LEARNING, TRAINING AND PRACTICE EVENT DURING THE 2019 HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM

Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality through human rights

Wednesday 10 July 2019, 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm
United Nations Headquarters, Conference Room 5

SUMMARY

While there is progress towards the SDGs, transformation is not fast enough. Considering that human rights and SDGs are mutually reinforcing (with over 90% of SDGs targets reflected in international human rights instruments), the human rights system becomes a key leverage for sustainable development. This event will showcase tools and good practices on how systematized analysis, data and recommendations from human rights monitoring mechanisms can provide the human rights-based solutions to realise both human rights and SDGs through increased efficiency, policy coherence and accountability.

THEMATIC FOCUS

This event will have specific focus on the human rights-based approach to SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities); SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions); and SDG 17 (Partnerships for the goals), all of these goals have an important focus on human rights.

DRAFT PROGRAM

3:00 pm – Introduction and Welcome

3:30 pm – Synergies between Human Rights and SDGs: introduction to the online tool "Human Rights Guide to the SDGs", and to illustrative tables of human rights indicators with SDG indicators that are relevant to human rights implementation and tracking.

4:00 pm – A participatory approach to SDGs implementation and review: maximizing the contributions from National Human Rights Institutions and civil society.

4:30 pm – Equality and Inclusion: leveraging human rights systems to identify who is being left behind and overcome patterns of discrimination and exclusion.

5:00 pm – Sustainable partnerships: impact and contributions from the private sector to SDGs and human rights.

5:30 pm - Interlinkages and crosscutting issues: practical tools to implement a human rights-based approach to the SDGs, featuring the "SDGs – Human Rights Data Explorer" and the new SDG search feature in the Universal Human Rights Index (UHRI).

ORGANIZERS

Danish Mission to the United Nations
Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)
Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR)
Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)
Indigenous Peoples Major Group for Sustainable Development (IPMG)
European Network of Equality Bodies (Equinet)
International Center for Non-Profit Law (ICNL)
Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR)

CONCEPT NOTE

2019 marks the fourth year following the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In general, there is a mixed picture of success and backlash with regards to implementation of the Agenda. On the one hand, the 2030 Agenda has traction, and the UN-system along with governments, NHRIs, businesses and civil society organisations and others are increasingly aligning their actions with the SDGs. On the other hand, the world experiences increased inequality, shrinking space for civil society, attacks on human rights defenders, and general weakening of the multilateral system in the context of climate crisis, conflict and migration. While there is progress towards the SDGs, transformation is not fast enough and, as emphasized in the 2018 HLPF Ministerial Declaration, there is a need to "urgently accelerate progress towards all targets".

The human rights-system, including the norms, standards, mechanisms and institutions that the system encompasses, constitute one accelerator of sustainable development that to some extent remains underutilised.

The 2030 Agenda is specifically grounded in international human rights treaties and the SDGs seek to "realize the human rights of all". Concretely, the Human Rights Guide to the SDGs and the Universal Human Rights Index shows that a high percentage of the SDG targets reflect specific provisions of international human rights instruments. Likewise, the pledge to "leave no one behind" reflect fundamental human rights principles regarding equality and non-discrimination. Further, the Agenda specifically states that its Follow-up and Review mechanisms should be guided by accountability, participation and inclusiveness, in line with key human rights principles. Human rights thus acquire a cross-cutting relevance to the Agenda as a whole and are essential for the achievement of sustainable development.

This means that human rights and SDGs are tied together in a mutually reinforcing manner and can be realised through integrated approaches. Moreover, it implies that the systematized qualitative analysis, data and recommendations of human rights monitoring bodies and mechanisms at national, regional and international levels are essential for realising both human rights obligations and SDG commitments, and provide a framework for implementation of the SDG. Integrated approaches to SDGs and human rights will lead to increased efficiency, policy coherence and accountability.

In 2019, the thematic focus of the global reviews of the 2030 Agenda is "Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality", which reflects key human rights standards and principles. Thus, this year, the HLPF provides a key opportunity for reflection and sharing of best practices for generating the human rights-based solutions that are critical for accelerating progress towards achieving the SDGs.

OBJECTIVES

1. Share key experiences, lessons learned, methodologies and tools for an integrated and coherent human rights-based approach to sustainable development and implementation of the Agenda at all levels.
2. Practice with key online tools and develop the capacity to build on recommendations from national and international human rights bodies to achieve SDGs 10, 16 and 17. Includes the Human Rights Guide to the SDGs (sdg.humanrights.dk) and the SDG-Human Rights Data Explorer (sdgdata.humanrights.dk)
3. Contribute to improved multi-stakeholder dialogue and peer to peer collaboration and learning, for accelerating sustained progress on SDGs implementation.

AUDIENCE

The session is open to all HLPF participants with UN passes. The organizers will not provide individual passes.

CONTACT

Mrs. Saionara König-Reis
Senior Advisor, Danish Institute for Human Rights
saik@humanrights.dk