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Ms. Catarina de Albuquerque English, French, Spanish, Portuguese, German srwater@ohchr.org The Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council are independent human rights experts with mandates to report and advise on human rights from a thematic or countryspecific perspective. The system of Special Procedures is a central element of the United Nations human rights machinery and covers all sets of rights: civil, cultural, economic, political, and social. As of May 2011, there are 42 Special Procedures (33 thematic mandates and nine mandates relating to countries or territories) with currently 60 mandate-holders.

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