



GENEVA CENTRE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS
ADVANCEMENT AND GLOBAL DIALOGUE

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

**Enhanced Interactive Dialogue with the High Commissioner on OHCHR's report on
Lessons Learned and Good Practises in the Area of Transitional Justice in the Context of
Peacekeeping and Sustainable Development, in particular SDG 16**

#HRC58 • 5 March 2025



BACKGROUND AND THEME

In its resolution 51/23, the Human Rights Council requested the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to prepare a report on **lessons learned and good practices of transitional justice in the context of sustaining peace and of sustainable development**, notably Sustainable Development Goal 16, informed by prior regional meetings. In the resolution, the Council called for a consultation process to discharge the mandate.

PRESENTATION OF THE REPORT

H.E. Mr. Volker TÜRK, United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Transitional justice tackles the demons of the past to build a better future. It grapples with difficult questions about truth and memory, it looks for justice in all its complex and myriad forms, and it helps to repair the institutional and social fabric of fractured societies. Above all, transitional justice is about victims' dignity and healing.

The report presented today illustrates powerful practises of transitional justice that are victim-centred, inclusive, gender-responsive and innovative. They have a transformative impact on affected communities all over the world, and they must inspire us and pave the way to sustainable peace elsewhere.



Learning from powerful practices from Guatemala, Colombia, and Chad

For example, in Guatemala, victim-driven coalitions led to the conviction of 31 military and paramilitary personnel for crimes against humanity and genocide, including sexual and gender-based violence and slavery. In Colombia, the Special Jurisdiction for Peace includes psychosocial support to prevent re-victimisation. It proposes restorative sanctions aiming to dismantle the structural inequalities that led to the conflict, and will include ecosystem restoration, memorialisation and reparation of damage to Indigenous territories. Survivors of sexual and gender-based violence in Kenya formed a national network to advocate for reparations that were tailored to individual needs, including education, training and healthcare. In Chad, victims started receiving reparations and compensation in 2024, thanks to persistent advocacy by civil society. And in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the BOKAN investigative reporting network, founded to cover war crimes trials, is addressing the weaponisation of media that perpetuates politicised and divisive narratives.

The path to peace is never easy

Transitional justice is often held up and slowed down by political instrumentalization, discriminatory or selective design and focus, insufficient buy-in of affected populations and weak state institutions. Civil society, including grassroots organisations, hold the key to overcoming these challenges. The report pays tribute to their central role, persistence and creativity. This is what we can see in the representatives of our panellists here today. These groups, often headed by women or youth leaders, are preparing for tomorrow and looking to the future when many others are still stuck in the past. Inspirational community leaders are already laying the foundations for transitional justice processes in the most challenging situations. Today, the Council has the honour of listening to - and indeed learning from - three of these leaders. Mr. Türk encourages Member States to work closely with victims and civil society organisations so that they have the long-term support and protection they need. His Office is ready to support these efforts.

Transitional justice as an ‘essential problem-solver’ in a fragmented world

Our world is in a heightened state of conflict and international law is under unprecedented strain. According to one study, 2024 saw the highest number of active conflicts since the end of the Second World War. The failure to build and maintain peace, to ensure justice and to listen to victims is a collective one that threatens to reignite old conflicts and give rise to new ones. Long-simmering tensions, often linked to the root causes of conflict, can quickly boil over with disastrous consequences. In this fragmented world, transitional justice is an essential and creative problem-solving approach. We must grasp it, nurture it and use it to build durable peace. Mr. Türk highlights a few countries where we need to maximise this enormous potential. I encourage Nepal, for example, to continue its progress and complete the appointment process to the transitional justice bodies that were envisaged in the 26th Peace Accord. In Syria, which has emerged from more than 50 years of brutal dictatorships and almost 14 years of a devastating civil war, it presents an extraordinary opportunity for all its people.

To truly deliver sustainable peace, transitional justice must take a comprehensive approach. It must encompass accountability, truth-seeking reparations and measures to avoid recurrence of violations. Mr. Türk sees enormous opportunity too in Bangladesh, which is charting a new future



after the events in July and August last year. Mr. Türk's Office is supporting the interim Government of Bangladesh in its efforts to lead a peaceful and inclusive process that is grounded in human rights. OHCHR's recent independent fact-finding mission was really an important measure for accountability, thereby hoping it will contribute to reconciliation, healing and reform. Mr. Türk hopes that in societies around the world that are emerging from conflict and crisis, transitional justice will be informed by the lessons of this report and based on victim-centred, inclusive, gender responsive and innovative practises.

The wisdom of transitional justice 'Remember not to repeat'

The simple wisdom of transitional justice is captured by the Lebanese slogan 'remember to not repeat'. It is a vital tool for these turbulent times. It is a transformation process that demonstrates the very best of humanity, our ability to listen and heal, our desire for truth, our fight for justice and our vision for a better future and it deserves and it demands our full support.

CONTRIBUTIONS BY PANELLISTS

Ms. Yasmin AL-MASHAN, Founder Member of the Caesar Families Association, SYRIA

Ms. Al-Mashan welcomes this opportunity to speak after 50 years of dictatorship in Syria, 14 of which marked by armed conflict as the result of violent, systematic repression by Assad of peaceful protests. This end is the fruit of long struggle by the Syrians together with their association of victims and civil society organisations. After losing five of her siblings during the revolution, Ms. Al-Mashan started working in the military in order to disclose the truth about the fate of 130 missing persons including two of her siblings. In 2018, she established together with families of victims of missing persons the Caesar Association, including families of victims whose photos were smuggled from Syria in 2013. Her father was one of them.

The Association worked with other victims' associations and civil society organisations to provide social, legal and psychological support to victims, document violations, gather data, provide also complaints to human rights special procedures, provide reports together with advocacy to convince member states and international and UN organisations to adopt policies that aim to put an end to violations in Syria and disclose the fate of the missing persons. In this light, one of the associations of missing persons families and associations of survivors of detention and torture which launched in February 2021 the 'Justice and Truth Pact' which called for an end to the crisis of missing persons.

The Association engaged with States and agencies including the Human Rights Council and the International Independent Commission of Enquiry on Syria and the OHCHR together with the General Assembly and the Secretary General of the UN. It called upon them to establish an agency that will help us disclose the truth and the participation of the missing persons. The General Assembly in June 2023 resolution 301/77 establishing the independent missing persons institution in Syria to look for the missing persons as part of families. The resolution called for the participation of victims in the work of the institution. Participation was mentioned six times in the resolution. The Association has also supported the IIIM in Syria and litigation is in Europe and the US as well as the case presented by Holland and Canada in front of the SAG with regards to Syria's violation of CAT.



Hopefully these efforts will lead to a national Syrian policy on transitional justice which will see the participation of victims and civil society organisations and it will be centred on victims. This experience is an example of strength and ability to reinforce justice efforts so that victims play their full role and efficiently we should provide some of some requirements. Participation of victims is key for transitional justice programmes to succeed and reinforce a culture of human rights in countries which suffer from dictatorships or which go through transition periods.

Eight golden rules

- Provide guidance on the participation of victims. In order for participation to be efficacious, victims' efforts should be supported to counter social, political, economic and security challenges which would impede their participation. The UN, government agencies and local donors should do their best to provide victims with safe gathering spaces to exchange opinions and provide victims also with protection.
- Protect the rights of victims to freedom of expression and association.
- Provide psychological support to deal with shocks.
- Provide technical and legal support.
- Ensure access to sustainable direct and flexible funding to cover organisation expenses.
- Focus on most affected groups by discrimination and marginalisation particularly women.
- Adopt a victim-centred approach in their programmes, policies and resolutions, by translating into reality through tangible political practises the UNGA resolution which aims to establish the independent institution on missing persons in Syria.
- Pass a UNHRC resolution compelling UN agencies on transitional justice to adopt a approach that is centred on victims and entrust the High Commissioner with preparing a study on the implementation of this resolution, including ensuring the participation of victims in the work of the Council.

Peace talks will ensure the participation of victims in the processes of transitional justice. The victims can facilitate contact between components of society therefore assuring an environment of peace and justice in Syria.

Ms. Sofia TODOROVIC, Programme Director, Youth Initiative for Human Rights, SERBIA

When we confront mass human rights violations especially those from conflict or oppressive regimes our foremost aim must be to ensure that these atrocities are never repeated. We are not merely seeking for justice for the past. We are laying the foundations for peaceful and sustainable future. One where societies can overcome the scars of the violence, oppression and justice where justice is finally served to its victims. This is not only a moral imperative but also a critical step toward fostering genuine democracies because transitional justice cannot be separated from democratic enhancement. Time and again we speak of young people as drivers of tomorrow's democracies empowered to shape the future yet when it comes to confronting the weight of the past injustices particularly the legacies of violence and inherited hatred youth are too often sidelined or misused. This paradox is glaring. Young people are heralded as the leaders of tomorrow yet they are excluded from the very conversation that will shape their futures. Here



the role of youth organisations in transitional justice becomes indispensable. These organisations ensure that the voices and perspectives of young people are integrated into the policies and strategies shaping their future. In many cases the mission of these organisations extends to educating young people about the history that has been deliberately concealed from them. The most effective way to secure youth place in any reform process is not just to involve them as subjects of discussion but to see to them as the table as equal participants.

Let us go a step further. We must also listen to them, treat them as equals and most importantly recognise their immense capacity to lead. When young people step forward to lead we must clear the path for them to do so. The younger generation deserves to inherit peace not deep divisions and painful conflicts of the past, battles they did not fought nor fully witnessed. Since the wars of the 90s young people in the Balkans have started speaking out against the injustices committed in their name. These injustices were committed before they were even born or when they were too young to remember like me. Their resistance to dominant narratives and historical revisionism has sparked hope across the regions and is still the biggest source of hope for many neighbouring countries. In Serbia where the glorification of convicted war criminals undermines the very essence of justice it erases the impact of judicial verdicts and distorts the rule of law for political ends. In Serbia, we see men with blood on their hands being portrayed as role models by some of the highest representatives of the institutions.

Speaking about the past that you did not experience or witness is not an easy task. Thus we all must stand with those young people who do so because they are protecting the core of humanity. Still they are also combating intergenerational trauma which is a real thing and we are still combating to understand the importance of trauma informed education. Human rights organisations working to address this painful past are often met with hostility. Young activists are labelled as traitors especially in Serbia where nationalism has become a potent political weapon. In Serbia we speak about women's rights, but we neglect victims of sexual violence in war. They are not even recognised before the law. We advocate for diversity. We say that diversity is something that we cherish as a country, but still when mass denial of the crimes against the others is discussed, many of the people in Serbia stay silent.

Today, Serbia is witnessing a remarkable youth-led movement demanding justice and accountability. For nearly four months students have stood resolute in their fight not just to fight for their own future but for the future of their whole country. They are not seeking the future abroad. They are fighting to rebuild their own country based on democratic principle fairness and justice. These young people have shown that resilience and hope can transcend divisions and hatred. They are no longer marginalised. They are the architects of their own future and this is the example we should all strive for. These young people who are currently on the streets of Serbia have faced unimaginable challenges. They are uniting for a common cause peace justice but as well reconciliation with the right support they are dismantling the walls of ethnic division and building bridges of understanding.

In conclusion, we must recognise that young people are not mere participants in the peace building process. They should be also the leaders. Let us not exclude them from the conversations that will shape their future. Let us protect them and empower them to lead with courage wisdom and vision but also to empower them to speak the truth that is deeply rooted in the court established facts.



**Mr. Leyner PALACIOS ASPRILLA, Former Member of the Colombian Truth Commission,
COLOMBIA**

Colombia is facing a serious humanitarian crisis with major human rights violations. People are constantly forced to move or we have our movements restricted. Over the past few years, the department of Chocó has experienced 12 armed lockdowns decreed by the National Liberation Army (NLA). Nerves are constantly on edge because of the clashes between the NLA and the Gaitanistas' Army of Colombia.

Colombia has also had a Government that put its stakes on and tackled the problem of the armed conflict. This brought an end to the conflict with the now disbanded guerrilla, the FARC guerrilla forces and this allowed us to set up a whole transitional justice system which includes the Truth Commission, the Special Jurisdiction for Peace and included also the Unit for Searching for Disappeared Persons. The Truth Commission's report includes a long chapter on the impacts of the armed conflict on black Afro-Colombian, Caribbean, Raizal, Creole Palenquera populations. It also addressed the impact on women, exiles and children. The report also refers to the wounds in Colombia and the tragedies that have marked the country. Nevertheless, there are also a series of recommendations in the report and the country has made significant strides in tackling those challenges which continue to undermine life.

In this regard, the work of OHCHR in Colombia takes on its significance because Colombia continues to face challenges to consolidate peace and in protecting the rights of victims and human rights defenders. The world cannot turn its back on Colombia. It has not crossed the finishing line and it has not yet managed to overcome all the obstacles to bring peace of mind to everybody. Colombia is an example of the world in a way in which it has fought for peace and tried to bring peace of mind to everybody, to the people who live on the outskirts of our towns and bear the brunt of the tragedies. But the world cannot forget Colombia because this is still work in progress. Mr. Palacios prays the international community will see how important it is to pursue this joint responsibility of trying to find a solution to the armed conflict. If the Colombian state fails in its mission, then it will also be a failure on the part of the entire international community. This is a joint responsibility.

CONCLUDING REMARKS

Mr. Oscar YIANNPOULOS

Many statements today have reaffirmed the need to tackle the past in order to chart a better future and we have heard about the wealth and breadth of good practises and lessons learned contributing to sustaining peace and sustainable development and the realisation of SDG 16. The debate has also shed light on the significant challenges that societies frequently confront on the transitional justice path.

To walk this path requires joint action by states and civil society. First, it will be important to maximise the impact of the good practises in the report through their adaptation and expansion and the provision of dedicated support. Second, it is key regularly and meaningfully to consult victims associations and civil society organisations to ensure that measures adopted by states remain victim-centred and gender responsive so they can contribute to an early and tangible impact on victims and affected communities. Third, it is crucial to empower victims associations



and grassroots organisations leading good practises and lessons learned initiatives and support them to continue to lay the ground for future transitional justice efforts harnessing their transformative potential for peace and for development. Finally, a conducive environment for transitional justice initiatives and actors free from threats and reprisals is a precondition for any transitional justice to succeed.

Ms. Yasmin AL-MASHAN

She stresses the importance of the participation of victims. It is essential to grant them the opportunity to exceed public space in order to continue their activities and to consolidate the coordinated participation. The victims must be involved in processes and approaches relevant to transitional justice so as to ensure that they can observe these processes, that they can come forward with proposals to improve them and to add elements. Having heard statements from Colombia, Nepal and other countries on their experiences, we must draw lessons from this, but we must also trace our own path. Depending on the context and the specificities of that in Syria, it is crucial to find the truth and to adopt a humanitarian approach, an approach that allows us to seek the truth regarding all victims, wherever they might be, without any discrimination. It is only in this way that we will be able to reveal the truth about the fate of these people. Amongst us, there are Syrian men and women who have made such efforts possible and we are determined to continue. This is not the end of the road. We will continue our work because the former regime, the fact that it has left, does not mean that our fight is over. Quite the contrary. Today we must continue our work and in order to do that we need financial support and legal support and support in terms of expert knowledge so as to ensure that we are able to achieve our goal and that we live up to expectations and are able to face the challenges. I hope that we will be an example for other countries as well. I hope that there will no longer be any other conflicts.

Ms. Sofia TODOROVIC

The international community has to play a critical role in supporting youth-led efforts. Youth voices and interference of young people into the field of dealing with the past can only ensure that these processes entail youth perspectives which are key for the building of the future. Some of the questions were actually directed to ask what concrete action states need to take so that we have actually victim-centred approach. It is important to distinguish monoethnic approach from victim-centred approach. These are the things that are not synonyms. If we want to have victim-centred approach then we need to actually create approaches and state-orientated actions that actually try to provide justice for all the victims regardless of their ethnicity.

An aspect that should also be addressed is the denial that is being used as a powerful political weapon across the world. The denial of the court-established facts of the crimes established, for example during wars in the former Yugoslavia, are one of the most documented wars in the world. The fight against the denial must be the focus of the world that strives for more justice for everyone, the justice that is not exclusive. The institutions of the international community and States are responsible to create a safe space for different stories to be heard. This is a duty for all of us, also the duty of CSOs, to create a space where the story of one victim does not exclude the story of another victim. On the international level, there is a need to enhance the cooperation between the post-conflict regions in order to establish that the lessons that have been learned are actually being heard in other post-conflict regions.



INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

Views Expressed by State Delegations

Ghana jointly with the African Group commends the written consultation and research undertaken to identify good practises on victim-centred inclusive, gender responsive and innovative approaches as they contribute to an early tangible or transformational impact on victims and affected communities. In this regard, the African Group highlights the African Union's (AU) transitional justice policy adopted in 2019 which provides a framework for addressing past human rights violations and fostering reconciliation. Additionally, in 2023, the AU in partnership with the European Union launched the initiative for transitional justice in Africa to support member states in implementing effective transitional justice mechanisms. The African Group welcomes the recommendations aimed at enhancing the effectiveness of good practises, particularly through regular consultations with victims associations and civil society associations. It also emphasises that transitional justice processes must prioritise truth, justice and reparation to prevent recurrence of past violence and to ensure the full enjoyment of human rights.

Switzerland welcomes the sharing of good practises in the area of transitional justice which contributes to peace and sustainable development, in particular SDG 16, by promoting a victim-centred approach which is gender-sensitive, inclusive and based on human rights. For years, Switzerland has supported new programmes to record, map, collect and preserve evidence and testimonies of serious human rights violations to seek truth and justice. We support over 15 countries which have experienced conflict and violent repressions. These activities cover fighting impunity for international crimes and the most serious crimes. The Constitution of Switzerland is based on the rule of law and fundamental rights. Switzerland supports the ICC and has done so for many years, in particular in the framework of our foreign policy, aiming to promote the rule of law and international law. Many measures presented in the report were initiated by civil society, in particular by groups of victims. The report stresses the importance of the role they play and their effective participation. Without the persistence, the courage and the determination of victims, many of the processes of transitional justice would not have seen the light. Women in particular must participate at all stages and at all decision-making levels in addressing the past.

The **Marshall Islands** welcomes the mention in the report of the relevance of transitional justice approaches with a specific attention to truth in addressing nuclear legacies. OHCHR's report on the Marshall Islands presented at HRC 57 speaks to the transitional justice pillar of truth and its meaning when considering the pursuit of justice for the human rights violations committed during the nuclear testing period between 1946 and 1958, as well as the generational human rights impacts that persist to this day. Despite our repeated efforts, the absence of truth and the barriers to truth regarding our nuclear legacy are challenges that the Marshall Islands has continuously faced since gaining independence. As we all know, there can be no justice without truth. The Marshallese People deserve to know the full extent of what was done to them and their environment in order to reckon with the past and heal as a nation. It is in this spirit that we will continue to seek justice, accountability, and redress for the human rights violations that occurred during the testing period.



Morocco sees transitional justice as an essential mechanism to provide remedies to the atrocities committed and to establish the foundations for a better future for people in the framework of effective democracies. The responsibility and reconciliation are the main objectives of this process that the United Nations has defended for several decades. Thanks to the clear-sightedness and the unwavering commitment of His Majesty King Mohammed VI to make the Kingdom a pioneering country in upholding and promoting human rights, Morocco has joined this international appeal, and it is thus that the Office for Equity and Reconciliation was established and has allowed for a reparation of individual and community harm inflicted through financial indemnities, medical rehabilitation, psychological assistance and social reintegration. However, this process is not an end in and of itself. Indeed, Morocco has continued to seek pathways to further develop the existing mechanisms to ensure that success is better used by national actors as well as internationally. This is the way we cooperate through regional means, international interruption.

Iraq welcomes the report presented by the High Commissioner, and we welcome the efforts made during the drafting of the report. Iraq was amongst the pioneering countries in refashioning the social fabric and strengthening peace in a sustainable, lasting way by meeting the demands of the people, whether this be from an economic or human or social aspect. Transitional justice was enshrined through legislation and the establishment of many institutions, such as that of the martyrs, the political prisoners, the Supreme Criminal Court of Iraq, and the National Accountability Office, as well as the National Property Conflict Settlement Mechanism, as well as the Ministry for Martyrs of the event in the area of the Kurdistan. Iraq emphasise the need to use best practises. It is essential to promote the role of the NGOs in this context.

Spain believes transitional justice is vital. It is an essential tool for ensuring that human rights violations do not remain unpunished. Spain strives to build democratic, peaceful, inclusive society, and firmly believes that everyone, without exception, deserves to live a life free from violence. Victims' associations play a vital role, notably for driving forward public policy, which is based on searching for truth, accountability, reparations, and which documents human rights violations and those of IHL. It is vital that public authorities strengthen these associations and ensure victim access to medical, psychological, and legal support. It is only by joint efforts between victims and authorities that we can work towards full justice. In its recent past, Spain paid a high price for its freedom, and we know that progress and democracy are not irrevocable. Spain's commitment is reflected in the Act on Democratic Memory and the Second National Human Rights Plan. Spain will work on transitional justice at a global level. No victim should be left behind. Everyone needs to be listened to and recognised.

Iran recognizes that transitional justice is a relevant venue. Despite existing differences of opinion on transitional justice and the fact that meaningful global consensus on this concept is gradually emerging, this formulation of such an agreement should not prevent countries from viewing this issue as a pretext for interfering in the internal affairs of the State, but rather as a subject that must be considered within the specific circumstances and requirements of each country. Despite the existence of numerous best practises implemented in different countries, it is essential to ensure that this issue does not create a confrontation or challenge to fundamental principles such as national sovereignty and the principle of non-interference in the internal affairs of the State. Expanding the scope of this concept in a way that is not external or international



institutions to dictate how justice should be realised on the framework of transitional justice would be inappropriate. In this regard, for instance, the concept of universal jurisdiction has in many cases been misused for political instrumentation and has become a highly contentious issue, leading to crises and tensions in the international relations. This has seriously undermined the dignity of the very principle of achievement.

South Africa welcomes the importance of a victim-centred approach in transitional justice processes, a need for inclusive and gender-responsive practises, as well as the call for innovative practises that have a tangible and transformational impact on victims and affected communities. It takes note of the challenges that still exist in the realm of transitional justice and the complexities and obstacles that must be navigated to achieve meaningful progress in post-conflict and post-atrocity contexts, including a lack of political will to initiate and implement transitional justice processes, and a pervasive disregard for accountability for serious human rights violations, as well as exclusion of victims from transitional justice processes. Supporting the recommendations of OHCHR's report, South Africa's own journey with the Truth and Reconciliation Commission has taught South Africans the value of victim-centred, inclusive, and innovative approaches to transitional justice. South Africa stands ready to share our experiences and to learn from others as we collectively strive to build a more just and inclusive world.

Burkina Faso welcomes OHCHR's report and highlight the relevance of good practises and lessons learned from transitional justice in the context of peacekeeping and sustainable development, in line with the vision of the head of state, Captain Ibrahim Traoré, Burkina Faso through its constitutional revision of the 30th of December 2023, now has enshrined alongside classical justice the traditional approaches to the settlement of conflict. This reform is part and parcel of an inclusive approach taking into consideration gender and which meets the needs and aspirations of people in terms of justice. Moreover, the Government, within the framework of the implementation of its project Support to Strengthen Military Justice and Local Justice to Fight Impunity, established a study in 2023 on the customary justice systems and alternative conflict settlement projects. This project lasted for 36 months, supported by the European Union, and will strengthen the community justice systems and improve the functioning of justice to fight impunity. To conclude, we are willing to cooperate further with the High Commissioner.

Egypt welcomes OHCHR's report and stresses the importance of these best practises in the framework of transitional justice, which contributes to achieving our economic goals in a sustainable fashion and enshrines this tool of justice as a means to establish stability, peace and non-recurrence. It is essential to highlight the role of victims to ensure that transitional justice can indeed achieve its goals. In this context, Egypt will promote technical assistance given to countries that have been victims of conflict according to their needs.

Togo welcomes the focus on the characteristic elements of transitional justice in this report, that is to say the promotion of truth, justice, reparations and the guarantees of non-repetition. Togo has experimented with transitional justice and this process was a successful one. Indeed, as of 2009, the President of the Republic established a Truth, Justice and Reconciliation Commission with a view to elucidating the abuses and serious human rights violations committed between 1958 and 2005. This Commission carried out remarkable rigorous scientific work for 34 months and handed in its report alongside recommendations. A white paper was published on measures to provide reparations for harm incurred and the implementation is now carried out by the High



Commissioner's Office for Reconciliation and Reinforcement of the National Unity since 2014. This research, enquiry and reconciliation work mark the process in Togo and testifies to the real will of the national government to alleviate the suffering of victims and the families of victims by offering not only reparations but also non-repetition guarantees.

Belgium salutes the courage, persistence and creativity of grassroots organisations and victim associations often led by women. They lay the ground for future transitional justice and harness its transformative potential for peace and development. Victims and communities must be at the heart of transitional justice as they play a vital role in achieving tangible impact. Therefore, Belgium jointly with OHCHR, Colombia, Sierra Leone, Avocats Frontieres and Impunity Watch recently co-hosted a panel discussion dedicated to the SG's guidance note on transitional justice with an emphasis on the active participation of victims and communities to achieve real impact on the ground.

Algeria recalls firstly that all transitional justice processes differ in specific facts and context and that as such there is no one-size-fits-all model on that matter. In Algeria, fight against terrorism and violent extremism led to a transitional justice process based on the following measures. The establishment of an *ad hoc* enquiry commission mandated to identify, investigate and determine the whereabouts of those who disappeared between 1992 and 1999. The adoption of a presidential order providing reparations and compensations for aggrieved families. The adoption to popular referendum of the Charter for Peace and National Reconciliation to establish a culture of peace and peaceful coexistence. The prosecution and trials of terrorists for committing violent acts against the public. Finally, reparations offered to women victims of sexual crimes in the acknowledgement of the gendered measure on past violence. In conclusion, Algeria believes that the High Commissioner should further analyse and promote models of national reconciliation as successful transitional justice processes in building and sustaining peace.

Praising OHCHR's report on transitional justice, **Colombia** points out that transitional justice must be comprehensive and ensure the truth, justice, reparation, guarantees of non-repetition, focus on victims. Colombia has some experience of transitional justice. In the 2016 peace agreement, Colombia set up a Special Jurisdiction for Peace and a unit for searching for disappeared persons and the Truth Commission. These are important steps for setting up an appropriate transitional justice model and building a society. Colombia has gained a lot of experience and heard from Mr. Palacios that what is really important is implementation, that international community must support states during a transitional phase in order to make sure that it is sustainable. During our transition, the Truth Commission recommended that we altered our drug policy to move away from punishment and protect the rights of peasant Afro-descendant and indigenous farmers and protect consumers. The High Commissioner made a report on this subject last year and what we need to do still is to change the policies at national and international level.

The **Russian Federation** considers OHCHR's report on transitional justice as highly controversial. In essence, it is an active imposition of a legal doctrine that has not been formulated. It is not recognised by the worldwide majority. Russia believes that it could lead to fragmentation of international law, division between countries and increased potential for conflict. Analysis of the report demonstrates there is a deliberate substitution of the value system in upholding human rights and their lawful interests. An impression is created that the



associations of victims and other NGOs are called upon to play a far greater role than national authorities, including the courts. Russia categorically rejects the argument in paragraph 53 on the positive role of the institution of universal jurisdiction. Formulating such conclusions is not within the competence of the OHCHR. Russia would also like to caution against the obsessive promotion of LGBTI and gender issues, and recommends that the OHCHR pay attention to the real causes of the violation of rights and the lawful interests of the populations of developing countries and focus on overcoming these. In the Human Rights Council, it has repeatedly been said that the unfavourable socio-economic situation in such countries is often due to the discriminatory neo-colonial policies of the States of the collective West with its arsenal of unlawful sanctions and selective approaches.

China takes note of OHCHR's report and its objective that transitional justice should be based on the UN Charter and the universally accepted international law and should respect countries' sovereignty and territorial integrity. China calls for the respect of the rights of the countries concerned to promote the process step-by-step in accordance with the actual situation rather than imposing any model or using it as a pretext to intervene to internal affairs or conflicts of the country. Only by upholding the principle of sovereignty could the transitional justice be deemed legitimate, could it obtain the confidence of the countries and could it play the role to promote peace and development. The international community should assist the countries concerned with capacity building, focussing on building a smart judicial system and providing necessary financial, technical and human support. While promoting the process, it is also necessary to adopt measures to eliminate poverty and to create jobs so as to realise peace through development, achieve reconciliation and eliminate conflicts.

Bangladesh takes note of the report's observations on the expanding transitional justice mechanisms as well as the examples of utilising transitional justice to address diverse legacies of serious human rights violations. By taking note of the discussion on Myanmar related to international accountability mechanisms such as the independent investigative mechanism for Myanmar, the ICC, universal jurisdiction mechanism vis-à-vis genocide and atrocities committed against the Rohingya in Myanmar, Bangladesh reiterates that any such accountability mechanism must aim at eliminating the root causes of the crime and also at finding a sustainable solution of the crisis through the repatriation of the Rohingya to their homeland. Finally, Bangladesh wishes to reiterate that each transitional justice programme is a unique set of processes and mechanisms implemented within a specific context and there is no one-size-fits-all formula in this regard. Hence, any work for the transitional justice should be based on a thorough analysis of national needs and capacities, drawing upon the national expertise to the greatest extent possible.

Cuba appreciates the good practises in the area of human rights identified in the report. It is complex to put an end to a conflict, respect human rights and meet international law, so a holistic approach is needed. Transitional justice does not have to be one-size-fits-all. In the SDGs, we call for fair and inclusive societies. Cuba's constitution laws and policies focus on ensuring full access to justice for all people. This is absolutely vital for protecting human rights of all, achieving social justice and sustainable development. Peace is a vital requirement for justice and development. Nevertheless, we live in a world which is characterised by increasing threats to international peace and security. We see the proliferation of conflicts, attacks on multilateralism



and imposition of unilateral coercive measures. We must have a fairer, more democratic world order which ensures peace, justice and people's development. With a view to achieving this aim, Cuba will continue to submit the resolution on promoting a fair and democratic world order to the Human Rights Council.

Welcoming OHCHR's report, **Ethiopia** supports the emphasis on inclusive, gender-responsive and victim-centred approach to transitional justice as they are essential in addressing the deep-rooted challenges faced by societies recovering from conflict and large-scale human rights violations. Ethiopia is committed to promoting human rights, justice and reconciliation in line with its national priorities and international obligations. In recent years, Ethiopia has taken significant strides in implementing transitional justice mechanisms, recognising the importance of truth, justice reparation and guarantees of non-recurrence. Ethiopia's approach to transitional justice has been driven by a firm commitment to inclusivity particularly in the meaningful participation of women and other stakeholders in the process. Ethiopia recognises that sustainable peace and reconciliation require not only accountability but also a focus on the needs of victims, ensuring they are at the heart of the process. Ethiopia believes that successful transitional justice must be locally owned, addressing the unique challenges and contexts of affected societies. Its goal is to lay the foundation for lasting peace and development by ensuring that transitional justice mechanisms foster national unity and societal unity.

Welcoming OHCHR's report, **Ireland** emphasizes that it is imperative that survivors, families and civil society organisations contribute meaningfully to the design and implementation of transitional justice mechanisms. This consultation is indispensable to ensuring the longevity and sustainability of transitional justice processes. Ireland support the report's finding that victim-centred, inclusive, gender responsive and innovative approaches to transitional justice constitute good practises. Ireland's experience of working to advance transitional justice in Northern Ireland has demonstrated the importance of adhering to international human rights standards. Ireland is committed to the realisation of the SDGs. Building strong independent institutions is a key component of SDG 16 and of achieving accountability for serious human rights violations and abuses and guarantees of non-recurrence. Peace processes have the best chance at survival when they receive support from the international community. Ireland encourages all States to continue to pursue dialogue and to make and sustain peace with these principles in mind.

Honduras reiterates its commitment to truth, justice, reparation and non-repetition. At the same time, Honduras appreciates that we face a number of challenges in the area of justice. In line with some of the good practises identified in the report, Honduras is promoting strategic measures in order to ensure victims' access to truth and justice. Honduras has adopted a programme for memory, truth, justice and non-repetition and this is in with the Commissioner's call for integrating transitional justice initiatives which will have a transformative impact. The memory of the Museum is in line with policies on memory in order to conserve historic truth. With a view to providing effective reparations, Honduras has adopted a law on DNA databases which will strengthen forensic investigations. It has also established the Inter-Institutional Commission following up on Garifuna communities and also those people who have been criminalised because of defending human rights. Honduras appreciates international cooperation for

strengthening transitional justice, exchanging good practises to effectively meet our human rights obligations.

Taking note of OHCHR's report, **Cambodia**'s continued approach towards promotion and protection of human rights is rooted in our strong democratic credentials and backed by institutional strength of an independent, judiciary, free and vibrant media-active civil society that monitors Cambodia's compliance with its human rights obligations and commitments. Cambodia, as a post-conflict country, continues to advance the transitional justice process as a foundation for sustainable peace and development. Ensuring reparations for victims and their families is essential to restoring dignity and acknowledging the profound suffering endured. By ensuring accountability and serving justice, Cambodia reaffirms its commitment to healing and building a future where the dignity and rights of all citizens are respected and protected. In the Kingdom, the right of everyone to live free from criminal, discrimination, violence and misinformation are firmly upheld and are guaranteed by law and tradition, aligned with the Constitution and international law. Furthermore, the Extraordinary Chambers in the Court of Cambodia, with support by the UN, have been established to bring justice to the victims of the Khmer regime. They play a crucial role in holding Khmer leader accountable for their serious human rights violations.

The **Democratic Republic of the Congo** believes that transitional justice can contribute to lasting peace and sustainable development because it provides trust and gives agency to people, fosters inclusion, sex equality, sexual equality, deals with human rights violations and effectively combats impunity for serious crimes and mass human rights violations and those of IHL. For this reason, the DRC has embarked on the process of transitional justice in order to respond to the various violations of peace and security affecting ordinary people, particularly those living in the eastern part of the country which is facing a war imposed on it by Rwanda and its M23 proxies as well as a number of other different parties. Given this panoply of parties, the DRC calls on the High Commissioner to have a regional approach to transitional justice for the Great Lakes region in order to take stock of the complexity of the problem and the very diverse nature of stakeholders implicated in mass human rights violations and the serious crimes committed in DRC, particularly in north and south Kivu.

Afghanistan faces a deteriorating situation throughout the country due to protracted insecurity affected by violent extremism. In this situation, victim groups and grassroots organisations face several challenges to harnessing their transformative potential for peace and development. The systematic violence against the people of Afghanistan and continuous atrocities committed by the Taliban have severely prevented the country and its civil society from addressing victims' grievances and fulfilling their rights to truth, justice, and reparation, as well as the prevention of recurrence as set out in international human rights and international humanitarian law. Afghanistan encourages States to implement OHCHR's recommendations to continue supporting Afghanistan in creating a conducive environment for victims' associations and grassroots organisations. It reiterates its call for establishing an independent investigative mechanism to strengthen institutional responses and enhance political will to provide redress for victims. It should include the fulfilment of the rights to truth, justice, reparation, and the prevention of recurrence.



The **Gambia** jointly with the African Group welcomes the report of OHCHR and appreciates the insights from the panel members. As a country that is undergoing a transitional justice process, the Gambia recognises the importance of a victim-centred, inclusive, and gender-responsive approach to transitional justice and national reconciliation. The Gambia's Truth, Reconciliation and Reparations Commission (TRRC), which has been hailed as a model by the U.S. Peacebuilding Commission, has played a pivotal role in documenting human rights violations, fostering dialogue, and recommending measures to guarantee non-recurrence. The TRRC report currently guides national efforts to ensure accountability, pay reparations, and undertake legal and institutional reforms. The Gambia particularly notes the report's emphasis on toolbox for reparations and the need for sustained political will to implement transitional justice measures effectively. However, securing long-term support for victims and ensuring justice mechanisms remain responsive to their needs remains a challenge for most countries undergoing transitional justice processes.

Lesotho appreciates concrete suggestions gained from OHCHR's numerous regional consultations. The insights shared by the High Commissioner and the panellists are a powerful illustration of why an inclusive, victim-centred, and gender-responsive approach to transitional justice is essential in sustaining peace. They are a reminder that justice can never be realised in isolation, but must be part of a broader commitment to human rights. In an age where human rights are increasingly politicised, reparative processes grounded in the needs of victims and their communities emerge as paramount. As the case studies in the report of the High Commissioner exemplifies, the persistent work of grassroots organisations and victim-led associations is crucial in ensuring that victims' voices are heard when implementing transitional justice mechanisms. In the same vein, Lesotho believes that States have an obligation to develop institutions that facilitate productive, truth-seeking and reconciliation mechanisms in order to promote peace and fulfil SDG 16. To conclude, Lesotho echoes the recommendations from the report, including for Member States to enact effective transitional justice measures and for OHCHR to increase strategic support and capacity building to States to help implement these measures.

Armenia reaffirms the critical role of transitional justice in addressing human rights violations, ensuring accountability, and fostering sustainable peace. Last year, the report of the visit to Armenia of the Special Rapporteur on the Promotion of Truth, Justice, and Guarantees of Non-Recurrence has been published. It touched upon many aspects of historical and most recent conflicts in the region and persuasive justice that Armenian people sought. Armenia highly appreciates OHCHR's contributions to peace and reconciliation through documenting, reporting, and publicising the outcomes of its assessments, and ensuring that severe violations of human rights are not overlooked, forgotten, or denied. Hence, the delayed responses and inaction risk to undermine efforts to justice and peace, allowing perpetrators escape accountability and leaving victims without redress. In this regard, Armenia is looking forward to strengthening its cooperation with OHCHR, grounded on shared commitment in accountability and victims' rights.

Sudan welcomes in this regard initiatives and lessons learned, highlighted in the report, particularly those related to media and society in education about transitional justice. Sudan stresses the importance of focussing on victims and providing redress of them; avoiding recurrence of violations; and the relationship between transitional justice, peace, and



sustainable development. Sudan undergoes difficult circumstances. Therefore, it focusses on transitional justice as a political, social, and legal way to deal with the root causes of the conflict and ensure redress and cohabitation between people. The Juba peace in Sudan involved an item on transitional justice and focussed on this topic together with impunity, redress, reparation, and accountability. Sudan cooperated with OHCHR's country office and with all its activities in support of the peace deal and providing training and technical support.

Albania thanks OHCHR for identifying examples of good practises and lessons learned related to transitional justice processes in the context of sustained peace and sustainable development. Albania has implemented several transitional justice measures, initiatives, and processes that contribute to SDG 16. The functioning of the judicial system, modernisation of public services, fight against corruption, ensuring accountability and transparency in the public sector, and the involvement of citizens and civil society in these processes remain among the main priorities of good governments in Albania. Important strategic documents have been adopted in Albania to achieve these goals by 2030. Albania has undertaken several measures to improve its legal framework to guarantee the protection of human rights, including victims' rights to know the truth, access to justice, investigation and documentation of crimes, effective remedies, and the preservation of historical memory for the enforceable disappearance that took place during the communist era. Albania agrees with the conclusion of OHCHR's report regarding the obligation of States to provide effective remedy and reparation to victims, including the fulfilment of the rights to truth, justice, reparation, and the prevention of recurrence when dealing with the aftermath of the conflict and serious human rights violations and abuses.

India concurs that a process that is victim-centred, inclusive, gender-responsive, innovative, and impactful can only be considered a meaningful transitional justice process. A few thoughts. Too often, the international community has adopted a technocratic, one-size-fits-all approach that can be damaging. Transitional justice has become steeped in western perspective, often appearing remote to those who actually need it the most. There is also a perception that these mechanisms have been providing a form of ideological obfuscation, intended to divert attention away from those who benefited in the system. India notes that historical injustices inherent to colonialism are rarely the focus of transitional justice. In this context, India would also like to express its concern at the concept of 'revenge, violence against minorities' being mainstreamed by certain reports of fact-finding. The idea is deeply troubling and flawed as it describes legitimacy to violence against minorities and also calls them out as the originators of actual violence. India has also seen democracy that thrives on the concept of victor's points not being discussed adequately. Ideas like freedom of expression and opinion should not become selective. Reconciliation is a long and arduous process, not to be conceived merely as a band-aid that can be applied to past harms. Without a deeper change in the society, artificially imposed standards are unlikely to achieve any success. Reconciliation within any nation must not only be homegrown but also home nurtured.

Timor-Leste draws the attention to the establishment of the 'Pirilampo Survivor Network' in 2017, which provides a platform for raising awareness, advocating for reparation, and promoting the participation of survivors in policymaking. As highlighted in the report, sustainable grassroots support is essential and must complement governmental programmes. Timor-Leste also emphasises the importance of a victim-inclusive and gender-responsive approach to transitional



justice, as outlined in OHCHR's report. These approaches are critical to ensuring that the needs of all victors are met in a way that is both equitable and effective. Having firsthand experience in utilising the transitional justice mechanism in the first year after the restoration of independence, Timor-Leste recognised the transformative potential of the transitional justice process for sustaining peace and achieving the SDGs, particularly SDG 16. As outlined in our Strategic Development Plan 2011-2013, East Timor's commitment to peace, inclusion, and institution building forms the foundation for achievement of all the SDGs. It is essential to work together to identify and understand the most effective practises in ensuring that victims' needs are understood and addressed comprehensively. Timor-Leste reaffirms the commitment to strengthening the mechanism of transitional justice to ensure that all people, including those impacted by past violence, can move forward in peace and prosperity.

Kenya takes note of the report's focus on good practises and lessons learned, particularly in the context of sustaining peace and sustainable development. As a nation that has embarked on a complex journey of transitional justice, Kenya recognises the vital role it plays in fostering reconciliation and building a more just and equitable society. Kenya's experience underscores the importance of a holistic approach balancing the needs of individuals and the needs of the communities. Kenya's commitment is enshrined in its Constitution, which provides a strong framework for addressing past injustices and preventing future violations. Through mechanisms such as the Truth, Justice, and Regulation Commission, Kenya has sought to confront our past, promote healing, and strengthen our institutions. To achieve these goals, Kenya is prioritising the strengthening of national institutions, enhancing community-led solutions, promoting dialogue and reconciliation, ensuring the full participation of women in youth, and prioritising investment in social services, economic development, and psychological support for victims. We must acknowledge that challenges remain. Reconciliation is an ongoing process requiring resources and active participation of all stakeholders. It also requires building political will and accountability. Kenya believes that transitional justice is not simply about dealing with the past, it is about building a better future for all Kenyans, and encourages further discussions on best practises and lessons learned with the focus on innovative and community-led solutions.

Azerbaijan welcomes OHCHR's report which underscores the obligation of states to provide effective remedy and address for victims, including the fulfilment of the rights to truth, justice, reparation, and the prevention of recurrence when grappling with legacies of conflict and serious human rights violations. The protection and promotion of human rights are fundamental to building just, inclusive, and peaceful societies. In the aftermath of conflicts and mass human rights violations, transitional justice serves as a crucial mechanism to address past injustices, ensure accountability, and restore dignity to victims. More than 300,000 Azerbaijanis were forcibly expelled from their ancestral lands in present-day Armenia in several ways. Azerbaijani settlements and toponyms were renamed, and our historical and cultural heritage were deliberately targeted, vandalised, and destroyed. Those expelled were denied their fundamental rights, including the right to return. It urges Armenia and OHCHR to address the rights of the expelled Azerbaijani population, as this is the only practical step toward reconciliation, the restoration of historical justice, and the advancement of the principle of transitional justice.



Views Expressed by Inter-Governmental Organizations (IGOs)

The **European Union** believes that measures such as truth commissions, mediation, consultations and other participatory approaches can contribute to progress on attaining SDG 16 as well as progress on other SDGs. It sees transitional justice as an important aspect of building sustainable peace, addressing past grievances and ensuring accountability and reconciliation. It agrees with a holistic approach to transitional justice including promotion of truth, justice, liberation and guarantees of non-occurrence. International support to peace and transitional justice processes is equally important as are inclusive, gender responsive, locally-led processes involving victims and survivors of violence. As the report shows, grassroots organisations and victim associations, often led by women, lay the ground for future transitional justice and further peace and development. The EU is one of the biggest financial contributors to peace building and transitional justice initiatives worldwide, placing high value on integrating human rights and gender dimension. The EU remains committed to the adoption of human rights-based and victim-centred approaches to transitional justice.

UNDP is fully committed to transitional justice as a strategic tool for addressing past human rights violations, rebuilding trust and sustaining peace, ensuring accountability through a people-centred approach. Supporting transitional justice in over 16 countries, UNDP integrates a development-oriented model that not only addresses past harms but fosters inclusive and peaceful societies. Mental health and psychosocial support are key priorities embedded across crisis prevention and peacebuilding efforts in 21 countries, benefiting over 800 vulnerable youths, including in some transitional justice contexts. UNDP supports the meaningful participation and agency of women in transitional justice, advancing survivor-centred approaches through the gender justice platform with UN Women, ensuring women's voices shape justice efforts. UNDP strongly supports conflict-related sexual violence survivors in South Sudan, Mali, Kosovo and Tunisia. UNDP plays a central role in the Interagency Transitional Justice Task Force and the Global Focal Point for Rule of Law, collaborating with OHCHR, UN Women, DPO and with the UN team of experts to drive coordinated, impactful and people-centred transitional justice initiatives.

According to the **Sovereign Order of Malta**, there must be a victim-centred approach and the role of victim associations and grassroots associations is important. There must be access to justice for victims. It would like to add two factors to the report. First of all, religious leaders can play an important role in launching and implementing transitional justice. This has happened in a number of regions, particularly in Africa, notably South Africa, but not just South Africa, but also in the Arab region as well. Secondly, child soldiers and human trafficking victims should also be heard. It wonders whether OHCHR could develop these two points.

Views Expressed by National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)

Welcoming OHCHR's report, the Ethiopian Human Rights Commission points out that OHCHR has been a key partner of the Commission's transitional justice work in Ethiopia. Over the last five years, OHCHR and the Commission have jointly carried out investigations, monitoring, consultation, and capacity-building activities. The two institutions have published joint reports, namely the joint investigation report on Tigray and the transitional justice report on consultation with victims. In a challenging environment for human rights work, the Commission and OHCHR



demonstrated optimal cooperation in the effective execution of their respective mandates as independent national and international human rights bodies. The Commission and OHCHR continue to provide technical and advisory support to the Ethiopian government to ensure the implementation of a victim-centred and human rights-compliant transitional justice process in Ethiopia. Armed conflict and insecurity continue to be the primary cause of human rights violation in Ethiopia, necessitating urgent peaceful dialogue. To end the cycle of conflict, to achieve lasting peace, and to guarantee the protection of human rights, it is essential to implement the transitional justice process.

Views Expressed by Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs)

The **Syrian Center for Media and Freedom of Expression** welcomes OHCHR's documentation of violations in Syria and its reports to reinforce accountability. Transitional justice should be non-selective, given that the suffering of Syrians is still ongoing following the fall of Bashar, who is responsible for most of the violations in Syria. Achieving transitional justice requires participation of most of Syrians in consultation about strategies reflecting our situation, centring on victims. It also means integrating transitional justice in state-building institutions in order to respond to the needs of people through reforms and legislations to ensure equitable justice for all without discrimination, and by reinforcing the rule of law, democratic institutions, independence of the media, independence of judiciary, among others. The aim is to avoid recurrence of violations in the future. The success of transitional justice requires international cooperation. It involves providing financial and technical support, protecting human rights defenders, and preserving evidence. In a nutshell, transitional justice should be Syria-led, where a society or organisation participates in order to reflect the demands of the victims and ensure their rights away from politicisation and selectivity.

Associacao Brasileira de Gays, Lesbicas e Transgeneros (ABGLT) explains that Brazil is pursuing a significant, although limited, policy on memory and truth for the LGBTQIA+ community. For the first time in 2014, the Truth Commission included this community as victims of the civic-military dictatorship from 1964, including recommendations for Brazilian to make reparations. In 2023, the Ministry of Human Rights set up a Working Group to investigate patterns of violence against the LGBTQIA+ community in Brazil's history, from colonisation until contemporary times. This Group also made recommendations for reparations. Despite progress on reports and investigations, we still need more public policies for historic reparations and transitional justice, which include the LGBTQIA+ community. Threats of backsliding by the far-right must be avoided and the recommendations of the Truth Commission and the Working Group be implemented to ensure access to all human rights for the LGBTQIA+ community.

According to the **International Commission of Jurists (ICJ)**, OHCHR's report provides useful lessons for the ongoing transitional justice efforts in Libya, where a promising draft reconciliation law has recently been discussed. However, initiatives falling short of international standards and political disagreements are undermining the draft law and stalling its adoption. The ICJ urges the Libyan authorities to swiftly adopt a law that aligns with the good practises and recommendations outlined in the report, addresses the five pillars of transitional justice and victims' right to accountability, effective remedy and reparations, and safeguards the independence of all transitional justice mechanisms. The ICJ also shares the High Commissioner's concern with Nepal's delay in establishing transitional justice mechanisms. In



the absence of any relevant regional bodies, this delay has left thousands of conflict victims without truth, justice and reparations. Despite repeated court order, no investigations have been conducted into allegations of serious human rights violations. The authorities have continued to refer these cases to the yet to be established mechanisms, leaving victims with no avenues to seek justice. Despite changes to the law in August last year, the transitional justice commissions remain dysfunctional. The ICJ urges the government to swiftly appoint commissioners through a transparent process that ensures the selection of competent and independent candidates to lead the commission effectively.

Geneva for Human Rights – International Training stresses that OHCHR's latest fact-finding report on Bangladesh recommended court to initiate an inclusive national dialogue to develop a holistic and context-specific transitional justice model that embeds the fair and effective pursuit of criminal justice, especially for the most responsible perpetrators. Undoubtedly, serious human rights violations took place under the previous Government. However, after its fall, Bangladesh continues to witness similar patterns of violations with impunity. The current transitional Government opened registration of criminal cases against over 500,000 political opponents, targeted journalists, removed the constitutional court judges, and thus addressed the systematic impunity. There is no national human rights institution since 7 November 2024. In Bangladesh, including the Chittagong contracts, religious minorities have faced more than 2,000 attacks since 2024 after the fall of the government. There is a need for a country's resolution on Bangladesh for establishing a credible transitional justice model to address violations, including those being committed under the current transitional Government.

By providing a wide array of good practises that have at their core the protection and reintegration of victims into society, **Meezaan Centre for Human Rights** considers that OHCHR's report gives multiple examples of how to achieve transitional justice without leaving anyone behind, considering aspects related to the promotion of accountability, memory, grassroots initiatives, victims protection, and national or international mechanisms for justice. In light of all these recommendations, it believes that the report should serve as a blueprint for the current Syrian authorities as they transition from the 53-year long dictatorship rule which has left the country shattered in ruins and in need to heal from a profound trauma. In order to achieve a sustainable and lasting peace, establishing an effective and truthful framework for transitional justice must be a priority for Syria's new authorities. Therefore, it advocates for the implementation of a victim-centred mechanism to secure accountability for crimes perpetrated in Syria, the documentation and collection of evidence regarding abuses and violations, and the creation of forums where victims can safely share their stories and receive adequate legal and psychological counselling. Meezaan believes that the voice of civil society and victims must be at the centre of Syria's transitional justice.

Welcoming OHCHR's report, the **Colombian Commission of Jurists** hopes the Colombian State will accept recommendations and promote their effective implementation as part of ongoing transitional justice procedures. It is absolutely vital that victims be able to take part in all stages of judicial proceedings and that their opinions are taken into consideration by those administering justice so that there is a true contribution of these procedures to restoring their rights. The Commission believes that restorative justice must be the nature of the Special Jurisdiction for Peace but victims have not been consulted and participated in their proceedings.



It hopes that seven years after its establishment, this year the Special Jurisdiction will hand its first sentence and contribute to peace in Colombia. However, the legitimacy of the activities of the special jurisdiction will be undermined if victims are not heard and participate in them.

According to **CIVICUS**, in the face of shrinking civic space, the work of CSOs remains key at the national, regional and international levels towards laying the ground for transitional justice processes with a view to sustaining peace and development. Strategies employed by CSOs encompass monitoring, undertaking advocacy, raising awareness, mobilising victims, requesting accountability and providing legal assistance related to serious past and present human rights violations. CIVICUS urges States to implement the main areas of guarantees of non-recurrence to empower CSOs to contribute to the development of transitional justice mechanisms and tools, cease and attacks and threats against civil society including HRDs, legal empowerment including at the grassroots level and creating an enabling environment for civil society more broadly. In addition, it calls on states to take measures to ensure protection of civil society actors engaging in civil society led through seeking processes and reporting on reprisals occurring in transitional justice contexts. It also encourages States to regularly consult CSOs on the ground to ensure that measures adopted in implementation of transitional justice processes remain victim-centric, meaningful, effective and inclusive including by engaging CSOs in devising and implementing relevant laws, policies, strategic frameworks and action plans. Empowering civil society and communities at the local level to lead development efforts can also help create a conducive environment for innovative approaches to transitional justice.

The **International Bar Association** and the Ukrainian Bar Association welcome OHCHR's report which draws attention to challenges to achieve SDG 16 and transitional justice in conflict situations, notably in Ukraine following the Russian full-scale invasion and war of aggression against Ukraine. The massive disruption caused by Russian war in Ukraine has severely impacted multiple sectors including the justice system. Since February 2022, nearly 10 court infrastructure was damaged and almost 20 percent of courts were forced to close. Despite these challenges, the Ukrainian justice system has demonstrated remarkable resilience, continued to function despite funding shortages and disruptions to regular proceedings. Meanwhile, violations of social economic rights due to the Russian war have considerably affected the transitional justice effort. Destruction of infrastructures, forced displacement, unemployment and economic instability, limited access to basic needs as well as the deterioration of mental health conditions among persons in Ukraine have exacerbated inequalities in the economic recovery and complicated efforts to achieve comprehensive justice and reconciliation. They call on the Council through international cooperation to announce support for Ukraine's justice reform and accountability efforts, consider technical assistance and capacity-building initiatives as well as financial resources to ensure the sustainability and independence of Ukraine's judicial institutions, strengthen prosecutorial and investigative capacities particularly in documenting and adjudicating war crime cases.

The **Human Rights Information and Training Centre** affirms that one of the fundamental pillars of transitional justice is safeguarding the rights of victims and upholding their dignity. Attacking the heritage of human rights through repeated conflicts means that perpetrators of such violations must be prosecutors. There are militias which have engaged in such crimes in Yemen over the past 10 years. These amount to war crimes and crimes against humanities according to



the Rome statutes. These crimes have not had an impact only on victims but on society as a whole. There can be no transitional justice without ensuring that victims have access to justice and that there is no impunity. The Houthi militias are founded on human rights violations. The Yemenis no longer have confidence in the rule of law.

While welcoming OHCHR's report, **Maat for Peace Development and Human Rights Association** regrets the lack of political will in Ethiopia where obstacles continue to hinder survivors and victim families from obtaining the justice they deserve. Despite more than two years having passed in the Pretoria agreement between the Ethiopian government and the Great Liberation Front which constitute a violation of the State's commitment to achieving SDG 16 on peace justice and strong institutions. the situation is further complicated by the Ethiopian Government's disregard for the recommendations issued by OHCHR and UN expert on accelerating the pace of transnational justice which deepens the sense of impunity and negatively affect efforts to achieve national reconciliation. Accordingly, Maat recommends the High Commissioner to monitor the implementation of the transnational justice process in Ethiopia and submit periodic reports on the extent to which the Government is adhering to its commitments. It urges the Ethiopian Government to listen to the demands of the survivors and victims families and to develop a clear and time-bound national strategy for transnational justice with the participation of various stakeholders including civil society and themselves.

FACTS & FIGURES ON ID PARTICIPATION

33 State Delegations

3 Inter-Governmental Organizations

1 National Human Rights Institution

10 Non-Governmental Organizations