The Importance of human rights for peace and security and the value-added of the Human Rights Up Front Action Plan (HRuFAP)

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Human Rights: The third pillar of the United Nations

- Peace and Security
- Development
- Human Rights

Former Secretary-General, Kofi Annan, reflecting the inter-linked aims set out in the UN Charter: 
*There can be no peace without development, no development without peace, and neither without human rights.*
Human rights and the conflict cycle

Human rights violations - root causes of conflict

Human rights violations during conflict

Respect for human rights as part of a sustainable peaceful solution to conflict
The origins of the HRUF

Sep 2008 – May 2009
Final stages - Sri Lanka

March 2011
Report of Panel of Experts

November 2012
Report of the IRP

July 2013 - “Human Rights Up Front”
2012 Internal Review Panel Conclusions

Concerns identified in 2012 - “Systemic Failure”

1. Information on human rights violations was not systematically gathered, analysed and used

2. Unpreparedness and missing links between the field, headquarters and Member States

Could the lives of thousands of people have been saved?
Rights Up Front - Key elements

ACTION 1: Integrating Human Rights in the lifeblood of all staff
ACTION 2: Strengthen Human Rights capacity and coordination
ACTION 3: Actionable strategies on the ground
ACTION 4: Whole of UN Approach at HQ
ACTION 5: Gathering information and analysis
ACTION 6: Telling Member States what they need to hear

Detailed action plan (60 items) for field and HQ implementation led by EOSG
Relevance to the operational work of the UN system

Cultural change
Human Rights obligations of all UN staff

Change to political engagement
Communicate concerns to national authorities and Member States (when necessary)

Operational change
Better system for registering human rights violations and early warning and determining what action needs to be taken
Human Rights up Front

Who’s responsibility?

- The Secretary-General and **ALL** UN staff
- UNCTs
- Member States?
Information on HRUF

Documentation on HRuF has been shared with all senior officials

- Ask the head of your department, agency, fund or programme
- Ask your Resident Coordinator
- Ask your SRSG
What can you do at country level as a follow-up?

- Organize discussions on what HRuF should mean for you and your UN department, agency, fund, program

- Begin the process of conducting a simple assessment of the human rights situation and determining how concerns could be addressed.
Contact

For further information on HRUF please visit

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