



Contributions to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

ECOSOC functional commissions and other intergovernmental bodies and forums, are invited to share relevant input and deliberations as to how they address goals and targets from the perspective of “*Ensuring that no one is left behind*”.

Inputs could follow the following template, inspired by the report of the Secretary-General on Critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level (A/70/684).

Submissions will be publicly posted online at the United Nations Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform, at sustainabledevelopment.un.org, as input to the 2016 meeting of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development.

Please send the completed form no later than **16 May 2016** to the Secretariat’s e-mail pietracci@un.org

Submission Form

Human rights treaty bodies and their role supporting the 2030 Agenda

Human rights treaties are particularly relevant to the principle of ‘ensuring that no one is left behind’. The two International Covenants include the principle of non-discrimination in articles 2 of each treaty and they share common article 3 promoting equality between men and women.¹ Other human rights treaties focus on the rights of persons who are often left behind, including women, children persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, national, ethnic and racial minorities, persons in detention, migrant workers, and people suffering enforced disappearance. The treaties set out a range of minimum protections from discrimination and other abuse as well as measures to promote equality. A list of treaties and other key instruments are set out at the end of this document.

Each treaty establishes a body of independent experts, elected by States parties, who are mandated to review implementation of the treaties and make recommendations. Nine human rights treaties have a reporting procedure which requires States parties to provide reports setting out steps taken to implement the treaties. The treaty bodies review the report, as well as alternative reports provided from other sources such as civil society, national human rights institutions and UN partners, and set out a series of concluding observations and recommendations to help States parties improve implementation. Treaty bodies also adopt general comments – documents providing detailed global-level analysis of specific thematic issues related to the treaty in question which seek to improve implementation by clarifying treaty obligations. A tenth treaty, the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture establishes a treaty body that undertakes country visits to places of detention with a view to strengthening protection of detainees from torture and ill-treatment.

Treaty bodies promote a two way interaction with the 2030 Agenda. On the one hand, the significant amount of information relating to the implementation of treaties gathered through the

¹ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966) and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966) which together with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) comprise the International Bill of Human Rights.



reporting process is closely related to the implementation of the SDGs and therefore provides a ready-made source of data to help track progress on SDG implementation. In addition, the information relating to national implementation of the SDGs is itself closely related to treaty implementation and therefore of particular relevance to the work of treaty bodies.

The Chairs of treaty bodies already adopted a statement in 2015 on the post-2015 development agenda.² Treaty bodies remain committed to consolidating and deepening this two-way interaction with a view to ensuring complementarity between the treaties and the SDGs.

In this regard, treaty bodies are already referring to relevant SDGs and targets in their constructive dialogues with States (for example, sending specific SDGs-related questions to States prior to the review of their treaty report, raising SDGs-related questions in the constructive dialogue with States and making recommendations to States in the concluding observations that link implementation of particular treaty provisions with SDGs and targets). In addition, the search function of the Universal Human Rights Index (<http://uhri.ohchr.org/en>) is being improved to allow for the search of treaty body information that relates to national implementation of the SDGs. This will be particularly helpful in identifying and analysing treaty-related information on SDG implementation and assist with providing the High Level Political Forum with relevant information to support its work.

Similarly, OHCHR field presences³ are helping States parties to align SDGs implementation and development of national development plans with treaty obligations and their treaty reporting. The aim is not only to have rights-based SDGs implementation but also to help use treaty reporting as a means of tracking SDG and national development plan achievements.

Finally, OHCHR has prepared a table setting out examples of treaty provisions relating to each of the 17 Goals to help the reader better understand the overlap between the goals, targets and human rights. The table has been added to the end of this document.

1. An assessment of the situation regarding the principle of “ensuring that no one is left behind” at the global level:

Since the adoption of the resolution A/RES/70/1 on 25 September 2015, the treaty bodies have reviewed 105 reports of States parties, providing a solid basis for an assessment of the situation regarding the principle of ‘ensuring no one is left behind’.⁴ The responses to the following questions are taken from the concluding observations and recommendations of treaty bodies adopted since 25 September 2015.

² See <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DisplayNews.aspx?NewsID=15505&LangID=E>

³ For example, the OHCHR field presence in the occupied Palestine territory.

⁴ *Human Rights Committee*: Austria, Benin, Costa Rica, Greece, Iraq, Namibia, New Zealand, Republic of Korea, Rwanda, San Marino, Slovenia, South Africa, Sweden, Suriname; *Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*: Burundi, Canada, Greece, Georgia, Iraq, Italy, Kenya, Morocco, Namibia, Sudan; *Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination*: Azerbaijan, Egypt, Georgia, Holy See, Lithuania, Mongolia, Namibia, Oman, Rwanda, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey; *Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women*: Czech Republic, Haiti, Iceland, Japan, Lebanon, Liberia, Madagascar, Malawi, Mongolia, Portugal, Russian Federation, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Timor-Leste, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Uzbekistan, Vanuatu; *Committee Against Torture*: Austria, Azerbaijan, China (Hong Kong), China (Macau), China, Denmark, France, Israel, Jordan, Liechtenstein, Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Turkey; *Committee on the Rights of the Child*: Bangladesh, Benin, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Chile, Cuba, France, Haiti, Iran, Ireland, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Madagascar, Maldives, Oman, Poland, Peru, Senegal, Timor-Leste, United Arab Emirates, Zambia, Zimbabwe; *Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities*: Chile, Lithuania, Portugal, Slovakia, Thailand, Uganda; *Committee on Migrant Workers*: Lesotho, Mauritania, Senegal, Turkey; *Committee on Enforced Disappearance*: Burkina Faso, Iraq, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Tunisia.



While the situation regarding this principle differs from country-to-country (and potentially from treaty-to-treaty), it is nonetheless possible to highlight certain issues when viewed from the global level:

First, there are many individuals who risk being left behind if the process of development does not expressly include them. In the experience of treaty bodies, individuals who are at risk of being left behind should be considered as open-ended. While some people are referred to expressly in the 2030 Agenda, others, such as Roma, nomadic people, and LGBTI people, refugees, asylum seekers, migrant workers in an irregular situation, missing persons and homeless persons might also be at risk of being left behind, even if not explicitly mentioned in the Agenda. Related to this, it is important to consider individuals at risk of being left behind in their particular context as implementation of the SDGs might affect them in various ways. For example, over the last year, treaty bodies have considered discrimination against women and girls in a general sense (for example, through the review of laws and policies) but also the specific situation of women and girls suffering from domestic violence, pregnant women and girls, women with disabilities, internally displaced women, girls forced to work, girls in conflict with the law, among other examples. Similarly, treaty bodies have considered the situation of persons with disabilities generally, but also specifically the situation of persons with disabilities such as those in involuntary detention in psychiatric institutions. Accordingly, in implementing the 2030 Agenda, it is relevant to note that some individuals face multiple forms of discrimination, for example, indigenous women might face discrimination on the basis of sex as well as race and social or national origin. Implementation of the SDGs should consider the inter-related factors that can exclude individuals from development so as to ensure that no one is left behind.

Second, treaty bodies note their concern that inequalities are increasingly stark and can take many forms including gender inequality, inequality on the basis of age, race inequality, inequality between minority and majority groups, income and wealth inequality to name a few. The drivers of inequality include racism and xenophobia, religious intolerance, unequal access to land and natural resources, discriminatory customs and traditions, colonialism, lack of access to political rights, lack of access to justice and remedies for human rights abuse. Discrimination in society often drives inequality – however, it is not the only factor that drives inequality and people from majority communities (for example, those living in extreme poverty) are treated unequally and are at great risk of being left behind through economic exclusion. Inequality manifests itself in differential access to essential goods and services (including food, health, education, land and resources, information, birth registration, justice, all of which are recognized as rights) as well as to political power which in turn aggravates and deepens inequality. Inequality is also inter-generational, which tends to entrench inequality and make it more difficult to remedy. Consequently, not only does inequality lead to human rights abuse, it also stymies development efforts and risks widening the gap between individuals even further. In this sense, treaty bodies welcome the inclusion of SDG 10 on reducing inequality within and among countries but also highlight that tackling inequality is a concern that runs across all 17 SDGs.

Third, ensuring no one is left behind requires a comprehensive approach that covers access to a range of services as well as respect for freedoms. For example, achieving free and compulsory primary and secondary education requires not only policies in the education sphere but also access to safe drinking water and sanitation, awareness-raising among parents and the community of the importance of, for instance the education of girls and children with disabilities, and provision of safe educational environments free from discrimination and violence. Similarly, treaty bodies have emphasized the importance of freedom of expression, access to information and participation of people in disadvantaged or vulnerable positions as important means of promoting more inclusive societies and also ensuring that



societies are adequately prepared to avoid natural and man-made crises having a disproportionately negative impact on those most often left behind.

Fourth, in the experience of treaty bodies, combatting inequality is a universal concern that goes beyond notions of developing and developed countries. In this sense, the human rights treaty system is well-placed as it sets out obligations in relation to all States parties, independent of the level of development, and therefore examines inequalities in all States that have ratified the treaties. In this regard, of the 105 States reviewed over the reporting period, almost a third came from countries considered as developed. Treaty bodies raised issues related to equality and non-discrimination in these countries as with other countries reviewed.

Fifth, while human rights treaty law focuses principally on combatting discrimination and inequality affecting individuals, it recognizes inequality between States and imposes obligations of international cooperation on States parties. In this regard, it highlights that those in a position to help, should provide international assistance and cooperation to other States parties to help them meet their obligations. Article 2(1) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights obliges States parties to take steps both individually and through international assistance and cooperation to achieve economic, social and cultural rights progressively. The Convention on the Rights of the Child (article 4) and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (article 4(2)) include similar provisions. Obligations of international cooperation provide treaty-based provisions that can strengthen implementation of SDG 17 as well as SDG 10, target 10.b. In this regard, treaty bodies have encouraged developed countries to meet the target of 0.7 per cent of gross national income for development assistance and to include a rights-based approach in development policies and programmes.

2. The identification of gaps, areas requiring urgent attention, risks and challenges:

Some specific areas that treaty bodies have considered over the last year related to ensuring that no one is left behind include:

Adopting laws and policies – of particular relevance to SDG 10, target 10.3, and SDG 16, target 16.b, treaty bodies recognize that laws and policies provide an important basis for action to ensure that no-one is left behind and consistently encourage States to adopt comprehensive non-discrimination legislation. Such legislation should protect against discrimination on the basis of any status, protect against multiple forms of discrimination (for example, discrimination against one person based on both sex and race) and should protect against discrimination in law (*de jure* discrimination) as well as in practice (*de facto* discrimination). In addition, in keeping with SDG 10, target 10.3, legislation should protect against both direct and indirect discrimination with a view of achieving not only equality of opportunities but also equality of outcomes. In this regard, temporary special measures aimed at achieving *de facto* equality are not considered discriminatory. Legislation should recognize that denial of reasonable accommodation for persons with disabilities constitutes discrimination. Legislation should also provide the means of redress for individuals alleging discrimination. In addition, to comprehensive non-discrimination legislation, treaty bodies have recognized that States should review other legislation with a view to amending any discriminatory provisions in those laws and should adopt laws dealing with specific situations such as protection of asylum-seekers, refugees and migrants and the prohibition of racial profiling, racial hate speech or incitement to discrimination.



Protecting against violence – All treaty bodies have highlighted the challenge of that violence poses to achieving equality, most notably between women and men, regardless of age, and have consistently reminded of the prohibition of torture in all circumstances, including against children in keeping with SDG 16, target 16.2. Violence takes many forms and can occur in both the public and private sphere. Both preventive and remedial action is required. For example, public awareness campaigns and training is important to some forms of violence that might be seen as acceptable by some, such as female genital mutilation. Similarly, laws that allow exceptions for violence should be repealed such as laws allowing violence on the basis of the so-called ‘honourable motives’ or that relieve offenders if they marry a victim of rape. Of relevance to implementation of SDGs 5 and 16 in particular, remedial action is needed in areas such as ensuring prompt, thorough and effective investigations into allegations of violence, training of the police and judiciary in dealing with such cases, providing assistance to victims, including shelters to those affected by violence, punishing perpetrators and compensating victims. For disappeared persons, the authorities must take prompt action to seek and find them and to inform their relatives of their whereabouts. Programmes combatting violence need to be adequately funded.

Promoting access to justice - treaty bodies have emphasised the importance of individuals accessing justice, in line with SDG 16, target 16.3, as a means of promoting equality and protecting against discrimination. This includes access to formal systems of justice such as courts. However, treaty bodies have also encouraged the establishment of affordable and easy-to-access mechanisms such as national human rights mechanisms, traditional justice mechanisms (with the proviso that they meet human rights standards) and even help-lines for children and women suffering abuse. Ensuring access to justice alone is insufficient and treaty bodies have emphasised the importance of addressing obstacles to accessing justice such as linguistic barriers, obstacles to accessibility for persons with disabilities (lack of sign language interpretation or information in Braille), economic factors, lack of awareness of rights, reticence to file complaints due to social stigma and prejudices, the need for victim and witness protection in some cases, and ensuring an independent judiciary. Treaty bodies have noted that a lack of complaints related to discrimination and inequality can itself be an indicator of insufficient and inaccessible justice mechanisms, mistrust and lack of awareness of institutions and fear of reprisals.

Building stronger institutions – Treaty bodies have highlighted the important role of national institutions as a means to promote equality, monitor and implement laws and policies, and sanction non-compliance, in keeping with SDG 16, particularly targets 16.6 and 16.a. Treaty bodies have referred explicitly to parliaments, national human rights institutions, national machinery for the advancement of women, children’s ombudspersons, national mechanisms for the protection of the rights of persons with disabilities, labour inspectorates, national preventive mechanism for the prevention of torture amongst others. In the case of judicial institutions, treaty bodies have emphasized the importance of independence of judges and lawyers and the imperative of avoiding any pressure from the executive in the appointment, promotion and dismissal of judges as well as the protection of lawyers from retaliation for defending certain individuals. For national institutions such as Human Rights and Equality Commissions, treaty bodies have indicated that such institutions should conform to the Principles relating to the status of national institutions (Paris Principles), highlighting in particular the importance of the independence of such institutions and their members as well as the need for sufficient human and financial resources so that institutions can perform duties fully, effectively and independently and be accessible to everyone throughout the particular country.

Recognizing responsibilities of duty-bearers including the private sector – States have the primary obligation to respect, protect and fulfil human rights; however, all actors in society have duties to the



community which is the basis for free and full development. While the private sector can be an important motor for development, treaty bodies have expressed concern about the impact of the private sector on local populations. In this regard, treaty bodies have encouraged the regulation of the private sector, including in relation to acts of domestic enterprises acting abroad, and to introduce effective mechanisms to investigate complaints filed against enterprises, including complaints lodged in relation to alleged acts occurring abroad.

Combatting stereotypes and stigmatisation – while better laws and institutions can do much to ensure that no one is left behind, entrenched discriminatory opinions, bias, stereotypes and invisible barriers are among the greatest obstacles to achieving equality and can perpetuate inequality. For example, parents who do not register a child with a disability due to traditional prejudices and stigma set the stage for a life of inequality. Treaty bodies have indicated that training and awareness-raising campaigns as well as engagement of community and religious leaders, civil society organizations, educators, parents, law-makers, police and the judiciary among others are important complements to better laws and institutions.

Promoting decent work – promotion of decent work, including equal pay for work of equal value, respect for the minimum wage, safe and healthy working conditions, protection from harassment, equal opportunity for promotion, and the right to rest and leisure, is fundamental to promoting equality as recognized in SDG 8. Promotion of decent work ensures equality in the work place but also ensures that individuals have the means to a decent living which in turn provides the ground for greater equality in society. One particular area of concern relates to persons with disabilities as prescribed under article 27 of the Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. Nonetheless, inequality persists in the work place. In particular, treaty bodies have identified the gender pay gap as persisting in countries, no matter the level of development. The fact that women are over-represented in part time, informal and unpaid work exacerbates this gap. Treaty bodies have recommended the undertaking of comparative studies of salary scales across professions. In February 2016, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights adopted a General Comment which sets out the various rights and duties to ensure just and favourable conditions of work.⁵ Finally, treaty bodies have identified the need to eradicate forced labour, trafficking and the worst forms of child labour as well as legal protection of domestic workers as areas requiring urgent action.

Promoting access to services, including social protection floors – promoting access to services is an essential step in ensuring that no one is left behind in the processes of development. Services, such as health care, provide the basis for a decent life and also empower individuals to realize their right to development. However, economic growth that is unaccompanied by pro-poor policies risks the continued exclusion of those left behind from benefiting from improved services that could result from economic growth. Similarly, those left behind can be the first to suffer from economic crisis unless appropriate safety nets are in place. Of relevance to promoting SDG1, target 1.3, treaty bodies have encouraged the establishment of social protection floors – a basic set of social guarantees, in cash or in kind – as being pivotal to ensuring income security and access to basic services such as health care for all.

Collecting disaggregated data – Treaty bodies regularly call for data that is disaggregated by categories such as sex, race, national origin and disabilities, or other relevant ground, as a means of

⁵ United Nations, *The right to just and favourable conditions of work*, Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, General Comment 23 (E/C.12/gc/23).

having a fuller understanding of equality and developing appropriate and targeted policies and development programmes. In this regard, treaty bodies have emphasized the importance of self-identification when collecting data related to minorities. As recognized in SDG 17, target 17.8, many countries need capacity-building to assist in the collection of high-quality disaggregated data and treaty bodies have encouraged States to seek technical cooperation, including from UN organizations, to assist with the collection and disaggregation of data, and have encouraged the public provision of data through on-line databases where this is consistent with human rights principles and individual confidentiality. The OHCHR Guidance Note 'A human rights-based approach to data: leaving no one behind in the 2030 Development Agenda' provides a useful reference.⁶

Promoting consultation and participation – as recognized in SDG 16, targets 16.7 and 16.10, access to information, consultation and public participation in the development, implementation and monitoring of laws, policies and programmes is important to ensure both the suitability as well as the sustainability of measures ensuring that no one is left behind. The role of parliaments is key in this regard although participation and consultation should also go beyond formal mechanisms of participation. Treaty bodies have specifically emphasized the need for free, prior and informed consent for indigenous peoples in relation to the use of their land and natural resources. Similarly, treaty bodies have encouraged participation of children, people living in poverty, as well as persons with disabilities and their representative organizations in decisions that affect them. Persons with disabilities should enjoy legal capacity on an equal basis with others, including in the exercise of their right to vote.

Defending members of civil society – A free and active civil society is important to giving voice to those left behind and in developing sustainable development solutions to inequality. This requires respect for freedom of expression and association as well as swift action to investigate promptly, thoroughly and impartially all allegations of mistreatment or reprisals of human rights defenders, to prosecute those guilty and to provide victims with redress. Member of civil society deprived of their liberty for doing work to combat discrimination and promote equality should be released and laws should facilitate the registration and financing of civil society organizations. Treaty bodies have also highlighted the need to protect journalists, artists, writers and bloggers from intimidation.

Combatting corruption – Treaty bodies have identified mismanagement of resources and corruption as obstacles to the allocation of resources to promote equal rights to basic services and to assist those at risk of being left behind. They have promoted the public monitoring of budget allocations as well as the detection, investigation and prosecution of those involved in corruption, and protection of those fighting it, as a means of combatting corruption which could be an important means of meeting SDG 16, target 16.5.

3. Valuable lessons learned on ensuring that no one is left behind:

Indicate where treaty bodies have already incorporated the 2030 Agenda in concluding observations.

4. Emerging issues likely to affect the realization of this principle:

A serious issue that continues has been the impact of economic crises on ensuring that no-one is left behind. Treaty bodies have highlighted the severe impact of austerity measures on rights, in

⁶ See <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/GuidanceNoteonApproachtoData.pdf>



particular rights to work, reduction in the minimum wage that go beyond an amount permitting a decent living for workers and their families, cuts to social security and to health care which affect the most disadvantaged and marginalized. Treaty bodies have noted that economic crisis and ensuing austerity measures have, in some cases, sharply increased the population at risk of social exclusion and poverty in recent years. For example, in one situation, reductions to health care have had a disproportionate impact on asylum-seekers and undocumented migrants. Economic, social and cultural rights should not be subject to retrogressive measures. In situations of economic crisis, any adjustments to these rights should be temporary, necessary and proportionate, non-discriminatory and protect minimum entitlements such as social protection floors.⁷

Treaty bodies have also identified humanitarian crises and natural disasters as impediments to achieving greater equality, including gender equality. In Europe, States facing both economic crisis and the increased number of people fleeing armed conflict and persecution are facing increasing difficulties providing access to health care, adequate food, clothing, interpreters and social support and treaty bodies have highlighted the need for international cooperation to assist these States. Similarly, treaty bodies have highlighted the potential for climate change and natural disasters to affect certain people disproportionately, including women living in rural areas, persons with disabilities and others, and treaty bodies have highlighted the importance of including those often left behind in decision-making processes related to disaster prevention and response.

The role of non-state actors and their capacity to have both positive and negative effects on ensuring no one is left behind is another emerging issue. For example, while acknowledging the crucial role of the private sector in promoting sustainable development, treaty bodies have also observed that multinational enterprises, particularly in the extractive industry, can have particularly negative effects on the livelihoods of indigenous and local communities and on the environment. The situation is aggravated by unclear responsibilities of armed groups. Therefore, treaty bodies have observed the negative impact that conflict has on the enjoyment of rights and on sustainable development, leaving behind those caught up in conflict.

Beyond crises and conflicts, certain policies, even widely accepted, can aggravate inequality. Inequalities can result from the way that trade and financial systems are structured and operate. With an increasingly connected global economy, national inequality is often closely inter-related to global shifts in production and trade which can exacerbate existing inequality in market power, access to technology and industrial relation dynamics and in turn negatively affect inequalities nationally. In turn, limited access to technology – particularly the internet and digital media – can exacerbate inequalities and leave those without access even further behind.

Further, speech that advocates national, racial or religious hatred in public discourse and the media can incite discrimination, hostility or violence, which is prohibited under international human rights law, entrenching stereotypes and thus distancing those left behind even further from reaching the goal of equality. Treaty bodies have reminded of the need to protect individuals from discriminatory discourse and incitement to hatred, condemn discriminatory discourse in the strongest terms, call upon politicians and others in positions of power, to ensure that statements do not incite hatred or

⁷ Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Open Letter to States parties to the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, 16 May 2012:
http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2fCESCR%2fSUS%2f6395&Lang=en



discrimination, investigate claims of discriminatory discourse, and increase public awareness to counter discriminatory speech and hate crimes, including through the training of public officials.

On a positive side, it is relevant to note that ratifications of human rights treaties continue to increase, thus showing ongoing commitment by States to protect human rights, including the principles of non-discrimination and equality. It is through this ongoing commitment to promote equality for all, through timely submission of reports and the continuing constructive dialogue between States and treaty bodies on the basis of those reports that greater respect for the principle of leaving no one behind has a greater possibility of being met in a sustainable manner.

5. Areas where political guidance by the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development is required:

- To continue recognizing a role for human rights mechanisms in promoting greater accountability for the 2030 Agenda, including through systematic engagement with the High Level Political Forum. In this regard, the HLPF could recognize the role of treaty bodies and other human rights mechanisms as an invaluable source of data to support implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda.
- To call on the United Nations to ensure that the imperative of combatting inequalities and discrimination is given appropriate focus by placing it at the centre of objectives, strategies, plans of action and policies in support of the 2030 Agenda over the next 15 years and beyond, including a prioritization of ensuring that no one is left behind in all relevant UN actions.




6. Policy recommendations on ways to accelerate progress for those at risk of being left behind:



Treaty bodies welcome this opportunity to provide information to the High Level Political Forum at its first meeting since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda in 2015. The clear link between human rights treaties and the SDGs, including the principle of ensuring that no one is left behind, highlights the complementarity between work of treaty bodies and that of the High Level Political Forum. In this regard, treaty bodies look forward to the deepening of this cooperation in the future. In this regard, the treaty bodies encourage the High Level Political Forum:


- To make a strong statement in support of the objective of creating a more equal world, respectful of human rights and dignity
- To place the elimination of discrimination and reduction of inequalities at the forefront of efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda, with a particular focus on reaching the furthest behind first
- To reaffirm the importance of comprehensive and adequately resourced non-discrimination legislation and policies based on international standards as a basis for action to ensure that no one is left behind
- To encourage the introduction of appropriate monitoring mechanisms and institutions at the national level – such as national human rights institutions, labour inspectorates, national machinery for the advancement of women, children’s ombudspersons, ombudspersons for persons with disabilities, and national preventive mechanisms for the prevention of torture. Monitoring mechanisms should be open to participation of stakeholders and their representative organizations



- To support the development of appropriate methodologies, such as human rights impact assessments, prior to the introduction of laws, policies and development programmes to ensure that such instruments leave no one behind.
- To support the development and use of appropriate data collection and monitoring methodologies that provide guidance on collecting data which allows for disaggregation and monitoring the trends and progress of the most disadvantaged individuals and groups to examine whether inequalities are reducing over time.

Sustainable Development Goals	Related human rights *
	<p>End poverty in all its forms everywhere</p> <p>Targets include eradicating extreme poverty; implementing social protection measures; and ensuring equal access of men and women to economic resources.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to an adequate standard of living [UDHR art. 25; ICESCR art. 11; CRC art. 27] • Right to social security [UDHR art. 22; ICESCR art. 9; CRPD art. 28; CRC art. 26] • Equal rights of women in economic life [CEDAW arts. 11, 13, 14(2)(g), 15(2), 16(1)]
	<p>End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture</p> <p>Targets include ending hunger and malnutrition; improving agricultural production, sustainable and resilient food production; correcting trade distortions, and ensuring functioning food commodity markets.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to adequate food [UDHR art. 25; ICESCR art. 11; CRC art. 24(2)(c)] • International cooperation, including ensuring equitable distribution of world food supplies [UDHR art. 28; ICESCR arts. 2(1), 11(2)]
	<p>Ensure healthy lives and promote well – being for all at all ages</p> <p>Targets include reducing maternal mortality; ending preventable child deaths; ending or reducing AIDS other diseases; universal health coverage, affordable essential medicines, sexual and reproductive health care; vaccine research, and access to medicines.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to life [UDHR art. 3; ICCPR art. 6], particularly of women [CEDAW art. 12] and children [CRC art. 6] • Right to health [UDHR art. 25; ICESCR art. 12], particularly of women [CEDAW art. 12]; and children [CRC art.24] • Special protection for mothers and children [ICESCR art.10] • Right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its application [UDHR art. 27; ICESCR art. 15(1)(b)] • International cooperation [UDHR art. 28, DRtD arts. 3-4], particularly in relation to the right to health and children’s rights [ICESCR art. 2(1); CRC art. 4]

<p>4 QUALITY EDUCATION</p> 	<p>Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all</p> <p>Targets include universal access to free, quality pre-primary, primary and secondary education; improving vocational skills; equal access to education; expanding education facilities, scholarships, and training of teachers.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to education [UDHR art. 26; ICESCR art. 13], particularly in relation to children [CRC arts. 28, 29]; persons with disabilities [CRC art. 23(3), CRPD art. 24]; and indigenous peoples [UNDRIP art. 14] • Equal rights of women and girls in the field of education [CEDAW art. 10] • Right to work, including technical and vocational training [ICESCR art. 6] • International cooperation [UDHR art. 28; DRtD arts. 3-4], particularly in relation to children [CRC arts. 23(4), 28(3)], persons with disabilities [CRPD art. 32], and indigenous peoples [UNDRIP art. 39]
<p>5 GENDER EQUALITY</p> 	<p>Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</p> <p>Targets include eliminating discrimination and violence against women and girls; valuing unpaid care and domestic work; ensuring the full participation of women; access to reproductive health care; and equal access of women to economic resources.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women [CEDAW arts. 1-5] and girls [CRC art. 2], particularly in legislation, political and public life (art. 7), economic and social life (arts. 11, 13), and family relations (art. 16)] • Right to decide the number and spacing of children [CEDAW arts. 12, 16(1)(e); CRC art. 24(2)(f)] • Special protection for mothers and children [ICESCR art. 10] • Elimination of violence against women and girls [CEDAW arts. 1- 6; DEVAW arts. 1-4; CRC arts. 24(3), 35]

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to just and favourable conditions of work [ICESCR art. 7; CEDAW art. 11]
<p>6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION</p> 	<p>Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</p> <p>Targets include ensuring universal and equitable access to safe, affordable drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for all; reducing pollution; increasing water-use efficiency; and promoting participatory management of water and sanitation services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to safe drinking water and sanitation [ICESCR art. 11] • Right to health [UDHR art. 25; ICESCR art. 12] • Equal access to water and sanitation for rural women [CEDAW art. 14(2)(h)]
<p>7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY</p> 	<p>Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all</p> <p>Targets include ensuring universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to an adequate standard of living [UDHR art. 25; ICESCR art. 11] • Right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its application [UDHR art. 27; ICESCR art. 15(1)(b)]

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all

Targets include promoting sustained economic growth; improving resource efficiency in production and consumption; full and productive employment and decent work for all; eradicating forced and child labour and trafficking; protecting labour rights including those of migrant workers; and increasing access to financial services.

- **Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work** [UDHR art. 23; ICESCR arts. 6, 7, 10; CRPD art. 27; ILO Core Labour Conventions and ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work]
- **Prohibition of slavery, forced labour, and trafficking of persons** [UDHR art. 4; ICCPR art. 8; CEDAW art. 6; CRC arts. 34-36]
- **Equal rights of women in relation to employment** [CEDAW art. 11; ILO Conventions No. 100 and No. 111]
- **Prohibition of child labour** [CRC art. 32; ILO Convention No. 182]
- **Equal labour rights of migrant workers** [CMW art. 25]

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation

Targets include affordable and equitable access to quality infrastructure; employment generating industrialisation; access to financial services and markets; innovation and technology transfer, and increasing access to ICT.

- **Right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its application** [UDHR art. 27; ICESCR art. 15(1)(b)]
- **Right to access to information** [UDHR art. 19; ICCPR art. 19(2)]
- **Right to adequate housing**, including land and resources [UDHR art. 25; ICESCR art. 11]
- **Equal rights of women to financial credit and rural infrastructure** [CEDAW art. 13(b), art. 14(2)]

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



Reduce inequality within and among countries

Targets include promoting higher growth rates for the bottom 40 per cent; promoting social, economic and political inclusion; reducing inequalities in opportunities and outcomes; ensuring social protection for all; securing participation in economic decision making; facilitating migration, and reducing transaction costs for migrant remittances.

- **Right to equality and non-discrimination** [UDHR art. 2; ICESCR art. 2(2); ICCPR arts. 2(1), 26; CERD art. 2(2); CEDAW art. 2; CRC art. 2; CRPD art. 5; CMW art. 7; DRtD art. 8(1)]
- **Right to participate in public affairs** [UDHR art. 21; ICCPR art. 25; CEDAW art. 7; ICERD art. 5; CRPD art. 29; DRtD art. 8(2)]
- **Right to social security** [UDHR art. 22; ICESCR arts. 9-10; CRPD art. 28]
- **Promotion of conditions for international migration** [CMW art. 64]
- **Right of migrants to transfer their earnings and savings** [CMW art. 47(1)]

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

Targets include ensuring access to housing, basic services and public transport for all; participatory planning of human settlements; safeguarding cultural and natural heritage; and strengthening resilience to disasters.

- **Right to adequate housing**, including land and resources [UDHR art. 25; ICESCR art. 11]
- **Right to participate in cultural life** [UDHR art. 25; ICESCR art. 15; ICERD arts. 5, 7; CRPD art. 30; CRC art. 31]
- **Accessibility of transportation, facilities and services** particularly of persons with disabilities [CRPD art. 9(1)], children [CRC art. 23], and rural women [CEDAW art. 14(2)]
- **Protection from natural disasters** [CRPD art. 11]



12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns

Targets include achieving sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources; improving waste management; promoting sustainable public procurement; ensuring access to information; and building capacity for

- **Right to health** including the right to safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment [UDHR art. 25(1); ICESCR art. 12]
- **Right to adequate food and the right to safe drinking water** [UDHR art. 25(1); ICESCR art. 11]
- **Right of all peoples to freely dispose of their natural resources**

	sustainable development.	[ICCPR, ICESCR art. 1(2)]
	<p>Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</p> <p>Targets include strengthening resilience and adaptation to climate change and natural disasters, including in marginalised communities; implementation of the Green Climate fund.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to health including the right to safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment [UDHR art. 25(1); ICESCR art. 12; CRC art. 24; CEDAW art. 12; CMW art. 28] • Right to adequate food & right to safe drinking water [UDHR art. 25(1); ICESCR art. 11] • Right of all peoples to freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources [ICCPR, ICESCR art. 1(2)]
	<p>Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development</p> <p>Targets include reducing marine pollution; conserving costal ecosystems, costal marine areas and fish stock; securing market access for small scale fishers; protection of marine biodiversity.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Right to health including the right to safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment [UDHR art. 25(1); ICESCR art. 12; CRC art. 24; CEDAW art. 12; CMW art. 28] • Right to adequate food & right to safe drinking water [UDHR art. 25(1); ICESCR art. 11] • Right of all peoples to freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources [ICCPR, ICESCR art. 1(2)]

15 LIFE ON LAND



Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss

Targets include the sustainable management of freshwater, mountain ecosystems and forests; combatting desertification; halting biodiversity loss; combatting poaching and trafficking of protected species.

- **Right to health** including the right to safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment [UDHR art. 25(1); ICESCR art. 12; CRC art. 24; CEDAW art. 12; CMW art. 28]
- **Right to adequate food & right to safe drinking water** [UDHR art. 25(1); ICESCR art. 11]
- **Right of all peoples to freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources** [ICCPR, ICESCR art. 1(2)]

16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels

Targets include reducing all forms of violence; ending violence against and trafficking of children; promoting rule of law and justice for all; reducing illicit financial and arms flows, corruption and bribery; developing effective institutions; participation in decision making at all levels; legal identity for all.

- **Right to life, liberty and security of the person** [UDHR art. 3; ICCPR arts. 6(1), 9(1); ICPED art. 1] including freedom from torture [UDHR art. 5; ICCPR art. 7; CAT art. 2; CRC art. 37(a)]
- **Protection of children from all forms of violence, abuse or exploitation** [CRC arts. 19, 37(a)], including trafficking (CRC arts. 34-36; CRC-OP1)]
- **Right to access to justice and due process** [UDHR arts. 8, 10; ICCPR arts. 2(3), 14-15; CEDAW art. 2(c)]
- **Right to legal personality** [UDHR art. 6; ICCPR art. 16; CRPD art. 12]
- **Right to participate in public affairs** [UDHR art. 21; ICCPR art. 25]
- **Right to access to information** [UDHR art. 19; ICCPR art. 19(1)]

17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development

Targets include strengthening domestic and international resources; debt sustainability; technology transfer and capacity building; promoting trade; enhancing policy and institutional coherence; respecting countries' policy space; promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships; measurements for progress, disaggregated data.

- **Right of all peoples to self-determination**
[ICCPR, ICESCR art. 1(1); DRtD art. 1(1)]
- **Right of all peoples to development, & international cooperation**
[UDHR art. 28; ICESCR art. 2(1); CRC art. 4; CRPD art. 32(1); DRtD arts. 3-5]
- **Right of everyone to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its application**, including international cooperation in the scientific field
[UDHR art. 27(1); ICESCR art. 15(1)]
- **Right to privacy**
[UDHR art. 12; ICCPR art. 17], including respect for human rights and ethical principles in the collection and use of statistics [CRPD art. 31(1)]

(*) This table is intended for illustrative purposes only. The listing of relevant rights is not exhaustive. Under international human rights law, and under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, data for all targets needs to be collected and disaggregated by the prohibited grounds of discrimination under international human rights law, including the respect, protection and promotion of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status. Obligations regarding international assistance and cooperation also apply to all Goals.

List of international human rights instruments:

1948 – Universal Declaration on Human Rights ([UDHR](#))

1965 – International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination ([CERD](#))

1966 – International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ([ICCPR](#))

1966 – International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights ([ICESCR](#))

1979 – International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women ([CEDAW](#))

1984 – Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment ([CAT](#))

1986 – Declaration on the Right to Development ([UNDRTD](#))

1989 – Convention on the Rights of the Child ([CRC](#))

1990 – International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families ([CMW](#))

1993 – Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women ([DEVAW](#))

2000 – Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the sale of children, child prostitution and child pornography ([OP-1](#))

2000 – Optional Protocol to the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the involvement of children in armed conflict ([OP-2](#))

2002 – Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment ([OP CAT](#))

2006 – Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ([CRPD](#))

2006 – International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance ([ICPPEP](#))

2007 – Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples ([UNDRIP](#)).

**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

