



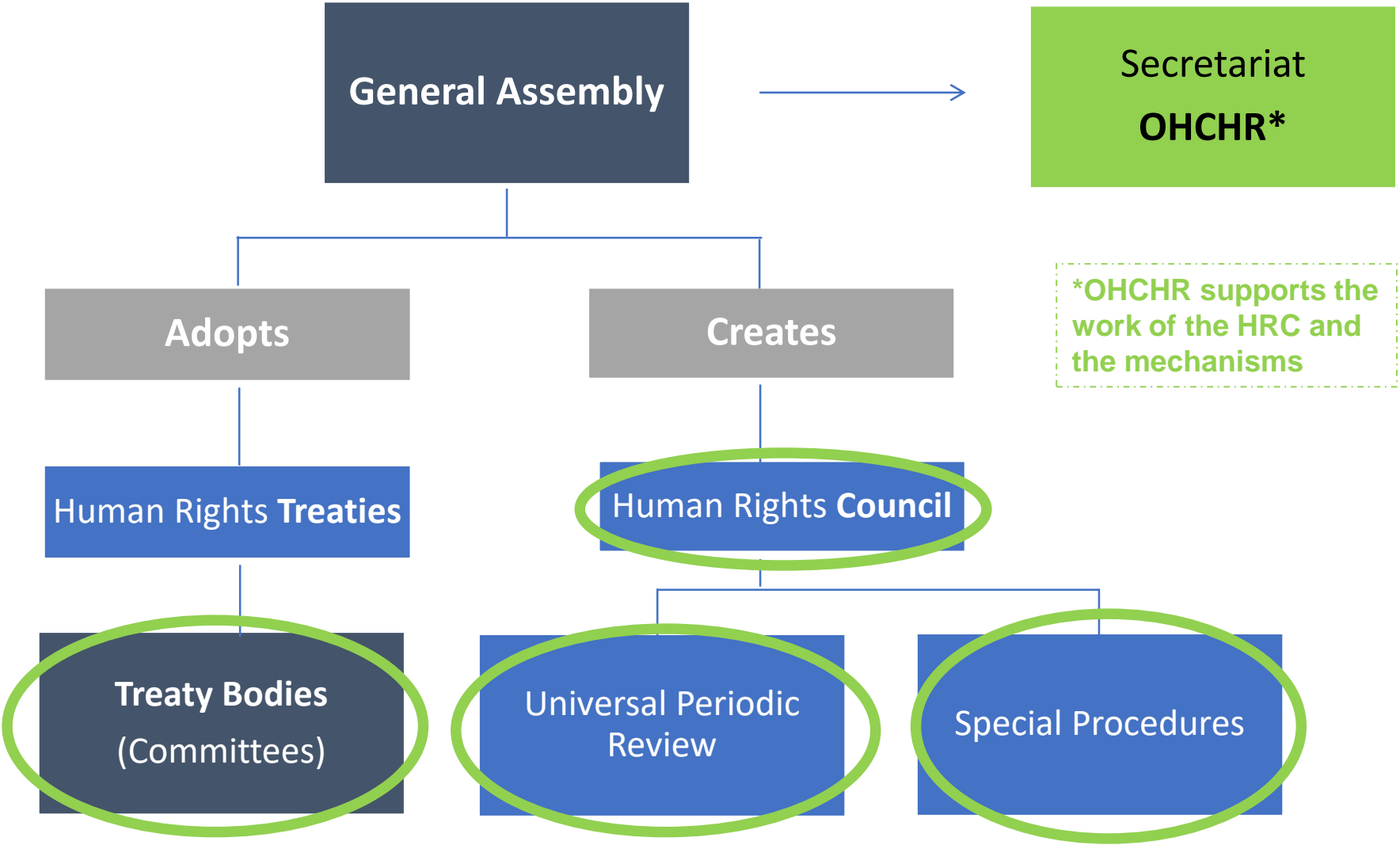
# Protection clusters and engagement with human rights mechanisms

Webinar, 18<sup>th</sup> March 2020

# 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
- Assess the realities from human rights angle- HCT protection strategies
- Apply HRBA (limitations of needs based approach)
- Advocate more strategically and strongly
- Engage in dialogue on sensitive issues
- Create and mobilize in-country networks
- Raise more awareness on HR of IDPs
- Empower 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

# Brief overview of the main HRM



# Human Rights Council

- Intergovernmental body
- Serviced by OHCHR
- Addresses human rights violations
- Works to prevent human rights abuses
- Responds to emergencies
- International forum for human rights dialogue
- Recommends developments in human rights law
- Periodically reviews country situations (UPR)



# 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 (UPR)

- Inter-governmental peer review
- Each State reviewed in a 4 year cycle
- Reviews based on:
  - National reports from the States under review
  - Compilation report including information from UN experts and bodies
  - Compilation report including information from other stakeholders (NGOs, NHRIs,...)
- HRC issues a report with recommendations and commitments of the State concerned



# 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 “friendly delegations” 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



# Special Procedures Mandate Holders

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=d7gD4mTRt8M>

- 
- Special Procedures
    - 44 thematic mandates
    - 10 mandates relating to countries or territories
  - Appointed by the Human Rights Council
  - Monitor human rights in different countries or specific issues
  - Research issues of concern
  - Country visits
  - Receive and consider direct complaints
  - Appeal to governments
  - Respond to emergencies
  - Report to the Human Rights Council



# How we can engage with SPMH

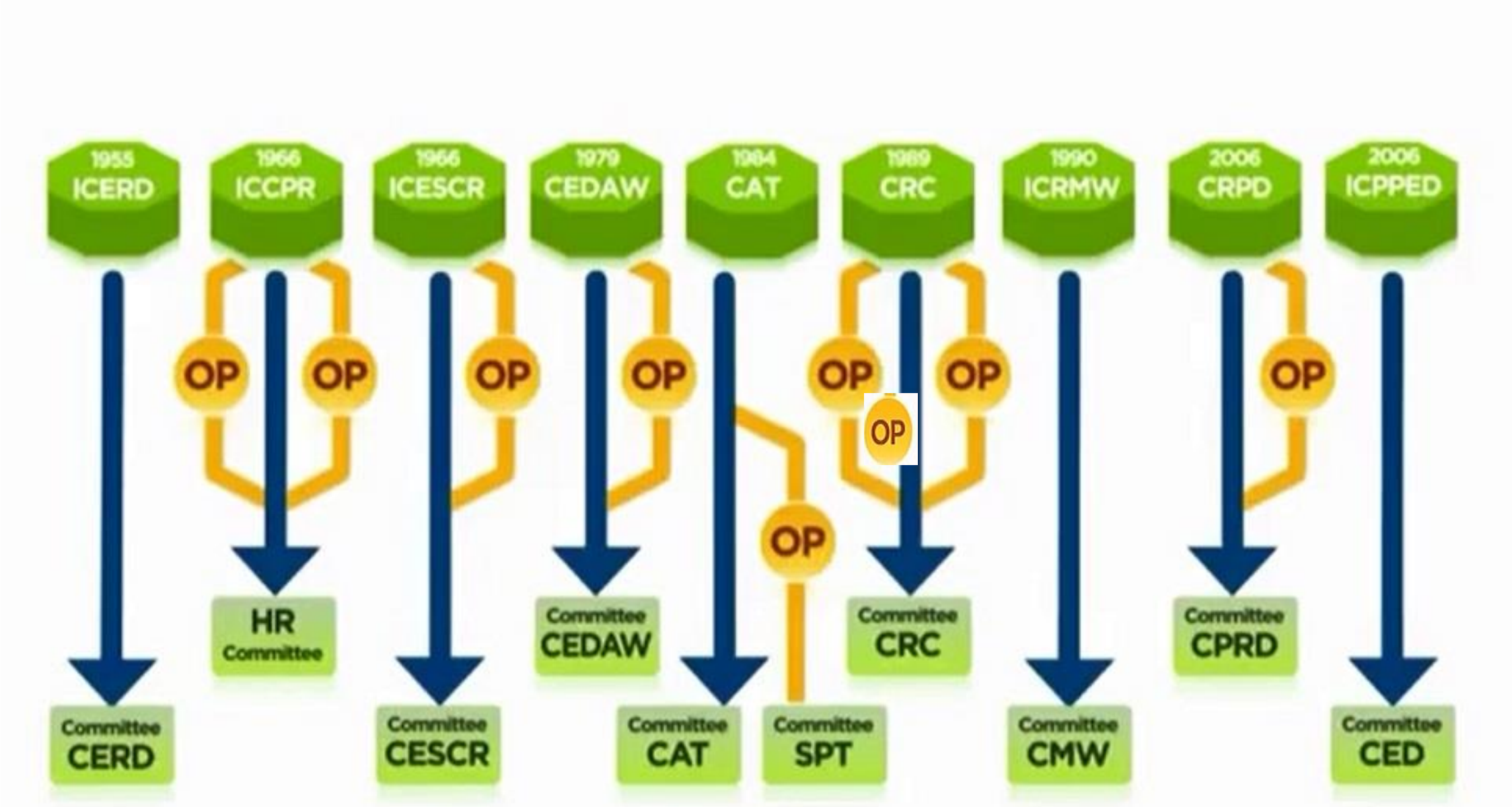
- Support operations to contribute to country visits by relevant SPMH
  - Requesting visits
  - Providing confidential written information
  - Holding meetings in country / supporting visits with PoC or key stakeholders
- Thematic meetings with SPMH
- Contribute to the annual reports of SPMH
  - Meeting 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

# Treaty bodies

- **Mandate:** to monitor the implementation of the relevant treaty by States parties
- Composed of **independent experts**, nominated and elected by States parties for fixed, renewable terms of four years
- **Membership:** 10-25 members depending the Committee
- **In total:** 10 treaty bodies
- Meet for 1-4 weeks session, held 2-3 times per year in Geneva



# The UN human rights treaty system



# How we can engage with the Treaty Bodies

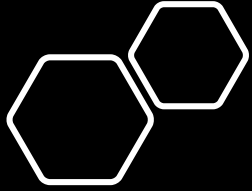
- Submit Confidential Comments for State reviews
- Provide oral briefings on States under review
- Provide thematic briefings/meetings for the Committees
- Participate in thematic discussions
- Engage Committee Members in cluster events
- Contribute to General Comments/General Recommendations
- Support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

SUPPORT

DISCUSSION



QUESTIONS



## Next steps

- Creation of a Task Team on Human Rights Engagement under the GPC
- UNHCR learning programme on HR engagement in practice
- Community of practice on HRE
- Monthly thematic webinars
- Practical guidance
- Inputs to the HCT protection strategy
- SG's Call to Action on HR: the Highest Aspiration – national action plans?