



HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE 2030 AGENDA: Decade of Action and Delivery on the SDGs

3 December 2019 | 10 AM – 6 PM | Room XX | Palais des Nations, Geneva

Concept Note

In March 2018, the Human Rights Council adopted the [resolution 37/24](#) on the promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The resolution acknowledged that human rights and the 2030 Agenda are “interrelated and mutually reinforcing”, while noting the contribution of international human rights mechanisms in promoting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The Council decided to convene two one-day intersessional meetings for dialogue and cooperation on human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The first meeting, which took place on 16 January 2019, focused on the theme of the 2019 Session of the [High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development \(HLPF\)](#), “Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”, which reviewed global progress in achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 4 (Quality Education), 8 (Decent work and economic growth), 10 (Reduced inequalities), 13 (Climate Action), 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) and 17 (Partnerships for the goals).

The meeting examined numerous aspects of the relationship between the SDGs and human rights. Many evidence-based examples illustrated that the relationship was profound and indivisible. There was a widespread appreciation that the SDGs could only be realized through a human-rights-based approach to their implementation at the local, national, regional and global levels. Strengthening synergies between the 2030 Agenda and human rights would also ensure better coherence between political commitments and legal obligations. The key conclusions and recommendations are recorded in the [summary report](#).

The second intersessional meeting will take place on 3 December 2019. It will build on the conclusions of the first intersessional meeting and will contribute to illustrating concretely what the synergies and linkages between human rights and SDGs can mean for SDG implementation. This echoes the [Secretary-General](#) of the United Nations’ observation to the 74th Session of the UN General Assembly, “Every measure to uphold human rights helps deliver sustainable development and peace.”

Focus and objectives

Inspired by the [political declaration of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit](#), the second intersessional meeting will focus on the theme “Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development”.

At the SDG Summit in September 2019, the [Secretary-General](#) stated, “But let us be clear: we are far from where we need to be. We are off track.” Building on the pledge in the political declaration of the SDG Summit to make the coming decade one of action and delivery, the meeting will focus on integrated approaches to implementing the SDGs and realizing human rights for all at national level.



Focus will be placed on (i) measures to promote empowerment, inclusion and equality in the context of the implementation of the SDGs; (ii) the role of the human rights mechanisms in supporting the achievement of SDG goals and targets, as well as the experiences and good practices of establishing or strengthening human rights national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up in this regard; (iii) the importance of ensuring adequate space for civil society, business representatives and other stakeholders.

The common thread of the discussion will be the vision to “leave no one behind”, which permeates the 2030 Agenda including for issues such as defeating climate change, eradicating poverty, combatting inequalities, fair globalization, achieving gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, and building peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

The second intersessional meeting will provide space for States, United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), civil society organizations (CSOs) and other relevant stakeholders to share and exchange good practices, methodologies, achievements, challenges and lessons learned in how integrated approaches to implementing the SDGs and realizing human rights contribute to the fulfillment of the 2030 Agenda and in how to best make the next decade one of action and delivery, in particular at field level on the ground, in light of ongoing reforms of the United Nations. The meeting will also continue to enhance understanding of how the contribution of human rights processes and mechanisms to the HLPF can be strengthened.

Methodology and format

This intersessional meeting will bring together representatives of Member States along with 12-15 experts from State institutions (such as national parliaments, NHRIs, and national development agencies), United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms, United Nations agencies and country teams (UNCTs), academia and CSOs. The meeting will be open to Human Rights Council members and observers, including non-governmental organizations in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

It will commence with a high-level opening session followed by thematic sessions and a closing session. A combination of formats, including a Davos-style conversation and panel discussions, will help facilitate the exchange of information and ideas among all participants. There will be an emphasis on contributions from the floor that share practical experiences, good practices and methodologies. A complementary knowledge fair will encourage and showcase work being carried out to further human rights and the SDG agenda.

The meeting will be made fully accessible to persons with disabilities as per HRC resolution 37/24. International sign interpretation and real-time captioning (English) will be provided and webcast. In Room XX, four seats are reserved for participants using wheelchairs, in the seventh (last) row. Hearing loops are available for collection from the Accessibility Focal Point at the Secretariat desk. Oral statements may be embossed in Braille from any of the six official languages of the United Nations, upon request and following the procedure described in the [Accessibility guide to the Human Rights Council for persons with disabilities](#).



Outcome

This intersessional meeting is part of an ongoing initiative to generate focus on and attention to the importance and relevance of the practical demonstrable synergies between the SDGs and human rights. The Chair together with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights will prepare a report summarizing the discussion at of the meeting, which will be made available to 43rd session of the Human Rights Council.

Pursuant to resolution 37/24, the report will also be made available to the HLPF for its 2020 session. The outcomes of the meeting will inform the HLPF on how human rights processes and mechanisms contribute to a decade of action and delivery. It will be disseminated widely to give greater visibility to how better promotion and protection of human rights will advance the realization of the SDGs.

Chair

H. E. Mr. Frank Tressler Zamorano, Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva.

