COVID 19
SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY

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SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY PLEDGE

GOOD PRACTICES FOR CHANGE

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Almost three years after the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic, societies around the globe seem to have returned to some sort of normality, with both governments and people desiring to continue "business as usual". However, contrary to several States' practices that indicate that the pandemic is over, the World Health Organisation's (WHO) Director-General stated that "the world is not there yet".[1] What started as a crisis impacting mainly the right to the highest attainable standard of health, quickly became a spiral having overarching negative consequences on the enjoyment of other human rights, such as the freedom of information, the freedom of movement and assembly, non-discrimination, the right to education, the right to social security, minority rights, and many others. Not only did the restrictive measures adopted by governments to address the challenges of the pandemic cause a backslide in human rights, but they also revealed States' lack of preparedness to tackle a global crisis.

In the context of new crises that have emerged following the pandemic, such as the war in Ukraine, the energy crisis, and the continuous environmental degradation, for the recovery, resilience, and preparedness for future crises to be inclusive and sustainable, they need to be grounded in human rights.

Even though no two crises are the same, the Covid-19 pandemic left us with many lessons learned that should, and hopefully will, inform strategies, policies, and programmes when States prepare for new forms of crisis. For instance, the pandemic made it acutely clear that crisis exacerbates inequalities and amplifies already existing vulnerabilities, therefore no recovery plan can succeed without structural problems being addressed first. Similarly, as States designed and implemented their response plans, different communities raised the alarm that one-size-fits-all strategies to mitigate the negative social and economic impacts of the pandemic were inadequate and failed to address the specific challenges faced by populations that suffered disproportionate consequences. Therefore, recovery and preparedness plans should be tailored to, and informed by the needs of the most marginalised communities so that no one is left behind in crisis. However, two of the more important lessons learned from the Covid-19 pandemic are that resources can be redirected in a quick manner when needed and States need to and are able to cooperate when faced with a common threat.

Pledging States as of 13 July 2021 are Denmark, Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia & Hercegovina, Canada, Chile, Costa Rica, the Czech Republic, Cyprus, Ecuador, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, Germany, Greece, Guatemala, Iceland, Ireland, the Republic of Korea, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Marshall Islands, Mexico, Moldova, Mongolia, the Netherlands, New Zealand, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Sierra Leone, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Ukraine, and Uruguay.

In June 2021, the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations in Geneva, along with the Office of High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), the Danish Institute for Human Rights, and the Universal Rights Group launched the Sustainable Recovery Pledge.[2] It comprises ten commitments to "build back better" from the pandemic

putting human rights at the centre of recovery efforts, and using the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals as leverage. The 48 States and 28 other stakeholders that signed the Pledge also made a commitment to report on its implementation on a voluntary basis. The Danish Institute for Human Rights committed itself to collecting these examples.

The present report is a collection of good practices showcasing some of the recovery efforts following up on the launch of the Sustainable Recovery Pledge. They were gathered from reports from signatories on their implementation of the Pledge, 2021 and 2022 Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) of the signatory States as well as the 2022 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) side event on "Sustainable Recovery in Practice"[3] co-organised by the Danish Institute for Human Rights, the Permanent Mission of Denmark to the United Nations in New York, OHCHR, and the Universal Rights Group. The hope for this report is twofold:

> **Supporting organisations are** the Danish Institute for Human Rights, Universal Rights Group, OHCHR, UNDP, UNFPA, UNICEF, the Centre for Economic and Social Rights, CIVICUS: World Alliance for Citizen Participation, the Danish Family Planning Association, Equal Rights Trust, the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions, the Independent Commission of Human Rights in Northern Africa, the Indigenous Peoples' Major Group, the International Chamber of Commerce, the International Planned Parenthood Federation, the International Service for Human Rights, Major Group Children and Youth, MENA Rights Group, the Network of African National Human Rights Institutions, Partners for Review Network, The Swedish Association for Sexuality Education (RFSU), The World Benchmarking Alliance, Transparency International, the United Nations Independent System-Wide Evaluation Mechanism, UPR Info, Women's Major Group, the International Disability Alliance, and Cooperation Canada.

- To share a collection of practices that would inspire peer learning, and spark discussions on strategies and ideas for recovery efforts that are human rights-based and contribute to achieving SDG goals and targets.
- To link these discussions with broader contemporary global processes under which States seek to act collectively to build resilience and crisis-preparedness grounded in human rights.

2   STRUCTURE

This report is informed by good practices implemented by various States in line with the ten commitments of the Sustainable Recovery Pledge. The Pledge uses the 2030 Agenda, grounded in States' human rights obligations, as the blueprint for making sustainable and risk-informed policies following the Covid-19 pandemic.

To help frame a conversation on resilience building and preparedness for future crises as well as add an additional perspective to the recovery efforts and specific ideas for action, the report starts with the introduction to the Bali Agenda for Resilience (Bali Agenda). The core principles of the Bali Agenda are strengthening resilience and preparedness as a way of addressing adverse risks stemming, inter alia, from climate change, biodiversity loss and growing inequalities, which are some of the key aspects of the Pledge. Even though the Covid-19 pandemic and issues addressed in the Bali Agenda might be seen as separate challenges or even belonging to different policy spaces, the strategies and approaches in focus could and should be adopted to, and utilised to, tackle the diverse risks and crises.

Following the Bali Agenda, the report goes on to present each of the ten commitments of the Sustainable Recovery Pledge and is accompanied by selected examples of good practices from signatory countries. Apart from a short context section for each country example that is relevant to the commitment in focus, there is a description of a good practice followed by a short section showcasing (expected) outcomes stemming from the good practice. Unlike the first eight commitments, commitments 9 and 10 are framed as calls to action to signatory countries, supporters of the Pledge and other stakeholders. Moreover, to facilitate the reader's experience, throughout the report one can find information boxes providing additional explanation or more detailed information about different concepts or ideas used in the text.

3   THE BALI AGENDA FOR RESILIENCE

The Bali Agenda was adopted during the Global Platform 2022 that took place 25-27 May in Bali, Indonesia hosted by the Government of Indonesia and organised by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR). The theme of the 2022 Global Platform was: "Towards Sustainable Development for All in a COVID-19 Transformed World", which reflects the interdependence of resilience and sustainable development. The Bali Agenda covers a wide range of overarching issues addressed by the Sustainable Recovery Pledge following the "Build Back Better" approach.

> The Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction (DDR) is an annual multi-stakeholder forum for discussing progress on the Sendai Framework for DDR 2015-2030, a multilateral agreement providing Member States with concrete measures to protect development gains from the risk of disaster. The Sendai Framework includes a monitoring tool, used as a reference for the Global Platform's work, while it's also used by 155 countries for their reporting.

Why is the Bali Agenda for Resilience a positive development?

Not only does the Bali Agenda admit that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are not simply "not on track", but also that there is a backslide in the achievement of some of them which in turn threatens the realisation of human rights that are closely linked to the Goals.

The Bali Agenda acknowledges that the current levels of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions lead to more frequent and more intense disasters. At the same time, a sustainable recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic needs to be ensured with a specific focus on those most at risk of experiencing severe economic and social impacts during any crisis. Addressing these problems sometimes seems to require contradictory efforts and trade-offs, as on the one hand, there is a dire need to develop climate friendly policies but on the oth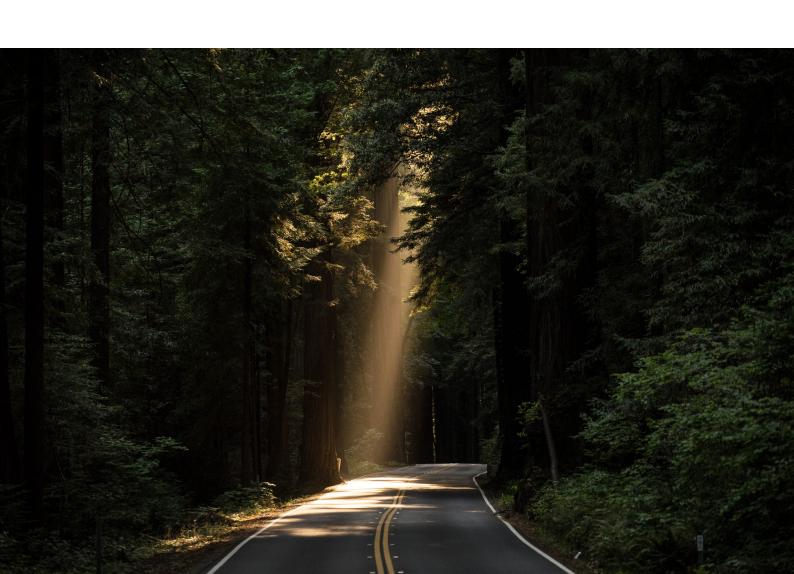er hand, economic growth to deal with the current food and energy crises need to be fostered. This is why a resilience approach could be useful for not only building resilience and preparedness but also for designing recovery efforts. The Bali Agenda provides examples of some good practices that could serve as inspiration and assistance to strengthen the implementation of the Sustainable Recovery Pledge.

> A resilience approach to sustainability* focuses on how to build capacity to deal with unexpected change. This approach moves beyond viewing people as external drivers of ecosystem dynamics and rather looks at how we are part of and interact with the biosphere – the sphere of air, water and land that surrounds the planet and in which all life is found.
>
> *See more Stockholm Resilience Centre, Applying resilience thinking – seven principles for building resilience in social-ecological systems, page 3, available [here](#).

Good practices and commitments in the Bali Agenda for Resilience

- ✓ Inclusion of Disaster Risk Reduction reports in the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs)
- ✓ Integrating a resilience approach ("Think Resilience") in all investments and decision-making processes
- ✓ Addressing lack of data by adapting national progress indicators to the Sendai Framework indicators
- ✓ Strengthening data ecosystems, including for disaggregated data
- ✓ "Whole-of-society" and "whole-of-government" approach to Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)
- ✓ Collaboration with the private sector, civil society, and the media to disseminate risk data
- ✓ Integrating gender dimensions in risk reduction and strengthening women's participation in the relevant decision making
- ✓ Adopting sustainable financing policies for risk management projects, taking into consideration the special needs of countries with debt burdens
- ✓ Applying risk-informed approaches to public and private investments
- ✓ Establishing resilient social protection schemes that are adaptive and shock-responsive
- ✓ Focusing on community-driven initiatives, with particular attention to the contribution of youth and people with disabilities

4 SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY PLEDGE GOOD PRACTICES

4.1 COMMITMENT 1: RESILIENT SOCIETIES

We will strengthen our efforts to promote and protect human rights, and, on that basis, accelerate our efforts to implement the 2030 Agenda for all in this decade of action, so as to build more healthy, sustainable, peaceful, just, equitable, inclusive, and resilient societies where no one is left behind.

GOOD PRACTICE: KINGDOM OF NETHERLANDS*

* The Kingdom of Netherlands comprises four countries with different recovery policies: The Netherlands, Aruba, Curacao, and Sint Maarten.

NETHERLANDS

Even before the pandemic, the Netherlands ranked seventh[4] in the world in terms of crisis preparedness, except for energy dependence.[5] Therefore, the country had good foundations to face the Covid-19 pandemic. Moreover, they could lead to building resilience for future crises.

The Good Practice:
Already before the pandemic, the Netherlands had been publishing, on an annual basis, the Monitor of Well-Being, a report that measures "well-being in a broad sense in the Netherlands – from an economic, ecological, and societal perspective",[6] while also referring to the country's progress on the SDGs. To address the socio-economic impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic, in 2021 the Netherlands added a resilience dashboard for shocks and stress to the Monitor of Wellbeing, to assess the preparedness and resilience of households and systems to crises. The idea is to evaluate the impact that eventual disasters could have on the achievement of the SDGs and the resilience Dashboard focuses on five issues:

a) maintenance of livelihoods during crisis;
b) assessment of the size of vulnerable groups that would be the worst affected;
c) resilience of society, economy and the biosphere;
d) government resilience, and
e) transboundary effects of crises between the Netherlands and the rest of the world.

Outcome:
The Monitor of Wellbeing, including the resilience dashboard, is an integral part of the accountability debate and it can be used to inform decisions and policymaking. The resilience dashboard, in particular, has also enabled the Dutch authorities to identify gaps in shock-responsiveness,[7] demonstrating, for example, that the biosphere's resilience for future generations is under significant pressure.

CURACAO

Previously existing disaster-related laws in Curacao were largely reactive,[8] with only little focus on prevention.

The Good Practice:
In October 2021, the government of Curacao adopted an amendment to the National Ordinance on Disaster Management[9] that deals with risk and crisis management, with special attention to the preventive stage. The new law complies with international standards of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), following the five steps of the safety chain approach: pro-action, prevention, preparation, repression, and aftercare, while prioritising quality assurance models, based on constant amelioration.

Expected Outcome:
Curacao, located in a disaster-prone area in the Caribbean, is expected to be better prepared for future disaster events, with robust mechanisms that are adequately responsive to the size of the disastrous event.

SINT MAARTEN

In September 2017, Sint Maarten was hit by hurricanes Irma and Maria causing significant damage to infrastructure and businesses, leading to an estimated loss of 17.9% GDP.[10] While recovering from this disaster, St. Maarten was affected by Covid-19 pandemic in 2020, which threatened once again the country's resilience mainly due to the loss of income from tourism that accounts for a large part of the economy. Disruptions in global food chains further deteriorated food supply, due to the limited production capacity of the country. Food security soon became a priority for the government.

The Good Practice:
The government of Sint Maarten is working on ensuring timely disaster management and food security. When it comes to the former, the authorities are launching the new Disaster Risk Management strategy, a project funded by the EU.[11] It integrates the principles of community-driven solutions based on the outcomes of public consultation and establishes Community Emergency Response Teams (CERT) that will be prepared to guide the communities in case of a disaster. Moreover, the government has recently established a Disaster Management Office and an early warning system for hurricanes.

Regarding food security, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) provided the government of Sint Maarten with technical assistance on the creation of a National Food Bank[12] (NFB) that is mandated to ensure a resilient food supply chain for the most vulnerable segments of the population.

Outcome:
Not only did the process of creating the Disaster Management strategy for Sint Maarten engage the whole spectrum of society, but it also incorporated lessons learnt from the crisis caused by the hurricanes. In the same context, efforts to achieve food security led to structural changes and advancement in the agricultural sector, which was previously left behind. Hence, it succeeded in addressing the need to diversify the economy – heavily dependent on tourism – to make sure that food security is not compromised for anyone.

4.2 COMMITMENT 2:
DEMOCRATIC PRINCIPLES AND GOOD GOVERNANCE

We will promote democratic principles and good governance at all levels and develop more effective, accountable, and transparent institutions, as well as more responsive, inclusive, participatory, and representative decision-making processes, when devising and implementing sustainable recovery plans.

GOOD PRACTICE: NEW ZEALAND

One out of four[13] New Zealanders identify as having a disability. New Zealand used to have a cross-government disability system that provided fragmented protection, requiring different procedures for different services, which in turn hindered access of people with disabilities to support and proportionate representation in poverty statistics.[14]

The Good Practice:
In July 2022, New Zealand, in the context of reforms in its health system, established a New Ministry for Disabled People[15] (Whaikaha), with the aim of enhancing collaboration between the government, Māori and the community of people with disabilities. The new entity gives voice to the disabled community and operates based on the principles[16] of self-determination, participation, shared decision-making, and non-discrimination. In practice, the new Ministry is tasked to ensure that, whenever a government agency drafts policies, the needs of people with disabilities are addressed.

Outcome:
The new ministry has already secured a budget of more than 32 million USD[17] for its operations, while also being the first Ministry for Disabled People in the world, setting an example for more countries. Even though the Ministry started working in September 2022, it has already some important results to showcase, such as the extension of carer support and individualised funding[18] (IF) to also pay family members. In this way, people with disabilities have a say in the choice of their carer given that a family member can now be considered as such and receive financial support from the State. New Zealand's good practice is, therefore, connected to good and participatory governance as decision-making becomes more inclusive and respectful of the principle "nothing about us without us"[19] regarding rights of people with disabilities.

4.3   COMMITMENT 3:
CIVIL SOCIETY PARTICIPATION

We will ensure effective channels for civil society participation in policy development and decision-making at all levels, including organisations representing persons in vulnerable situations, women and girls, young people, indigenous peoples, minorities and marginalised groups, including persons with disabilities, and we will establish and maintain a safe and enabling environment for journalists, human rights defenders, including environmental human rights defenders, medical professionals and experts, including scientists, to speak freely without threat of disciplinary action or reprisals.

GOOD PRACTICE: CYPRUS

It should be noted that the Covid-19 pandemic had a severe economic and social impact, of which mitigation is impossible to achieve without the participation of the whole spectrum of society. While government intervention, mainly through financial tools, is more than necessary, civil society engagement is indispensable to have community-driven solutions. The importance of volunteering is further recognized in the UN General Assembly's resolution 67/138 which states that it is a central "component of any strategy aimed at... poverty reduction, sustainable development, health, education, youth empowerment, climate change, disaster risk reduction, social integration, social welfare, humanitarian action, peacebuilding and, in particular, overcoming social exclusion and discrimination.[20]"

The Good Practice:
Since 2013, Cyprus has established the Office of the Commissioner of Volunteerism and NGOs whose role is to coordinate all voluntary actions and NGOs, enhance their collaboration with local authorities, approve necessary funds and promote active citizen participation.[21] As a response to the pandemic, a number of individual volunteers and volunteering organisations were activated to provide food supplies, medicines, and support groups in vulnerable situations. The Office also managed to enact a "Protocol for the Safe Mobilisation of Volunteers in Times of Crisis",[22] which includes insurance coverage for the volunteers. This Protocol is deemed very useful and could be further utilised in future crises, especially due to the fact that it sets up a framework and guidelines for the mobilisation of civil society in emergencies, which adds up to Cyprus' resilience.

Outcome:
The mainstreaming of volunteerism, due to the abovementioned practice, led to the consolidation of a volunteering culture in the country, with 12.4% of the population aged 16 and older being engaged in some kind of voluntary activity.[23] With the coordination of voluntary activities serving as a source of inspiration, the next step was the creation of the website www.prosfero.com.cy, a platform connecting interested volunteers with potential sponsors and initiatives. Finally, Cyprus' initiative was awarded the "Civil Solidarity Prize"[24] by the European Economic and Social Committee (EESC), which rewarded initiatives that were set up to deal with the Covid-19 crisis and its impacts.

GOOD PRACTICE: MEXICO

Recommendations issued by the Human Rights Committee (CCPR) reveal the level of discrimination suffered by indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples in Mexico, particularly regarding their participation in political and public life.[25] At the same time, indigenous peoples had often been excluded from consultation related to the development of projects in their territories.[26] Recommendations from the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD) highlighted the need of including and strengthening the voices of indigenous peoples, especially when it comes to policymaking affecting their rights.[27]

The Good Practice:
Among various good practices, the Program for Indigenous and Afro-Mexican Peoples 2021-2024[28] stands out. Its goal is to ensure meaningful and integral participation of the abovementioned groups in the public affairs, in compliance with their rights and their recognition as equal members of the Mexican society. The Program focuses on land rights issues, self-determination, use of natural resources, and non-discrimination, including a gender perspective as a cross-cutting issue. Aimed at ensuring sustainability of the indigenous and Afro-Mexican communities and their resilience over time, the Mexican initiative promotes mechanisms to enhance their economic systems and social infrastructure, with respect to the safeguarding of their cultural heritage. Moreover, indigenous and Afro-Mexican authorities are encouraged to cooperate with the Federal Public Administration, the State and municipal governments regarding the creation, implementation, and assessment of public policies. Overall, the Program is made up of five objectives, 22 strategies and 106 specific actions that reflect Mexico's commitment to ensuring effective participation of the marginalised communities.

Outcome:
The systematic inclusion of the indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples that is envisioned by the Plan already brought some promising results.[29] The Mexican government issued standardized guidelines for crisis situations targeting marginalised groups, including indigenous peoples. Furthermore, as part of the Program, the authorities conducted research regarding the inclusion of indigenous peoples' perspective when it comes to internal displacement due to the pandemic. Similarly, the Intersectoral Collaboration Framework Agreement was established to draft participatory policies regarding ecological restoration of territories inhabited by indigenous and Afro-Mexican peoples to ensure that they can meaningfully participate in relevant decision making.

4.4 COMMITMENT 4: THE RIGHT TO HEALTH AND SDG 3

We will redouble our efforts to realize the right to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health and the achievement by 2030 of SDG3 and other health-related SDGs, in particular the targets of universal health coverage, including financial risk protection and access to quality essential health services for all, and to strengthen the capacity of all countries for early warning and crisis communications, risk reduction and management of national and global health risks. We will pursue extensive immunisation against COVID-19 as a global public good for health and without discrimination, and support COVAX as the joint global multilateral response facility, which will be key to ensuring an equitable and timely global distribution of safe, effective, quality, and affordable COVID-19 vaccines to all States, consistent with the realisation of the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health.

GOOD PRACTICE: FINLAND

Efforts to achieve a sustainable recovery and prepare for future crises cannot leave anyone behind. At the same time, we believe that global health risks, such as the Covid-19 pandemic, require global, joint, multilateral responses. However, even when providing international assistance, States must operate while ensuring inclusiveness and accessibility for anyone affected. As studies have already shown, Covid-19 and its consequences had disproportionate impacts on women, for example through increasing economic inequalities[30] or through increased rates of gender-based violence.[31] This reality is even more evident in developing States, where women might suffer multiple and intersecting forms of exclusion and discrimination.[32]

Finland has a long tradition in gender mainstreaming, whose implementation dates back to 1980-1985, with the country's first Action Plan for Gender Equality.[33] Therefore, Finland could externalise its lessons and good practices and assist other States to develop a gender perspective in their Covid-19 recovery approaches.

The Good Practice:
Finland adopted a gender perspective from the early stages of Covid-19 response and recovery, focusing on grassroots, national and global levels. In its development cooperation, Finland advocated for the participation of women in planning health systems, making sure that sexual and reproductive health and rights are part of a rights-based recovery.[34] Given that access to information is pivotal in enhancing women's participation in recovery initiatives, the Finnish State and civil society organisations (CSOs) strengthened and adjusted their support towards illiterate women in refugee camps in Eastern Africa. At the global and multilateral level, Finland supported UN Women's initiatives to make gender equality a core element of the UN's Covid-19 response.

Expected Outcome:
In the mid-term review of the Development Assistance Committee (DAC) of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), Finnish efforts in development cooperation for recovery from Covid-19 were acknowledged for their results-based approach which makes them effective on the ground.[35]

Furthermore, according to World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2021, the time needed for the world to achieve gender equality increased from 99.5 years to 135.6 years because of the pandemic and its aftermath. [36] In this context, good practices, such as the Finnish one, have an important role to play in achieving gender equality through cooperation, especially with disadvantaged groups, such as the illiterate women in East Africa refugee camps. It is expected that access to information regarding their rights and opportunities will foster women's initiatives for a sustainable recovery.

GOOD PRACTICE: DENMARK

The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic put significant pressure on the health systems around the world, with the capacity of healthcare facilities being challenged. Denmark, despite having a relatively robust health system, faced challenges with the risks behind the provision of in-person-care, which could be fatal for people belonging to at risk groups, such as those with underlying health conditions.[37] Additionally, the dependence of the country on the imports of pharmaceutical supplies highlighted the need for ensuring stocks of critical drugs and equipment to be better prepared for another global health crisis.

The Good Practice:
To overcome these obstacles, Denmark incorporated the creation of a resilient health system in its Recovery and Resilience Plan with a total funding of 244 million DKK. [38] One of its main strategies to implement it is ensuring availability of critical medical supplies to avoid shortages. Therefore, the Danish authorities drafted a list of all critical drugs and Amgros (the Danish regions' procurement agency) was tasked to purchase stocks that could cover periods of three, six, and nine months of regular consumption, with consideration of potential disruptions in the global supply chain.

To advance digitalisation of its healthcare system to make it more accessible during the pandemic, Denmark introduced a set of digital solutions. For instance, video consultations became a standard practice, with benefits both for the patients, especially those belonging to at-risk groups, and for health professionals, in case they are subject to home isolation.

Moreover, part of the Danish strategy to build a more resilient health system was a large-scale study of 10,000 patients to assess the long-term effects of the Covid-19 vaccines between 2021 and 2023. The study will focus on the immunity levels provided by different vaccines, the need for re-vaccinations, the ideal time between injections, the potential side-effects for different population groups in the long-term and the possibility of reusing the technologies applied for the creation of the vaccines to combat other diseases and viruses that might appear.

Expected outcome:
While the transformation of the Danish health system is currently in process, the expected outcomes of the showcased practice are in line with the fourth commitment of the Sustainable Recovery Pledge. In particular, the country's health system aims to build preparedness against national and global health risks, through the creation of a sufficient stock of critical medical supplies. At the same time, it becomes more

inclusive and considerate of vulnerabilities, thus providing quality and essential health services for all. Finally, Denmark, by conducting such a big study on the long-term side effects of the vaccines, contributes to ensuring safe, effective and quality Covid-19 vaccines that can be utilized both on a national level and abroad, which is an explicit requirement of the Pledge.

GOOD PRACTICE: GUATEMALA

At the time of writing the present report, while Covid-19 cases and mostly Covid-related deaths around the world are in decline,[39] it is too soon to talk about the "end of the pandemic". Apart from the new cases that are still present, the World Health Organisation (WHO) has conducted research[40] regarding the Post Covid-19 condition (so called "long Covid"), which affects a fraction (percentages vary according to different studies and countries) of people infected by Covid-19.

WHO's case definition is as follows*: "Post COVID-19 condition occurs in individuals with **a history of probable or confirmed SARS CoV-2 infection**, usually **3 months from the onset of COVID-19 with symptoms and that last for at least 2 months and cannot be explained by an alternative diagnosis.** Common symptoms include **fatigue, shortness of breath, cognitive dysfunction** but also others and generally have an **impact on everyday functioning.** Symptoms may be **new onset** following initial recovery from an acute COVID-19 episode or **persist** from the initial illness. Symptoms may also **fluctuate** or **relapse** over time." This definition may change as new evidence emerges and our understanding continues to evolve.

*See World Health Organization, Post Covid-19 condition (Long COVID), available at: https://www.who.int/srilanka/news/detail/16-10-2021-post-covid-19-condition

In Guatemala, according to the Ministry of Public Health and Social Assistance, some people who had been found positive for Covid-19 still experience ailments and secondary effects.[41] These usually include pulmonary, arterial, and other types of complications. These complications, even if they're not usually lethal, can negatively affect quality of life.

The Good Practice:
Through means of the Ministry for Public Health and Social Assistance, the government of Guatemala opened clinics for post-Covid and long-Covid care with the aim to facilitate quality rehabilitation. More specifically, in 2022, almost 18,000 patients received treatment. Moreover, a guide on treating long-Covid was drafted, aimed at providing medical and health care staff with guidelines on how to diagnose and treat long-Covid and detect as early as possible complications connected to it. Furthermore, the guide provides special guidance for treating pregnant women and children, whereas several training sessions have been organised for medical staff on the treatment of long-Covid patients.

Expected outcome:
Long-Covid is still being studied by the scientific community as it affects a significant number of people who recovered from the infection. Guatemala's strategy demonstrates preparedness and preventiveness, ensuring that medical equipment and trained medical staff are available for this type of patients. By organising their healthcare systems and adjusting them to new developments, countries can better cope with future global health risks.

GOOD PRACTICE: SWITZERLAND

The Covid-19 pandemic has challenged the achievement of SDG 3 in both developed and developing States. Nevertheless, the financial difficulties encountered by the latter create an additional obstacle in ensuring sufficient medical supplies and equipment, properly funded healthcare facilities and access to affordable and safe vaccines.

Moreover, the abovementioned financial struggles, in combination with the consequent, restrictive measures taken as a response to the health emergency that led to the closure of school facilities, revealed many developing States' inability to deliver on SDG 4 and adjust to teaching in the new reality. In this context, Switzerland acknowledged[42] that developing States suffered a backslide in achieving SDG 4, as Covid-19 had a lasting impact on their ability to finance education.

The Good Practice:
The Swiss initiatives regarding the first challenge are encompassed by Switzerland's Health Foreign Policy.[43] Hence, Switzerland is a major financial contributor to "Access to Covid-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A)"[44] project of the World Health Organisation (WHO), that was launched to guarantee access to Covid-19 diagnostics, drugs, and vaccines for all countries. Additionally, special focus is placed on providing treatment to people living in crisis-hit and remote areas, through Switzerland's support of the logistics of the International Organisation for Migration (IOM), UNICEF and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC).

When it comes to the second challenge, Switzerland aimed at mitigating the impact of the pandemic on education by adjusting its international cooperation projects, providing digital education solutions in regions where access to education was hindered because of Covid-19 measures.

Outcome:
Swiss Humanitarian Aid, which is part of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs, sent 40 respirators and 45 oxygen concentrators to Mongolia in July 2021 with a total value of 850000 CHF to assist in coping with the shortage of medical equipment required for addressing the challenges brought by the pandemic.[45] Moreover, it provided Nepal with a humanitarian aid shipment worth CHF 7.5 million, consisting of 30 tonnes of antigen tests, respirators, oxygen concentrators and personal protective equipment.[46]

4.5 COMMITMENT 5:
INEQUALITIES AND DISCRIMINATION

We will seek to address the widespread inequalities and discrimination that have made some people more vulnerable to the pandemic, its economic, social, and political impacts, and the negative impacts of response measures, including by addressing weaknesses in the way services are delivered in areas such as social security, health, education and justice, by combatting gender-based violence, and by empowering and engaging all women and girls, especially those in vulnerable situations.

GOOD PRACTICE: ANDORRA

The Andorran economy is heavily dependent on income from tourism, a sector severely hit by the Covid-19 pandemic. [47] Andorra lost 40% of its touristic activity in 2020 which was translated into a 10.2% loss of real GDP, a 50% increase in unemployment rate and a 12% decrease of the State's revenues. [48] As in every emergency, the worst affected were the most vulnerable people who have less means to cope with financial shock. For instance, between 2019 and 2020, Andorra marked a significant increase (7.3%) in poverty among people aged 65 years old or more. [49]

The Good Practice:
In early 2022, the government of Andorra took a series of measures, including increases in salaries, increase in financial social benefits, the promotion of free public transport, the decrease of the price of school transport, flexibility of scholarships, a decrease of indirect taxes on basic products and promotion campaigns for sustainability and minimization of energy consumption.[50] Moreover, the minimum salary increased by 7% in a period of 7 months, reaching 1,200 euros in May 2022, representing 55% of the median salary.[51] This measure was in line with the recommendation of 60% of the median salary, stemming from the European Union Commission's Proposal for a Directive of the European Parliament and of the Council "on adequate minimum wages in the European Union".[52]

To alleviate the disproportionate economic burden of vulnerable people and families, while also aimed at promoting climate action and energy transition in Andorra with the horizon of decarbonisation by 2050, public transport was made free of charge for all people over 65 years old and for people living with disabilities. Moreover, there has been a decrease in costs for the rest of the population to incentivise the use of public transport. Since July 2022, public transport has been made free of cost for the entire population for a pilot period of six months.

Outcome:
Although the abovementioned measures are too recent to produce any clear outcomes, a prediction could be made from the 2019-2020 data that show a decrease in poverty rates of the general population after the granting of social benefits. [53] Hence, it could be claimed that, should this trend continue, the extension of social protection rolled out by the Andorran government in 2022 will further reduce poverty, with the biggest benefits experienced by the most vulnerable sectors of society.

🇬🇷 GOOD PRACTICE: GREECE

During the Covid-19 pandemic, Greece experienced a backslide of women's rights. [54] More specifically, according to the EU barometer, it is said that the pandemic led to an increase of gender-based violence in the country.[55] Other persisting challenges for women, that existed prior to the pandemic, and were exacerbated because of it, included discrimination in the workplace, unequal pay, lack of women in leadership positions, in sports and in Science Technology Engineering and Math (STEM).[56]

Furthermore, according to the Hellenic Antipoverty Network, the LGBTQ+[1] community was among the groups that suffered the most during the pandemic, because of their already vulnerable situation. [57] Moreover, in its 2021 Voluntary National Review (VNR), Greece acknowledged that LGBTQ+ people face daily struggles in "almost every aspect of the public sphere", especially in their contact with the health services, the police, and public administration, identifying as important bottlenecks discrimination and the lack of institutional provisions. [58]

The Good Practice:
To address the regression concerning women's rights, Greece launched the National Action Plan for Gender Equality 2021-2025,[59] which considers the new post-Covid reality. The Plan comprises 67 measures, including specific responsibilities and instructions, of which implementation falls under the operations of 17 ministries. The four pillars of the Action Plan tackle the following issues: preventing and combating gender-based and domestic violence, equal participation of women in the labour market, equal participation of women in leadership and decision-making positions, and gender mainstreaming in sectoral policymaking. Finally, it is worth highlighting that the delivery and coordination of several stages of implementation of the actions are conducted by civil society organisations, an element which follows Greece's commitment on civil society participation (commitment 3) of the Sustainable Recovery Pledge.

Regarding the rights of LGBTQ+ persons, in 2021, Greece adopted the first National Strategy for LGBTQ+ equality, a comprehensive framework introducing overarching, intersectoral interventions. [60] The Strategy is divided into four pillars addressing the following issues: Combatting discriminations against LGBTQ+ people, Protection of LGBTQ+ people, Societies without exclusion for LGBTQ+ people, and Initiatives for LGBTQ+ equality at the global level.

Outcome:
The National Strategy for LGBTQ+ equality has already had significant outcomes that advance equality for LGBTQ+ people in the post-Covid era. To name a few, the Greek government banned so called LGBTQ+ conversion therapy,[61] as well as medically non-necessary so called normalising genital surgeries on intersex children. In doing so, Greece became the fifth country in the world, along with Malta, Iceland, Germany, and Portugal in banning this serious human rights violation.[62] It also lifted the blood donation ban that used to disproportionally target people having homosexual relationships. [63] In September 2022, Greece approved[64] the use of Pre-exposure Prophylaxis (PrEP), which is now part of the free preventive healthcare, aimed at HIV prevention,[65] in compliance with SDG 3.3 to end AIDS epidemic by 2030.

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1   Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and others

GOOD PRACTICE: LATVIA

Like many other countries around the world, Latvia had to impose school closures as part of its restriction measures due to Covid-19, which included moving to online learning. In its 2022 VNR Report, Latvia acknowledged that the digital learning deprived youth of a "favourable psycho-emotional environment".[66] Latvia further elaborated that there was a lack of inclusivity and emotional safety in schools, while both teachers and students lack important knowledge and skills – including digital ones – to create a pleasant school environment.[67]

The Good Practice:
Promoting mental health in school environments is of the utmost importance, given SDG 4.a target on "building and upgrading education facilities that are child, disability and gender sensitive and provide safe, non-violent, inclusive and effective learning environments for all".[68] To achieve this target in the context of recovery from the Covid-19 pandemic, in summer 2021 Latvia launched a local initiative called "Wellbeing Roadmaps".[69] More specifically, teams of student bodies participated in locally organised training sessions and learned about mental health, peer support, change management, and self-initiative. Teachers also engaged in this process through creative workshops that aimed at establishing new and healthier routines in education settings.

Outcome:
A concrete example of implementation of the abovementioned good practice was the students' initiatives at Riga Secondary School No.33. Its team organised seminars for teachers and proceeded to aesthetic upgrades at the school building, including positive messages and a setting up of a "kindness corner". In its 2022 VNR, Latvia considered this national initiative as the starting point of improving mental health at schools for an entire generation of students and teachers.[70]

GOOD PRACTICE: MALAYSIA

Even though the Malaysian case refers to a period before launching the Pledge, it was deemed appropriate to include it in this report as it fits to our narrative regarding the fifth commitment on fighting economic inequalities and hardships that emerged from the pandemic, setting the tone for a future response to an emergency.

The outbreak of Covid-19 pandemic in Malaysia affected the society on many levels but, as in most cases, marginalised groups, or those most at risk, experienced the most financial difficulties and a widening of economic inequalities. In Malaysia, these groups consisted of low-income households, women, children, elderly, persons with disabilities, migrants, refugees, stateless persons, homeless and indigenous people

According to the World Population Review, the Gini coefficient (otherwise named the Gini index or Gini ratio), is the most popular measure of income distribution: the higher the Gini coefficient, the greater the income inequalities within a given country. A country's Gini coefficient is important, as it contributes to identifying high levels of income inequality, which can have various undesirable political and economic consequences.*

*See World Population Review, Gini Coefficient by Country 2022, available at: https://worldpopulationreview.com/country-rankings/gini-coefficient-by-country

(Orang Asli). [71] According to the country's data, the relative poverty rate increased to 16.9% in 2019 and the Gini coefficient from 0.399 to 0.407, which was the first time that inequality increased in twenty years. [72] Finally, absolute poverty reached 8.4% in 2020.[73.]

The Good Practice:
To address the negative economic impacts of the pandemic-related shrinking of the economic activity, the government of Malaysia launched a comprehensive financial assistance scheme, targeting those with the most urgent needs. The first cash transfer initiative, the "Bantuan Prihatin Nasional",[74] was rolled out in 2020 benefitting 18 million people. The Department of Social Welfare (JKM) allocated an increased budget (from RM250 to RM300) for the financial support of persons with disabilities, the elderly, and children. Similar increases also benefitted large families, chronically ill patients, and carers of people with disabilities. Assistance has been further introduced for M40 households, which belong to the middle 40% income group with packages introducing cash transfers such as the Bantuan Prihatin Nasional, the Penjana[75] or the Permai.[76]

Outcome:
According to the Malaysian Ministry of Finance, Malaysia, together with Singapore, ranked first in the Asian region regarding Covid-19 recovery packages' contribution to the gross domestic product (GDP), with each reaching a level of around 20%. [77] Thanks to the targeted nature of the stimulus packages in Malaysia, they are expected to lower poverty rates as well as inequalities to pre-pandemic levels.

4.6 COMMITMENT 6: DIGITALISATION

We will strive to accelerate the catalytic role that digital technologies can play in a human rights-based sustainable recovery, including by building respect for human rights into the design, development and deployment of technological approaches to the pandemic, given the enormous implications of digital technologies for a broad range of human rights, in particular privacy (as per ICCPR art. 17), by seeking to address the substantial digital divides that exist within and among countries and regions; and by recognising the importance of disaggregated data.

GOOD PRACTICE: GREECE

The Covid-19 pandemic forced governments around the globe to impose restrictions to limit physical contact. Communication with public administration was therefore hindered, especially in countries with low digitalisation levels, such as Greece. In the Digital Economy and Society Index (DESI) of 2022, Greece ranked only 25th out of the 27 EU Member States, with a particularly low score in integration of digital technology (integration of new technologies in businesses and e-commerce). [78]

The Good Practice:
Greece is currently implementing its Digital Transformation Strategy 2020-2025,[79] whose creation was triggered by the country's efforts to adjust its services to the reality brought in by the Covid-19 pandemic. The new State platform, Gov.gr was launched in 2020, digitalising several popular public services to discourage citizens from visiting

them in-person. [80] Acting upon this strategy, Greece promoted teleworking, remote healthcare (including drug prescription) and remote education. It also established a "Digital Solidarity" platform and a digital system for citizens to request extraordinary movement permits via SMS text messages during lockdowns.[81] Public services provide residents and interested stakeholders with the possibility to interact with civil service through video conference calls. The new digital public administration has so far digitalised various registries (e-Registries), with the following ten being considered the basic ones: tax registry, general commerce registry, citizens' registry, national IDs and other documents registry, the social security registry, the land and property registry, the registry of street numbers, the registry of government services, the registry of driving licences and the registry of vehicles' permits. [82]

Outcome:
As a result of the abovementioned strategy, the value of the Information and Communications Technology (ICT) market increased by 3.5% in 2021 compared to 2020, whereas, in 2022, it is expected to reach 8.58 billion USD. [83] Additionally, Greece was one of the first countries to digitalize Covid-19 vaccination certificates and to create digital platforms for vaccination appointments. [84] Finally, the digital system established for the extraordinary movement permits during the lockdowns was highlighted by OECD as a digital best practice of government Covid-19 responses. [85]

4.7   COMMITMENT 7:
CLIMATE- AND ENVIRONMENT-SENSITIVE APPROACHES TO RECOVERY

We will adopt climate- and environment-sensitive approaches to COVID-19 recovery efforts, including by inter alia aligning investments and domestic policies with the relevant objectives of the 2030 Agenda and with the Paris Agreement, reversing biodiversity loss, and accelerating renewable energy transitions.

GOOD PRACTICE: DENMARK

In its 2021 VNR, Denmark acknowledged that its green transition was off-track because of the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic which shifted the use of financial resources towards the support of the economic activity. [86] In 2019, CO_2 emission rates increased by 6% compared to the 1990 levels. [87] Even though a decline was observed in 2020, mainly because of Covid-19 restrictions, emissions began to increase again in 2021.[88] Lastly, although the government coalition formed after Denmark's 2019 election agreed on a target of 70% reduction of CO_2 emissions by 2030, the Danish Council on Climate Change maintained, back in 2021, that the efforts and initiatives would be sufficient for reducing emission levels by only 54% compared to 1990 levels. [89]

The Good Practice:
Like all EU Member States, Denmark has submitted its Recovery and Resilience Plan that focuses on green transition. [90] Green initiatives will benefit from 59% of the funds of the recovery plan,[91] a number that exceeds the minimum EU requirement of 37%.[92] In the context of the Recovery and Resilience Plan, green investing includes initiatives that aim at both immediate and future reduction in greenhouse gas emissions.[93] Moreover, bearing in mind that approximately one third of all emissions in Denmark are

caused by the agricultural sector, the government allocated funding for transitioning to organic farming, ceasing farming of peatland with high carbon content, and for green research investments.[94]

At the same time, in September 2022, Denmark took a bold initiative regarding climate action at the global level.[95] More specifically, Denmark became the first UN Member State to commit to financially compensating developing States that have suffered "loss and damage" from climate change to which they have contributed the least.[96] Denmark will contribute approximately 13 million USD to this initiative.

Outcome:
Green transition cannot produce tangible results overnight. Nevertheless, the abovementioned good practice is expected to get the country back on track regarding its ambitious climate action targets. In its summary of the assessment of the Danish recovery and resilience plan, the EU Commission foresees that the new initiatives would render the country's economy more sustainable and competitive.[97] It also considers these efforts to be a step towards achieving carbon neutrality by 2050. At the same time, it expects significant reductions of nitrogen emissions when it comes to the agricultural sector.

Regarding Denmark's initiatives at the international level, those are expected to alleviate the burden of climate change impacts on developing States, in compliance with the "The Polluter Pays" principle.

The Polluter Pays principle was incorporated into the 1992 Rio "Earth Summit". The declaration stated: Principle 16: "National authorities should endeavour to promote the internalization of environmental costs and the use of economic instruments, taking into account the approach that **the polluter should, in principle, bear the cost of pollution**, with due regard to the public interest and without distorting international trade and investment."*

*See United Nations, A/CONF.151/26/Rev.l (Vol. l), Principle 16, available at: https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N92/836/55/PDF/N9283655.pdf?OpenElement

4.8   COMMITMENT 8:
RISK-INFORMED AND SUSTAINABLE FINANCING

We will design recovery strategies based on risk-informed, sustainable financing policies, supported by integrated national financing frameworks in accordance with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda, mindful of the important role that official development assistance plays in complementing the efforts of countries to mobilise public resources domestically, especially for the many least developed countries, small island developing States and middle-income countries that have been hit the hardest by the crisis.

GOOD PRACTICE: SWEDEN

In 2020, the World Bank estimated that an additional 40 to 60 million people might suffer from extreme poverty because of the pandemic. [98] Therefore, official development assistance (ODA) is crucial in financing the needs of developing countries that often lack access to the international markets. According to data from previous recessions, when faced with financial crisis, major donors have the tendency to redirect their available funds towards domestic issues. Consequently, ODA usually decreased up to 8% when a crisis hits, and it would not rebound until three years after the outbreak. [99]

Nevertheless, recovery from Covid-19 is supposed to "leave no one behind" and developed States must be mindful of the role that ODA plays in catering for the needs of developing States that have been hit the hardest by the crisis as well as the consequences of decreased funding available.

The Good Practice:
To deal with the pressing financing needs both domestically and internationally, Sweden was forced to adjust its ODA scheme. In 2021, the country continued allocating 1% of its GDP (approximately 52 billion SEK) to international development, even though the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida) had to adjust the nature of its response, due to the health crisis, with more targeted actions that addressed the consequences of the pandemic to international development and human rights. [100]

In this context, Sweden pushed for maintaining fair and open trade within the European single market and for removing export restrictions that would hinder third countries' sufficient supply of necessary goods. [101] Through its "Trade for Health" initiative, Sweden attempted to simplify the circulation of medical products by removing tariffs and additional barriers. [102]

Finally, to prevent the rise of authoritarian regimes as a response to the pandemic, Swedish ODA was redirected towards advancing democracy, human rights, and the rule of law in the most vulnerable countries, with an initiative called "Drive for Democracy", an initiative that, regardless of being launched before the pandemic, has been adjusted to address, inter alia, disinformation around the Covid-19 pandemic. [103]

Outcome:

Sweden, together with Denmark, Germany, Luxembourg, and Norway were the only Development Assistance Committee (DAC) members that met or exceeded the target of 0.7% ODA to Gross National Income (GNI) target in 2021, with Sweden reaching 1%.[104]

The Swedish efforts to address the economic struggle caused by the pandemic around the world are in line with the country's commitments under the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Recovery Pledge, while the adaptability of its operations regarding international development renders Swedish ODA a flexible tool that can be used appropriately in any future emergency.

4.9 COMMITMENT 9: RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

We will use recommendations and guidelines from the international human rights mechanisms and National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), as appropriate, to inform and monitor progress with our sustainable recovery strategies.

The human rights mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the treaty bodies and the special procedures monitor progress on human rights that is closely related[105] to progress on the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. With the Covid-19 pandemic and its consequences negatively impacting the realisation of human rights and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, it is imperative that States follow the recommendations of the human rights mechanisms to inform their policymaking when drafting recovery strategies. By way of illustration, between 2020 and 2022, there were 123 Covid-related recommendations issued by treaty bodies and 145 coming from the UPR mechanism that are directly relevant to specific groups, themes and sectors, and whose implementation would help States to recover sustainably and better prepare for future emergencies.

In 2021, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR) recommended (E/C.12/AZE/CO/4, par.45) that Azerbaijan, which is a signatory of the Pledge, "(a) continue its efforts to facilitate universal and equitable access to COVID-19 testing, treatment and immunization;(b) Regularly collect and disseminate to the public reliable and scientifically accurate information and statistical data in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, including information on vaccines against COVID-19;(c) Ensure that constraints on health-care resources owing to the COVID-19 pandemic do not significantly hinder access to health care, including for pre-existing conditions;(d) Refer to the Committee's general comment No. 25 (2020) on science and economic, social and cultural rights, and the Committee's three statements, on the COVID-19 pandemic and economic, social and cultural rights, on universal and equitable access to vaccines for COVID-19, and on universal affordable vaccination against COVID-19, international cooperation and intellectual property."

At the same time, the role of NHRIs when it comes to applying their human rights mandate can positively influence sustainable development and recovery, something that is confirmed by the Merida Declaration.[106] NHRIs can, therefore, contribute to sustainable recovery by monitoring and reporting on human rights and SDGs implementation at the national level, using disaggregated data in collaboration with

National Statistical Offices (NSOs), as is the case in Denmark, Kenya, Indonesia, and Palestine.[107] They also play a significant role in advising the governments on their human rights obligations, including during design of responses to pandemic or other crises, as well as drafting recovery or resilience plans. Additionally, in the countries where NHRIs are mandated to receive complaints regarding human rights violations, sustainable recovery can become more comprehensive as marginalised and affected groups can express their views and indicate the human rights that have been violated and by doing that ensure that no one is left behind. It is governments' responsibility to use the inputs from NHRIs' work. Moreover, NHRIs can act as links between governments, the private sector and civil society in promoting dialogue and participatory decision-making, making sure that all voices are heard when drafting recovery strategies for other future public emergencies.

> In 2021, Lao People's Democratic Republic recommended (A/HRC/49/17, 51.120) that Thailand, which is a signatory of the Pledge, "Continue its inclusive COVID-19 vaccination policy to ensure accessible and affordable COVID-19 vaccines and treatments for all, including the marginalized and migrant workers' groups."

4.10   COMMITMENT 10:
STRENGTHENING UN LEADERSHIP

We will support a further strengthening UN leadership in advancing a human rights-based sustainable recovery, building on the UN Secretary General's Call to Action on Human Rights, and will pursue partnerships and alliances that allow us to build on the contributions of all sectors of society, including women and girls, adolescents and youth, children, workers, businesses, indigenous peoples, the scientific community, the multiple voices of civil society, and others, on the basis of relevant frameworks such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.

A good example of UN leadership in this matter was the Bali Agenda for Resilience, a multilateral instrument adopted in the 7th session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Bali, Indonesia.

The UN Secretary General's Call to Action on Human Rights,[108] whose importance is highlighted in the Pledge, provides States with guidance on developing a human rights-based approach to development and recovery. This document acknowledges the current retrogression regarding the enjoyment of human rights and urges States to act in areas that overlap with those of the Sustainable Recovery Pledge. More specifically, the Call to Action identifies seven pillars upon which States must act: (1) rights at the core of sustainable development; (2) rights in times of crisis; (3) gender equality and equal rights for women; (4) public participation and civic space; (5) rights of future generations, especially climate justice; (6) rights at the heart of collective action; and (7) new frontiers of human rights.

As the Call to Action is being implemented, States should mainstream human rights in every aspect of their decision-making, including designing recovery, resilience or crisis response policies or programs, ensuring that no one is left behind. According to the Call to Action, there is indeed "a well-documented correlation between a society's enjoyment of and commitment to human rights – including non-discrimination – and its resilience to crisis". Therefore, it is through the respect of the rights of all people that States will be able not only to achieve a human rights-centred recovery but also to prepare themselves for future emergencies that are very likely to occur.

5   CLOSING REMARKS

The aim of the report was to showcase a set of selected good practices highlighting some of the recovery efforts following up on the launch of the Sustainable Recovery Pledge. The Pledge uses the 2030 Agenda, grounded in States' human rights obligations, as the blueprint for making sustainable and risk-informed policies following the Covid-19 pandemic. The practices covered a wide range of interventions, including on health, climate action, reducing inequalities, digitalisation, empowerment of civil society, good governance, and resilience-building.

Modern crises are characterised by their transboundary nature and their consequences are being experienced in both developed and developing countries. The war in Ukraine, for example, has triggered the current energy crisis and has exacerbated food security not only in the regional context, but across the globe. Similarly, climate crisis and harmful environmental practices have negative impacts on countries regardless of region or their contribution to them. The fact that the world is interconnected and interdependent on all issues should create the sense of deeper understanding, imminent urgency as well as unity when it comes to finding solutions. Building resilience is a collective process which should be grounded in human rights. The presented practices prove that States and other stakeholders can take efficient action in tackling some of the greatest challenges of the post-Covid era, facilitating peer learning and inspiring other States to follow their example. The hope is that these processes will continue.

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