

Integrating Human Rights in the Voluntary National Review



UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS
OFFICE OF THE HIGH COMMISSIONER
South-East Asia Regional Office

The 2030 Agenda

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is explicitly grounded in human rights norms and standards, which should guide national implementation, support progress monitoring, and help identify relevant acceleration points.

Human rights data, analysis and recommendations can strengthen the Voluntary National Review (VNR) by addressing issues such as inequality, discrimination, accountability, rule of law, participation, and inclusion, and can support reporting on Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) that have corresponding human rights (e.g. water, health, housing), help in identifying groups at risk of being left behind and ways of effectively addressing their situation.

Participation and Inclusion

One of the central principles of the 2030 Agenda is the requirement for all its processes to be as participatory and inclusive as possible.

The Voluntary National Review is intended to be inclusive, participatory, and transparent. Special efforts are often needed to reach those at risk of being left behind or not being heard.

Guidance and practical recommendations on participation aim to secure inclusive and accountable SDG implementation, and ensure that those affected by public policies and programmes can communicate their needs and interests.

International Human Rights Mechanisms

All States report to the UN human rights mechanisms. These reports carry a wealth of data and information relevant to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and can feed into VNR reporting.

The Universal Human Rights Index (UHRI) online database provides easy access to recommendations from all UN human rights mechanisms per country. It is searchable by themes, SDG targets and groups of persons affected.

Both the recommendations and the reports submitted to UN human rights mechanisms by Governments, national human rights institutions, civil society and the UN System can be used to assess progress made and undertake risk analysis of groups 'left behind' and map systemic, recurring and unresolved human rights issues that impede the realisation of the SDGs.

For more information:
tinyurl.com/SDG-2030Agenda

Universal Human Rights Index

uhri.ohchr.org/Goals/SDGS

Independent Experts

How their work links to the SDGs:

tinyurl.com/SP-2030

Ensuring Participation

Practical recommendations for civil society:

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

Guidelines for states:

ohchr.org/participationguidelines

Progress and Data Tracking

Human Rights Indicators: tinyurl.com/HR-indicators

Human Rights Based Approach to Data:

tinyurl.com/HR-to-data

Indicator Tables: tinyurl.com/IND-tables

National Mechanisms for Reporting, Follow-Up:

tinyurl.com/NMRFguide

National mechanisms for reporting and follow up

All States have established structures or processes for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and/or for human rights reporting and implementation.

Systematically connecting these structures and making sure they work hand in hand will improve coherence and reporting quality as well as help secure greater participation and ownership.

Human rights based approach to data

A human rights-based approach to data can improve quality, relevance and use of data and statistics in line with international human rights norms and principles.

Data collection, disaggregation and analysis are crucial tools for assessing SDG implementation and preparing progress reports. However, devising disaggregation of indicators is not a norm or value-neutral exercise.

National recommendations tracking database

OHCHR can support countries in establishing a country-specific online national recommendation tracking database.

This can be customized to allow for clustering recommendations, assigning responsibilities to relevant ministries or other bodies, monitoring activities and budget allocations, and recording 2030 Agenda and human rights implementation status in real time.



Voluntary National Review: some Guiding Questions

- 1 Which groups are left behind and in what way? Please provide disaggregated data when measuring progress.
- 2 What are the root causes of inequalities leaving groups behind? How do multiple vulnerabilities intersect? How do laws, policies and practice ensure equality, non-discrimination and equitable distribution of the benefits of development? Where are gaps? What has been done to address these gaps?
- 3 How was participation ensured in the development of the VNR? Has the VNR been prepared using the whole-of-society approach? Were representatives of vulnerable groups consulted in its preparation?
- 4 Do national legislation, policies, sectorial plans and programmes align with relevant human rights and gender standards? How do they increase availability, accessibility, affordability, acceptability and quality of services without discrimination? Where are there gaps? How have UN human rights mechanisms recommended to overcome challenges?

