

The 9th session of the Expert Mechanism on the Right to Development
Item 4 of the Provisional Agenda
Implementation of the mandate and programme of work - Focused thematic discussion
Conference Room 5, UNHQ, New York

Global Agreements: From political commitments to contractual or legal obligations and their impact on the RTD

Wednesday 1 May 2024, 3:00 PM to 5:15 PM

Concept Note

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Introduction

Global agreements are pivotal in shaping the world's response to critical challenges. These agreements, arising from political commitments, sometimes evolve into legally binding instruments that impact various aspects of human rights. Legally binding global agreements can present opportunities and challenges for collaboration and collective action in promoting and fulfilling their purpose whatever it may be. They can provide a platform for sharing best practices, mobilizing resources, and raising awareness about pressing global issues. Moreover, they can catalyze policy reforms at the national level and encourage Governments to prioritize the Sustainable Development Goals.

Purpose

This interactive dialogue will explore the impact of recent global commitments and compacts on the right to development. These compacts include the *Global Treaty to End Plastic Pollution*, the *Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation*, the *Draft Pact of the Future* or the *UN 2023 Water Conference and Water Action Agenda*. The dialogue will focus on the contributions and lessons learned in the global agreement negotiations in five critical areas related to the right to development.

Guiding questions

1. How do global agreements enhance the right of all individuals and peoples to participate in, contribute to, and benefit from development processes?
2. Have global agreements addressed environmental concerns holistically to protect ecosystems and promote sustainable development?
3. How effectively have global agreements addressed the technology gaps through international collaboration, knowledge exchange and resource support?
4. To what extent do global agreements empower marginalized communities and address power imbalances and historical inequities?
5. What frameworks do global agreements provide for capacity building, knowledge sharing, and financial support to enhance developing countries' ability to implement sustainable practices?

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