

The Voluntary Fund for financial and technical assistance in the implementation of the universal periodic review

Basic information

<https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/TrustFundImplementation.aspx>



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER

Background



The Voluntary Fund for Financial and Technical Assistance in the implementation of the universal periodic review was established in 2009 pursuant to Human Rights Council resolution [6/17](#) and further strengthened in 2011 by resolution [16/21](#).

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

Background



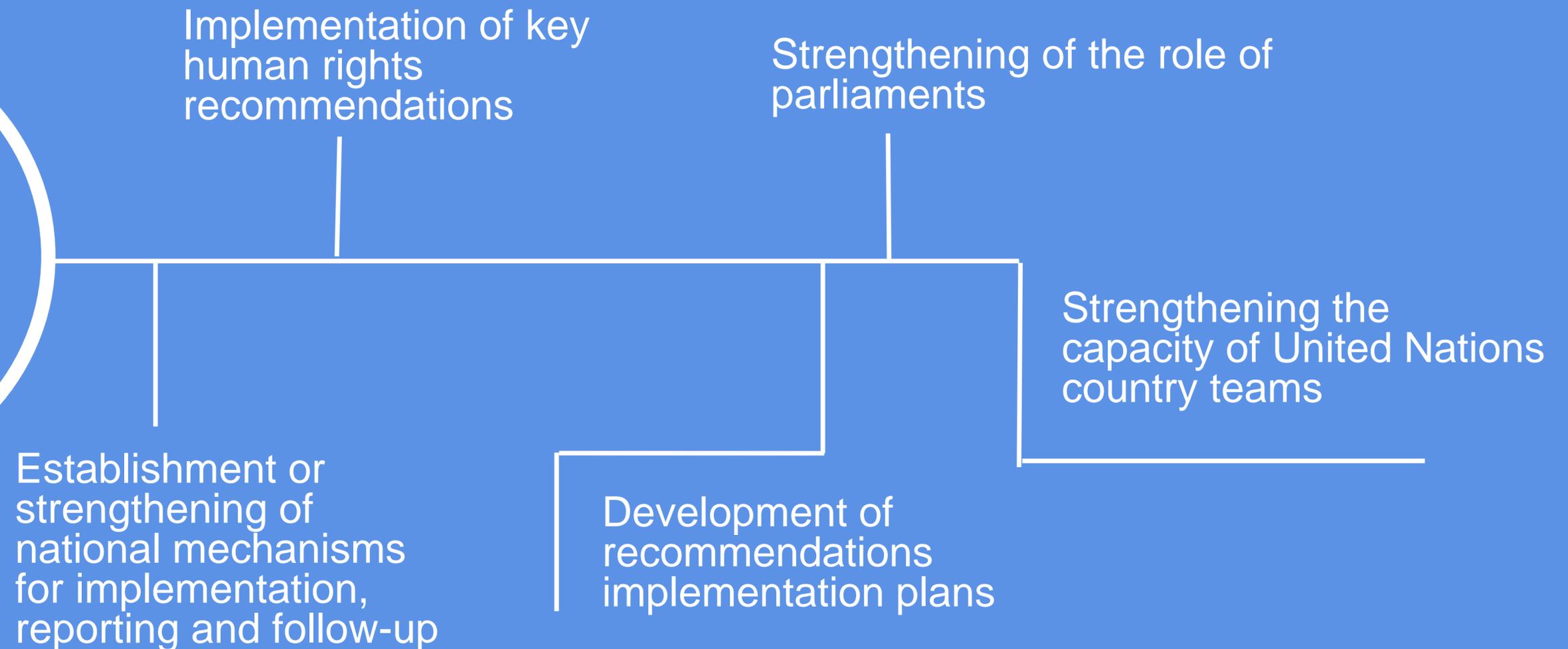
Policy guidance to the operationalization of the fund is provided by the **Board of Trustees of the Voluntary Fund**, composed of the members of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights.

The **BoT** is currently composed as follows:

- Mr. Morten Kjaerum (Denmark)
- Ms. Azita Berar Awad (Iran)
- Ms. Valeriya Lutkovska (Ukraine)
- Mr. Santiago Corcuera-Cabezut (Mexico)
- Ms. Nozipho January-Bardill (South Africa)

Focus areas

Since its establishment, the Voluntary Fund has supported projects in **65 countries** in all regions of the world. All projects are implemented in coordination with the States concerned and benefit from the technical assistance provided by OHCHR, including through its field presences. They **focus on five areas**, which reflect the criteria that guide funding decisions in accordance with the TOR of the Voluntary Fund.



Focus areas



*In **Mongolia**, the Fund supported the implementation of specific recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review, including regarding the adoption of a new law for human rights defenders.*

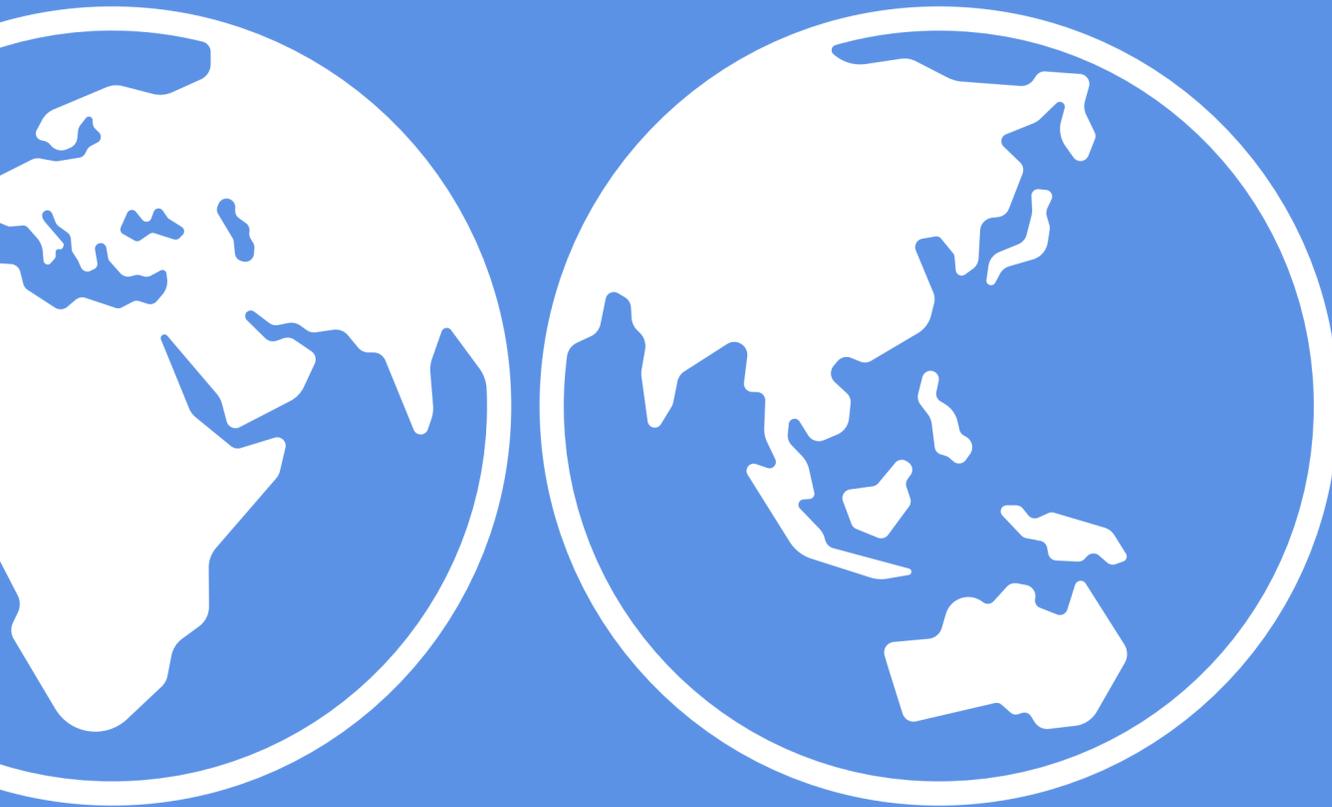
*In **Bhutan**, the Fund supported the Government on a the strengthening of the National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up, and the establishment of a National Recommendations Tracking Database to follow up on specific recommendations.*

*In **Moldova**, the Permanent Human Rights Secretariat developed 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 Sustainable Development Goals.*

*In **Saint Kitts e Nevis** the Fund supported the Government to develop a database on persons with disabilities in the country to gather the information necessary for developing evidence based public policies addressing the needs of this group.*

How to apply

Support from the Voluntary Fund can be requested by States.



In Geneva:

- Via **Note Verbale** addressed to OHCHR

In country:

- Via an **official communication** sent to the Head of the OHCHR field presence (Country or Regional Office) or to the UN Resident Coordinator in the country, which will then be transmitted to the Secretariat of the Fund.

Requests are examined in accordance to the established funding criteria and the availability of funds.

Funding

Contributions to the Voluntary Fund can be made by States, intergovernmental and non-governmental organizations or private institutions and individuals. Since the establishment of the Fund, 18 countries have made financial contributions:

Contributions to the Voluntary Fund for financial and technical assistance in the implementation of the universal periodic review						
2008 - 2009	2010-2011	2012-2013	2014-2015	2016-2017	2018-2019	2020
USD 535,326	USD 981,855	USD 1,722,333	USD 938,465	USD 1,144,236	USD 1,044,893	USD 298,807
Colombia Russian Federation United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Germany Morocco Russian Federation United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland	Australia Germany Kazakhstan Norway	Germany Kazakhstan Netherlands Norway Oman	France Germany Kazakhstan Norway Paraguay Republic of Korea Saudi Arabia Spain United Arab Emirates	France Germany Norway Pakistan Republic of Korea Russian Federation Saudi Arabia Singapore	France India Kazakhstan Pakistan Republic of Korea Singapore

The strengthening of the financial basis of the Voluntary Fund **is crucial to show the increasing importance that States attach to the implementation of recommendations** arising from the universal periodic review and the reception of dedicated support for that task.



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The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights

Universal Periodic Review Branch, Human Rights Council and Treaty Mechanisms Division



Gianni Magazzeni, Chief

gianni.magazzeni1@un.org