



UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary  
(2007 – 2022)



## UPR Voluntary Fund for Implementation

SUPPORTING STATES, REALIZING RIGHTS



UNITED NATIONS  
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL



*The Office of the High Commissioner, Palais Wilson in Geneva © OHCHR/L. Konstad*



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*“We will work to strengthen the relevance, precision and impact of the Council’s recommendations, including by providing better support to Member States in implementation, stronger collaboration with United Nations country teams and the establishment of national mechanisms for human rights reporting and follow-up to link the universal periodic review to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.”*

Report of the Secretary-General on the work of the Organization (2017) (A/72/1, para. 98)

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## Mandate



The **Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review** was

established in 2007 by Human Rights Council resolution [6/17](#) and further strengthened in 2011 by resolution [16/21](#).

The fund provides financial and technical assistance to support countries, in particular least developed countries and small island developing States, to implement recommendations emanating from the universal periodic review in consultation with, and with the consent of, the country concerned.

A Board of Trustees, appointed by the Secretary General and composed of human rights experts from all regions, provides advice and guidance on policy orientation and strategy in the operationalization of the Fund.



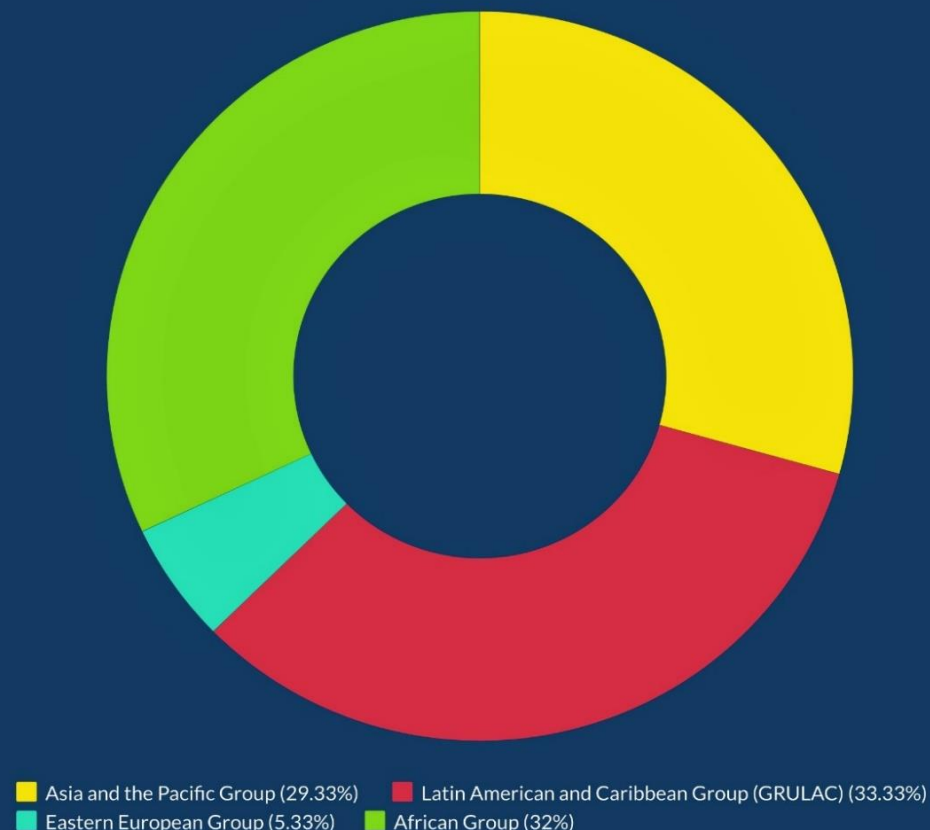
## Facts and figures

The Voluntary Fund provides seed funding aimed at enhancing national capacities in one or more of its established focus areas, creating synergies between the **implementation of key universal periodic review recommendations**, the **strengthening of Governments' institutional capacity** to ensure a comprehensive follow up and reporting on the progresses achieved, the **enhancement of the role of Parliaments**, and the **strengthening of the United Nations country teams** to support national efforts to implement human rights mechanisms recommendations and integrate them with initiatives to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Since its establishment, the Voluntary Fund has disbursed **USD 6,536,039**, providing support to activities in **79** countries and allowing the organization of **8** regional workshops to promote the sharing of good practices.

As a result of the enhanced focus on implementation of recommendations during the third UPR cycle, the fund has progressively increased annual funding of projects and, following the easing of COVID-19 restrictions in various regions, reached an annual implementation of about USD 1,000,000 by the end of 2022.

Voluntary Fund Country Projects by UN Regional Groups





# Facts and figures

- Country activities since the establishment of the VF
- Countries involved in regional activities since the establishment of the VF

In **Moldova**, the Fund supported the Permanent Human Rights Secretariat in developing a guide on national mechanisms for monitoring and reporting on the implementation of human rights recommendations and a roadmap to link the National Human Rights Action Plan with the SDGs.

In **Kyrgyzstan**, the Fund supported the implementation of a legal inventory of the national legislation to bring it in accordance with international human rights standards. An in-depth human rights analysis of 18 laws was carried out, focusing on issues of non-discrimination and protection of groups in a situation of vulnerability.

Through a **regional consultation in Panama** on the universal periodic review and the 2030 Agenda, government officials and UN representatives from 17 countries shared good practices regarding the implementation of UPR recommendations and identified challenges and opportunities to align national initiatives to achieve human rights and the SDGs.

In **Chad**, the Fund is supporting the strengthening of the national mechanism to monitor places of detention and the drafting of a law on human rights defenders.

In **Mongolia**, the Fund supported the establishment of the national preventive mechanism against torture and the adoption of a law on human rights defenders.

In **Costa Rica**, the Fund is supporting a participatory assessment on the access to justice of four indigenous peoples, which will allow the Judiciary to develop a policy on the matter in line with international human rights standards.

In **Lesotho**, the Fund is supporting the strengthening of national human rights oversight bodies and promoting inclusion and access to equal opportunities for children left behind, in particular children herding domesticated animals and marginalized urban children.

In **Uruguay**, the Fund was used to support the work of the Parliamentary Penitentiary Commissioner in the elaboration of the *“Plan to combat recidivism and favor rehabilitation, based on a gender and human rights perspective”*.



# Facts and figures

Accepted universal periodic review recommendations have proven to be an **important entry point for creating nationally led and nationally owned processes** to implement the recommendations made by all international human rights mechanisms and integrate them with the efforts to achieve the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. Such recommendations can also highlight areas in which early action is needed to address risks of human rights violations, therefore contributing to the United Nations agenda on prevention.

The **good practices** collected by OHCHR and other United Nations entities show that the universal periodic review has advanced the promotion and protection of human rights – in line with the Secretary General’s **Call to Action for Human Rights** and the resulting **UPR Practical Guidance** - and secured greater compliance, in law and in practice, with international human rights norms and with the commitments made by States in all regions of the world.



## How to apply

Support by the Voluntary Fund can be requested by States in Geneva via a **Note Verbale** addressed to OHCHR or, at country level, via an **official communication** to the Head of the OHCHR field presence or the United Nations Resident Coordinator.



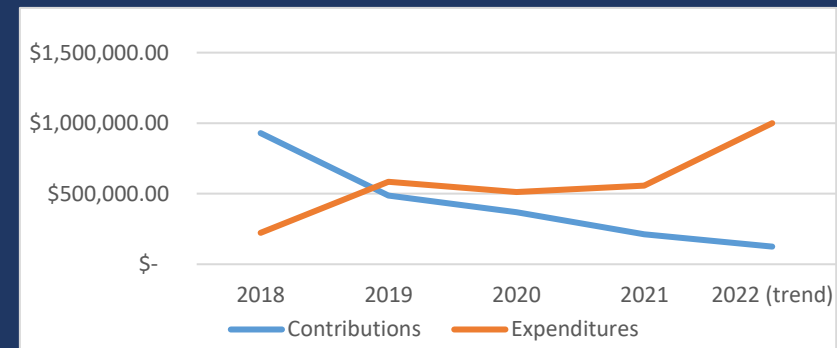
## Support the Fund

Since its establishment, the Fund has received contributions for a total amount of **USD 7,434,696** from the following countries:

Norway	(USD 2,283,483)
Germany	(USD 1,326,665)
Russian Federation	(USD 850,000)
Morocco	(USD 500,000)
Australia	(USD 387,580)
France	(USD 349,919)
India	(USD 300,000)
Saudi Arabia	(USD 320,000)
Republic of Korea	(USD 250,000)
Spain	(USD 195,655)
United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	(USD 179,033)
United Arab Emirates	(USD 100,000)
Kazakhstan	(USD 113,865)
Philippines	(USD 50,000)
Romania	(USD 47,790)
Colombia	(USD 40,000)
Netherlands	(USD 30,000)
Singapore	(USD 35,000)
Pakistan	(USD 11,000)
Oman	(USD 10,000)
Paraguay	(USD 3,000)

Contributions to the Voluntary Fund can be made by States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations or private institutions and individuals.

While requests for support have increased during the last years, contributions have decreased.



***“In view of the start of the fourth cycle in November 2022, the strengthening of the financial basis of the Voluntary Fund will be crucial to show the increasing importance that States attach to the implementation of recommendations arising from the universal periodic review”***

Report on the Operations of the Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the Implementation of the Universal Periodic Review (2022) (A/HRC/50/18)



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