



HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE 2030 AGENDA

The 2030 Agenda is firmly anchored in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the international human rights treaties. Both Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and human rights are universal, interrelated and indivisible and are to be realised for everyone, everywhere.

LEAVE NO ONE BEHIND

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development puts equality and non-discrimination at its heart, with a commitment to leave no one behind. It also reaffirms the responsibility of all States, to “respect, protect and promote human rights, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, national and social origin, property, birth, disability or other status.”

SDGs 5 and 10 are specifically dedicated to equality. The 2030 Agenda also gives special attention to marginalized groups, commits countries to promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies, and calls for evidence and data disaggregated by various characteristics.

Non-discrimination is a key human rights principle. Work towards equality and non-discrimination contributes to the realization of both the 2030 Agenda and human rights.

More on the 2030 Agenda: tinyurl.com/SDG-2030Agenda

FREE, ACTIVE & MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION

Participation is one of the central principles of the 2030 Agenda both for implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. SDG Target 16.7 is also dedicated to ensuring “responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels.”

Participation is likewise a key human rights principle that aims to ensure that those affected by public policies and programmes can safely communicate their needs and interests.

Guidelines for States: ohchr.org/participationguidelines

Practical recommendations for civil society:

undocs.org/A/HRC/41/41/Add.2

“We envisage a world of **universal respect for human rights and human dignity**, the rule of law, justice, equality and **non-discrimination**; of respect for race, ethnicity and **cultural diversity**; and of **equal opportunity** permitting the full realisation of human potential and contributing to shared prosperity.”

HOW HUMAN RIGHTS CAN ACCELERATE ACHIEVEMENT OF THE SDGs

Many SDGs mirror human rights. For example, SDGs 1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 8, and 11 reflect many elements of economic, social and cultural rights. SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions, addresses key dimensions of civil and political rights, including personal security, access to justice and fundamental freedoms. SDG 17 on partnerships for the goals, addresses issues related to the right to development. This means SDGs and human rights can be mutually reinforcing and their implementation can speed up progress across the 2030 Agenda. International human rights mechanisms have a wealth of information relevant to the implementation of the SDGs.

A summary of linkages between SDGs and international human rights instruments: tinyurl.com/SDG-HR-linkages

EXAMPLES OF HOW SDGs MIRROR HUMAN RIGHTS



SDG 1: No Poverty

Despite progress, 1.2 billion people in Asia and the Pacific live in poverty. 400 million of these live in extreme poverty.

SDG 1 includes targets to for example eradicate extreme poverty, implement social protection measures and ensure equal access to economic resources. This corresponds to the right to an adequate standard of living, the right to social security and equal rights of women in economic life.



SDG 13: Action to combat Climate Change and its impacts

The impacts of climate change are disproportionately borne by already disadvantaged persons and communities. Extreme weather events are already the leading causes of malnutrition and infant and child mortality and morbidity. Climate change also risks pushing more than 100 million people in the region into extreme poverty by 2030.

SDG 13 includes targets to strengthen resilience and adaptation to climate change and natural disasters, integrate climate change measures into national policies, and to implement commitments under the UNFCCC. This corresponds to the right to health including the right to a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, the right to adequate food, the right to safe drinking water and the right of all peoples to freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources.



LEARNING MORE

The Universal Human Rights Index compiles recommendations from all UN Human Rights mechanisms and allows searching against SDGs: uhri.ohchr.org

General comments on human rights, from Human Rights Treaty Bodies, which can guide SDG interpretation: tinyurl.com/UNHR-GC