**UNDP’s submission to the Secretary-General’s report**

**pursuant to the UN General Assembly resolution 77/205 “A global call for concrete action for the elimination of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance and the comprehensive implementation of and follow-up to the Durban Declaration and Programme of Action”**

The Durban Declaration and Programme of Action urges all actors on the international scene to build an international order based on inclusion, justice, equality and equity, human dignity, mutual understanding and promotion of and respect for cultural diversity and universal human rights, and to reject all doctrines of exclusion based on racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance (paragraph 148.) UNDP’s commitment to ‘Leave No One Behind’ is a central transformative promise of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and one of three organizational ‘directions of change’ for UNDP. It is a rights-based approach centered on empowerment, inclusion, equity, human agency and human development which recognizes that poverty and inequality are multidimensional. It means prioritizing human dignity and ensuring the progress of the most marginalized communities first. UNDP urges nations to address the structural causes of inequality and ensure realization of rights and access to services in areas where quick results are least likely and visibility is lowest.

1. **Strategic Plan 2022-2025 with a specific indicator on racism**

UNDP’s primary strategic guidance document is the [Strategic Plan 2022-2025](https://www.undp.org/publications/undp-strategic-plan-2022-2025) with the main objective to work with countries to expand people’s choices for a fairer, sustainable future, and build the world envisioned by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Effective governance is an essential foundation of the three directions of change as it helps to guarantee the empowerment and inclusion that ensure that no one is left behind. UNDP will support partners in areas of governance systems that present particular challenges or opportunities, such as addressing racism and discrimination. The Strategic Plan is accompanied by an Integrated Results and Resources Framework which summarizes the development and organizational results to be achieved by UNDP with its partners. This framework includes a specific indicator on racism which will help UNDP to be better informed which countries are working on addressing racism and how UNDP can support their efforts.

1. **Successful UNDP initiatives empowering racialized communities**

UNDP’s strong quality assurance includes the commissioning of independent evaluations. In 2022, several project and country evaluations found successful initiatives in empowering racialized communities. A Human Rights Programme in **Bangladesh** had a dedicated outcome to strengthen capacity of national stakeholders to better protect and promote the rights of ethnic minorities. The project was found to be very successful in reducing structural inequalities and advancement of vulnerable groups. The capacity of 2118 indigenous and minority youth and their networks have been strengthened through leadership training. The Mid-Term Evaluation Report of Support to Security and Justice Sector Governance in Post-conflict **Iraq** found that the project significantly supported minorities. For example, Community Security Integration Pilot Programs specifically targeted Sinjar town, which is primarily populated by Yazidis, with other substantial minorities of Kurdish, Arab, and Christians. In Qairawan, Sinjar, Yazidis and other minority members were assisted in increasing their skills and emotional resilience, thereby contributing to enhanced economic stability through a combination of vocational training, psychosocial support, and grant assistance interventions with an emphasis on the security-development nexus. A Justice and Legal Empowerment Project in **Vietnam** has included minorities as beneficiaries. Communication materials were translated into ethnic minority languages to promote access to legal information and securing a 18-90% ethnic minority participation in various project activities, such as awareness raising on legal rights or dialogues on increasing transparency and accountability in the justice sector. An Independent Country Evaluation of the **Plurinational State of Bolivia** found that UNDP’s added value for the consolidation of democratic institutions and the autonomy of indigenous, aboriginal and farmer peoples was recognized by counterparts and partners. UNDP reported over 200 dialogue activities, including 20 held exclusively with indigenous peoples and successfully implemented 11 laboratories, contributing to the development of sustainable and resilient production systems in 23 vulnerable indigenous communities. Despite economic and political constraints to the scope of work in this area, UNDP contributed to strengthening intercultural democracy by supporting the capacity and functioning of fully-fledged entities that represent indigenous, native and farmer peoples, in line with the 2009 Constitution. Members of these communities were able to exercise their individual and collective rights, as ancestral knowledge, rules and procedures were respected within the Vivir Bien framework.

1. **GEF Small Grants Programme and a special focus on Indigenous Peoples**

Launched in 1992, the [GEF Small Grants Programme](https://www.sgp.undp.org/) (SGP) has been providing financial and technical support to civil society and community-based organizations on innovative community-driven initiatives that address global environmental issues while improving livelihoods. Over the years, SGP has matured as a social inclusion platform, with a strong focus in empowering and improving the skills of women, Indigenous Peoples (IPs), youth, and persons with disabilities. Indigenous Peoples are key partner and important target group for SGP. SGP has supported efforts that respect customary law and practice, including efforts to securing rights to land and resources as well as participation of indigenous groups in local and national environmental governance.

Based on the most recent data, covering 2016-2022, reflecting reporting across 126 SGP country programmes, 5,965 locally-led projects were completed during this period. Of these, 1,354 projects, that is 23% of total completed projects, involved Indigenous Peoples; 6,994 indigenous leaders participated in various activities supported by the SGP which led to improved capacities of IP groups and organizations for organizing projects that provide for concrete action to meet their needs as well as for strong representation in policy advocacy. In order to better facilitate engagement and partnership with indigenous communities, 19 country programmes accepted proposals in local languages and 40 country programmes enhanced outreach and networking with indigenous people’s groups. On average, of the reporting countries, 46 country programmes reported having an Indigenous Peoples' focal point in their National Steering Committees. With 2,332 biodiversity projects completed with close interlinkages with Indigenous Peoples issues, SGP has positively influenced 998 Protected Areas and 874 Indigenous and Community Conserved Areas (ICCAs) covering a total of 73.4 million hectares, towards locally-led conservation and sustainable management.

1. **Publications generating knowledge on racism and development**

UNDP has continued generating public knowledge on the correlations between racism and racial discrimination, and development. A joint UNDP and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, the “[Global Multidimensional Poverty Index Report: Unmasking disparities by ethnicity, caste and gender](https://hdr.undp.org/system/files/documents/2021mpireportenpdf.pdf)”, published in October 2021, provide estimates on multidimensional poverty for 109 developing countries and present multidimensional poverty estimates disaggregated by ethnicity and caste for 41 countries to identify who is – and how people are – being left behind. It also explores intrahousehold analysis with a gender lens and includes trends over time for 80 countries, for a range of periods between 2000–2019/2020.

The report “[New threats to human security in the Anthropocene](https://www.undp.org/arab-states/publications/new-threats-human-security-anthropocene)”, published in February 2022, focuses on a development paradox that even though people are on average living longer, healthier and wealthier lives, these advances have not succeeded in increasing people’s sense of security. The report explains this paradox, highlighting the strong association between declining levels of trust and increased feelings of insecurity. It contains an entire chapter on “Inequalities and the assault on human dignity” and a section on how inequalities in power across race and ethnicity hurt everyone’s human security. It also analyses how ending discrimination against different expressions, behaviors and bodies as well as eliminating horizontal inequalities can enhance human security. The report emphasizes the salience of agency and the imperative of solidarity.