

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

### Background

The Human Rights Council's second intersessional meeting for dialogue and cooperation on human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was held on 3 December 2019 (A/HRC/43/33)<sup>1</sup>. Experts and representatives of Member States, UN agencies, funds and programmes, international and regional human rights mechanisms, national human rights institutions (NHRIs), and civil society organizations took the occasion to reiterate the synergies between human rights and the 2030 Agenda, reaffirmed that **human rights are critical to the delivery of the Sustainable Development Goals and made recommendations pertinent to the High-level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF)**.

Inspired by the HLPF Political Declaration (A/RES/74/4), the theme of the meeting was "*Accelerated action and transformative pathways: realizing the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development*". The meeting reiterated the global concern that countries are not on track to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030 and that during this decade of action and delivery, much more must be done and faster to accelerate implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, leaving no one behind and reaching those furthest behind first.

The meeting was chaired by the Permanent Representative of Chile to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, H.E. Frank Tressler Zamorano. H.E. Coly Seck, former President of the Human Rights Council, gave opening remarks alongside Ms Kate Gilmore, former Deputy High Commissioner for Human Rights and Mr Jens Wandel, Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Reform. H.E. Mona Juul, President of the Economic and Social Council, delivered a video message at the opening session.

### Focus areas for the discussion

- ❖ **Promoting** empowerment, inclusion and equality as key accelerators for the implementation of the SDGs, highlighting the impact of climate change, the urgency of countering inequalities and achieving gender equality and building peaceful, just and inclusive societies.
- ❖ **Highlighting** the universal periodic review (UPR) and other human rights mechanisms' critical role in achieving the SDGs and strengthening national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up; and
- ❖ **Expanding** space for civil society, NHRIs, business and other stakeholders.

<sup>1</sup> The report of the second intersessional meeting (A/HRC/43/33) is available at <https://bit.ly/2U6ai3T>.

## CONCLUSIONS AND KEY MESSAGES<sup>1</sup>

### Accelerating progress for human rights and the implementation of the SDGs would require:

1. Greater coherence and alignment of efforts.
2. Strong leadership, political will and financial resources.
3. Adoption of human rights-based public policies, including stronger social protection and pro-poor macroeconomic policies to counter rising inequalities.
4. Focusing on countries and groups of people that are being left behind, including in tackling climate change as a matter of global urgency.
5. Greater attention to human rights-focused conflict prevention and resolution.
6. A human rights-based approach (HRBA) to data collection and analysis to address exclusion, discrimination and inequalities.
7. Greater investment in closing gaps in data gathering and analysis, including through innovative ways of data collection.
8. Support to national statistical offices for the adoption of a HRBA approach to data collection and analysis.
9. Strengthening cooperation between national statistical offices and NHRIs.
10. A “whole-of-society”, multi-stakeholder approach, including civil society, parliaments, youth, children and groups at risk of being left behind and private sector actors.
11. Inclusive and meaningful public participation, with adequate resources allocated.
12. Leveraging the UN system reform for closer partnership at the national level to promote transformative action on the ground.
13. Leveraging the HLPF modalities review 2020 to strengthen the linkages between human rights and the SDGs and enhance the meaningful participation of civil society and NHRIs in the forum process.
14. Incorporating the outcomes of the UN human rights mechanisms, including the UPR, special procedures, and treaty bodies to enhance voluntary national review reporting.
15. Systematic exchanges and briefings between the Human Rights Council and ECOSOC.

<sup>1</sup>Expert panel members: Sakiko Fukuda-Parr (Professor of International Affairs, The New School and member of the UN Committee for Development Policy); Brian Williams (UN Resident Coordinator, Albania); Najat Maalla M'jid (Special Representative of the Secretary-General on Violence against Children); Maria Victoria González-Román (Ambassador of the 2030 Agenda, for the Government of Spain); Deprose Muchena (Regional Director for Southern Africa at Amnesty International); Eva Grambye (Deputy Executive Director, of the Danish Institute for Human Rights); Sima Samar (Special Envoy of the President of Afghanistan and State Minister for Human Rights and International Relations); Roberto Morales Sáenz (Development Analyst, at the Ministry of National Planning and Economic Policy, Government of Costa Rica); Maria-Francesca Spatolisano (Assistant Secretary-General for Policy Coordination and Inter-Agency Affairs at UN DESA); George Morara (Commissioner and Vice Chairperson, of the Kenya National Commission on Human Rights); Nadia Isler (Director of the SDG Lab at the United Nations, Geneva - Moderator); Monica Ferro (Director, UNFPA in Geneva-Moderator); Peggy Hicks (Director of the Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division OHCHR); Jens Wandel (Special Adviser to the Secretary-General on Reform).