

Online consultations with Member States

Survey response 1

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Survey

1. Background information [Name of the State:]	Luxembourg
1. Background information [The institution responding to the survey:]	Ministry for Environment, Climate and Sustainable Development
1. Background information [Name and contact email address of the respondent:]	Marguy Kohnen, Cheryl Dentzer, Alyssa Di Cara
Please confirm that you do agree that the responses to the survey will be made publicly available on OHCHR's website?	Yes
2. Do you have a National Development Plan or equivalent document to guide SDG action?	Yes
Please provide us with the following information: [Please add a hyperlink to the National Development Plan or equivalent document(s)]	https://environnement.public.lu/fr/developpement-durable.html
Please provide us with the following information: [Please add the year when the national development plan took effect.]	2019
Please upload the National Development Plan or equivalent document(s). If you have problems uploading the document please send the document to doris.schmitz-meiners@un.org	[{"title": "3\u00e8me Plan National pour un D\u00e9veloppement Durable Luxembourg", "comment": "", "size": "7451.19140625", "name": "PNDD.pdf", "filename": "fu_bumnibfdbbkinbn", "ext": ".pdf" }]
filecount - Please upload the National Development Plan or equivalent document(s). If you have problems uploading the document please send the document to doris.schmitz-meiners@un.org	1

3. Does the national development plan (NDP) or equivalent document(s) adopt an “integrated approach” to the implementation of protection and promotion of human rights and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda? If so, please describe how. Key issues: (a) How does the NDP promote the universally-applicable and interrelated nature of all SDGs and through this treats all human rights as inter-dependent and indivisible? (b) Does it use human rights standards applicable to different SDGs as a guidepost? (c) Does it draw upon / use relevant general comments and country recommendations by international human rights mechanisms (Treaty-based bodies, Universal Periodic Review, Special Procedures, ILO expert bodies)? Could you provide lessons learned and best practices? (Max. 2000 characters)

The national plan for sustainable development has identified ten priority fields of action for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for and by Luxembourg

Under priority 1 Ensuring social inclusion and education for all, the following actions (measures, strategies, laws) in relation to human rights have been retained:

- National action plan for the promotion of human rights lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans gender and intersex (PAN LGBTI)
- Action Plan for the implementation of the convention on the rights of persons with disabilities (CRDPH)
- The law approving the Council Convention of Europe on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence

National Action Plan for the Implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights is part of priority 2 “Sustainable Consumption and Production “(SDG 12).

In the field of international human rights protection, the National Action Plan is designed to complement Luxembourg's efforts to achieve the SDGs by providing companies with the information and means that should enable them to respect human rights internally and throughout their economic value chain.

(Rest of the answer under the next question)

4. Does the NDP or equivalent document(s) guiding national SDG action include a commitment to reduce discrimination and inequality including through a focus on groups at risk of being left behind? If so, please explain and share promising practices, lessons learned and remaining challenges. Key issues: Does the NDP or equivalent document(s) (a) include a strategy and set out related actions to tackle discrimination and inequalities and ensure that no one is left behind? (b) How did the plan map disadvantaged groups in its analysis and its interventions based on all prohibited grounds of discrimination under international human rights law (c) Does it use disaggregated data, including sex-disaggregated data beyond gender, geography and age to monitor the situation of groups at risks of being left behind in the context of national development efforts (d) How does it make use of the recommendations of international and regional human rights mechanisms relating to inequalities and non-discrimination? (Max 2000 characters)

(First part of the answer under the previous question)

Under priority 9 “Contributing, on a global level, to the eradication of poverty and the coherence of policies for sustainable development”, the following strategies need to be underlined:

- The National Action Plan for the implementation of United Nations Guiding Principles on business and human rights, while taking account of the national economic and social situation, aims to reaffirm Luxembourg's attachment to the values of human rights and to show its sense of responsibility in this area, in particular in its outward action. The 31 Guiding Principles refer to the three foundations “to protect, to respect and repair ” and underline the measures to prevent and stop negative human rights impacts man by virtue of business activities and, where necessary, to remedy their harmful effects.
- The general strategy of Luxembourg development cooperation has a thematic and sectoral focus, which will be reinforced by prioritizing in particular: the promotion of inclusive governance at through support for the promotion of decentralization and approaches that promote participation and accountability at all levels (SDGs 5, 10, 16), using an approach that is respectful of human rights.
- The strategy also systematically integrates into all its interventions the transversal dimensions Luxembourg Development Cooperation, namely equality and gender equity (SDG 5) as well as the environment and climate change (SDG 13), following a human rights-based approach (SDG 16).

5. Faced with the COVID-19 pandemic, has your country been able to adopt economic and financial policies and measures to avoid human rights setbacks and to bring your country back on track to achieve the SDGs? How has your country approached aligning SDG financing with its human rights obligations? What have been the main challenges and lessons learned? Key issues: Please share examples of good practices and lessons on: (a) Ways in which macroeconomic policies aimed at generating the necessary resources both domestically and internationally have been guided by obligations on economic, social and other human rights? (b) Approaches to rebalance public expenditure and fiscal policies with the aim of tackling pre-existing inequalities; (c) Examples of how stimulus packages have been designed and assessed with a non-discrimination and equality lens? (d) Methodologies to monitor the impact of loans and grants from international financial institutions on states' ability to meet ESCR core obligations? (e) Approaches used to integrate a human rights perspective into national SDG financing strategies/frameworks. (Max 2000 characters)

Luxembourg is one of the EU countries least affected by the economic and health crisis due to Covid-19. In 2020, the recession its economy experienced was one of the lowest in the EU (-1.8%). Indebtedness has increased the least, with an increase of 2.9 points of GDP. The unemployment rate remained low (6.9% in April 2020 & 4.9% in February 2022). The sectoral structure of the economy, strongly centered on services (finance, information and communication technologies) where a high level of observed and potential teleworking was made possible, as well as the support measures decided by the government, made it possible to limit the economic effects of the crisis. The government implemented 2 economic packages (Stabilization Program & Neistart Lëtzebuerg) granting €2 billion in direct aid and maintaining a high level of public investment throughout. As a result, income inequality and the at-risk-of-poverty rate remained stable. Health has taken precedence over the economy, with the State having intervened at the health, economic and social levels, by increasing public debt. There was an excess mortality during the year 2020, however it remained limited in comparison with other countries. The fact remains that the more fragile the socio-economic situation of a person was before Covid-19, the more they were affected. The same phenomenon was observed for hospitalizations. In addition to factors related to age or gender, poverty factors and being a foreigner have nevertheless played a role according to a recent study. Even though it suffered due to the closure of its neighbors' borders, Luxembourg managed to find the necessary agreements so that the health sector, dependent on cross-border workers, and its economy could continue to work. In terms of teleworking, Luxembourg has moved to the top of the EU ranking. At this stage, the country has shown resilience. Its economy and public finances quickly recovered and the shock for society and social cohesion has been moderated

6. Has your country been able to use the Voluntary National Review (VNR) under the umbrella of the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) to strengthen the integration of human rights in national development efforts? If so, please describe how and provide examples? Key issues: (a) Has the country received support from the UN System on using the VNR to help address human rights issues? (b) What approaches were used to make best use of the analysis and recommendations of international and regional human rights mechanisms when preparing the VNR? (c) Where consultations with stakeholders, including with vulnerable groups, held in preparation of the VNR? If so, how was the information used by ministries/ institutions to advance human rights implementation and accelerate SDG progress? (Max 1350 characters)

As Luxembourg's VNR is based on the implementation of the national plan for sustainable development, actions taken in the field of human rights are part of the VNR.

In preparation of the VNR, a co-working process with civil society has been organized, during which demands and claims regarding human rights were raised by some stakeholders.

7. Does the national development plan establish a monitoring and accountability mechanism where civil society and other stakeholders, including representatives of vulnerable are included and which offers the possibility for feedback, complaints and contributing inputs into policy-making? Key issues: (a) Does the NDP or equivalent document guiding national-level SDG action provide for an ad-hoc or formal monitoring mechanism? (b) Are civil society and other stakeholders, including representatives of vulnerable groups, participating in decision making and monitoring processes? What methodologies have you developed to ensure their active and meaningful participation? (d) Does the strategy envisage any possibility for non-judicial/judicial recourse (including with the support of NHRIs) should human rights concerns emerge in the context of national development efforts? (Max 1350 characters)

The national plan for sustainable development foresees under the chapter dedicated to governance, the establishment of an Agenda 2030 platform, which will be organized as an exchange platform combining a top-down approach (public institutions, ministries, municipalities, etc.) and a bottom-up (citizens, civil society organizations) with the essential participation of companies and the research.

9. Is there any other information that you would like to share on integrated approaches to the promotion and protection of human right and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda? (Max 2000 characters)

Luxembourg is committed to implementing measures to combat climate change (CC) that contribute to equal opportunities, empowerment of women and girls and respect for human rights. Luxembourg recognizes that CC has a gender impact and that strengthening the action and leadership of women and girls will contribute to improving the effectiveness of the fight against CC. Therefore, Luxembourg included gender as an eligibility AND selection criterion for projects seeking international climate finance (ICF). In the ICF Strategy, covering the period 2021 until 2025, the importance of both human rights and gender aspects in climate finance activities has been elevated. This means that all ICF funding is conditional on showing that applicants observe the “do no harm” and the precautionary principles, comply with leading human rights and gender equality standards; and engage actively with relevant stakeholders, including: people marginalized or potentially discriminated against due to their sexual orientation, race or color; indigenous peoples; and other local communities.

Luxembourg is committed to ensure that its funding meets the criteria of delivering on international development goals pertaining to gender issues. Therefore, applicants must not only themselves aim to promote gender equality within their organizations but also strongly integrate gender considerations within the project proposal. As part of the selection process, applications will be assessed against the robustness of the gender-sensitive indicators proposed and the prospect of the measure to perform successfully.

In addition, the multi-year budget forecast for Luxembourg’s ICF envelope includes a sub-heading "Gender Equality and Human Rights" aimed at promoting both topics in the context of CC. Finally, gender mainstreaming is also a priority in Cooperation activities, where 3 cross-cutting priorities are systematically taken into account : human rights, gender equality and environmental sustainability.