

# 10 THE SDGs AND HUMAN RIGHTS

**The 2030 Agenda is a unique opportunity for achieving human rights (HR) worldwide because it is grounded in the universal declaration of human rights and international human rights treaties. It is informed by other instruments such as the Declaration on the right to development, and it “seeks to realize the human rights of all” ([UNGA A/70/L.1](#))**

As the Danish Institute for HR specified, the SDGs and HR agreements and instruments reflect one another with more than 90% of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) targets linked to international HR and labour standards. They could potentially support, complement and guide each other. Existing HR mechanisms can directly assess and guide the implementation of the Agenda and its SDGs.

The momentum for the SDGs is growing, and the opportunities and responsibilities for stakeholders as well. At this moment a large amount of UN member states have already presented their Voluntary National Reports on the advance of their SDG implementation strategies (VNRs) (111 VNRs from 2016 to 2018 and 51 due in 2019) to the HLPF. In the meantime, messages out of different sectors of society are sent out worldwide, such as the Catholic church and the ‘caring for our common home’ message from Pope Francis, SDGs eminent advocates, sports organizations and even branded cartoon characters.

The conclusion is that there is a variety of options to choose from if you are committed to human rights. If you choose to use it as a catalysator, your priority should be to define in which way this you can make this happen and how the interlinkage and reflection of the HR and SDGs can catalyse each other.

Already agreed Human Rights norms, mechanisms and legally-binding HR treaties could, for example, offer guidance for the

implementation of the SDGs and targets, making clear what the SDGs can and should do. If you are interested in learning concrete linkages between SDG targets and HR, have a look at the “Human Rights and the SDGs - Pursuing Synergies” 2017 report, prepared through the collaboration of various states, the support of the Danish Institute for Human Rights and the Universal Rights Group. Or at this table from the UN human rights office of the high commissioner containing both SDGs targets and HR treaties, or the Human Rights guide to SDGs, which is an online tool for linking SDG targets and HR instruments.

If you are searching for good examples, you could have a look at the HR and the 2030 agenda for sustainable development-lessons learned and next steps document authored by the DIHR, or visit the website of the UN development group on HR, with blogs and country stories.

Finally, the 2030 Agenda is the result of an intensive intra- and intersectoral work involving all relevant stakeholders in society. The SDGs implementation demands that this method of working continues if the SDGs are to succeed. The SDGs are universal and integrated. Therefore, organizations working in the HR sector should also look out of their sector and reach organizations and stakeholders working in the complementary dimensions of sustainable development. Getting out of the Silos sectorial type of work, is an opportunity and challenge coming together with the SDGs.

## RESOURCES

[OHCHR: Transforming Our World: Human Rights in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)

[UN General Assembly: Resolution adopted by the General Assembly on 25 September 2015](#)

[UN Development Group Human Rights portal](#)

[UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner, HR and the 2030 portal](#)

[Universal Rights Group. Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda: Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality](#)

[SDG Watch: Overview of Relevant Fundamental Rights Agency studies](#)

[The Human Rights guide to the SDGs](#)

