

38th session of the Human Rights Council

Annual thematic panel discussion on technical cooperation in the promotion and protection of human rights

Theme: Human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals: Enhancing human rights technical cooperation and capacity-building to contribute to the effective and inclusive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Concept note (draft as of 7 June 2018)

Date and venue: **Wednesday, 4 July 2018, 10 a.m. - noon, Palais des Nations, Room XX, Geneva**
(will be broadcast live and archived on <http://webtv.un.org>)

Background: Since 2011, the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has been organizing, in collaboration with Member States, an annual United Nations Human Rights Council thematic discussion on technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights. In 2018, this thematic discussion will focus on technical cooperation and capacity-building, with particular reference to human rights and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It is organized pursuant to the Human Rights Council resolution 36/28 adopted on 29 September 2017 and informed by the OHCHR report entitled “Supporting effective and inclusive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development through effective, coherent and coordinated technical cooperation and capacity-building.” (A/HRC/38/28).

Objectives: The panel discussion will aim to facilitate an exchange of views and sharing of concrete experience on **how human rights technical cooperation and capacity-building can contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda**, while framing the discussion within the findings of the OHCHR report and the concrete experience of the representatives of Member States and other expert panellists. Furthermore, the panel will focus on ways of fostering and enhancing such cooperation and sharing concrete examples. The panel will address the existing and envisaged roles of United Nations human rights bodies and mechanisms, United Nations Country Teams and other parts of the United Nations system, notably OHCHR, in contributing to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and will specifically endeavour to identify innovative ways forward.

Chair:	H.E. Mr. Vojislav Šuc , President of the Human Rights Council (TBC)
Opening statement:	Ms. Georgette Gagnon , Director, Field Operations and Technical Cooperation Division, OHCHR
Moderator:	H.E. Mr. Sek Wannamethee , Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva
Panellists:	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Ms. Dalia Leinarte, Chairperson, Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women <i>Pursuing synergies between human rights mechanisms' recommendations and the SDGs implementation</i>● Mr./Ms. (NAME TBC), United Nations Resident Coordinator from a country where the United Nations Country Team strongly supports SDG implementation <i>Effective and coherent technical support to promote SDG implementation at the regional and national level, including on policy coherence</i>● Ms. Mary Wanyonyi, Director of Strategy and Development and focal person for the Sustainable Development Goals, Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (Kenya) <i>The role of data: strengthening the capacity of national statistical offices (NSOs), data disaggregation and partnership between NHRIs and NSOs to ensure no one is left behind</i>

Rationale: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the General Assembly Resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, puts forward a plan of action for people, the planet and prosperity. The Agenda is guided by the purposes and principles of the United Nations Charter, including full respect for international law, and is grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights treaties, the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome, and is informed by other instruments, such as the Declaration on the Right to

Development. This universal, comprehensive and inclusive Agenda pledges to “leave no one behind” and places equality and non-discrimination at the heart of its transformative vision for securing freedom from fear and freedom from want for all.

As stipulated in HRC Resolution 36/28, the promotion and protection of human rights and the 2030 Agenda are complementary and mutually reinforcing. The human rights Treaty Bodies, in their contribution sent to the High-Level Political Forum in 2016, expressed a similar view by stating their commitment to promoting the two-way interaction and complementarity between human rights and the 2030 Agenda.

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, countries have been taking ownership of the implementation process through national development plans and frameworks supporting stakeholders in the implementation of all the 17 indivisible and interrelated Sustainable Development Goals. Keeping in mind that implementation of the 2030 Agenda must be consistent with states’ obligations under international human rights law it is important to ensure human rights technical cooperation and capacity-building for States and other stakeholders (such as national human rights institutions - NHRIs, national statistical offices - NSOs, and civil society), to contribute to the effective, coherent and inclusive realization of the 2030 Agenda. Such cooperation can, for instance, meaningfully strengthen evidence-based monitoring and reporting on achieved progress, support development of a coherent policy approach to sustainable development, and contribute to the implementation of the SDGs.

Since the central focus of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda is the **principle of leaving no one behind**, technical cooperation and capacity-building can also build capacities amongst States to identify who is being left behind, strengthen data disaggregation, and ensure that policies and programmes address existing inequalities and reach those most marginalized first, as well as assist in moving forward with the implementation of all SDGs in a way that does not create new inequalities.

As Member States - supported by the United Nations system - move forward with national implementation of the SDGs, including reporting and follow up, some good practices are coming to light. Some have been identified through the global level voluntary national review process presented at the High-Level Political Forum, while others are being highlighted through various processes at the regional and national levels. An exchange of experience and a discussion on what has worked in practical terms and what can be improved further can be an important catalyst for further progress in the realization of the 2030 Agenda.

The United Nations human rights bodies and mechanisms¹, United Nations Country Teams, and other parts of the United Nations System, notably OHCHR, have been providing human rights technical assistance and capacity-building, supporting and strengthening the capacity of various stakeholders in implementing the 2030 Agenda. This panel will discuss how such technical cooperation and capacity-building can contribute to the implementation of the over-arching 2030 Agenda, in particular by upholding the principle of ensuring no one is left behind, notably within the following areas:

- **Analysis and policy:** Enhancing capacity for country analysis and integrated support for increasing national policy coherence and alignment;
- **Data:** Strengthening national statistical systems in collection and disaggregation of data, use of indicators, and application of data to contribute to the implementation of SDGs in a manner consistent with each State’s human rights obligations;
- **Implementation efforts:** Exploring and building on synergies between SDGs implementation and the implementation of human rights obligations and recommendations stemming from human rights mechanisms.

Against this backdrop and based on the theme of this year’s discussion, the panel will offer an opportunity for reflection on the ways in which technical cooperation and capacity-building in the promotion and protection of human rights can assist States to further the 2030 Agenda implementation, and to ensure that it is inclusive and consistent with their human rights obligations.

¹ Including the Human Rights Council (HRC), the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), special procedures, and the human rights treaty bodies.

Key questions to be addressed:

The expert panellists will share their practical experiences and reflect on the findings of the report produced by OHCHR. While doing so, they will address the following key questions:

- **Contributions of the international human rights system:** How can the work of United Nations human rights bodies and mechanisms contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda? How can follow up on the work of human rights bodies and mechanisms enhance SDG implementation at the national level? How can the international human rights system inform and guide national-level implementation? What role do various stakeholders have in support of ensuring there is capacity to follow up on the relevant work of the international human rights system in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda? How can we identify and explore synergies between SDG implementation and fulfilment of the human rights obligations and recommendations?
- **United Nations system technical support to SDG implementation:** What kind of technical assistance and capacity-building is the United Nations system providing to contribute to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and its core principle of leaving no one behind? What technical cooperation and capacity-building in this area has proved useful for States and other stakeholders? What good practices and lessons learnt are we able to identify, including in supporting efforts at ensuring national policy coherence? Is the assistance well-tailored to the specific national needs in order to enhance the effective and inclusive implementation of the 2030 Agenda? Are there gaps that need to be addressed to enhance human rights technical cooperation that contributes to SDG implementation?
- **Strengthening national capacities, including national statistical systems:** How can data collection and national statistical systems contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in a manner consistent with human rights obligations? What progress has been made in the use of data for monitoring progress and identifying those being left behind? What good practices can be identified in strengthening national statistical systems? How can technical assistance on the use of indicators, data disaggregation, and data meaningfully contribute to SDGs implementation and ensure those being left behind are identified? What partnerships can be fostered to enhance the capacity at the national level to contribute to the 2030 Agenda implementation, monitoring and reporting?

Format:

The duration of the panel discussion will be limited to two hours. A maximum of one hour will be set aside for the podium, including the opening statement, moderator comments, if any, panellist presentations, and their responses to questions and concluding remarks. Speaking time limits for the panellists and guests, if any, will be calculated based on the maximum one hour limit for the podium.

States and observers, including national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), intervening from the floor will also have a maximum of one hour. Each speaker will have two minutes to raise issues and to ask questions. The list of speakers will be opened at the beginning of the panel and, as per usual practice, statements by high-level dignitaries and groups will be moved to the top of the list. The practice of having two slots for Member and observer States (2x12), NHRIs (2x1) and NGOs (2x2) will be maintained but the possibility for panellists to intervene in-between will depend entirely on the time used at the start of the panel.

Interpretation will be provided in the six United Nations official languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish).

Expected outcomes and output:

The panel discussion will enable States and relevant stakeholders, including national human rights institutions and civil society organizations, to:

- Reflect on the ways in which technical cooperation and capacity-building can meaningfully contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the national level;
- Discuss the States' and other stakeholders' needs related to technical cooperation in the promotion and protection of human rights aimed at facilitating progress in the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the principles of leaving no one behind and reaching those furthest behind first;

- Learn from shared examples of good practices in supporting, through technical cooperation and capacity-building, the inclusive implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- Develop a better understanding of the relationship between the implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals and implementation and follow up to recommendations of human rights mechanisms;
- Reflect on the importance of data and possible ways of strengthening the capacity of national statistical systems, including on data disaggregation and use of indicators, to support the implementation of the SDGs and human rights obligations.

The deliberations will be summarized in a report as the main output of the panel discussion.

Background documents:

- [Human Rights Council resolution 36/28](#) of 29 September 2017 on enhancement of technical cooperation and capacity-building in the field of human rights (and previous resolutions under the same title);
- [Human Rights Council resolution 37/24](#) of 23 March 2018, on the promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- OHCHR report entitled “Supporting the realization of the 2030 Agenda through effective, coherent and coordinated technical assistance and capacity-building in the promotion and protection of human rights” (A/HRC/38/28);
- The contribution of human rights treaty bodies to the 2016 meeting of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (<https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10323Human%20Rights%20Treaty%20Bodies%20contribution%202016-May-26.pdf>);
- Reports of the Chair of the Board of Trustees of the United Nations Voluntary Fund for Technical Cooperation in the Field of Human Rights to the Human Rights Council (the most recent report being [A/HRC/37/79](#));
- [General Assembly resolution 70/1](#) of 25 September 2015 on transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;
- [Leaving No One Behind](#): Equality and Non-Discrimination at the Heart of Sustainable Development; A Shared United Nations System Framework for Action;
- [Guidelines to support country reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals](#), UNDG;
- [Guidance Note on Human Rights for Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams](#), UNDG;
- [United Nations Development Assistance Framework Guidance](#), UNDG;
- [A Human Rights-Based Approach to Data, Leaving No One Behind in the 2030 Development Agenda](#), OHCHR;
- [Human Rights Indicators: A Guide to Measurement and Implementation](#), OHCHR;
- OHCHR [Practical Guide](#) and accompanying [Study](#) on “Effective State Engagement with International Human Rights Mechanisms National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up”.
