



43RD SESSION OF THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Item 10 – Technical Assistance and Capacity Building

Presentation of the annual report of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights – 19 June 2020

Background documentation: Report of the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights [A/HRC/43/68](#)

Mr. Morten KJAERUM (Denmark) – chairman of the Board of Trustees:

There is an enormous commitment of OHCHR staff in technical cooperation and capacity building programs all around the world.

In accordance with its practice of holding one of its two sessions each year in a State where OHCHR has a field presence, the Board held its forty-ninth session in Pretoria, where OHCHR has its Regional Office for Southern Africa. The Board also used the opportunity to visit the Regional Office's technical cooperation project in Mozambique and its main implementing partners there. The discussions during this session included ways to continue supporting capacities on the ground.

The UPR voluntary fund constitutes a unique opportunity for the UN to support states at the national level and help them implement effective recommendations.

The session held in South Africa illustrates well how the presence of OHCHR managed to build strong partnerships in the region.

OHCHR offers highly qualified expertise to governments, NHRIs and UN partners all around the world. The OHCHR tech support provides help in establishing national mechanisms.

Highlighting, protecting, and promoting human rights can serve to combat inequalities and accelerate SDG implementation. The positive impact through placement of expert staff from OHCHR has facilitated the extension of assistance in several countries.

When a group of population at risk of being left behind is identified, we directly think about how it is possible to strengthen the OHCHR presence in the field.

One of the key findings of the board mission to South Africa was that technical support helps strengthening human rights and fighting inequalities. In addition, OHCHR demonstrated that it is well placed to provide expertise in a broad range of area and can support UN country teams in that regard.

Covid-19 was a new challenge for the protection and promotion of human rights. We manage to increase local presence of OHCHR during the crisis. It is a must to build solid partnerships.

It is important to highlight the increase of voluntary contribution in the past 2 years.