetings around the Forum certainly added greater diversity to the substantive work of the Permanent Forum.

Upon our return from New York, several media outlets interviewed me to share my experience of participation in the Forum. I also made a presentation to the Board of my organization about the knowledge I gained and the lessons learned from my participation in the Forum. Conveying and sharing the knowledge we received is one of the key principles that enable the effective engagement of indigenous peoples with the UN system. The next generation that I represent is committed to never giving up this principle.

UN Human Rights Humanitarian Funds

UN Human Rights provides joint secretariat support to two grant-making funds, namely the Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture and the Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery. Together, they are known as the UN Human Rights Humanitarian Funds. They were established by the General Assembly with the purpose of providing direct assistance and rehabilitation to individuals whose rights have been violated in the context of torture and contemporary forms of slavery, respectively. This assistance translates into yearly grants that are primarily awarded to civil society organizations that provide humanitarian, medical, psychological, social and legal aid to victims. They are financed through voluntary contributions and are formally administered by

the Secretary-General, who acts on the advice of Boards of Trustees. The Boards distribute the grants in accordance with the mandates of the UN Human Rights Humanitarian Funds. In 2019, 31 Member States and two private donors made contributions to the two Funds for a total of US\$10.1 million. As of 31 December 2019, the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture had received a total of US\$9,225,449 in pledges and contributions compared to US\$9,413,584 in 2018. The total expenditure of the Fund in 2019 amounted to US\$9,222,001 compared to US\$9,166,265 in 2018. As of 31 December 2019, the United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery had received a total of US\$872,728 in pledges and contributions compared to US\$722,326 in 2018. The total expenditure of the Fund in 2019 amounted to US\$721,382 compared to US\$601,683 in 2018.

UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY FUND FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE

The United Nations Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture, established by General Assembly resolution 36/151, in 1981, is mandated to provide direct assistance to victims of torture and their families. The Fund awards annual and emergency grants to civil society organizations, including to support rehabilitation centres, grassroots organizations and legal aid programmes.

The Fund is managed with the advice of a Board of Trustees that is composed of independent experts from the five world regions: Ms. Vivienne Nathanson (United Kingdom, Chair), Mr. Lawrence Mute (Kenya), Ms. Gaby Ore Aguilar (Peru), Mr. Mikolaj Pietrzak (Poland) and Ms. Sara Hossein (Bangladesh).

FORCED STERILIZATIONS IN PERU: ONE WOMAN'S FIGHT FOR JUSTICE AND REDRESS

“All of us victims of forced sterilization have been experiencing trauma for more than 20 years as a consequence of forced sterilizations... Health is definitely paramount to keep living and not to give up. I received support and it has given me the strength and power to face everything that comes our way.” Ms. Maria Elena Carbajal.

For the past 19 years, the UN Voluntary Fund for Victims of Torture has been providing support to the Psychosocial Care Centre (Centro de Atención Psicosocial (CAPS)) in Peru. The project “Rehabilitation of torture victims and promotion of justice and redress in Peru”

provides psychological, medical and social assistance to an estimated 120 torture victims, including victims of sexual violence, detainees and relatives of victims of enforced disappearance (whose remains are in the process of exhumation and restitution) in Quechua communities. Ms. Maria Elena Carbajal was one of hundreds of thousands of women who was subjected to sterilization under a Peruvian government family planning programme to address poverty. In recent years, she has received psychological support through CAPS, which has given her the “strength and power” to go on.



Maria Elena Carbajal Cepeda, survivor of forced sterilization in Peru. © OHCHR

UN VOLUNTARY FUND FOR VICTIMS OF TORTURE

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURE IN 2019

Donor	US\$
Andorra	10,941
Austria	32,823
Canada ¹	76,859
Chile	10,000
Czech Republic	8,703
Denmark	762,311
Egypt	10,000
France	78,038
Germany	777,328
Holy See	4,000
India	50,000
Ireland	94,760
Italy	27,503
Kuwait	10,000
Liechtenstein	25,025
Luxembourg	16,411
Mexico	10,000
Norway	324,957
Pakistan	3,000
Peru	2,264
Portugal	22,002
Saudi Arabia	75,000
Switzerland	201,613
United Arab Emirates	10,000
United Kingdom	31,606
United States of America	6,550,000
Individual donors	305
TOTAL	9,225,449
EXPENDITURE	9,222,001

At the fiftieth Board Session of the Fund, held in Geneva from 7 to 11 October, the Board of Trustees recommended that 171 annual grants be awarded in 2020, in 78 countries, reaching approximately 40,000 torture victims, for a total of US\$7,303,850 (with an average grant size of US\$42,713). Of those projects, 164 are for the delivery of direct assistance to victims of torture and their families (US\$7,059,500) and seven are for training and capacity-building projects (US\$244,350) aimed at strengthening the capacity of organizations to deliver such services. In addition, through its emergency grants procedure, the Fund supported seven emergency projects (US\$417,313) in all five regions of the world to respond to urgent humanitarian and human rights situations in 2019.

UNITED NATIONS VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

The United Nations Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery was established by General Assembly resolution 46/122, in 1991, with the mandate of providing direct assistance to victims of contemporary forms of slavery. It awards annual grants to civil society organizations, including rehabilitation centres, trade unions, shelters for victims and legal redress programmes. Modern forms of slavery are brought to light on a regular basis, including serfdom, forced labour, bonded labour, trafficking in persons and in human organs, sexual slavery, the worst forms of child labour, early and forced marriage, inherited widows, the sale of wives and other forms of slavery.

¹Includes a contribution of CAD 30,000 from the Government of Québec.

The Trust Fund acts on the advice of a Board of Trustees. The Board meets annually to determine priorities and policies, review working methods and adopt recommendations on new grants. In 2019, the Board was composed of independent experts from the five world regions: Ms. Georgina Vaz Cabral (France, Chair), Mr. Danwood Mzikenge Chirwa (Malawi), Ms. Nevena Vučković Šahović (Serbia), Ms. Renu Rajbhandari (Nepal) and Mr. Leonardo Sakamoto (Brazil).

At the twenty-fourth session of the Board of the Trust Fund, held in Geneva from 25 to 29 November, the Board of Trustees approved 37 annual grants to be awarded in 2020 in 33 countries (Afghanistan, Albania, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Cambodia,

Chile, Cyprus, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, France, Gabon, Ghana, Guatemala, Haiti, India, Ireland, Italy, Kenya, Lebanon, Liberia, Mauritania, Nepal, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Philippines, Russian Federation, Senegal, Serbia, Togo, Uganda, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and Vietnam) for a total of US\$674,000 with an average grant size of US\$18,000. The Trust Fund assists approximately 10,000 victims of slavery every year.

In 2019, the Trust Fund prioritized projects supporting victims of slavery in supply chains, situations of conflict and humanitarian crises and women and children.

IMPACT OF THE TRUST FUND ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

The UN Voluntary Trust Fund on Contemporary Forms of Slavery has been supporting the National Council of the Displaced in Guatemala (Consejo Nacional de Desplazados de Guatemala (CONDEG)) since 2016. The project “Assistance to workers in the palm oil industry” is located in the remote area of Sayaxché, Department of Petén, Guatemala, an area crippled by the palm oil industry. The organization provides legal and social assistance to 700 indigenous Mayan Q’eqchi victims of forced labour in the palm oil industry in the country. CONDEG was established in 1989 by the Maya indigenous peoples to defend the rights of its displaced population. It is the only civil society organization that is working against the labour exploitation and human trafficking of indigenous palm workers and denouncing the environmental devastation in the departments of Petén and Alta Verapaz, Guatemala. The organization works closely with UN Human Rights in Guatemala.



Helmer L. Velasquez Herrera, lead lawyer and representative of CONDEG in Guatemala.
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UN VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND ON CONTEMPORARY FORMS OF SLAVERY

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURE IN 2019

Donor	US\$
Andorra	16,502
Australia	101,695
Germany	203,016
Holy See	5,000
India	50,000
Luxembourg	16,411
Portugal	22,002
Qatar	30,000
Republic of Korea	50,000
Saudi Arabia	75,000
Spain	27,352
Turkey	10,000
United Arab Emirates	30,000
United Kingdom	234,109
Private donors	1,641
TOTAL	872,728
EXPENDITURE	721,382

Special Fund established by the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment

The Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (OP-CAT) was adopted by the General Assembly in December 2002 and entered into force in June 2006. OP-CAT created a two-pillar system at the international and national levels to prevent torture and other forms of ill-treatment in places where persons may be deprived of their liberty.

At the international level, it established the Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT), which has been in operation since February 2007. SPT is mandated to visit all places of detention in States Parties and provide assistance and advice to States Parties and NPMs.

The Special Fund was established by article 26 of OP-CAT to help finance the implementation of recommendations issued by SPT after a visit to a State Party and to support education programmes for NPMs. The Fund became operational in 2011. During the period 2014-2018, the OP-CAT Special Fund supported 72 projects in 22 countries with grants amounting to US\$1,850,780. In 2019, the Fund awarded grants amounting

to US\$276,494 to support 12 prevention projects in 10 States Parties to the Optional Protocol. In 2019, the Fund received contributions and pledges of US\$290,814, which enabled the launch of the 2020 Call for Applications.

The projects that were supported by the Fund resulted in legislative, institutional and operational changes, as well as concrete changes in people's lives. Since 2017, the projects supported by the Fund have focused on the establishment or strengthening of the effective functioning of NPMs with a view to increasing the preventive impact of the Fund. The projects included drafting laws to establish NPMs in accordance with the Optional Protocol; elaborating calls for nominations, terms of reference and the organization of public hearings on NPM candidates; the training of NPM members on international standards concerning torture and ill-treatment, reporting and monitoring techniques; developing strategic plans for NPMs and supporting operational efficiency; elaborating NPM documents (annual reports, leaflets, posters); supporting collaboration between NPMs and other stakeholders; and promoting the visibility of NPMs through public meetings and radio campaigns.

OP-CAT SPECIAL FUND

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURE IN 2019

Donor	US\$
Czech Republic	8,703
France	55,741
Germany	85,227
Norway	108,319
Spain	32,823
TOTAL	290,814
EXPENDITURE	134,898

Contingency Fund

The Contingency Fund is a flexible funding mechanism that was established in 2006 to carry out activities and implement the priorities and strategies of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, particularly in response to human rights emergencies. This was primarily achieved by the rapid deployment of human rights staff and the provision of necessary logistical support.

The Fund, which is financed through voluntary contributions, aims to maintain a balance of approximately US\$1 million at all times. Cash advances are withdrawn from the Fund to enable the implementation of emergency response activities without administrative delays. When subsequent funding is received from other sources, the Fund is reimbursed. Since the inception of the Fund, the capacity of UN Human Rights to provide conceptual and operational support to unforeseen mandates or situations requiring rapid response has significantly increased.

In 2019, the Contingency Fund facilitated the emergency deployments of UN Human Rights' teams in nine countries with deteriorating human rights situations: Burkina Faso (to support the Resident Coordinator and the UNCT to mainstream human rights in peace-building); Venezuela (to conduct remote monitoring of serious violations of international human rights law); Cameroon (to conduct human rights monitoring in Anglophone regions); Mozambique (to advise the regional Humanitarian Country Teams on human rights); Sudan (to conduct enhanced human rights remote monitoring); Mexico (to monitor the human rights situation of migrants in detention centres); Sri Lanka (to strengthen the Resident Coordinator's early warning and prevention tools

UN HUMAN RIGHTS' RAPID DEPLOYMENT IN CABO DELGADO, MOZAMBIQUE



Kieren Duarte-Costa, Human Rights Officer. © Kieren Duarte-Costa

I was deployed to Mozambique, in June, for one month, to reinforce the UN protection response co-led by UNFPA and UNICEF after Cyclone Kenneth hit the northern province of Cabo Delgado, in April.

Having previously worked in the north of Mozambique, I was able to use my knowledge and experience to support UNFPA, UNICEF and other partner organizations in the Cabo Delgado

Protection Cluster to respond to the needs for protection and reinforce the human rights capacity. Cyclone Kenneth caused floods and landslides, affecting 286,282 people in the north of Mozambique and resulting in the deaths of 45 people in the province of Cabo Delgado alone. The humanitarian crisis was exacerbated by the continuing displacement in certain districts due to regular armed attacks on villages by unidentified assailants.

UN partner agencies and NGOs joined forces to provide humanitarian assistance to the population in the worst-affected areas. The primary aim of the UN Human Rights rapid deployment was to ensure that vulnerable groups in Cabo Delgado were not left behind. My role was to monitor that they had access to aid and their specific needs were addressed. Cabo Delgado is one of the poorest provinces of the country and the devastation caused by the cyclone added to the social and economic difficulties that vulnerable groups were already facing. These groups included persons with disabilities, older persons who did not have support from family members, orphaned or lost children, single/female headed households and persons living with HIV. The most affected were those displaced in rural areas since many no longer had access to State benefits and healthcare.

I worked together with UN partners to assess the needs of vulnerable groups and identify local organizations which could provide humanitarian assistance in more remote areas. Information collected was fed into the UN Humanitarian Response Plan and bilaterally shared with partner agencies.

CONTINGENCY FUND

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS IN 2019

Donor	US\$
France	89,186
Norway	108,319
Republic of Korea	100,000
TOTAL	297,505

and monitor the human rights situation); Chile (to monitor human rights in the context of demonstrations); and Bolivia (to monitor human rights in the context of demonstrations in the aftermath of elections). In addition, OHCHR staff were deployed to Mali to assist the International Commission of Inquiry on Mali and to South Sudan to assist the UN Commission on Human Rights in South Sudan. In total, the Office deployed 34 human rights and support staff, 15 of whom were from the Internal Rapid Deployment Roster.

As of 31 December, the Fund had received a total of US\$297,505 in pledges and contributions to enable these deployments compared to US\$108,072 in 2018. In 2019, the total expenditure of the Fund amounted to US\$405,606 compared to US\$749,745 in 2018.

As of 31 December, the remaining balance of US\$213,145 was significantly below the target of maintaining a reserve of US\$1 million at all times, thus undermining the capacity of UN Human Rights to implement rapid response deployments.

Special Fund for the Participation of Civil Society in the Social Forum, the Forum on Minority Issues and the Forum on Business and Human Rights

The Special Fund for the Participation of Civil Society in the Social Forum, the Forum on Minority Issues and the Forum on Business and Human Rights was established by HRC decision 24/118 of 27 September 2013. The aim of the Fund is to facilitate the broadest possible participation of civil society representatives and other relevant stakeholders in the annual meetings of the three forums. In 2019, the Special Fund received US\$50,000 in new contributions.

From 28-29 November, the **UN Forum on Minority Issues** held its twelfth session on “Education, language and the human rights of minorities” for more than 500 representatives from States, international and regional organizations, civil society and other relevant stakeholders. Invited expert panellists representing the world’s five regions shared their expertise and experiences regarding the recognition, promotion of education in and teaching of minority languages and legislative and policy initiatives, with a particular focus on minority women and girls.

UN Human Rights organized the **Eighth Annual Forum on Business and Human Rights**, the largest annual gathering on business and human rights, in Geneva, from 25-27 November. It was chaired by the Working Group on the issue of

human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises. The Forum brought together approximately 2,500 participants from more than 130 countries, including representatives from governments, UN bodies, CSOs, NHRIs, trade unions, academia and the media. It also achieved the highest level of private sector participation to date, at over 30 per cent, equalling the representation of civil society for the first time. The three-day programme offered more than 60 thematic sessions on current and emerging business-related human rights issues under the title “Time to act: Governments as catalysts for business respect for human rights.” States and business were urged to implement the “Protect, Respect and Remedy” Framework of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Following the Forum, the Working Group and the Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights defenders and several NGOs issued a joint statement to protect defenders who speak up about the impact of business on people and the planet.

SPECIAL FUND FOR THE PARTICIPATION OF CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE SOCIAL FORUM, THE FORUM ON MINORITY ISSUES AND THE FORUM ON BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

VOLUNTARY CONTRIBUTIONS AND EXPENDITURE IN 2019

Donor	US\$
Russian Federation	50,000
TOTAL	50,000

Each year, the **Social Forum**, which is convened by the HRC, provides a unique space for open and interactive dialogue between civil society actors, representatives of Member States and intergovernmental organizations on a theme that is chosen by the Council. The 2019 Social Forum gathered together over 600 participants to engage on topics related to the promotion and protection of the rights of children and youth through education. The Special Fund was used to promote the participation of seven representatives from India, Jamaica, Kenya, Niger, Senegal, Slovenia and the Syrian Arab Republic.

KRISTEENA MONTEITH: “ENOUGH IS ENOUGH. IT’S TIME FOR CHANGE”



Kristeena Monteith.
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Kristeena Monteith, 25, was born and raised in Jamaica. Today, she is the creative producer of a youth-led radio show called “Talk Up Radio.” The show is broadcast from the country’s only radio station, which is run entirely by a staff of people under the age of 25. Their mission is to use youth media to raise youth voices and engage and empower young people to speak about their rights. She believes that many issues facing youth in the world come down to a lack of creativity or an ignorance of culture. “When we are more aware of other people and other cultures, we have a gateway to understanding humanity.”

She has also been appointed as a UN Young Leader for the Sustainable Development Goals.

Monteith maintains that people who are more in tune with their own culture have a greater respect for others. “If a young person understands the hybrid nature of being human, then they are able to respect other’s rights and their own. Once a person can say, “I

am inherently valuable and my culture is one of the ways I can understand my value,” then it is really a short step from there to understanding the gravity of human rights atrocities.”

Speaking at the **Social Forum** in Geneva, which focused on children, youth and education in 2019, Monteith addressed the urgent need to adapt education in the context of the climate crisis and human rights abuses. She called on policymakers to think with a long term, sustainable vision about the way education is designed and to take into account the fact that we are facing a future that is not climate resilient. Monteith also questioned the current digital focus in school curricula. “It doesn’t make sense that we are all tech savvy but then have no energy or no planet. We need to design education in a way that recognizes these problems are enormous and require systemic action. It is incumbent on us to use education in a way that will make it accessible for young people everywhere in the world.”