

A: HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development sets out a vision for sustainable development grounded in international human rights standards (paras. 10, 18, 19, 67, 74), putting equality and non-discrimination at the center of its efforts (paras. 3, 4, 48, 74) and encompassing not only economic and social rights but also civil, political, and cultural rights, as well as the right to development (paras. 13, 18, 55, 74).

In the 2030 Agenda, Member States have declared their vision of “a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity, the rule of law, justice, equality and non-discrimination; of respect for race, ethnicity and cultural diversity... a world which invests in its children... a world in which every woman and every girl enjoys full gender equality...”(para. 8), pledging to “leave no one behind” and to “reach the furthest behind first” (para. 4).

With its transformative ambition and universal applicability, the 2030 Agenda challenges the UN to remain steadfast in ensuring that the SDGs are implemented in accordance with international law (para. 18), through an integrated and universal approach (para. 5), and ensuring that no one is left behind (para. 4).

Moreover, in a context where people are suffering the impact of conflict, violence, disaster and environmental degradation, inequality and discrimination, all members of the UN family – development, humanitarian, political, peace and security, and human rights – must find ways to work better together across the pillars to prevent and address crises. As the Secretary-General has said “There will be no peace without development, no development without peace, and neither without respect for human rights.” (para. 10 of the 2030 Agenda and paras. 9 & 12 of the 2005 World Summit Outcome Document)

B.1: Alignment with international standards	B.2: Leaving no one behind	B.3: Active and meaningful participation	B.4: Robust accountability
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - In its support to Member States, the UN should promote and support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and all efforts to reach the SDGs and their related targets fully aligned and consistent with international human rights norms and standards as core values of the UN; - Recommendations from international human rights mechanisms should guide the implementation of the SDGs, in order to better align the accountability framework with human rights standards; - SDG reporting and review processes should include and link to human rights reporting and review processes. Systematic engagement by the UN, Member States and stakeholders with human rights mechanisms should be seen as an integral part of the implementation of the SDGs; - The UN should continue to promote the universally-applicable and interrelated nature of all SDGs and their related targets in the implementation of the SDG agenda, by advocating for an integrated, not selective, approach, especially in the localization of the SDGs, ensuring the indivisibility of rights throughout the process. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The UN must put the imperative of addressing inequalities and non-discrimination at the heart of its efforts to support the implementation of the SDGs and targets. - Identifying inequalities and discrimination, including intersectional discrimination, must be the starting point for analysis, which requires the generation of evidence and data collection and disaggregation that goes beyond gender, geography and age, to include all grounds of discrimination prohibited under international law, to ensure that all forms of discrimination and other root causes of inequalities are identified and analyzed, and that appropriate responses through laws, policies and programmes are put in place to address these; - Addressing gender inequalities must be a particular priority as gender-based discrimination remains the most prevalent form of discrimination, preventing half the world’s population from developing to their full potential; - Addressing the causes of displacement and migration and the impact on the rights of individuals and groups, focusing on the rights of those affected by conflict, violence, disaster and environmental degradation, inequality and discrimination, must be a core component for achieving the SDGs; - New partnerships with civil society organizations and other stakeholders, methods and data sources are needed to include indicators that will measure existing inequalities and discrimination; - The UN should consistently apply and support the application of a Human Rights-Based Approach in the planning, design, implementation and monitoring of all SDGs in order to more effectively reduce inequalities and discrimination. Efforts should aim at achieving both formal and substantive equality, and must focus on: addressing structural barriers, reversing unequal distribution of power, resources and opportunities, and challenging discriminatory laws, social norms and stereotypes that perpetuate inequalities and disparities. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Active and meaningful participation by stakeholders, including the human rights community and civil society, women, children, and vulnerable groups, must be ensured in all phases of the design, implementation and monitoring of the new Agenda, including in the localization of the SDGs and the allocation of resources for their implementation. Meaningful participation will ensure that the most marginalized are identified and taken into account in policy development; - The rights to freedom of information, expression, association and assembly are fundamental pre-requisites to empowering people as agents of sustainable development. The UN should establish strong partnerships with civil society and other stakeholders, use its convening role to create consistent space and resources for free, informed and empowered participation without fear of reprisal and strengthen its focus on the protection of human rights defenders; - The UN should exert its utmost efforts to ensure the full participation of all peoples and stakeholders, including the most marginalized groups in the UN’s own implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The UN should adhere to and promote robust, participatory and transparent accountability mechanisms vis-à-vis the people so that it is clear who is responsible for delivering on what, by when and by what means. These should be built into the implementation architecture of the 2030 Agenda and build on existing mechanisms; - Bearing in mind that the overall responsibility for the implementation of the new agenda is with Member States, the UN should advocate and promote transparency and people’s access to information in all aspects related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, including in the resource allocation, prioritization, implementation and review of the SDGs, both in its support to countries and in its own operations; - As part of the implementation of the SDGs, the UN should support the establishment of national mechanisms to provide effective judicial and non-judicial remedies to individuals and groups, and support individuals and groups in accessing them; - In our partnerships with State and non-state actors, including the private sector, public-private partnerships, and civil society, the UN should ensure due diligence and promote the full implementation of normative standards and international principles such as the UN’s Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights, or the Children’s Rights and Business Principles.

Operational support for UNCTs in integrating human rights into SDG implementation

	C.1: Alignment with international standards	C.2: Leaving no one behind	C.3: Active and meaningful participation	C.4: Robust accountability	D: Support from HQ
Analysis	Identify recommendations to the country adopted by international human rights mechanisms (Treaty-based bodies, UPR, Special Procedures, ILO Experts) and determine their relevance to advancing the different SDGs and targets.	Identify the specific groups which 'have been left behind', their barriers and challenges and proposed responses ensuring the application of a gender perspective, using the recommendations by international human rights mechanisms (Treaty-based bodies, UPR, Special Procedures, ILO Experts) as a basis on which to build this analysis.	Map existing networks of stakeholders available to engage in discussing the national strategies to achieve the SDGs (e.g. SDG plans, UNDAF), in order to build upon these networks; looking at stakeholders in broader terms than NGOs with whom the UNCT generally works and include human rights defenders, academic institutions, women's organizations, representative organizations or groups of persons with disabilities, grass roots and local organizations.	Include recommendations by international human rights mechanisms (Treaty-based bodies, UPR, Special Procedures, ILO Experts) in the plans to monitor, review and report on the implementation of national plans to achieve the SDGs, and include progress towards SDGs (and relevant human rights standards) in UNCT/national reporting to HR mechanisms.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide UNCTs with the most recent recommendations made by human rights mechanisms to the country, grouped and clustered to facilitate analysis for use (e.g. UNDAF) and for advocacy (e.g. MAPS). - Provide UNCTs with information on the NHRI (if it exists), national systems to track recommendations by human rights mechanisms, and the lists of stakeholders (including networks of civil society organisations) that have contributed to the UPR and other international human rights mechanisms.
Multi-stakeholder Engagement	In discussions with the Government and stakeholders, present the country's human rights recommendations relevant to each SDG for their integration into plans of action (e.g. SDG plans, UNDAF).	To better identify those being left behind, their specific challenges in achieving the SDGs, and proposed responses, engage with national human rights stakeholders, including the National Human Rights Institution (if existing) and national and international civil society organizations to collect other sources of qualitative data on gaps in coverage/ services/ progress by current action plans (e.g. national development plans, UNDAF).	Plan for free, active and meaningful participation of all stakeholders throughout all stages from the most initial planning and analysis, through the design, implementation and monitoring stages of strategies to achieve the SDGs (e.g. SDG plans, UNDAF); consultations and engagement with them should start from the beginning of the process.	Map existing governmental, (the National Human Rights Institution (if available), and non-governmental organizations or networks currently monitoring follow-up to recommendations from international human rights mechanisms, to include in the monitoring of national plans to achieve the SDGs (e.g. SDG plans, UNDAF).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide UNCTs with guidance on what free, active and meaningful participation by civil society entails, including guidelines on consulting with specific groups (e.g. indigenous peoples). - Provide UNCTs with information on the UN Guidelines for Business and Human Rights.
Tailoring SDGs	Ensure that all relevant recommendations are used holistically in elaborating the national strategies to achieve the SDGs (e.g. SDG plans, UNDAF); some may be operationalized, some may be followed-up only through advocacy, but all should be taken into account in the strategy.	In elaborating the national strategies to achieve the SDGs; disaggregate data beyond gender, geography and age, demonstrating utmost efforts to cover all prohibited grounds of discrimination in the national strategies to achieve the SDGs (e.g. SDG plans, UNDAF).	Include measures to ensure different stakeholders are informed, empowered and have access to provide input to the tailoring of the SDGs, including geographic outreach where necessary; tailoring messages to be accessible to specific groups; and using the UN's convening power to create an enabling environment for threatened or discriminated groups to participate in the process of developing the strategies to achieve the SDGs (e.g. SDG plans, UNDAF), without fear of reprisal (this includes measures needed to allow representation from specific groups, such as: rural populations, persons with disabilities, young people, Indigenous peoples, LGBTI, women, human rights defenders, etc.).	Ensure transparency in the resource allocation, prioritization, implementation and review of the nation plans to achieve SDGs by making this information accessible to all, including disaggregated data to show how 'those being left behind' are being considered in the national implementation plans to achieve the SDGs (e.g. SDG plans, UNDAF).	
Creating Policy Coherence	Use the human rights standards applicable to each SDG including the treaties, relevant general comments and recommendations from human rights mechanisms as guidance in elaborating, implementing, and monitoring the strategies to achieve the SDGs (e.g. SDG plans, UNDAF).	In monitoring national strategies to achieve the SDGs (e.g. SDG plans, UNDAF), use existing tools to measure inequalities in each of the SDGs.	In order to ensure 'no one is left behind', take measures to ensure that those not usually heard, not organized, and not empowered to participate are included in the process of national implementation of the strategies to achieve the SDGs (e.g. SDG plans, UNDAF). If necessary, set aside budget allocation and operational support to provide support to stakeholder's participation (translation, transport, allowance, etc.).	Support the development of plans and mechanisms that are participatory and outline clear and specific human rights responsibilities across government for delivering on the SDGs, effectively tracking and identifying progress, gaps and challenges in the implementation of plans to achieve the SDGs (e.g. SDG plans, UNDAF). Support the participation of private sector companies that follow the UN Guidelines on Business and Human Rights and other guidance, such as the Women's Empowerment Principles (WEPs) and the Children's Rights and Business Principles in implementation of national plans to achieve the SDGs (including public-private partnerships).	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Provide UNCTs with the standards relevant to each of the SDGs to guide their inclusion in the national strategies to achieve the SDGs. (e.g. Danish Human Rights Institute analysis). - Provide UNCTs with existing tools to measure inequalities in different areas related to each SDG. (e.g. UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO) and within the framework of the CEB-adopted joint implementation plan on human rights (TBC).
Monitoring and Reporting	Include the upcoming reviews by international human rights mechanisms as part of the plans to report on implementation of the strategies to achieve the SDGs (e.g. SDG plans, UNDAF).	Include the analysis of intersectional discrimination, the roots of inequalities, including gender inequalities, and how these are being addressed in reports on implementation of the national strategies to achieve the SDGs (e.g. SDG plans, UNDAF).	Include civil society and other stakeholders in decision-making and monitoring processes, through figures such as those of 'consultative groups' or 'steering committees', with appropriate channels for their views to be taken into account in the monitoring and reporting of the national implementation of the strategies to achieve the SDGs (e.g. SDG plans, UNDAF).	Advocate for the Government to ensure available judicial and non-judicial recourse for human rights violations (including NHRI), and if necessary remedies, are available to people or groups, as part of monitoring and reporting on the implementation of national plans to achieve the SDGs (e.g. SDG plans, UNDAF). Support the building of/ further strengthening of existing social accountability mechanisms at the local level to effect sustainable results for rights-holders.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Integrate human rights and an analysis of inequalities, and include the voices of CSOs and other stakeholders into regional, global and thematic reviews to the SDG implementation, and share outcomes regularly with UNCTs. - Include country comparisons of SDG achievement in regional, global and thematic reviews where possible, and share outcomes regularly with UNCTs.