



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

Cologne Human Rights City Initiative Webinar Series: Cities as a Driving Force for Human Rights

A Global Perspective on Local Human Rights Responsibility

Wednesday, 24th November 2021
18:30 – 20:00 (CET)

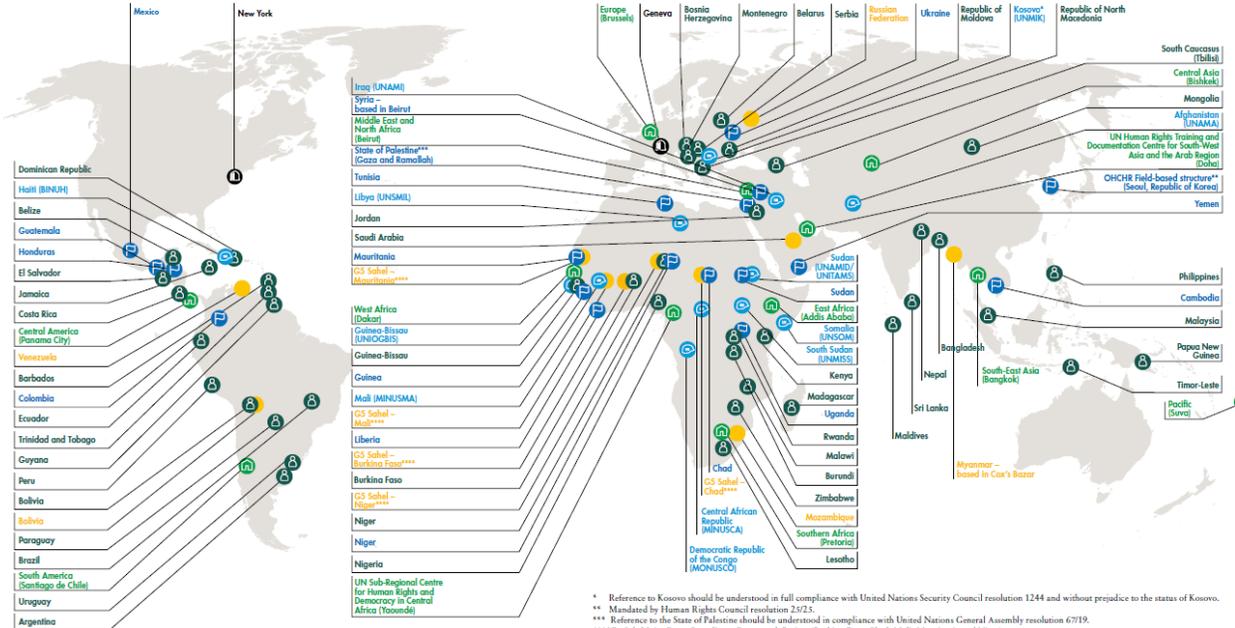
The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)



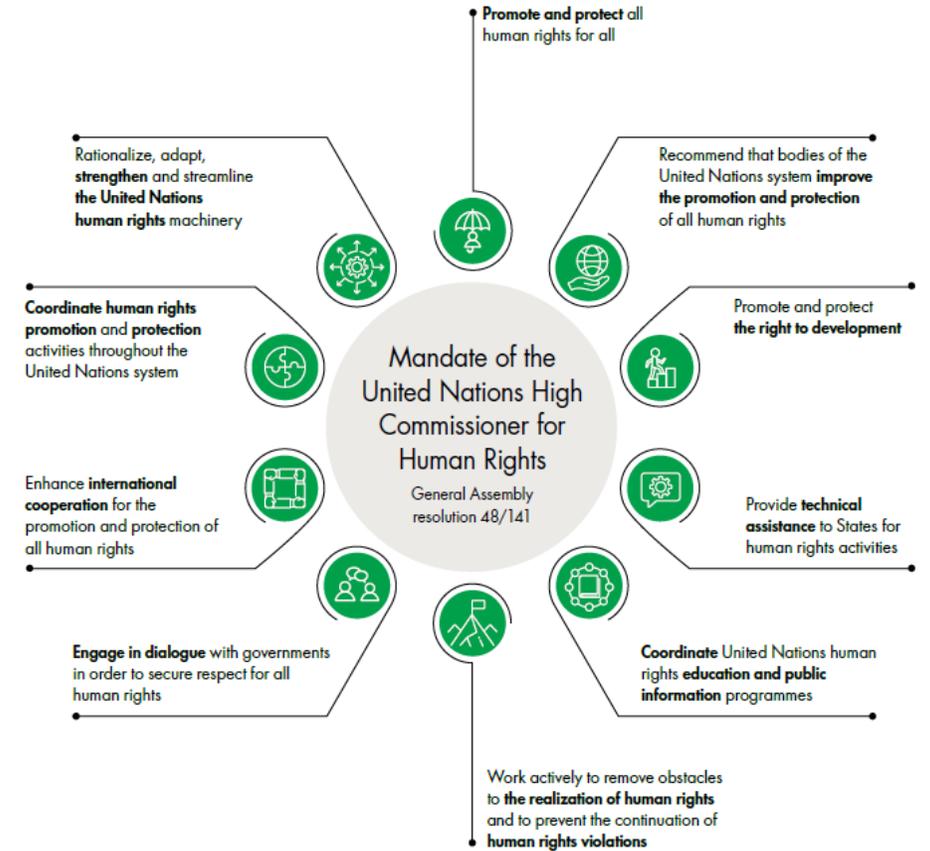
Mme Michelle Bachelet
High Commissioner for Human Rights

UN Human Rights around the world in 2021

- Headquarters
- Country/Stand-alone Offices/Human Rights Missions
- Regional Offices/Centres
- Human rights components of UN Peace/Political Missions
- Human Rights Advisers deployed under the framework of the UNSDG
- Other types of field presences



Mandate



* Reference to Kosovo should be understood in full compliance with United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.
 ** Mandated by Human Rights Council resolution 29/23.
 *** Reference to the State of Palestine should be understood in compliance with United Nations General Assembly resolution 67/19.
 ****CS Sahel Joint Force Compliance Framework Project (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania and Niger).
 The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations.

Local governments at the United Nations

- No specific status at the UN.
- **“More inclusive multilateralism ... also means inclusion of a diverse range of voices beyond States..., this can include ... subnational authorities (cities and local and regional governments), ... The role of ... cities and other subnational authorities is particularly being recognized in inclusive approaches, with, for example, voluntary local reviews of Sustainable Development Goal implementation providing a model on which to build” (UN Secretary General “Our Common Agenda”)**

Human rights obligations of local governments

The international human rights obligations of a State extend to all levels of government and to any exercise of governmental authority. So legally speaking, all branches of government (executive, legislative and judicial), and other public authorities, at all levels – national, regional or local – are in a position to engage the responsibility of the State.

Special Rapporteur on the right to housing Report on the “responsibilities of local and other subnational governments in relation to the right to adequate housing”

The Special Rapporteur underlines:

- the fundamental responsibilities subnational and local governments in implementing human rights and the right to adequate housing.
- Local governments increasing critical responsibilities not only with respect to the prevention of evictions but also for the implementation of positive measures required for the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing, including infrastructure development, land-use planning, upgrading of informal settlements, development and administration of housing and social programmes, market regulation and resource allocation.

The Human Rights Council and local governments

- The Human Rights Council has been working on this issue since 2013.
- In 2018, a first report was presented to the Human Rights Council “on effective methods to foster cooperation between local government and local stakeholders” with active participation of local governments.
- The next report will be on “the challenges faced in the promotion and protection of human rights, including in relation to the right to equality and non-discrimination and the protection of persons in vulnerable and marginalized situations, with a view to identifying possible elements of principles guiding local and national governments in this regard” (to be presented in 2022).

Special Procedures and local governments

- Increasing interest by the experts appointed by the Human Rights Council to work with local government.
- For instance, Special Rapporteurs on the right to adequate housing; on cultural rights; on extreme poverty; on water and sanitation, etc.

Issues

- Urbanization
- Sustainable Development
- Inequalities
- Transparency, HRBA, participation
- Accountability and recourse mechanisms
- Monitoring
- Trust / New Social Contract
- Violence and social unrest



Thank you
#standup4humanrights

