



Role of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights in Promoting and Protecting Human Rights

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Abstract

The High Commissioner for Human Rights office safeguards three pillars of the United Nations- peace and security, human rights, and development. There are regional staff and country offices, united peace missions, political offices and country teams in over the 50 countries throughout the world. Various norms and activities have been started for protection and promotion of human rights globally. OHCHR has ensured and enhanced work of the United Nations because Security Council mainly aims at maintaining peace and security. So, this research paper provides a deep study about work of the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights.

Key words: OHCHR, Human Rights, Peace and securities, International Community.

Introduction

The Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights provides technical assistance and capacity development in the field of justice, legislative reforms; and also helps in implementing international human rights standards. This office even assists other entity of UN to promote and protect their rights.

The work of office of High Commissioner is based on three criteria. First is human rights standard setting, second is monitoring, and third one is implementation. This office also functions on biennial Strategic Management Plan (SMP) in order to bring positive changes in the office and its work, and to improve efficiency of the office. “The Human Rights Council (HRC) has 47 members state of the United nations, elected by General Assembly for fixed term. It’s given technical and substantial support by the office in all

areas of its work including regular and special sessions, organizational meetings, and meeting of subsidiary bodies, stakeholder meeting, special events, discussion and expert panels are organized and support by OHCHR” (OHCHR Report 2010).

The staff of OHCHR supports inhuman rights council’s Universal Periodic Review (UPR). The office periodically organizes training events and focuses on the new mechanisms around the world. It also informs the states and other stakeholders of the UPR, giving advice for making and preparing the reports. OHCHR also provides substantive and operational support to human rights experts. The experts support to nine human rights treaty bodies. There are many ways and purposes where OHCHR has great participation in the field of human rights issues, which are necessary for the life of every human being.

Table 1: Work of OHCHR with treaty bodies

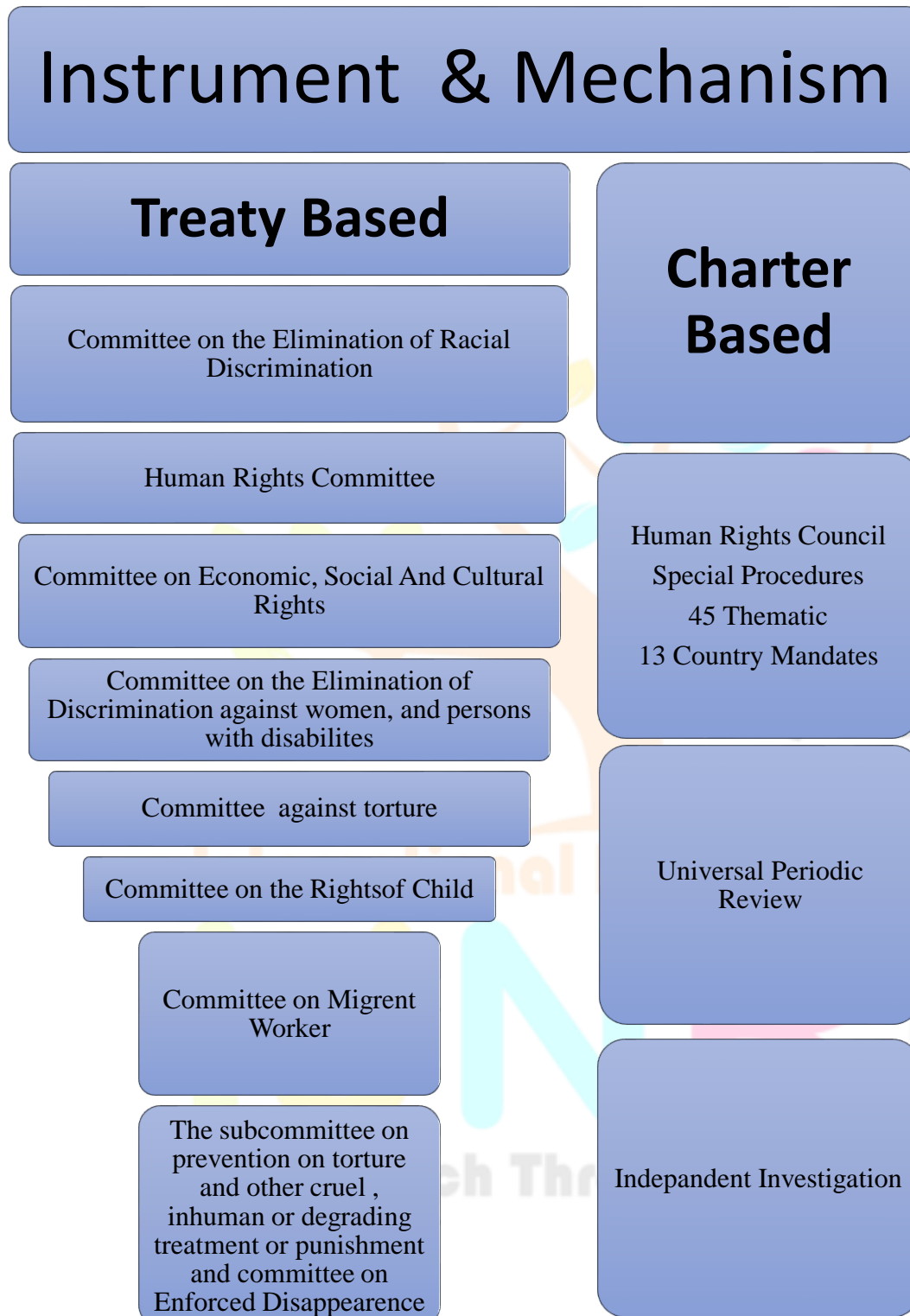
A Vision For the OHCHR Work System Support to Treaty Bodies		
1	Compliance	State compliance with OHCHR by inter-ministerial mechanism and stakeholder’s consultation process.
2	Membership	OHCHR maintain and enhanced expertise availability and co-ordinate to all treaty bodies which are securing human rights as for children, women, and other needy peoples in the world.
3	Reports	More focused and analytical analysis those report given by states to treaty bodies and give recommendation for implementation.
4	Complaints	OHCHR supported to Human Rights Council for asking special Rapporteur of individual common complaints on social issues.
5	Constructive Dialogue	Aligned approaches to ensure an efficient constructive dialogue with the states.
6	Access & Visibility	Universal access and visibility of treaty bodies, work especially through webcasting and videoconferencing.
7.	Recommendation	Adoption of more focused, concise and implementable recommendation.
8.	Secretariat Support	Enhanced Secretariat capacity to support the body system matching its growth.
9.	Conference Support	Enhanced conference services capacity to support treaty bodies.
10.	Implementation	Effective implementation by OHCHR support to state parties of treaties, treaty bodies recommendation and views/decisions with strategic and appropriate technical support.

Table 2: OHCHR and Human Rights Issues

S.No	OHCHR AND HUMAN RIGHTS			
1	OHCHR and Protecting and civic Space	Democracy, Right to participate and the electoral process	Digital Space and Human Rights	Freedom of Expression and opinion
		Freedom of assembly and association		
2.	OHCHR and Development & living in dignity	Business and Human Rights	Climate Change and Environment	Coercive Measures
		Education and Cultural Rights	Health	Land and Housing
		Poverty, the Right to Food and Social Protection	Right to Development	Sustainable Development Through human Rights
		Water and Sanitation		
3.	OHCHR and Equality & Non Discrimination	Albinism	Children and Youth	Freedom of Religion
		Indigenous Peoples	LGBTI Peoples	Migration
		Migration	Minorities	Older Persons
		Persons and Disabilities	Racism, Xenophobia & Intolerance	Gender Equality & Women's Rights
4.	OHCHR and Justice, law Enforcement	Death Penalty	Detention	Disappearances and executions
		Slavery and Trafficking	Terrorism and Violent extremism	Torture
5.	OHCHR and Peace and Security	Conflict Prevention, early warning and security	Humanitarian emergencies and conflict Situations	Transitional justice and post – conflict Peacekeeping

Source: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures-human-rights-council>

Figure:1 shows various instruments and mechnaism of OHCHR as Treaty based and Charter based



Source: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures-human-rights-council>

To ensure monitoring of implementation of these rights, the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights followed a system of appointment of experts called Special Rapporteurs to look into various aspects of

implementation of these rights. Such as gender equality, children and armed conflict, worker's rights, teacher's rights, medical students' rights.

Table 3 provides a glimpse of the various areas where Special Rapporteurs and Independent Experts have been appointed by the OHCHR in many countries.

Table: 3 Countries Mandates of (OHCHR)

Title	Mandate Establish in	Mandate Extended by	Issue
Special Rapporteur in Afghanistan	2021	2022	In Afghanistan set up a special rapporteur that provide report on gender quality , armed conflict other matter include which related violence human rights.
Belarus	2012	2022	Harassment, mostly people being arrested especially in media, medical worker.
Burundi	2021	2022	
Cambodia	1993	2021	
Central African Republic	2013	2022	In the Central African Republic civil society promote the full and effective participation, and improve all Marginalized groups.
Democratic People's Republic of Korea	2004	2022	OHCHR support in all situations to this country.
Eritrea	2012	2022	This is type of dialogue session handle by rapporteur.
Islamic Republic of Iran	2011	2022	

Mali	2013	2022	Mali government cooperates with OHCHR and tackle situations.
Myanmar	1992	2022	This country solving the situations of human rights with OHCHR..
Palestine	1993	-	Along with states other actors play very crucial role handle the situation.
Russian Federation	2022	-	Create relevance situations against violence by OHCHR.
Somalia	1993	2022	Provides assistance by this office.
Syrian Arab Republic	2011	-	Handover the report of their country to Office manage the situations.

Source: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures-human-rights-council>

For each of these topics Office of High Commissioner Human Rights has tasked with preparing a progress report based on themes and additionally Observer states, members of the Human Rights Council, Non-Governmental Organizations and external speakers were also invited to participate. Table 4 gives a breakup of the various aspects are covered in different themes mandates.

Table 4: Special Procedures Thematic Mandates of (OHCHR)

Title	Mandate Established in	Mandate Extended In	Name of Countries	Issues
Working Group of Experts on People of Africa's Descent	2002	2020	Guyana, U.S.A, Uganda, Hungary,	This working group deals with people of African descent and the problem they are faced like

			Bangladesh	discrimination, Environmental Justice, and Climate Crisis.
Independent Expert on the Enjoyment of human rights by a person with albinism	2015	2021	Zambia	Acknowledging report by High Commissioner, it call to strengthen international, regional, and bilateral cooperation, combat discrimination against person albinism and assist victims and their family members
Working group of Arbitrary Detention	1991	2022	Malaysia, Ukraine, Ecuador, New Zealand, Zambia	Focused on right to liberty, vulnerable to extrajudicial killings torture, disappearance and other cruel, inhuman treatment or punishment.
Working group on transnational corporations and other business enterprise	2011	2020	Nigeria, Thailand, Poland, Australia, Mexico,	OHCHR uses valuable reports to enhance the ability and effectiveness of the state-based grievance mechanism, facilitate non-state mechanisms etc.
Special Rapporteur on climate change	2021		Tuvalu	Asking Secretary General that there is a need for technical and financial resources for the fulfillment of this mandate.
Special Rapporteur in the field of cultural rights	2009	2021	Greece	For three years calls special rapporteur in this field by Human Rights Council coordinating with OHCHR
Special Rapporteur on	2016	2022	India	General assembly

the right to Development				decided the responsibility of OHCHR promoted the right to development.
Special Rapporteur on the right to Persons and Disability	2014	2020	Ireland	General Assembly established Special Rapporteur and provide technical and financial support to fulfill this mandate for persons with disabilities.
Working group on Enforced or Involuntary Disappearance	1980	2020	Mexico, Italy, Poland Guinea-Bissau Thailand	Secretary General continue their efforts to assist states and support for its universal ratification
Special Rapporteur on the right to education	1998	2020	Pakistan	OHCHR provides technical and financial assistance to special rapporteur for the fulfillment of this mandate.
Special Rapporteur on the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment	2012	2021	Canada	OHCHR provides help United Nation management Group and collaboration with United Nations Environment program

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OHCHR leads business and human rights in the UN systems, OHCHR implements guidelines and training relating UN principles on Business and Human Rights for states, business, civil society and other stakeholders. OHCHR has field presence and across United Nations system. There are many working group which provide reports to OHCHR on business human rights. There are many events and conferences participated by High Commissioner and given their statements on various issues, Table 5 represents statements given by speakers (High Commissioner) till today scenario and pick up very hard or serious issues for human rights.

Table: 5 Statements of High Commissioner on Human Rights Issues

Speaker	Event or statement	Date
High Commissioner Volker Turk	Opening of the IOE Center on Human Rights and Responsible Business Conduct	12 December 2022
High Commissioner Volker Turk	Strengthen accountability towards business respect people and the planet in the next decade	1 December 2022
High Commissioner Volker Turk	8 th session on IGWG on TNCs and OBEs, there is common agenda for all member states in terms of climate change, we need sustainable changes, and poverty alleviation.	24 October 2022
High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet	That statement on the United Nations Global Compact Leader's summit state of the World, that statement mainly focuses on the triple planetary threat of climate change, biodiversity loss, and pollution, even tackle with Covid - 19 issues in the world.	1 June 2022
High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet	G-7 Sustainable value chains- Success factor for an Internationally accepted binding Standard, there main focus on rights of migrate worker, recovery from Covid 19 Pandemic.	6 May 2022
High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet	This is UN Forum on Business and Human Rights, that is opening statement that discuss and exploring about sustainable future. This was a common framework for all stakeholder to address business related human rights.	29 November 2021
High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet	7 th session on IGWG on TNCs and OBEs, focus on environmental rights, net carbon emissions,	25 October 2021

	production of fossil fuels, climate emergency.	
High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet	HRC Panel on UN Guiding principles on Business and Human Rights address the digital space, the need global gatherings on Business and Human Rights taken measures as voluntary, mandatory, national, and international to foster business respect for human rights.	29 June 2021
High Commissioner Michelle Bachelet	Statement on a road map for establishing UN Guidance Principles on Business and Human Rights. Employment workshops, worker participation, sustainable economy are very crucial for UN guidance.	16 June 2021

Source: <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures-human-rights-council>

Conclusion

This research paper provides very deep study about work of Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights. It is a proven fact that this office has provided a safeguard to three pillars of the United Nations in the area of peace and security, human rights, and development. Various reports, statements, documentary solutions mentioned here highlights wide work sphere of High Commissioner.

In the world community members states coordinates with UN and its agency so far, as OHCHR tried to set up such a platform where countries highlights the issues of Human Rights. High Commissioner attends many meetings, conference and openings sessions and given statements on many occasions. The High Commissioner is relentlessly trying to sort out the problems regarding violation of Human Rights. High Commissioner for human rights deals such topics which relate in today's scenario regarding digital techniques, business human rights, gender quality, and National Human Rights institutions apart from others specific role of High Commissioner for promotion and protection of human rights.

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