

TABLE 15.

AGREEMENTS BETWEEN UNHCR AND NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS FOR THE PROTECTION OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Why is it good practice?	<p>Ombudsmen or Human Rights Commissioners play a very important role in protecting and defending the human rights of refugees and internally displaced persons in Latin America, and coordination with UNHCR protection activities is advisable.</p> <p>Note: an agreement between UNHCR and the Constitutional Court of Ecuador is also included</p>
--------------------------	--

COUNTRY	DATE	SOURCE	SYNOPSIS
El Salvador	1996	<p>Letter of Understanding between the Republic of El Salvador's Ombudsman for the Defence of Human Rights and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees regarding inter-institutional cooperation for addressing issues related to refugees and other uprooted populations.</p> <p>Available in Spanish at: http://www.acnur.org/t3/fileadmin/scripts/doc.php?file=t3/fileadmin/Documentos/BDL/2004/2890</p>	<p>This document confirms the definitions of a refugee and returnee, and repatriated and uprooted persons in accordance with the international instruments regarding these matters. It recognises all of these groups as vulnerable populations with special protection needs, guaranteeing the well-being and dignity of those who find themselves in any of these conditions based on eight specific objectives.</p>
Bolivia	2007	<p>Framework Agreement for Reciprocal Cooperation between the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) and the Ombudsman of Bolivia.</p> <p>Available in Spanish at: http://www.acnur.org/t3/fileadmin/scripts/doc.php?file=t3/fileadmin/Documentos/BDL/2009/6904</p>	<p>The common objective of UNHCR and the Ombudsman is the defence and protection of the individual and collective rights and guarantees of refugees, which shall be developed through a plan of action that proposes promoting legal standards, regional integration and inter-State agreements, communication strategies, public policies in favour of the said vulnerable population, and training.</p>
Brazil	2012	<p>MEMORANDUM OF UNDERSTANDING BETWEEN THE OMBUDSMAN OF UNIAO AND THE UNITED NATIONS HIGH COMMISSIONER FOR REFUGEES</p>	<p>This Memorandum of Understanding aims to establish a framework of cooperation between the Parties in order to visualise joint capacities and</p>

		<p>Available in Portuguese at:</p> <p>http://www.acnur.org/fileadmin/Documentos/portugues/BD_Legal/Documentos_do_ACNUR/Acordos_de_cooperacao/Memorando_de_Entendimento_entre_a_Defensoria_Publica_da_Uniao_e_o_Alto_Comissariado_das_Nacoes_Unidas_para_Refugiados.pdf?view=1</p>	<p>actions for contributing to the fulfilment of rights of refugee claimants, refugees, stateless persons and other persons in need of international protection, in addition to ensuring their access to justice and full defence.</p>
Costa Rica	1996	<p>Letter of Understanding between the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Ombudsman of the Republic of Costa Rica</p> <p>Available in Spanish at: http://www.acnur.org/t3/fileadmin/scripts/doc.php?file=t3/fileadmin/Documentos/BDL/2004/2891</p>	
	2008	<p>Agreement of inter-institutional and technical cooperation between the Ombudsman of the Republic of Costa Rica and the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees</p> <p>Available in Spanish at: http://www.acnur.org/t3/fileadmin/scripts/doc.php?file=t3/fileadmin/Documentos/BDL/2009/7259</p>	<p>Having signed a letter of understanding in 1996, both institutions, whose primary goal was the dissemination and promotion of international standards for the protection of refugees and, since Costa Rica is an important recipient of Colombian refugees, it is agreed that a UNHCR office shall be opened in Ciudad Neilly, where the Ombudsman's Office is also located, in order that the aforementioned topic may be addressed in a joint manner.</p>
Mexico	2010	<p>Collaboration agreement between UNHCR and the National Human Rights Commission (CNDH) in Mexico.</p> <p>Available in Spanish at: http://www.google.co.cr/url?sa=t&rc=j&q=&esrc=s&frm=1&source=web&cd=1&ved=0CC4QFjAA&url=http%3A%2F%2Fwww.acnur.org%2Ft3%2Frecursos%2Fbdl%2Fbdl%2F%3FeID%3Ddam_frontend_push%26docID%3D</p>	<p>This document aims to lay the foundations and establish the mechanisms for collaboration and support among "THE PARTIES", in order to coordinate the implementation of various strategies and activities aimed at the protection and local integration of asylum-seekers and refugees, as well as design and implement strategies to promote and disseminate the rights of asylum-seekers and refugees in</p>

		3D10021&ei=uMiPUp_ZO4bZkQfP_oGwBQ&usq=AFQjCNHSJHNL3NcB BNV40UfHDZ2oztJK-w&bvm=bv.56988011,d.eW0	Mexico.
Venezuela	2011	<p>Memorandum of Understanding between the Autonomous Institute of the National Council for the Rights of Children and Adolescents (IDENNA) of Venezuela and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) in Venezuela</p> <p>Available in Spanish at: http://www.acnur.org/t3/fileadmin/Documentos/BDL/2011/7523.pdf?view=1</p>	The main objective of this Memorandum of Understanding is to strengthen the articulated and collaborative work between IDENNA and UNHCR to promote the protection of the human rights of the country's children and adolescents and refugees, as well as those of applicants for refugee status in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela.
Argentina	2011	<p>Office of the Attorney-General RESOLUTION No. 1055/11 (...) IV- PROVIDE that the programme created under this resolution will begin on 1 February 2012, offering legal aid and legal representation to any person requesting recognition of refugee status after the date indicated.</p> <p>Available in Spanish at: http://www.acnur.org/t3/fileadmin/Documentos/BDL/2013/9139.pdf?view=1</p>	Guarantee the public and free legal representation of refugees and asylum-seekers in Argentina.
Ecuador	2012	<p>Letter of Understanding between UNHCR and the Constitutional Court of Ecuador</p> <p>Available in Spanish at: http://www.acnur.org/t3/fileadmin/Documentos/BDL/2012/8468.pdf?view=1</p>	<p>The parties have decided "to join forces and coordinate training programmes and specific activities to achieve the most effective care for uprooted populations, ensuring respect for their rights as persons, their welfare and human dignity".</p> <p>They commit, <i>inter alia</i>, to</p> <p>"2. Disseminating and promoting knowledge of and respect for Ecuador's responsibilities in relation to international standards regarding the protection of refugees, as well as the principles contained in other instruments (...). Assessing the consistency of these instruments with domestic legislation"</p>

El Salvador	2013	Cooperation Agreement between the Office for the Defence of Human Rights in El Salvador and UNHCR Available in Spanish at: http://www.acnur.org/t3/fileadmin/Documentos/BDL/2013/9391.pdf?view=1	Cooperation in research, projects, joint activities, carrying out diagnostics and studies, etc.
-------------	------	--	---

Compiled by the Regional Legal Unit of the Bureau for the Americas, UNHCR