

3 December 2019

Mr. President

In the first intersessional meeting on human rights and the 2030 Agenda held on the 16th of January this year it was concluded that the SDGs could only be realized through a human rights-based approach to their implementation.

In our view, this human rights based approach is more relevant than ever now that we approach the final decade of the SDG campaign with many groups still left behind in the face of persistent inequalities and discrimination. Indeed, only with meaningful participation of these groups and improved accountability of governments, the 2030 Agenda could still be realized without leaving anyone behind.

Hence, the NL takes note with concern that a lack of development is still being invoked to justify the abridgement of internationally recognized human rights. For this reason, we call upon all states to fulfill their human rights obligations and commitments, regardless of their levels of development.

At the same, the NL encourages the UN system, in particular through the reformed UN Resident Coordinators office and UN country teams, and member states to accelerate the operationalization of human rights based approaches in their SDG-efforts.

As member of the Human Rights Council as from next year onwards, the NL will also encourage a larger role for the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in alerting the Council about patterns of human rights violations that jeopardize development gains and stability.

Thank you.