



Global Protection Cluster

Human Rights Engagement in Practice

Virtual sessions

Webinar 1 – Human rights engagement as a process



Engagement with human rights mechanisms provide an opportunity for protection clusters to...

- Use additional means and avenues to achieve protection outcomes- NOT ADDITIONAL WORK, REPORTING REQUIREMENT, BUT SOMETHING USEFUL for CLUSTERS
- Address the realities from human rights angle- HCT protection strategies
- Strengthen the rights based approach
- Advocate more strategically
- Engage in confidential dialogue on sensitive issues
- Create and mobilize in-country networks, as well as global level stakeholders
- Raise more awareness on HR of IDPs
- Showcase the links between human rights recommendations and the broader themes such as 2030 Agenda, SG's call to action on HR, links to development actors





What this webinar is about:

- Basic concepts on HR engagement
- Discuss how human rights engagement represents a process

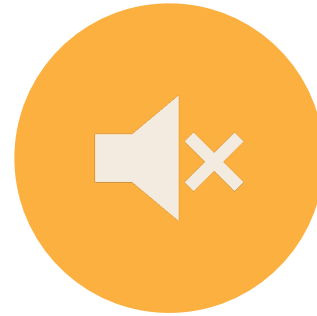
Ground rules for this webinar



THE WEBINAR WILL
LAST FOR 2H



PARTICIPATE – RAISE
YOUR HAND, CHAT

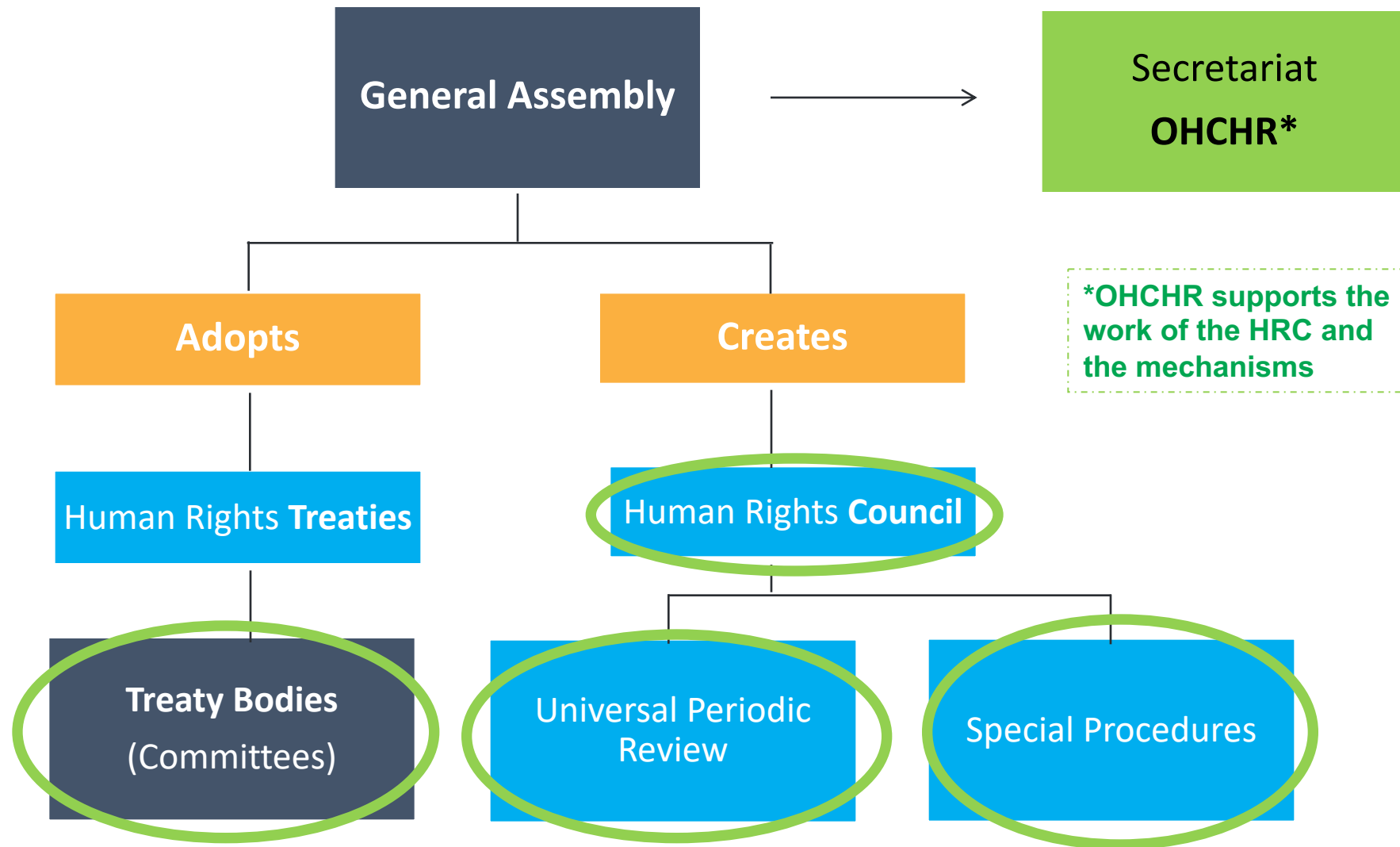


MUTE YOUR
MICROPHONE WHEN
YOU ARE NOT
SPEAKING



SHARE YOUR
COMMENTS,
OBSERVATIONS AND
QUESTIONS

Brief overview of the main HRM





UN OHCHR (UNGA 48/141 - 1993)

- Part of the UN Secretariat, the UN's executive arm.
 - Coordinating efforts to promote and protect human rights.
 - Provides **research, technical expertise, and logistical support** to facilitate the work of the Human Rights Council and other charter bodies.
 - Supports the work of the treaty bodies that monitor compliance with the UN's core human rights treaties.
 - Assist Governments through our field presences: monitoring and analysis informs decision-making and development programming. Capacity-building and legal advice; supporting rule of law, law enforcement and justice institutions.
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UN Human Rights Council (UNGA 60/251-2006)

- Inter-governmental body – subsidiary organ of the GA
- 47 UN member states elected by UNGA on rotating basis; UN, Civil Society participate to the sessions
- Discuss all thematic human rights issues and situations
- Regular sessions and Emergency sessions
- Adopts resolutions; Makes recommendations; authorizes COI and FFMs; possible country visits (SPs)



How we can engage with the HRC



- Provide oral statements
- Attend or participate in relevant side-events
- Host side-events
- Collaborate with other UN agencies, Permanent Missions and/or NGOs
- Contribute to the language of Resolutions adopted by the Council
- Raise cases of grave and systematic abuses to the Complaints Procedure



Universal Periodic Review

- HRC Subsidiary Mechanism to evaluate the human rights practices of each UN member state (once every 4.5/5 years).
- Discuss all thematic human rights issues including IHL
- State Driven Process: Each member state submits a self-assessment ("national report") to the HRC.
- UPR WG solicits input from other SPs, TBs, UN bodies, NGOs and CSOs;
- Issues report and recommendations e.g. ratify or adhere to certain HRs instruments

How we can engage with the UPR



- Provide public country-specific submissions
- Support Governments and/or civil society in their preparation of reports
- Work with member states to promote the recommendations in UNHCR's submissions and raise awareness
- Also an opportunity to share confidential or sensitive information with certain permanent missions (Summary of Key Issues)
- Collaborate with other UN agencies, Permanent Missions and/or NGOs
- Present statements during the adoption of UPR working group reports – highlighting issues and/or offering UNHCR's technical support
- Engage with States and other stakeholders in follow-up procedures and mid-cycle reviews



UN Special Procedures

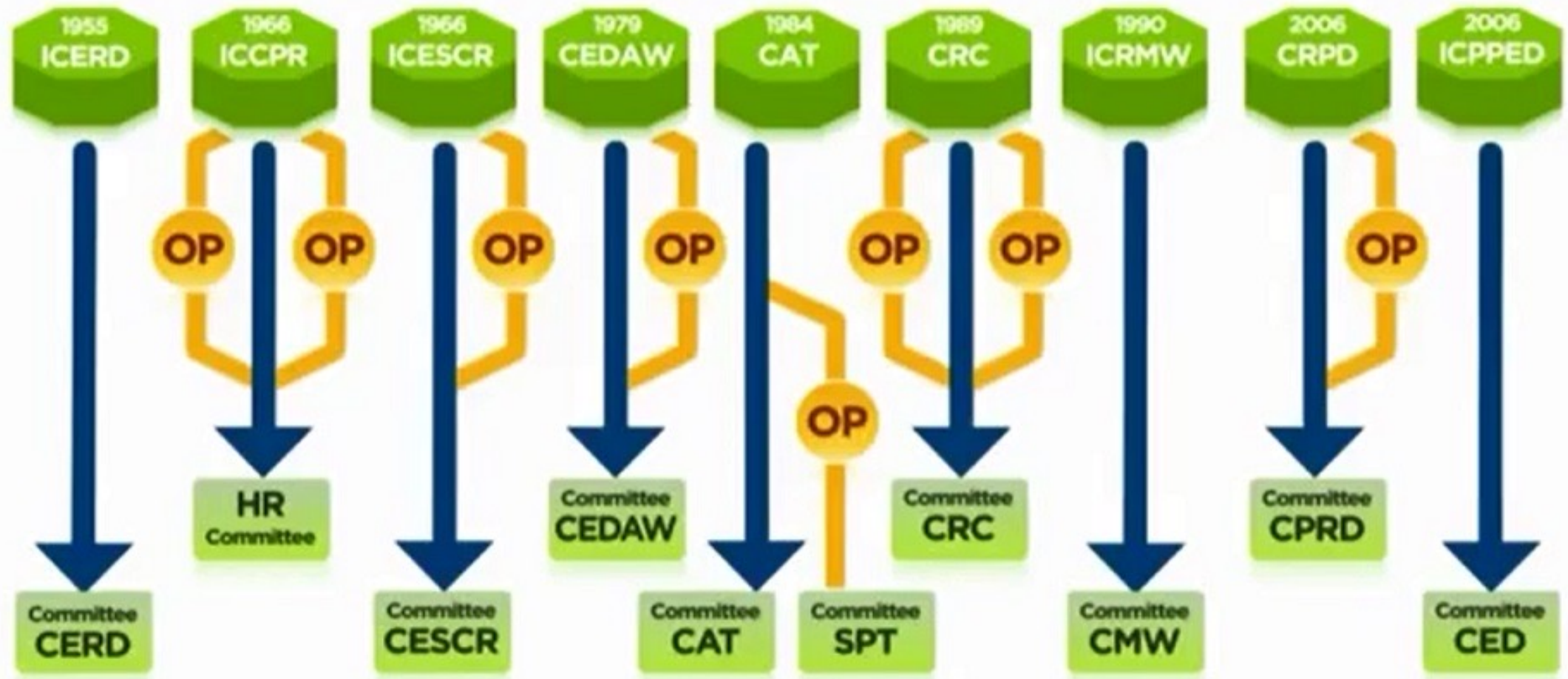
- Special procedures mandate-holders are either an individual (called a Special Rapporteur (SR) or Independent Expert (IE)) or a Working Group (WG) of five members.
- Mandate holders are appointed by the HRC and their work is supported by the OHCHR.
- Mandate holders serve in their personal capacities, independent of the UN.
- Annual reports; Conduct visits; press communications; individual communications; make recommendations

How we can engage with SPMH



- Support operations to contribute to country visits by relevant SPMH
 - Requesting visits
 - Providing confidential written information
 - Holding meetings in country / supporting visits with PoC or key stakeholders
- Thematic meetings with SPMH
- Contribute to the annual reports of SPMH
 - Meeting with relevant SPMH to determine topics of mutual interest
 - Providing written input to forthcoming reports
- Collaborate with SPMH for participation/contributions to events, side events, International Days etc.
- Raise cases of serious concern, and/or support persons of concern to submit complaints to SPMH – including requests for urgent appeals

The UN human rights treaty system





UN Treaty Bodies



- Each of the UN's nine core human rights treaties has a corresponding mechanism;
- Focus on countries part to the treaty
- Review of states every 3-5 years
- Monitor the enforcement of the treaties,
- Interpretation of the law through General Comments
- Receive individual complaints...
- General recommendations\concluding observations

How we can engage with the Treaty Bodies



- Submit Confidential Comments for State reviews
- Provide oral briefings on States under review
- Provide thematic briefings/meetings for the Committees
- Participate in thematic discussions
- Engage Committee Members in cluster events
- Contribute to General Comments/General Recommendations
- Support persons of concern to submit complaints to the Treaty Bodies – including requests for interim measures where relevant



Human rights engagement as a process



Exercise



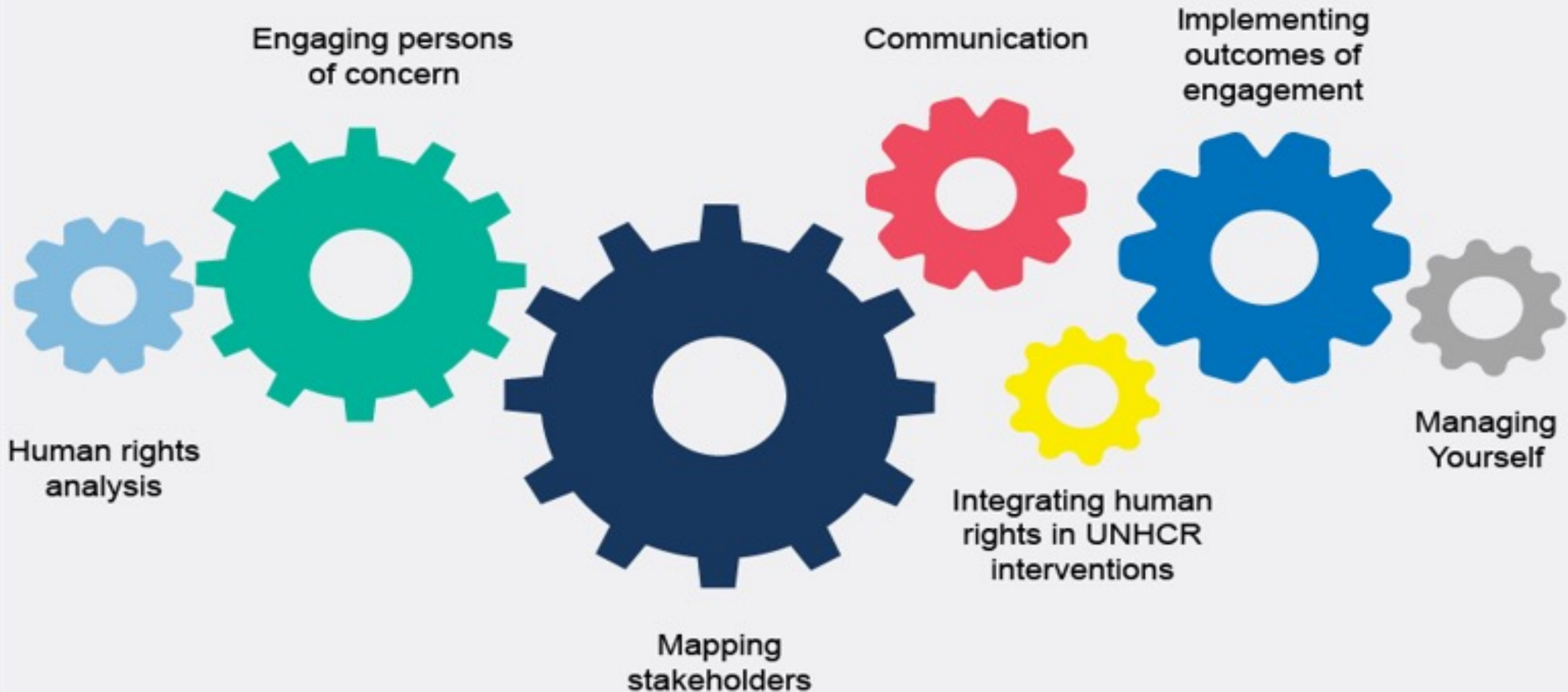
Discuss a situation where you used human rights norms or mechanisms. Or how you think is best for your cluster to start a process of engagement. Describe to your colleagues:

- what steps you took/would take
- what actions you conducted/or recommend
- what human rights instruments you used, or would want to use
- what human rights mechanisms you engaged with/would engage with
- Whether you use a human rights instrument or mechanism, what were the challenges that you have encountered?

Reflect as well on how you would evaluate the outcomes of your work.



Human Rights Engagement





Available support

- Creation of a Task Team on Human Rights Engagement under the GPC
- Exchanges with HRs partners and NHRIs, and invite them to be part of the cluster
- Learning program on HR engagement in practice
- Monthly thematic webinars and peer exchanges
- Practical guidance, tools
- Inputs to the HCT protection strategy/ advocacy strategy
- SG's Call to Action on HR: the Highest Aspiration – national action plans?



Key messages:

- Human rights engagement is a process - part of a broader advocacy/ protection strategy
- Human rights engagement does not have a fixed form
- There is a range of UN human rights mechanisms, and several ways in which clusters can engage with them.



Global Protection Cluster

Thank you for your attention!

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