NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS
ENGAGING WITH THE
SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGs)

GANHRI
Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions

National Human Rights Institutions
engaging with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

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Table of contents

List of abbreviations

ABS   Australian Bureau of Statistics
AIHW   Australian Institute of Health and Welfare
AIPP   Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact
ANNHRI   Arab Network for National Human Rights Institutions
APF   Asia Pacific Forum
CESR   Center for Economic and Social Rights
COP   Conference of the Parties
CSO   Civil Society Organisation
DESA   UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DIHR   Danish Institute for Human Rights
ENNHRI   European Network of National Human Rights
           Institutions
FUR   Follow-Up and Review
GANHRI   Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions
GIHR   German Institute for Human Rights
HLPF   High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
HRBA   Human Rights-Based Approach
HRBAD   Human Rights-Based Approach to Data
HRC   Human Rights Council
HRE   Human Rights Education
ILO   International Labour Organization
IWGIA   International Working Group for Indigenous Affairs
KNBS   Kenya National Bureau of Statistics
KNCHR   Kenya National Commission on Human Rights
MDG   Millennium Development Goal
MoU   Memorandum of Understanding
NANHRI   Network of African National Human Rights Institutions
NAP   National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights
NCCSD   National Coordination Council for Sustainable
           Development
NGO   Non-governmental Organisation
NHRI   National Human Rights Institution
NPA   National Human Rights Plan of Action
NSO   National Statistical Office
OHCHR   Office of the High Commission for Human Rights
SDG   Sustainable Development Goal
SHRC   Scottich Human Rights Commission
SOGI   Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity
UNDP   United Nations Development Programme
UNESCO   United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural
           Organization
UNGP   UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Right
UPR   Universal Periodic Review
WDF   World Data Forum

Executive summary

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development explicitly references human rights throughout its text and the SDGs "seek to realize the human rights of all". In other words, the 2030 Agenda and human rights are tied together in a mutually reinforcing way. Given their unique mandate and role, **National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)** can play a key role in the implementation and follow-up of the Agenda, and are at the core of the SDG 'web of accountability'.

First and foremost, NHRIs already contribute to the realisation of the 2030 Agenda through their core functions. For example, on-going NHRI monitoring of human rights is immediately relevant for specific goals and targets, such as **Goal 16** on peace, justice and sustainable institutions; **target 4.7** on human rights education, and; targets **5.c, 10.3 and 16.b** on elimination of discriminatory legislation. Likewise, the selection of the *existence of an independent NHRI* as a global indicator of sustainable development reaffirms that NHRIs constitute an essential element of the institutional framework for sustainable development.

The **Mérida Declaration**, adopted by the Global Alliance of NHRIs (GANHRI), further outlines how NHRIs can apply their unique mandate and functions to support the integrated realisation of human rights and sustainable development. In accordance with the Mérida Declaration, **NHRIs can contribute to the Agenda** by:

- **Monitoring** progress at the local, national, regional and international levels, including by building on existing human rights reporting and monitoring mechanisms;
- Assisting in the shaping of national indicators and sound data collection systems, including by providing advice and expertise on a **Human Rights-Based Approach to Data**;
- Promoting **transparent and inclusive processes for participation** and consultation in the development of national strategies to achieve the SDGs, including by reaching out to those who are furthest behind and collaborating with civil society and other actors;
- Supporting **capacity-building** and sharing of experiences on a Human Rights-Based Approach to the SDGs through regional and global NHRI networks.

Although we are only 2 years into the implementation of the Agenda, the NHRI experiences presented in the study bear witness of the wide range of approaches that NHRIs make use of to engage with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and ensure accountability in the process. The NHRI roles presented cover a diverse spectrum of functions: from advising governments on approaches to SDG data and monitoring, to cooperation with civil society, to capacity-building initatives across regional NHRI networks.

National Human Rights Institutions: an asset for sustainable development

Preface

National Human Right Institutions (NHRIs) constitute national focal points for promotion and protection of human rights. Given the convergence between the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and human rights standards, NHRIs can play a key role in translating the SDGs into reality on the ground[1].

As independent State institutions mandated to ensure national compliance with international human rights commitments, NHRIs are crucial elements of the institutional architecture necessary for the realisation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. NHRIs perform a wide range of functions that address the Agenda: monitoring and reporting, advising the government on human rights issues, cooperating with national, regional and international bodies, complaints handling, promoting human rights education etc.

At the international level, NHRIs work together through the **Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI)** for the promotion and strengthening of individual NHRIs in accordance with the Paris Principles[2].

In 2015, GANHRI gathered its members to discuss the role of NHRIs in implementing the 2030 Agenda. This resulted in the **Mérida Declaration**, which outlines functions and activities that NHRIs can undertake in order to contribute to a Human Rights-Based Approach to the 2030 Agenda. The Declaration emphasises capacity-building and knowledge sharing, and for this purpose, a **GANHRI Working Group on Sustainable Development** was established, as a vehicle for collaboration among NHRIs.

This report aims at contributing to the sharing of experiences, good practices and knowledge management with and among NHRIs in relation to the 2030 Agenda, as encouraged in the Mérida Declaration. It constitutes a baseline of how NHRIs support the implementation of the SDGs at country level, and is informed by desk research, a broad survey among NHRIs, as well as consultations with individual NHRIs and other key stakeholders.[3]

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[1] See The Human Rights Guide to the SDGs, DIHR: http://sdg.humanrights.dk/
[2] Paris Principles: Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions. See: http://bit.ly/1SGrPXt
[3] See Annex A for more on objective and methodology

Human Rights and the SDGs

The 2030 Agenda explicitly references human rights throughout its text[4], and the 17 SDGs and the related 169 targets directly or indirectly reflect human rights standards[5]. The goals are designed to **"leave no one behind"** in pursuit of sustainable development, and the Agenda integrate crosscutting human rights principles such as **participation**, **accountability** and **non-discrimination**. In other words, the 2030 Agenda and human rights are inevitably tied together.[6]

The synergetic relationship between human rights and the SDGs can be operationalized in a mutually reinforcing manner. On the one hand, human rights provide guidance and a legally-binding framework for tackling the multidimensional goals of the 2030 Agenda. On the other hand, the SDGs can serve as a results-oriented roadmap for the realization of human rights.
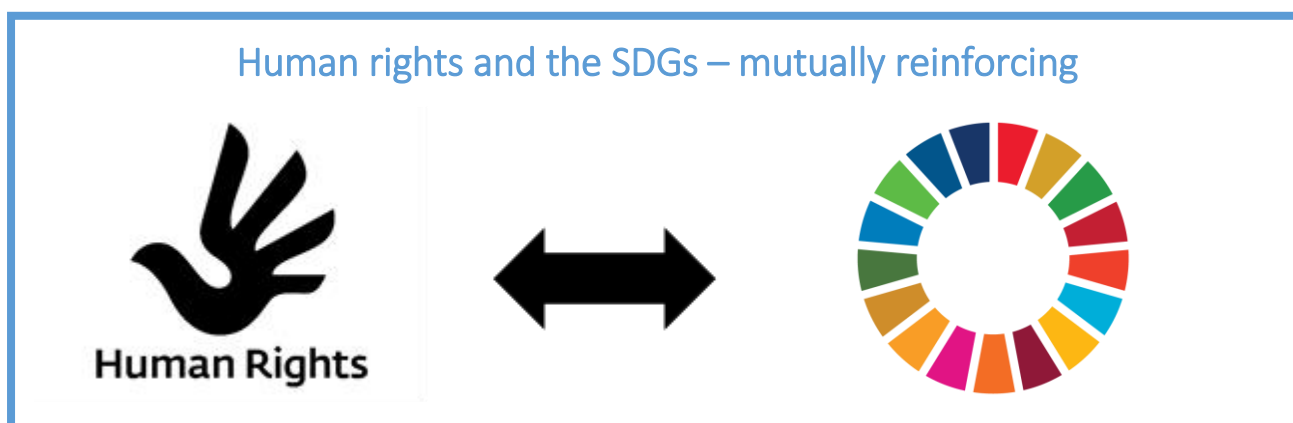
The high degree of convergence also points to the potential of using national, regional and international human rights mechanisms to assess and guide implementation of the Agenda. The human rights system can provide:

* Systematised qualitative analysis and data through institutionalised reporting and monitoring mechanisms;
* Recommendations and guidance for national SDG implementation;
* Facilitation of access to justice, redress and remedy.

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[4] UN General Assembly, 20th Session, 21 October 2015, *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, UN Doc., A/RES/70/1:
https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld
[5] See The Human Rights Guide to the SDGs, DIHR: http://sdg.humanrights.dk/
[6] See OHCHR, 2015, *Human Rights in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*:
http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/MDGs/Post2015/HRAndPost2015.pdf

States and other actors can make use of existing reporting mechanisms and find guidance from existing human rights mechanisms for the Follow-up and Review (FUR) of the 2030 Agenda. This will enhance efficiency, coherence and accountability, and ensure national anchorage of FUR.[7]

The SDGs *"seek to realize the human rights of all"*

UN General Assembly
Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development[3]

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[7] For more on a HRBA to the SDGs, see DIHR 2016, *Human Rights in Follow-up and Review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:* bit.ly/follow-review and DIHR 2017, *Human Rights and Data – tools and resources for sustainable development:* bit.ly/humanrights-data

THE HUMAN RIGHTS GUIDE TO THE SDGs – A SEARCHABLE DATABASE

The **Human Rights Guide to the SDGs** identifies the inter-linkages between the SDGs and universal human rights and labour standards, and thereby illustrates and reaffirms that human rights instruments and the 2030 Agenda are tied together in a mutually reinforcing way. The Guide is an essential tool to:

- Understand the synergies between human rights and the SDGs.

- Develop a human rights-based approach to sustainable development programming, implementation, reporting and monitoring

The Guide is developed by
the **Danish Institute for Human Rights**

Visit the Guide at: http://sdg.humanrights.dk/

The Mérida Declaration - a framework for NHRI engagement with the SDGs

In October 2015, NHRIs from all regions met under the umbrella of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI[8]) in Mérida, Mexico, to discuss how NHRIs can contribute to translate the Agenda 2030 and the SDGs into reality on the ground. The Conference resulted in the adoption of the **Mérida Declaration**[9], whereby NHRIs committed to collaborate in mutual capacity-building and sharing of experiences to contribute to a Human Rights-Based Approach to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The Mérida Declaration outlines how NHRIs can apply their unique mandate and functions under the United Nations Paris Principles to support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the realisation of human rights:

- Advise national/local governments
- Raise awareness and promote dialogue and participation
- Develop and sustain partnerships for implementation
- Shape national indicators
- Monitor and report on progress
- Hold governments accountable
- Investigate rights violations
- Provide access to justice

The Mérida Declaration welcomes the foundation of the 2030 Agenda in the United Nations Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights treaties and instruments, and informed by other instruments such as the Declaration on the Right to Development. The Mérida Declaration is grounded on the understanding of human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as mutually reinforcing frameworks. This understanding is further elaborated in the following section.

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[8] The network was formerly known as ICC: "The International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights"

[9] Mérida Declaration:
http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/ICC/InternationalConference/12IC/Background%20Information/Merida%20Declaration%20FINAL.pdf

The Bridging Role of National Human Rights Institutions

As reaffirmed in the Mérida Declaration, NHRIs are uniquely placed to play a bridging role between different types of stakeholders; government, civil society, development partners, business, UN agencies etc. This role is particularly important in the context of the 2030 Agenda, since collaboration between a variety of actors and sectors will be absolutely essential for effective and equitable implementation[10,11]. In addition to promoting transparent, participatory and inclusive national processes of implementation and monitoring across sectors, NHRIs are in the position to:

- Develop tools, guidance and knowledge on promoting a HRBA to the implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda;
- Assist in the shaping of national indicators and sound data collection systems, including by building on existing international and regional human rights reporting and monitoring mechanisms;
- Monitor progress at the local, national, regional and international levels and disclose patterns of inequality and discrimination, including through innovative and participatory approaches to data-collection;
- Promote transparent and inclusive processes for participation and consultation in the development of national strategies to achieve the SDGs, including by reaching out to those who are furthest behind.[12]

NHRIs also have an important bridging role between the international human rights norms and standards, and their States' commitments at an international level along with their implementation and monitoring at national and local levels.

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[10] DIHR & CESR, 2015, *Realizing rights through the sustainable development goals: The role of national human rights institutions*: https://www.humanrights.dk/publications/realizing-rights-through-sustainable-development-goals-role-national-human-rights

[11] ENNHRI, ANNHRI & UNDP, 2016, *Role of National Human Rights Institutions in implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development* Goal, Conference report: http://bit.ly/2tl8R5Z

[12] See DIHR 2016, *Human Rights in Follow-up and Review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:* bit.ly/follow-review and DIHR 2017, *Human Rights and Data – tools and resources for sustainable development:* bit.ly/humanrights-data

NHRIs as accountability mechanisms

The independent nature of NHRIs, their bridging role between their country and the international human rights system[13, 14], and their experience and expertise in monitoring and reporting on the implementation of human rights standards places them in the perfect position to be at the heart of what has been called the SDG *"web of accountability"*.[15] As independent State institutions mandated to support national compliance with international human rights commitments, NHRIs are crucial elements of the institutional accountability architecture necessary for ensuring peaceful and inclusive societies with access to justice for all.

To sum up the main functions of NHRIs as accountability mechanisms for the SDGs, NHRIs can cooperate with States to ensure inclusive, participatory processes that 'leave no one behind' and at the same time hold States accountable for the implementation of their commitments.[16]

NHRIs are in the perfect position to be at the heart of the "SDG 'web of accountability'"[10]

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[13] Read more about the potential of NHRIs in this report of the UN Secretary General: A/70/347: http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/News/Documents/A-70-347%20en.pdf

[14] Read more about NHRIs and the UN system in this UN resolution: A/RES/70/163: http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/IHRS/UNNY/Pages/Main.aspx

[15] See Alison Hoise, Scottish Human Rights Commission, *Contributing to the Accountability Web: The Role of NHRIs and the SDGs*, 23 March 2016 http://bit.ly/2tLVITB and Kate Donald, *Promising the World: Accountability and the SDGs*, 2016: http://bit.ly/2sGdQis, *Breaking the Accountability Taboo in Sustainable Development Negotiations,* CESR, June 2nd, 2015: http://cesr.org/article.php?id=1732

[16] ENNHRI, ANNHRI & UNDP, 2016, *Role of National Human Rights Institutions in implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development* Goal, Conference report: http://bit.ly/2tl8R5Z

NHRI practice - engaging with the SDGs

This chapter presents a wide range of examples, good practices and emerging lessons learned on how NHRIs work with implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda at the country level. The examples are structured in accordance with the NHRI roles outlined in the Mérida Declaration, and can thereby serve as inspiration for further NHRI engagement with the 2030 Agenda.[17]

Using existing NHRI work to further sustainable development

Before turning to examples of how NHRIs are explicitly working towards implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda, it should be stressed that NHRIs are already contributing to the realisation of the SDGs through their mandated functions.

NHRIs are driving forces for promotion and monitoring of the crosscutting human rights principles of non-discrimination, accountability and participation, which are emphasized throughout the 2030 Agenda. This is manifested in some of the NHRI core functions, which can then from the outset contribute to the realisation of the 2030 Agenda.

This section unfolds two thematic areas, where NHRIs are immediately contributing to sustainable development: **Goal 16** on peaceful, inclusive societies and accountable institutions, and; **target 4.7** on human rights education.

Goal 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions

As an important departure from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the SDGs include Goal 16 on "Peace, justice and strong institutions", which acknowledges the importance of accountable institutions, good governance, participation, access to justice and information, fundamental freedoms, among others. Goal 16 prominently recognises civil and political rights as crucial elements of sustainable development, and offers significant transformative potential to improve human rights through institutional, justice and security reform.

The importance of NHRIs as catalysts for sustainable development is explicitly recognised in the adoption of the existence of an independent Paris Principles accredited NHRI as a global indicator for SDG 16. In addition to this, NHRIs' mandate to address discrimination in all its forms, equips them to monitor SDG targets regarding discriminatory legislation.

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[17] For further inspiration, see this APF study: Chris Sidoti, APF, 2016: *Background paper: National Human Rights Institutions and the Sustainable Development Goals*

Moreover, as part of their mandate, NHRIs are committed to promote peace and contribute to prevention of conflict escalation in conflict and post-conflict situations. This was manifested in 2015, with the adoption of the *Kyiv Declaration on the Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations*[18].

THE ROLE OF NHRIs IN CONFLICT

In October 2015, the **Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner on Human Rights** (A status) and UNDP organised the *International Conference on the Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations*. The conference was a space for experts and practitioners to share knowledge, experiences and challenges, and ultimately identify recommendations on the role of NHRIs in conflict-affected and fragile settings. The conference resulted in the adoption of the ***Kyiv Declaration on the Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations***, which calls for a stronger role of NHRIs in conflict and post-conflict settings.[1]

In June 2016, the conference was followed-up with a seminar hosted by **UNDP**, **GANHRI** and **OHCHR**. The seminar explicitly refered to the 2030 Agenda in its pursuit to explore how NHRIs in fragile conflict contexts can contribute toward the attainment of goal 16.[2]

With their local human rights knowledge, NHRIs are well equipped to understand and address the causes of conflict. The generic roles of NHRIs in conflict situations include: monitoring and documenting human rights situations and violations; advising governments on law and policy; protecting vulnerable groups, and; creating an enabling environment for reconciliation by facilitating dialogues and monitoring peace agreements.

An important task is responding to human rights violations resulting from conflict. In such context, cooperation with civil society is vital in order to build a joint platform for action. In Ukraine, the Ukrainian Parliament Commissioner for Human Rights has actively engaged since the beginning of the conflict, often in cooperation with human rights organisations and civil society. In particular, the Ukrainian conflict has led to child abuse and violence, including from military officers. In order to address this, the Commissioner for Human Rights has a special representative for children's rights who cooperates with NGOs, human rights organisations and international organisations to address the conflict's impact on children.

[1]See: http://www.eurasia.undp.org/content/rbec/en/home/library/democratic_governance/the-role-of-national-human-rights-institutions-in-conflict-and-p.html
[2]See:http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/News/Lists/News/DispForm.aspx?ID=235&ContentTypeId=0x0104006A3D2D731523E24B9C932DE5D6E5EDFF

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[18] See: http://www.eurasia.undp.org/content/rbec/en/home/library/democratic_governance/the-role-of-national-human-rights-institutions-in-conflict-and-p.html

Target 4.7: Human Rights Education (HRE)

Human Rights Education (HRE) is a concept, which promotes values, beliefs and attitudes that encourage all individuals to uphold their own rights and those of others. It encompasses education about human rights and the use of human rights-based teaching methodology. Also, a structural anchoring of HRE is essential to the promotion of human rights and prevention of human rights abuses in the long run.

Human rights education is a core part of the NHRI mandate and can be seen as an investment in the development of a strong human rights culture[19]. Thus, NHRIs can play a key supporting role in the promotion, implementation and follow-up of SDG target 4.7 on education for sustainable development, human rights and global citizenship.

In order to obtain a more systematic approach to HRE, a NHRI Network on Human Rights Education[20] has been created by a group of NHRIs from across all regions. One of the main areas that the Network will address is the need for NHRIs to use their full core mandate on HRE; meaning that HRE goes beyond NHRIs conducting their own trainings and also covers activities under other areas of the NHRI mandate - such as monitoring, advising governments on education policies, developing HRE teaching guidelines and more.

4.7 By 2030, ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, **human rights**, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development

UN RESOLUTION ON HRE AND NHRIs

In 2011, the UN Declaration on Human Rights Education and Training was adopted. In 2016, the Human Rights Council agreed on a new ***UN Resolution on Human Rights Education and Training.*** The resolution reconfirms and supplements state parties' commitment to national implementation of international standards for human rights education. The Resolution welcomes the adoption of the 2030 Agenda and its target 4.7 and recognises the important role of NHRIs in this relation.[1]

On behalf of **GANHRI** and its 75 A status NHRI members, the **Danish Institute for Human Rights** (A status) read a statement to the Human Rights Council 33rd session where GANHRI highlighted the potentials of NHRIs as key players in the implementation, guidance and monitoring of human rights education. A special attention was also given to the advantages of NHRIs as data collectors for SDG target 4.7.[2]

[1]A/HRC/RES/31/21: http://bit.ly/2tfCcOE
[2] GANHRI, 2016: http://bit.ly/2t9oyN3

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[19] For more on NHRIs and HRE, see: Asia Pacific Forum, 2013 (updated January 2017): *Human Rights Education: A Manual for National Human Rights Institutions*
http://www.asiapacificforum.net/resources/human-rights-education-manual/
[20] Read more on the NHRI Network on Human Rights Education:
https://www.humanrights.dk/projects/nhri-network-human-rights-education

The table below illustrates examples of other thematic areas addressed by NHRIs, which contribute to promotion and protection of both human rights and sustainable development.

EXAMPLES OF NHRIs WORKING THEMATICALLY WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The links between human rights and **climate change** are gaining more attention, and NHRIs can play a key role in actions on climate change[1].

- On the occasion of COP22 in Marrakech (November 2016), the **National Human Rights Council of Morocco** (A status) organised a special event on the role of NHRIs in monitoring States' implementation of the SDGs and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.
- The **Philippine Commission on Human Rights** (A status), is involved in an investigation of some 50 companies, so-called Carbon Majors, for alleged human rights violations. In May 2017, Asia Pacific Forum (APF) and GANHRI supported the investigation by submitting an amicus brief. See: http://bit.ly/2uCnyPf
- In 2015, 18 countries committed to the **Geneva Pledge on Human Rights and Climate Action**. See: http://bit.ly/2t9ue9I

[1]Read more: https://www.humanrights.dk/news/climate-change-human-rights-concern

In June 2017, at the Human Rights Council's 35th session, the first report of the **UN Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGI)**[1] was presented. The report recommends cooperation with NHRIs - this recommendation was supported by **GANHRI** in a statement that emphasized the bridging role of NHRIs and their role in protecting the rights of the most marginalized groups.
Read the full statement here:
http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/News/Documents/ENG_HRC_35_GANHRI_Statement_IE_SOGI.pdf

[1]A/HRC/35/36, Report of the Independent Expert on protection against violence and discrimination based on sexual orientation and gender identity:
http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/SexualOrientationGender/Pages/AnnualReports.aspx

The Mérida Declaration recognises the important role that business can play in the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda. It highlights the need to align implementation with **the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights**, and recalls the 2010 **Edinburgh Declaration on the role of NHRIs in relation to business and human rights**. In June 2011, a **UN Working Group** on the issue of human rights and transnational corporations and other business enterprises was established. In June 2017, a resolution stating that the Working Group, in accordance with its mandate, should give consideration to the **2030 Agenda,** was adopted (A/HRC/RES/35/7). Business and human rights is an area where NHRI engagement is growing. Some examples are listed below:

- Chile: To help ensure responsible business conduct, Chile has committed to developing a National Action Plan on Business and Human Rights (NAP). In parallel, **Chile's National Human Rights Institution** (A status) has started working on business and human rights as a strategic area of work. Per June 2017, 14 States have produced a NAP, whereas 22 States are in the process of developing a NAP (or have committed to do so), and NHRIs or civil society have begun developing NAPs in 8 States. For more information, see: http://bit.ly/1JA5V2V
- The **GANHRI Working Group on Business and Human Rights** has developed several trainings for NHRIs, including e-learning, for NHRI capacity-building on business and human rights. See: https://www.humanrights.dk/e-learning-business-human-rights-nhris

Hence, as illustrated in the examples above, the existing and on-going work of NHRIs is immediately relevant and a crucial contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The opportunity – or challenge– is to establish the links between the existing work and the SDG framework, to make sure that the NHRI contribution is made visible and taken into account by all actors. This exercise should not be seen as just another framework or additional task for human rights actors to deal with. Rather, in order to unleash the mutually reinforcing potential, the SDGs can be used as a vehicle for realising all human rights. Hence, NHRIs can also build on governments' commitment to the 2030 Agenda[21].

"We can use the SDGs to put additional pressure on governments to help achieve fair, just, equal, sustainable and healthy societies, where nobody is left behind."

Ms. Debbie Kohner
Secretary General of ENNHRI

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[21] ENNHRI, ANNHRI & UNDP, 2016, *Role of National Human Rights Institutions in implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development* Goal, Conference report: http://bit.ly/2tl8R5Z

NHRIs and SDG monitoring

One of the practical functions, which the Mérida Declaration identifies for NHRIs as fundamental in their contribution to a Human Rights-Based Approach to the 2030 Agenda revolves around the potential for NHRIs to be involved in the measurement of progress towards national implementation of the SDGs.

In this regard, the Mérida Declaration encourages NHRIs to:

- **Monitor** progress in the implementation of the Agenda at the local, national, regional and international levels, to disclose inequality and discrimination in this regard, including through innovative approaches to data-collection and partnerships with rights-holders, vulnerable and marginalized groups for participatory and inclusive monitoring, and by identifying obstacles as well as actions for accelerated progress;

National SDG monitoring frameworks

In many ways, the monitoring mandate is at the heart of the work of NHRIs, since it often provides the basis for its other functions, such as advice and recommendations[22].

This section of the study highlights how some NHRIs are using their monitoring expertise to provide guidance and input for putting human rights at the core of national SDG monitoring frameworks.

A number of NHRIs have already reaped the benefits of the synergies between human rights monitoring and the SDGs.

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[22] FRAME, European Commission, p. 7: *International Human Rights Protection: The Role of National Human Rights Institutions – a Case Study*, Work Package no. 4 – deliverable no. 3: http://www.fp7-frame.eu/frame-reps-4-3/

A frontrunner regarding human rights monitoring of the SDGs is the Argentinian NHRI, *Defensor del Pueblo de la Nación*, which has played a crucial role in Argentina's national programme for monitoring and evaluation of the SDGs:

ARGENTINA, DEFENSOR DEL PUEBLO DE LA NACIÓN - HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING OF THE SDGs

In January 2016, a comprehensive SDG monitoring and evaluation programme was set in motion by the Argentinian NHRI, **Defensor del Pueblo de la Nación** (A status). The programme is adapted to the thematic areas of the Defensoria, so each of the departments carries out research in accordance with their expertise. Per June 2017, the Defensoría has initiated 57 investigations, which are all explicitly linked to the SDGs[1]. The results will annually be sent to the relevant national authorities and to the United Nations system; in particular, to the Human Rights Council. Additionally, the Defensoria has mapped overlapping issues between UPR recommendations and SDGs (other NHRIs have worked with similar mappings. See section *on Integrating international human rights mechanisms with the SDGs*).

The practice from the Defensoría in Argentina is not just an example of an NHRI using its mandate to monitor human rights-related aspects of the SDGs – it is also an excellent example of the unique bridging role of NHRIs: in its effort to promote and protect human rights in the context of the SDGs, the Defensoría is collaborating with civil society, universities, companies and government agencies for the effective implementation of the SDG monitoring and evaluation programme. Concretely, the Defensoría has collaborated with UNDP Argentina on convening four meeting with civil society actors in different provinces of Argentina. The focus of the meetings has been engagement with the 2030 Agenda and the UPR.

As emphasised by the Defensoría itself, the collaboration between these different stakeholders is a considerable contribution to SDG target 17.17 on promotion of effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships.

In addition to its national work on the SDGs, the Defensoría is also a member of the GANHRI Working Group on SDGs.

Argentina is reporting to the 2017 HLPF.

[1]For more detailed information, see http://www.dpn.gob.ar/

National Action Plans for Human Rights (NAPs)[23] constitute another mechanism that NHRIs can make use of, when contributing to monitoring of national progress towards the SDGs. Many of the objectives of such NAPs are related to the SDGs. Making those connections explicit could help national governments to better understand the role of human rights in the SDGs as well as support their monitoring of progress towards the SDGs. NHRIs can support their government in this process by, first of all, encouraging and advising States to develop NAPs, monitor the implementation, provide advice on applying a Human Rights-Based Approach and encourage participation at all levels of the process.

One of the first examples of an integrated approach to SDG and human rights implementation was initiated in Scotland in 2013 by a working group, which included the **Scottish Human Rights Commission.**

THE SCOTTISH HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION – NAP AND SDGs

In 2013, Scotland's National Action Plan for Human Rights (SNAP) was launched. Given the relevance of the SDGs to SNAP's vision, an explicit connection was made between SNAP's long term (2030) outcomes, the SDGs and Scotland's National Performance Framework (NPF). The NPF will thus be a vehicle for SDG implementation and monitoring in Scotland.

Integrating the three mutually supportive frameworks was used as a mechanism to put human rights at the heart of how Scotland assesses its national performance. A working group including the Scottish Government's NPF team, SDG team, human rights team and the **Scottish Human Rights Commission (SHRC)** (A status) was convened. The role of SHRC is to support the application of a Human-Rights Based Approach in the planning, monitoring and measurement. The working group is developing rights-based outcomes and indicators for monitoring national progress, making the links between the outcomes and the SDGs explicit. The indicators are currently (as per June 2017) under review.

A concern of the SHRC is, however, how the Scottish Government will deliver and measure progress of SDGs that are not at the core of the NPF. However, this concern seems to be met by recent developments as the Scottish Government is currently in the process of drafting an overall SDG implementation plan.

The Scottish approach has the potential to greatly improve coherence and accountability for human rights, changing the way that progress is measured in Scotland and at the same time improve the way Scotland fulfils its reporting obligations under international human rights treaties and the SDGs. SHRC has announced that it will offer support for reviewing national outcomes to whichever government is in power.

For more information, see: http://www.scottishhumanrights.com/

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[23] The United Nations and international human rights bodies recommend that countries adopt a National Action Plan for Human Rights. See Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action, adopted in June 1993. Available at: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/Vienna.aspx

The Indonesian National Commission on Human Rights, Komnas HAM, provides an example of the potential of NHRIs' bridging role in the monitoring of the 2030 Agenda. In April 2017 Komnas Ham, together with UNESCO and the Indonesian Ministry of National Development Planning conducted a multi-stakeholder consultation and workshop titled "Sustainable Development Goals and Human Rights in Indonesia".

KOMNAS HAM, INDONESIAN NATIONAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS – HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING OF THE SDGS

JAKARTA, INDONESIA, 26-27 APRIL 2017. With a focus on agreeing on a shared vision for using SDGs to promote human rights in Indonesia, a range of actors (representatives of UN agencies, national government and civil society) participated in the Multi-stakeholder Consultation and Workshop "Sustainable Development Goals and Human Rights in Indonesia".

The workshop was kicked off with the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between UNESCO and the **National Commission on Human Rights, Komnas HAM** (A status). The two organisations agreed to continue cooperation to monitor the implementation of SDGs from a human rights perspective, and the potentials of promoting the linkages between human rights and the SDGs were emphasised by Komnas HAM commissioner Roichatul Aswidah:

"The SDGs are an instrument to fulfill our human rights obligations, such as achieving gender parity and equality for all, including marginal and disabled people. The SDGs are a way for us to empower citizens"[1].

The workshop included multistakeholder exploration and discussion of methods and approaches to apply a Human Rights-Based Approach to the national implementation and monitoring of the SDGs.

Finally, a webtool developed by UNESCO's Jakarta Office, in consultation with Komnas HAM, was launched. The tool is an Analytical Framework for monitoring progress in the implementation of the SDGs from a human rights perspective, and will be available for use through the website of Komnas HAM[2]. More specifically, Komnas HAM has been involved in developing technical guidelines for SDG indicators and formulating operational indicators for goal 16.

Komnas HAM is a member of the GANHRI Working Group on SDGs.

Indonesia is reporting to the 2017 HLPF.

[1]http://www.thejakartapost.com/tag/Komnas-HAM
[2]https://www.komnasham.go.id/

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The landscape in which different NHRIs operate is evidently very diverse. NHRIs have different capacities and act in contexts with differing challenges. Palestine's Independent Commission on Human Rights work with human rights monitoring in a context without parallel:

PALESTINE'S INDEPENDENT COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS – HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING OF THE SDGs

Palestine's Independent Commission on Human Rights (A status) operates in a unique context. In addition to consequences of conflict, the ongoing blockade of Gaza, land grabbing and more has resulted in poverty, unemployment and food insecurity in Palestine.

These circumstances mean that the Commission navigates in a context where it is especially crucial to demand accountability from the authorities and ensure that they act on human rights commitments.

The Commission has especially prioritized capacity-building of its own institution in order to pursue a systematic approach to monitoring of economic, social and cultural rights. More specifically, the Commission has identified the Palestinian Authority's development plan as the focus of monitoring [1,2].

The newest developments in the Commission's monitoring efforts is an operational approach to aligning local indicators with international human rights mechanisms. Per June 2017, the Commission is also planning to work towards integrating its monitoring framework with the SDGs.

[1]CESR, 2016, *Palestine: monitoring economic and social rights in a context 'without parallel'*:
http://www.cesr.org/palestine-monitoring-economic-and-social-rights-context-%E2%80%98without-parallel%E2%80%99
[2]Chris Sidoti, APF, 2016: *Background paper: National Human Rights Institutions and the Sustainable Development Goals*

Integrating international human rights mechanisms with the SDGs

When considering how to adapt SDG targets and indicators to a national context and at the same time integrate international human rights, a variety of approaches and methodologies can be oursue. As discussed in the section on *Partnerships and participation*, consultations with civil society and other actors can be one way of approaching a national adaption of the SDG framework. Another possible approach of a more instrumental nature is aligning SDG monitoring with international human rights monitoring mechanisms.

This approach builds on the **mutually reinforcing relationship between the SDGs and human rights** and can reveal gaps in terms of national adaption of human rights/SDGs and use human rights recommendations as guidance for SDG implementation. Integrating the recommendations of international human rights mechanisms into SDG implementation can thus be seen as a low hanging fruit for NHRIs when engaging in the realisation of the Agenda.

The Universal Periodic Review (UPR), treaty monitoring bodies and special procedures as well as the supervisory bodies of the International Labour Organization (ILO) are among the **key human rights mechanisms** that can contribute to SDG monitoring.

The UPR is a mechanism that especially lends itself to SDG alignment[24]. Many UPR recommendations can be directly related to SDG goals and targets, which has been picked up by CSOs around the world who are working on integrating the two agendas[25]. NHRIs can play a key role assisting states in integrating UPR recommendations into SDG implementation and review processes. A few NHRIs have already started linking the UPR and other human rights mechanisms with the SDGs. Some examples are the Argentinian **Defensor del Pueblo de la Nación, the Danish Institute for Human Rights**, **the German Institute for Human Rights** and **the National Human Rights Commission of New Zealand**.

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[24] The **Universal Periodic Review** (UPR) is a State-driven peer mechanism under the Human Rights Council that reviews the human rights performance of all UN member states at regular intervals. See: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRMain.aspx
[25] UPR Info, 2016, *The Butterfly Effect*: https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/general-document/pdf/2016_the_butterfly_effect.pdf

THE DANISH INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS – INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS AND THE SDGs

The **Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR)** (A status) has been active in developing and promoting tools and methods for a Human Rights-Based Approach to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. DIHR's online database *The Human Rights Guide to the SDGs* (http://sdg.humanrights.dk/) maps out synergies between all 169 SDG targets and key human rights instruments, and illustrates how the SDGs are underpinned by international human rights standards and instruments. DIHR has also published guidance on Human Rights and Follow-up and Review of the 2030 Agenda[1], and on Human Rights and Data for the 2030 Agenda[2].

DIHR has linked its own annual status report recommendations on human rights to the SDGs[3], and also mapped how UPR recommendations to Denmark and Greenland are linked with the SDGs[4]. By linking the recommendations with the SDGs, they serve a dual purpose of strengthening the implementation of human rights and contributing to sustainable development.

DIHR is also working to develop a methodology for matching UPR recommendations with SDG targets, making use of an algorithm that can machine read the recommendations. An example of a theme that enjoys significant attention in the UPR is gender equality. More than a quarter of all UPR recommendations relate to women's rights and gender equality, and over 6,000 recommendations can be linked directly to one of the targets under SDG 5. Almost half of these recommendations link to SDG target 5.2 to eliminate all forms of violence against women and girls.

Denmark is reporting to the 2017 HLPF.

DIHR is currently chairing the GANHRI Working Group on SDGs.

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM
ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

[1]DIHR, 2016, *Human Rights in Follow-up and Review of the 2030 Agenda*: bit.ly/follow-review
[2]DIHR, 2017, *Human Rights and Data*: bit.ly/humanrights-data
[3]DIHR, 2015, *SDGS and human rights monitoring: guidance for national implementation*: http://bit.ly/2t9W5GK
[4]DIHR, 2016, *UPR of Denmark 2016*: https://www.humanrights.dk/publications/upr-denmark-2016

USING NHRI RECOMMENDATIONS TO GUIDE SDG IMPLEMENTATION

The annual status report of DIHR reviews the status of human rights in Denmark – and provides recommendations to further strengthen them. DIHR linked its 2014-15 recommendations to specific SDG targets, as illustrated in the table below: The recommendations thereby serve to identify priority areas for Denmark to consider in its national SDG implementation. Beyond Denmark, the mapping provides an example of:

- The relevance of the SDG targets in a national human rights context
- The interlinkages between human rights monitoring and SDG implementation and, in particular, the value of qualitative context-specific analysis.

SDG TARGET	DIHR RECOMMENDS DENMARK TO:
Target 3.8.: Achieve universal health coverage, including financial risk protection, access to quality essential health-care services and access to safe, effective, quality and affordable essential medicines and vaccines for all	**Overcome discrimination based on ethnic origin**: Ensure that qualified interpretation services are available when a patient in need of interpretation is in contact with the Danish health system
Target 16.a.: Strenghten relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime	**Strengthen the implementation of human rights**: In cooperation with the self-governance of Faroe Islands establish a national human rights institution for the Faroe Islands

The National Human Rights Commission of New Zealand has integrated UPR recommendations with other human rights frameworks in order to keep track of its government's human rights efforts:

THE NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION OF NEW ZEALAND – NAP, UPR AND SDGs

The **National Human Rights Commission of New Zealand** (A status) is mandated to coordinate and develop the country's National Human Rights Plan of Action (NPA). For New Zealand's second UPR cycle, the Commission aligned the NPA with UPR recommendations in order to be able to hold the government accountable to the commitments it made through its second UPR. The NPA is structured as an online interactive monitoring tool for tracking the government's progress in implementing the UPR recommendations. The tool is available to the public and thus enables rights-holders to understand and keep an eye on different ministries' progression in meeting the accepted UPR recommendations.

Recently, the National Human Rights Commission of New Zealand has expressed intentions to include SDGs and Treaty Body observations in its next NPA, prior to New Zealand's third UPR cycle. Ahead of the third review, the Commission is also encouraging civil society to use the NPA for assessment of gaps in implementation and address these gaps in submissions.[1]

[1] UPR Info, 2016, *The Butterfly Effect*: https://www.upr-info.org/sites/default/files/general-document/pdf/2016_the_butterfly_effect.pdf

NEW ZEALAND'S NATIONAL PLAN OF ACTION (NPA) – AN INTERACTIVE TOOL

The NPA is an online interactive tool, which monitors the New Zealand Government's progress in implementing UPR recommendations in real-time.

The tool enables the user to explore by different categories: Issues, Population Groups, Government Agencies and Treaty Bodies. It also allows the user to explore Government actions in-depth by describing desired outcomes and measures and linking to action reports. Thus, it gives New Zealanders the opportunity to understand, examine and keep an eye on the country's human rights progress.

Visit the NPA tool at: http://npa.hrc.co.nz/#/

THE GERMAN INSTITUTE FOR HUMAN RIGHTS – TREATY BODY RECOMMENDATIONS AND SDGs

In 2015, the **German Institute for Human Rights (GIHR)** (A status) compared the SDGs with recommendations that Germany has received from the UN human rights treaty bodies over the past few years. The comparison constitutes a tool to support the implementation of the SDGs in and by Germany. While it highlights specific issues related to a number of SDGs, it also identifies cross-cutting issues such as the need to collect data on different social groups to assess policy impact and gaps.

GIHR used the comparison to recommend the German government to take the recommendations of the UN human rights treaty bodies into careful consideration when formulating national SDG targets and indicators and when reviewing Germany's progress towards achieving the Goals.

Since 2015, GIHR has produced a number of publications and recommendations on human rights and the SDGs, and has been included in several national consultations on SDG implementation and follow-up.
For more information, see: http://www.institut-fuer-menschenrechte.de/en/topics/sustainability/sustainable-development-goals-sdgs/

GIHR holds the chairmanship of GANHRI.

Germany is reporting to the 2017 HLPF.

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

USING TREATY BODY RECOMMENDATIONS TO GUIDE SDG IMPLEMENTATION

GIHR suggest that the exericse of using recommendations from human rights bodies to "localize" the SDGs can easily be replicated in outher countries. Below is an extract from the comparison for the purpose of inspiration.

SDG	TOPICS/ISSUES FROM CONCLUDING OBSERVATIONS TO GERMANY
5 GENDER EQUALITY	- Data regarding female genital mutilation in Germany - Violence against women, exploitation of women - Data on domestic and sexual violence and on means of redress - Women in leadership positions in public and private sector, science etc. - Integration of minority women in the labour market - Equal sharing of domestic and family tasks between women and men - Economic consequences of divorce on both spouses - Quotas and timetables to achieve substantive equality between men and women

Note from GIHR: Many human rights recommendations can be linked to several SDG goals and targets. The comparison provided does not represent a prioritization, a comprehensive review or a statement on the status of implementation of treaty body recommendations. See: http://bit.ly/2tt02XH

NHRIs and Data

In order to fulfil the promise of the 2030 Agenda to realise the human rights of all and to "leave no one behind", it is crucial to ensure efficient, innovative and adjustable approaches to monitoring and data collection, which can supplement statistical data based on global indicators.

In response to this data challenge, the Mérida Declaration proposes that NHRIs should:

- Assist in the shaping of global and national **indicators** and sound **data collection** systems to ensure the protection and promotion of human rights in the measurement of the Agenda, including through seeking collaboration with national statistical offices, where appropriate, and other relevant national institutions, and by building on existing international and regional human rights mechanisms. [26]

NHRIs as data providers and advisers

Given their monitoring mandate, independent status and focus on the range of human rights that underpin the SDGs, NHRIs have a significant potential for serving as **credible data providers** that can provide context-specific analysis and advice, as well as information about vulnerable groups and sensitive issues that are hard to capture through common statistical data.

Additionally, NHRIs have the potential to be key partners to contribute to a diverse ecosystem of data, along with other data providers.[27]

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS
— A YARDSTICK FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT —

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[26] Mérida Declaration:
http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/ICC/InternationalConference/12IC/Background%20Information/Merida%20Declaration%20FINAL.pdf
[27] Read more in DIHR 2017, *Human Rights and Data – tools and resources for sustainable development:*
https://www.humanrights.dk/what-we-do/sustainability/human-rights-sdgs/sdg-indicators

NHRIs AND DISCRIMINATORY LEGISLATION

Non-discrimination is a cross-cutting area where the knowledge and expertise of NHRIs can play an important role for data collection. The 2030 Agenda's targets **16.b**, **10.3** and **5.1** call for the elimination of discriminatory laws and policies and the promotion and enforcement of non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development. NHRIs are well placed to report on the status of recommendations related to discriminatory policies and legislation, thus contributing to a fuller picture of the progress towards targets 16.b, 10.3 and 5.1. Additionally, international human rights mechanisms can provide access to data on discrimination.

In December 2016, the **Arab Network of NHRIs** (ANNHRI) convened a workshop on NHRIs role in monitoring and implementing the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development. A survey among the 14 participating NHRIs revealed that:

• All 14 NHRIs undertake **law reviews** to detect discriminatory legislation;

• All 14 NHRIs have **detected national laws** that should be eliminated or amended; and

• All 14 NHRIs have formulated **recommendations** for such legal reforms.

The survey shows that NHRIs are **immediately ready** to contribute to the monitoring of Targets 5.1, 10.3 and 16.b on the elimination of discriminatory legislation and the promotion of appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard.

For the 2017 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), 24 out of the 44 countries participating in the Voluntary National Review (VNR) have independent NHRIs in compliance with the Paris Principles (A status), which means that these countries will have access to reliable information and recommendations on discriminatory legislation from their NHRIs. [2]

[1]The participating NHRIs were: A status: Egypt, Jordan, Mauritania, Morocco, Palestine, Qatar. B status: Algeria, Bahrain, Iraq, Libya, Oman, Tunisia. No status: Djibouti, Sudan.
[2]Read more in this DIHR chapter on target 16.b for the Annual TAP Network publication on Sustainable Development Goal 16 (April 2017), available at https://www.humanrights.dk/what-we-do/sustainability/human-rights-sdgs/sdg-indicators

16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard

5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere

Poverty is another area where NHRIs can provide data. This is especially relevant because the theme for the 2017 High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) is *Eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity in a changing world*. In this context, ENNHRI has established a formal group to follow-up on the SDGs and foster knowledge sharing among its members. In 2017, the group is focusing on poverty. [28]

NHRIs MEASURING POVERTY

In May 2017, the **German Institute for Human Rights** (A status) and the European Network of NHRIs, **ENNHRI**, hosted a meeting with the title:

A Comparative Assessment of Poverty Measurement at the European level

The meeting was attended by 13 NHRIs, the ENNHRI secretariat and GANHRI's Special Envoy. Some of the key objectives of the meeting was to assess how national poverty measurement is linked to national measurement of the SDGs, and assess poverty measurements undertaken by European governments from a Human Rights-Based Approach. It was discussed how NHRIs can use the SDG framework to foster human rights and how NHRIs can help official bodies on improving data collection and assessment.
The exchange of research findings will provide a comparative overview of poverty measurements in European countries and European countries' level of commitment towards poverty dimensions of the SDGs.

An ENNHRI report on poverty measurement under the SDGs is under development. For updates, see:
http://ennhri.org/

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[28] ENNHRI, ANNHRI & UNDP, 2016, *Role of National Human Rights Institutions in implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development* Goal, Conference report:
http://bit.ly/2tl8R5Z

National Human Rights Institutions and National Statistical Offices

The Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) has initiated an initiative that reaffirms NHRIs as credible data providers and advisers. The objective of the initiative is to establish a programme of cooperation between NHRIs and National Statistical Offices (NSOs) in order to collect human rights-sensitive data on sustainable development. The rationale is that partnerships between NSOs and NHRIs at a national level can ensure a **Human Rights-Based Approach to Data (HRBAD)** with a focus on transparent, disaggregated data that 'leaves no one behind'.

> **A HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO DATA (HRBAD)**
>
> OHCHR has defined 6 main components of a **Human Rights-Based Approach to Data (HRBAD)**[1] which should guide data collection in all circumstances:
>
> ## SELF-IDENTIFICATION; PARTICIPATION; DISAGGREGATION; TRANSPARENCY; ACCOUNTABILITY; PRIVACY.
>
> [1]OHCHR 2016, *A Human Rights-based Approach to Data: leaving no one behind in the 2030 Agenda*. Available at: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/Issues/Indicators/Pages/HRIndicatorsIndex.aspx

The OHCHR initiative on collaboration between NHRIs and NSOs is brought to the national level in the shape of a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), which is intended to serve as a template for the collaboration. The NHRIs that are in the process of adapting and signing the MoU are **Indonesia** and **Kenya**.

KENYA NATIONAL COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS – NHRIs AND NSOs

The first collaboration under the OHCHR initiative on NHRIs and NSOs working together on collecting human rights-sensitive data on sustainable development was a workshop in Kenya in April 2017 called *Building a Human Rights-Based Approach to SDG implementation and measurement in Kenya*.

The workshop was hosted by OHCHR and attended by the **Kenya National Commission on Human Rights (KNCHR)** (A status), Kenya National Bureau of Statistics (KNBS) and other stakeholders.

In 2016, the Kenyan government launched a SDG roadmap, which generates a huge data requirement if it is to be followed-up on a national level. The establishment of partnerships is thus crucial in order to develop a comprehensive, pluralistic and inclusive data collection system.

The workshop aimed to discuss how to operationalise af Human Rights-Based Approach to Data (HRBAD) and especially focused on how NHRIs can provide advice in terms of identifying groups that are at the risk of being, or are, 'left behind' - and not least; methods for collecting quality data on these groups. The workshop revealed major synergies between the mandates of KNCHR and KNBS, who have jointly undertaken the first attempt to systematically identify the population groups that are "left behind" in Kenya. The resulting list identifies 26 groups.

KNCHR has experience with developing human rights indicators at a national level, and can thus contribute to the data-system with an approach that centers on using human rights as a yardstick for measuring SDG progress. KNCHR and KNBS are now working on mainstreaming human rights into their SDG measuring efforts.

Kenya is reporting to the 2017 HLPF.

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Collaboration between NHRIs and NSOs is not a recent phenomenon – some NHRIs have experience with partnerships with other data providers that can serve as inspiration for SDG data partnerships. Australia is an insightful example.

THE AUSTRALIAN HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION – NHRIs AND NSOs

An example of a collaboration between NHRIs, NSOs and civil society is taking place in Australia where the **Australian Human Rights Commission** (A status) facilitates and reports to the *Close the Gap*[1] Campaign on indigenous health equality. The goal of the campaign is to raise the health and life expectancy of Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander people to that of the non-Indigenous population within a generation: to close the gap by 2030.

The data is primarily collected by the Australian Bureau of Statistics (ABS) and the Australian Institute of Health and Welfare (AIHW), whereas the Commission provides a secretariat and reporting function. The project provides comparative data between the indigenous and non-indigenous population in Australia on life expectancy, mortality (including child mortality) and in relation to a number of health conditions and diseases. Some data is also disaggregated by sex.

The comparison of the data reveals a huge disproportionality of health issues faced by indigenous peoples in Australia.

[1]See:https://www.humanrights.gov.au/our-work/aboriginal-and-torres-strait-islander-social-justice/projects/close-gap-indigenous-health

UN WORLD DATA FORUM

In January 2017, the first UN World Data Forum (WDF) was hosted in Cape Town by Statistics South Africa. The Forum brought together public and private measurements experts, statistical producers, information system specialists, users, as well as other key stakeholders such as NHRIs to discuss data for sustainable development. A panel discussion with the title *"Human Rights in the Work of Statisticians: Integrating Human Rights with Data Collection and Dissemination"* included representatives from GANHRI, DIHR, the **South African Human Rights Commission** (A status) and Statistics Denmark who engaged in a discussion on a Human Rights-Based Approach to Data (HRBAD) in relation to the SDGs. The panel discussed the potentials of partnerships between NHRIs and NSOs, the importance of a pluralistic ecosystem of data and concrete approaches to "leaving no one behind".

Watch a video of the panel discussion here: http://bit.ly/2sVZDfO

United Nations WORLD DATA FORUM

Participatory data collection

"If you are not counted, you do not count"[29]. Participation is central to a HRBAD and to make sure that everyone is counted. A participatory approach can help close data gaps, and enhance the reliability and relevance of collected data and help address specific concerns expressed by relevant stakeholders, in particular the marginalised groups.

THE INDIGENOUS NAVIGATOR – PARTICIPATORY DATA COLLECTION

The Indigenous Navigator[1] is an example of participatory data collection by a particular group of rights-holders.
It provides a framework and a set of tools for indigenous peoples to systematically monitor the level of recognition and implementation of their rights. It is designed to monitor human rights and essential aspects of the SDGs.

Visit the tool at: **http://indigenousnavigator.org/**

[1] The Indigenous Navigator is a collaboration between IWGIA, AIPP, Forest Peoples Programme, Tebtebba, ILO and the **Danish Institute for Human Rights** (funded by the European Union's EIDHR and GPGC programmes)

NHRIS AND THE INDIGENOUS NAVIGATOR – A REGIONAL WORKSHOP

In June 2017, **6 NHRIs[1] from the Asian region** attended a regional workshop on the Indigenous Navigator in Chiang Mai, Thailand. The workshop was the first in a series of 6 regional workshops with NHRIs under the Indigenous Navigator project.

Aside from introducing the participants to the Indigenous Navigator monitoring framework and tools, the potential of applying the tools in a **national SDG planning and monitoring** context was discussed. The participants also worked with linking the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) with the SDGs**,** which resonated with the NHRIs as a great example of how human rights can guide SDG implementation. A concrete evidence of the participants' interest in working with linking human rights to the SDGs can be found in the Bangladeshi newspaper The Daily Sun's inclusion of an article by a member of the **National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh** (B status) a few days after the workshop; advocating for the potentials of using SDGs to uphold human rights in Bangladesh[2].

[1] Commission on Human Rights, Philippines; Komnas HAM, Indonesian National Commission on Human Rights; SUHAKAM, Human Rights Commission of Malaysia; National Human Rights Commission of Thailand; National Human Rights Commission of Bangladesh; National Human Rights Commission of Nepal
[2]See: http://www.daily-sun.com/post/235079/SDGs-and-Prospective-Role-of-Human-Rights-Commission

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[29] Thorkild Olesen, Chair of the Denmark-based NGO, Disabled People's Organizations. See more at: http://www.ohchr.org/EN/NewsEvents/Pages/DataForSustainableDevelopment.aspx#sthash.vDOwZPCH.dpuf

National Human Rights Institutions: an indicator

The potential of NHRIs as a driving force for upholding the human rights-related aspects of the SDGs is reflected in the global indicator framework for measuring progress towards the 17 SDGs and their associated targets. Given the universality of the SDGs, the global indicators should ideally be universally relevant, and generate comparable data across the globe. The indicator framework consists of 232 global indicators, which will be complemented by additional indicators at national level.

Given the importance of NHRIs for the 2030 Agenda **the 'existence of independent National Human Rights Institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles'** was adopted as one of the global indicators under Goal 16:

SDG indicator: 16.a.1

Existence of independent National Human Rights Institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles

The existence of the NHRI indicator was acknowledged by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights in March 2017:

The NHRI indicator *"is a tribute to the sound work which so many NHRIs are doing"*

Zeid Ra'ad Al Hussein, UN High Commissioner for Human Rights
8 March 2017, Annual Conference of GANHRI

Progress under the NHRI indicator is monitored in the **annual UN Secretary-General report on progress towards the SDGs,** prepared by the Secretary-General in cooperation with the United Nations system. The report from 2017 acknowledges Paris Principles compliant NHRIs' *"important role in ensuring that States deliver on human rights obligations and that no one is left behind"*[30].

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[30] E/2017/66: http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/2017/66&Lang=E

As per 26 May 2017, there are a total of 121 reviewed NHRIs around the world. The distribution of NHRIs per classification status are[31]:

Distribution of NHRIs

Member States without NHRI
72

Member States with A status NHRI
78

Member States with B status NHRI
33

C (no status NHRI)
10

■ A status NHRI   ■ B status NHRI   ■ C (no status NHRI)   ■ Member States without NHRI
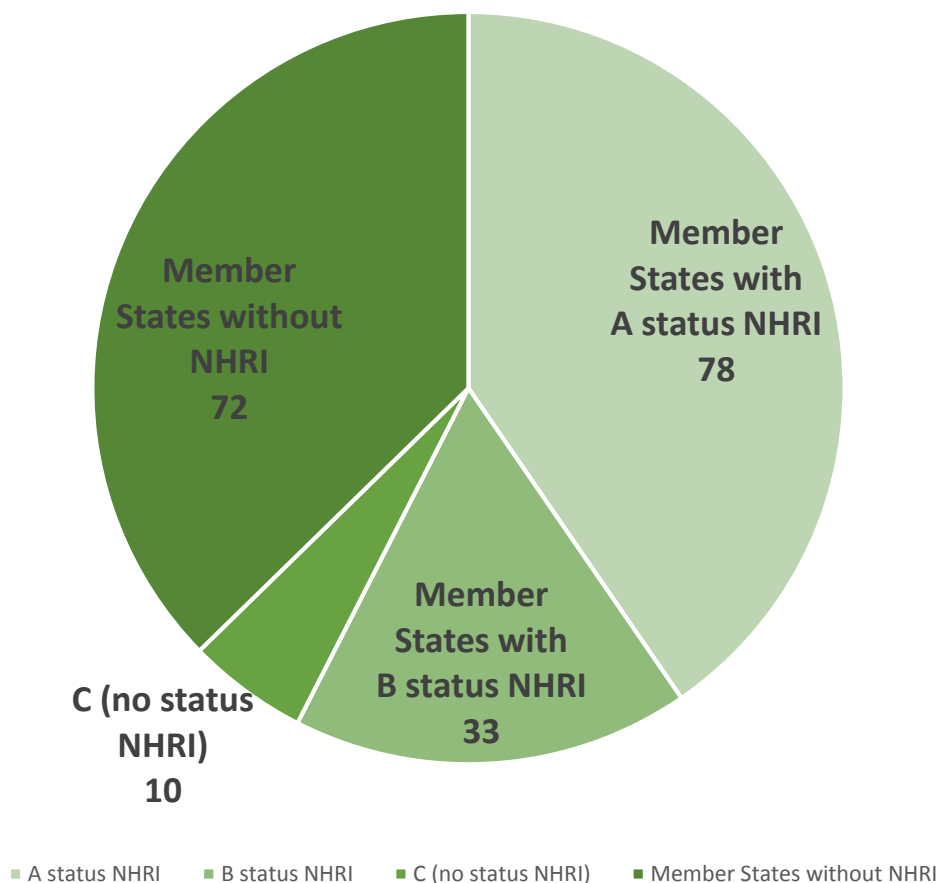
72   UN Member States still do not have a National Human Rights Institution[32]

The figure reveals substantial progress at a global level in terms of establishing NHRIs, but also points to the gaps that would need to be closed. By 2030, all UN member states should count with an A Status NHRI.

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[31] See GANHRI, May 2017: http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/Documents/Status%20Accreditation%20Chart%20.pdf
[32] In accordance with the Paris Principles and the GANHRI Statute, the following classifications for accreditation are used by the GANHRI: A: Fully compliant with the Paris Principles; B: Partially compliant with the Paris Principles; C: Non-compliance with the Paris Principles. See: http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Countries/NHRI/ChartStatusNHRIs.pdf

Partnerships and participation

A challenge for an effective and equitable implementation and monitoring of the SDGs is the participation of and coordination between a broad range of stakeholders, representing both authorities, civil society and other actors. The Mérida Declaration reaffirms the major role of civil society in the realisation of the 2030 Agenda and highlights the need to ensure full civil society participation in monitoring and implementation. At the same time, it highlights the importance of civil society and NHRI engagement with governments; especially in terms of holding governments accountable for uneven progress in the implementation of the Agenda.

This confirms the need for NHRIs as bridge-builders between civil society and authorities, and encourages NHRIs to seek opportunities for collaboration, partnerships and synergies.

This section focuses on examples of NHRI engagement in partnerships for sustainable development, participation in government-led processes and NHRI participation in the global SDG mechanisms and processes.

NHRI participation in national SDG implementation and review

THE COMMISSIONER FOR HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE REPUBLIC OF AZERBAIJAN – PARTICIPATION

In Azerbaijan, the government has established a National Coordination Council for Sustainable Development (NCCSD) with its Secretariat in the Ministry of Economy. A core function of the NCCSD is to ensure inclusive stakeholder participation and translate global SDGs into a national context by aligning national plans and strategies with the SDGs. **The Commissioner for Human Rights** (A status) is a part of the NCCSD, which states inclusive and rights-based national strategies and policies as a main priority[1]. Three representatives of the Commissioner are actively involved in the NCCSD, and their function is, according to the Commissioner, to act as a bridge between civil society and government[2].

In May 2017, a conference on *"The Role of Civil Society in Achieving Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in Azerbaijan"* was organised. The conference was attended by government representatives, high ranking officials and civil society. Among the speakers was the Commissioner for Human Rights, Elmira Suleymanova, who empasized the importance of coorporation for the realisation of the SDGs. She noted the importance of each goal for the full realisation of human rights and recommended involvement of a broad range of stakeholders in the national consultations on the SDGs. The Commissioner has already conducted interactive discussions on the national contextualisation of the SDGs, involving different groups of the population.

Recent developments include the 14th International Conference of Ombudsmen, at which the Baku Declaration that emphasizes support for promotion and implementation of sustainable development strategies, and notes the importance of coordinating activities to ensure human rights, was adopted.

Azerbaijan is reporting for the 2017 HLPF.

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

[1] See: https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/memberstates/azerbaijan
[2] See: http://www.ombudsman.gov.az/en/view/news/713/representative-of-the-azerbaijani-ombudsman-attended-international-event-in-poland

Not many NHRIs have attained an as formal status as Azerbaijan's Commissioner for Human Rights has in their governments' efforts towards realising the SDGs. In spite of this, the next examples point to actions taken towards NHRIs' active participation in government-led SDG processes.

NIGERIA'S NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS COMMISSION – PARTICIPATION

Nigeria is one of the countries where the government embraced the MDG framework institutionally, and it can build on the existing institutional arrangements for implementing the SDGs.

In 2015, the Presidency developed a country strategy for the transition from the MDGs to the SDGs[1]. The transition strategy focuses on learning from the challenges and successes in the country's MDG implementation, and effectively mainstreaming the SDGs into the national development agenda.

The Office of the Special Assistant to the President on SDGs, the Ministry of National Planning, the National Bureau of Statistics and other ministries have convened consultations with civil society and other actors, including the **National Human Rights Commission** (A status), on ways forward in terms of country-specific SDG initiatives. Additionally, the National Human Rights Commission has aligned its programming efforts with the 2030 Agenda and is thus working on expanding its SDG engagement.

Nigeria is reporting for the 2017 HLPF.

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

[1] The Presidency, *Nigeria's Road to SDGs*, 2015:
http://www.ng.undp.org/content/dam/nigeria/docs/IclusiveGrwth/Nigeria%20transition%20strategy%20to%20SDGs.pdf

COSTA RICA, DEFENSORÍA DE LOS HABITANTES – PARTICIPATION

In Costa Rica, the national strategy for the implementation of the SDGs is based on guidelines and recommendations from the country's experience with the MDGs. This is perceived as a challenge by the NHRI, **Defensoría de los Habitantes** (A status), who sees it as its role to address the lack of knowledge and commitment around the MDGs that could also be reflected in the SDG process. Specifically, the Defensoría points to limited knowledge and changing politics as a challenge for effectiveness and sustainability [1], and encourages adequate inter-institutional coordination with involvement from all public institutions and other sectors and actors.

In order to influence the national SDG process, the NHRI has been involved in the drafting process for the country's first progress report on the SDGs, which focuses on Goal 16 and will be presented at the 2017 HLPF. Another sign of influence on the national implementation is that the Defensoría is a member of the Advisory Committee of the High-Level Council for the SDGs.

The Defensoría has also managed to align some of its work thematically with the SDGs with a focus on Goals 1 and 16.

Costa Rica is reporting for the 2017 HLPF.

HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

[1] Defensoría de los Habitantes, *Annual report 2016/17*: http://bit.ly/2skRCSS

In Albania, the People's Advocate Institution has advocated for the role of human rights institutions in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and called for its government to draft a SDG Plan of Action in an inclusive process.

ALBANIA, THE PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE INSTITUTION – PARTICIPATION

In December 2016, the Albanian Ombudman, the **People's Advocate Institution** (A status), and UNDP in Albania organised their annual conference - with the title:

"Aligning SDGs with Human Rights - Sustainable Development Goals and the role of the Human Rights Institutions in its implementation".

The conference concluded with a joint statement between the People's Advocate Institution and UNDP Albania, which emphasizes the human rights anchorage of the 2030 Agenda and outlines the role of the People's Advocate Institution in the implementation and FUR of the SDGs. The Institution will:

- Align its action plans, reports and other key documents with the 2030 Agenda;
- Cooperate closely with all relevant stakeholders involved in the implementation of the Agenda;
- Develop a clear methodology for monitoring the national implementation of the SDGs;
- Cooperate with other national data collectors, including INSTAT (the Institute of Statistics).

The statement also encourages the Albanian government to undertake an inclusive process to draft a national Plan of Action for the implementation and FUR of the Agenda. It also calls for the establishment of a National Council tasked with coordinating the monitoring of the SDGs. This council should provide for participation from civil society, local authorities, the Parliament, the academic community etc.

Following the declaration, the Albanian government and the UN country office in Albania have drafted a joint programme for Sustainable Development in Albania 2017-2021.
In May 2017, an Inter-Ministerial Committee for the achievement of the SDGs was established. The Committee will provide guidance and ensure harmonization of SDGs with existing national frameworks and processes.

The Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines currently operates in a particularly challenging context. In spite of this, the Commission has managed to cooperate with a multitude of stakeholders in its attempt to highlight the importance of human rights in the national implementation of the SDGs:

THE COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE PHILIPPINES – PARTICIPATION

The current socio-political environment in the Philippines is threatening human rights advocacy and general space for civil society to speak out for social justice. In a country with one of the worst track records in the killing of human rights defenders worldwide and a President who has publicly discredited the work of CSOs that expose abuses, the existence of an NHRI that can monitor and report on the actions of the State is crucial.

In spite of the crippled space for civil society the **Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines** (A status) works with a wide range of stakeholders in order to monitor and advise on the implementation of the SDGs. These stakeholders include civil society, international organisations such as the UNDP and government agencies such as the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA).

In order to adapt the 2030 Agenda to a national context, the government has elaborated a development plan with the timespan 2017-2022, which translates the SDGs into national policies, programs and activities. The Commission has provided policy inputs for the plan, and continues to monitor the actions of the State in realising the SDGs through core international human rights treaties and the reporting processes of treaty bodies.

The Philippines reported to the 2016 HLPF.

The state of participation of civil society and NHRIs in national implementation and FUR of the SDGs is elaborated in GANHRI's yearly reporting at the HLPF:

SPACE FOR CIVIL SOCIETY?

GANHRI is reporting on the (shrinking) **space for civil society** in the countries undergoing Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) at the HLPF. The reporting covers trends in participation of civil society actors and NHRIs in national implementation and FUR of the SDGs and general trends concerning the space of civil society actors and NHRIs.

The first report was submitted for the **2016 HLPF** with an emphasis that SDGs cannot be achived without the participation of all actors. In this regard, the report highlighted the crucial role of NHRIs and civil society actors. To inform the report, GANHRI conducted a survey among the NHRIs in the concerned countries. The information provided in the survey indicates that the level of participation of NHRIs and civil society varies in scope, intensity and with regard to the different phases.

GANHRI will continue to report about the general trends concerning the space of civil society actors and NHRIs, and also about positive and negative trends in the participation of civil society actors and NHRIs in the implementation and the follow-up of the SDGs at the national level.

The report for the **2017 HLPF** includes information from 14 NHRIs whose countries are reporting to the VNR at HLPF. For future GANHRI reports for HLPF, see: http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/Pages/default.aspx

NHRI Participation in the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF)

Aside from GANHRI's reporting on space for civil society, the HLPF includes other opportunities for NHRI activity. Since the first HLPF in 2016, networks of NHRIs and individual NHRIs have been active at the HLPF, both by reporting, as participants and as organisers of side-events.

HLPF 2016 – SIDE EVENT

For the 2016 HLPF, **GANHRI**, DIHR, OHCHR and the Permanent Missions of Chile and Denmark co-organised the side-event:

Human Rights in the Follow-up and Review of the 2030 Agenda
The side-event gathered high-level representatives of the UN-system, States, rights-holders, NHRIs and statistical offices with the aim to constitute a substantial bridge between human rights and sustainable development, by exploring the operational convergence between human rights realisation and sustainable development.

Concretely, it was discussed how human rights principles can be built into SDG FUR processes, how existing human rights mechanisms can contribute for FUR processes and guide SDG implementation, and how to ensure data approaches that "leaves no one behind".

HLPF 2017 – TRAINING, LEARNING, PRACTICE SESSION

For the 2017 HLPF, the **Danish Institute for Human Rights** and **GANHRI** are co-organizers[1] of a Training, Learning and Practice Session with the title:

A Human Rights-Based Approach to Eradicating Poverty and Promoting Prosperity in a Changing World: Lessons Learned, Practices and Tools for Leaving No One Behind

The session aims at sharing lessons learned, knowledge, practical experiences and tools for pursuing a **Human Rights-Based Approach to the SDGs** by bringing together Member States along with key organisations within the field of human rights and labour standards (including UN agencies, NHRIs, civil society), as well as rights-holders (the Indigenous Peoples Major Group co-sponsors the event, and women's organisations, persons with disabilities and others are also invited to join the event).

Details: **Friday 14 July 2017, from 3:00 pm to 6:00 pm in conference room 6** at the United Nations Headquarters building

[1]The session is a multi-stakeholder collaboration between: Ministry of the Economy, Chile; Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Denmark; International Labour Organization (ILO); Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); Indigenous Peoples Major Group; Asia Indigenous Peoples Pact; Forest Peoples Programme (FPP), International Work Group for Indigenous Affairs (IWGIA).

Ensuring NHRI participation at HLPF

Currently (June 2017), the procedures of the HLPF do not yet provide for NHRIs' and their networks' formal participation in the HLPF in their independent capacity. NHRIs have to register through attending NGOs or official state delegations. The Mérida Declaration encourages NHRI action towards independent participation rights:

- Continue advocacy for the independent participation of Paris Principles compliant NHRIs, and their international and regional coordinating bodies, in relevant UN mechanisms and processes, including in the Follow-up and Review Processes of the Agenda, such as the High-Level Political Forum, as also called for by the UN Secretary-General[33,]

NHRIs already enjoy formal participation rights with the Human Rights Council and treaty bodies, and their role as providers of evidence-based information on human rights situations to the UN has been welcomed and encouraged by the General Assembly, the Human Rights Council and other United Nations Bodies[30]. NHRI participation in the 2030 Agenda processes is encouraged in two UN resolutions, adopted by Member States with broad cross-regional consensus[34].

GANHRI is currently **exploring opportunities** for GANHRI, regional networks and individual NHRIs to engage with the implementation of the SDGs at country and global levels, including through the High Level Political Forum (HLPF).

In the meantime, GANHRI and its members will work to demonstrate their relevance and added value for the implementation and FUR of the 2030 Agenda. An opportunity in this regard will be to engage with States and global SDG mechanisms and identify possible cooperation with other stakeholders: at country level, the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) will provide opportunities for NHRIs to engage with States that are preparing for the 2018 FUR Action, and the Global Alliance on Goal 16 will provide opportunities for

> **MODALITIES REVIEW 2019**
>
> *Will NHRIs be provided with independent participation rights for HLPF?*
> **To be decided at the first HLPF modalities review in 2019.**

NHRIs to engage with States to develop good practice in implementation and FUR.
At global level, OHCHR will provide opportunities for GANHRI to formally submit information to the 2018 HLPF; UNDP will support GANHRI to increase awareness of the country work of NHRIs and do further capacity-building, particularly in monitoring and reporting.
Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, GANHRI's Working Group on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been active in advocating for the role of NHRIs in its implementation and follow-up.

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[33] See A/70/347: http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/News/Documents/A-70-347%20en.pdf.
[34] See: A/RES/70/163: http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/IHRS/UNNY/Pages/Main.aspx
and A/HRC/RES/33/15: http://bit.ly/2uNVacO

The GANHRI Working Group on the 2030 Agenda

The GANHRI Working Group on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was established in 2015 as a vehicle for NHRI collaboration on the Agenda. The role of the Working Group is to:

- Use NHRI influence to promote inclusion of human rights in the 2030 Agenda;
- Increase recognition of the important role of NHRIs in promoting, protecting and monitoring the implementation of human rights through the 2030 Agenda;
- Ensure that NHRIs are prepared to promote, protect and monitor the implementation of human rights through the 2030 Agenda and increase recognition of NHRIs as part of the Agenda.

WORKING GROUP MEMBERS

The members of the GANHRI Working Group on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (per June 2017) are: **Argentina**, **Denmark** (chair), **Germany**, **Ghana** and **Indonesia**

Some of the key activities undertaken by the Working Group since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda has been:

- Advocacy for the inclusion of the NHRI indicator in the final global SDG indicator framework;
- Advocacy for NHRI participation in the FUR of the 2030 Agenda, such as the drafting of a position paper;
- Participation in regional conferences and high-level events on human rights and SDGs, such as ENNHRI meeting on 2030 Agenda, UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Issues (UNPFII), HLPF, European-Arab regional NHRI seminar on SDGs (for elaboration of NHRI-SDG events, see section on *Capacity-building*)

The Mérida Declaration also calls for regional networks of NHRIs as well as individual NHRIs to collaborate in mutual capacity-building in relation to the 2030 Agenda. This is what the next section looks into.

Capacity-building

An important aspect of the Mérida Declaration and the long-term prospects of NHRIs as key players in the implementation and FUR of the 2030 Agenda is undertaking capacity-building and sharing of knowledge and good practices.

In order to provide a fuller picture of NHRI knowledge sharing and capacity-building, it is essential to introduce the regional NHRI networks:

REGIONAL NHRI NETWORKS

Africa
Network of African National Human Rights Institutions (NANHRI)

Americas
Red de Instituciones Nacionales para la Promoción y Protecctión de los Derechos Humanos del Continente Americano

Asia-Pacific
Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions (APF)

Europe
European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI)

The next pages present examples of SDG capacity-building initatives with and among the regional networks, individual NHRIs and other actors that support NHRIs.

NHRI.EU: E-LEARNING ON ESCR AND THE SDGs

A brand new tool for capacity-building of NHRIs on a Human Rights-Based Approach to the SDGs, is a **free e-learning** on economic, social and cultural rights, which also addresses the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The e-learning is based on cooperation between the GANHRI and the Center for Economic and Social Rights (CESR), and can be found here: http://learning.humanrights.dk/?lang=en

The e-learning is also a part of a blended learning course for NHRIs under ENNHRI:
https://www.humanrights.dk/events/course-economic-social-cultural-rights-blended-learning

NHRI.EU: BUILDING CAPACITY

The e-learning is a part of the NHRI.EU capacity project, funded by the EU.
NHRI.EU aims to support NHRIs to strengthen their role as agents to promote and protect human rights in the changing global context for human rights. The project involves partnerships with the regional NHRI networks: GANHRI, Asia Pacific Forum of NHRIs (APF), Network of African NHRIs (NANHRI), European Network of NHRIs (ENNHRI), and on behalf of the Americas region; Defensoria del Pueblo del Estado Plurinacional de Bolivia (Bolivian NHRI)

For more information on the NHRI.EU capacity project and its various training materials for NHRIs, see:
https://www.humanrights.dk/projects/nhrieu-capacity-project

A capacity-building initiative that is specifically mentioned in the Mérida Declaration is the **UNDP-GANHRI-OHCHR Tripartite Strategic** Partnership, which aims to strengthen NHRIs at the national level, as well as their regional networks and GANHRI. This includes to support with knowledge and mutual learning at regional and global levels. The Partners have enjoyed this strategic partnership, providing support to NHRIs, since 2011. The partners complement each other with specific expertise, mandates and activities to support NHRIs worldwide.

TRIPARTITE PARTNERSHIP

The Partnership has been recognized by the Human Rights Council and the General Assembly as good practice on a UN coherent approach to cooperation and capacity-building efforts.[35] The Partners are currently working to scale up their support to NHRIs at the national, regional and global levels.

In February 2017, a High-Level Briefing on the Partnership was organised. At the Briefing, UNDP Administrator Helen Clark emphasized the benefits of a complementary approach in working across the UN Charter for Agenda 2030 and the vital role, which NHRIs play in promoting and protecting human rights in the implementation and follow-up of the Agenda[36].

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[35] See: http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/IHRS/tripartite/Pages/Main.aspx; and http://bit.ly/2trW3LE
[36] See: http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/IHRS/tripartite/Pages/GANHRI-OHCHR-UNDP-High-Level-Event.aspx

Since the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, a number of regional workshops on NHRIs and the SDGs have been organised. Some of these workshops are described below (this is not an exhaustive list).

CAPACITY-BUILDING: NHRI-SDGs WORKSHOPS

REGIONAL CONSULTATION FOR EUROPE AND ARAB STATES: NHRI ROLE AND SDGs, 2016
In December 2016, ENNHRI, ANNHRI and UNDP hosted a one-day consultation in Istanbul on the role of NHRIs in implementing the 2030 Agenda. Participants included **22 NHRIs** from Europe, Central Asia and Arab States.
The overall objective of the consultation was to discuss the role of NHRIs and a Human Rights-Based Approach to the SDGs.
Capacity-building, policy guidance, regional action plans and concrete recommendations for NHRIs to support SDG implementation were some of the subjects discussed.

Read more: http://bit.ly/2tl8R5Z

NHRIs, CHILDREN'S RIGHTS AND THE SDGs, 2017
In March 2017, OHCHR, UNICEF and GANHRI co-organised a seminar on *"The role of NHRIs in the promotion and protection of children's rights:*
Contributions to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda". Around **80 NHRI representatives** attended the seminar, which provided a platform for NHRIs to share experience and knowledge related to children's rights and discuss their contribution to the 2030 Agenda. Particular attention was given to Goal 16 and facilitation of access to complaint mechanisms for children.

Read more: http://bit.ly/2sptzxi

ANNHRI: NHRIs' ROLE IN IMPLEMENTING AND MONITORING THE 2030 AGENDA, 2016
In December 2016, ANNHRI, with the support of UNDP and OHCHR, organised a seminar in Amman with the title: *"NHRIs' Role in Monitoring and Implementing the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development"*.
The workshop convened representatives from **14 NHRIs** in the region to discuss the Mérida Declaration and the opportunities for NHRIs embedded in the 2030 Agenda. The seminar particularly focused on Goal 5, 10 and 16 and provided a platform for sharing of country engagement with the 2030 Agenda and recommendations for ways forwards.

NHRI ACADEMY: SDGs AND NHRIs, 2017
29 May-2 June 2017, ENNHRI and the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR) hosted an academy on SDGs and NHRIs in Poznan, Poland.
The academy was attended by **27 NHRIs** from the region and focused on strengthening the capacity of the participants to contribute to the realisation of the SDGs through a Human Rights-Based Approach. Trainings and presentations included operational learning on human rights-based data approaches, thematic sessions on disabilities, gender and more, and sharing of experiences and good practices – all in a SDG context.

Read more: http://bit.ly/2tonTbc

NANHRI: HRBA TO THE 2030 AGENDA, 2017
A forthcoming capacity-building initiative is the 11th Biennial Conference of NANHRI, which will focus on how NHRIs can apply a Human Rights-Based Approach to the 2030 Agenda.
The conference will take place in November 2017 in Kigali, Rwanda.

For updates, see: http://www.nanhri.org/

As evident, capacity-building and knowledge sharing around the 2030 Agenda is already ongoing among NHRIs. In order for NHRIs to reach their full potential in relation to the Agenda, it is crucial that this continues and expands. See Annex B for tools and approaches for a HRBA to the SDGs

Securing accountability in the long run

The different NHRI experiences with SDG implementation and follow-up presented in this study bear witness to a wide range of approaches for NHRIs to engage with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The difference in the capacities of NHRIs and the various country contexts in which they operate call for different means and approaches for NHRIs to work with national implementation and follow-up of the SDGs. This study will hopefully serve as inspiration for future NHRI engagement with the SDGs through some of the action points listed in the Mérida Declaration: monitoring, data, partnerships, participation in government-led processes, capacity-building, knowledge sharing and more.

As main players in the SDG 'web of accountability', NHRIs will seize the opportunities that the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development offers for the realisation of human rights and at the same time provide expertise that can guide a human rights compliant implementation and follow-up of the Agenda.

Annex A

Objective and methodology

This study has been undertaken in June 2017 with the purpose of producing a baseline of how NHRIs support the implementation of the SDGs at country level. The final product takes the form of a report with the objective of contributing to the sharing of experiences, good practices and knowledge management with and among NHRIs in relation to the 2030 Agenda.

The findings presented in this report is based on collection of evidence, knowledge and experiences related to NHRI engagement in SDG implementation at country-level, through:

> a) Desk research: collection and analysis of reports, tools, UN documents, submissions, policy papers etc.;
> b) Interviews and consultations with selected NHRIs and other stakeholders, such as OHCHR and regional networks of NHRIs;
> c) Analysis of survey answers from 2017 GANHRI civil society space survey for NHRIs whose countries are reporting for the 2017 HLPF VNR (14 NHRIs provided answers).
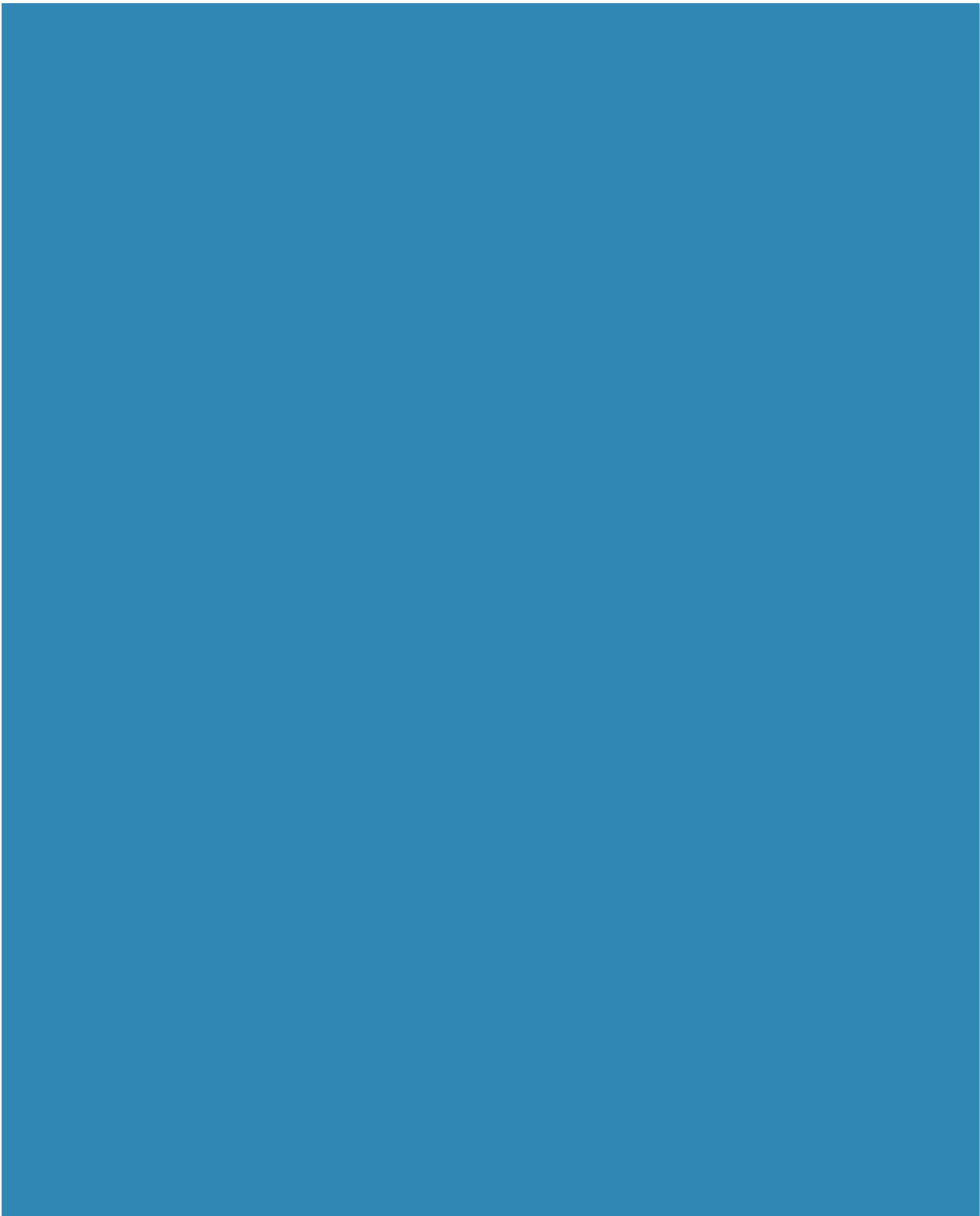
The action points in the Mérida Declaration have provided inspiration for the structure in which the country-examples are presented. The study is not an exhaustive mapping of NHRI engagement with the SDGs, but serves as a momentary picture of the different areas of the 2030 Agenda in which NHRIs have engaged per June 2017. The study is partly based on individual NHRIs' interpretations of their own work, and the examples should thus be seen in this context. Secondary sources and official documents have been included in the study in order to bring multiple perspectives into the presentation of how NHRIs engage with the SDGs.

Annex B

Tools for a HRBA to the SDGs

An operational way of securing capacity-building is through development and use of tools and approaches for a HRBA to the SDGs. Below is an overview of some of the tools that are available.

CAPACITY-BUILDING: TOOLS FOR A HRBA TO THE SDGs	
The Human Rights Guide to the SDGs – a searchable online database (The Danish Institute for Human Rights)	http://sdg.humanrights.dk/
Thematic training programs on human rights and sustainable development (Asia Pacific Forum of National Human Rights Institutions)	http://www.asiapacificforum.net/support/training/
E-learning on ESCR and the SDGs (ENNHRI, CESR and DIHR)	http://learning.humanrights.dk/?lang=en
Sustainable Development Goals: A practical guide for national action and accountability (Amnesty International)	https://www.amnesty.org/en/documents/act10/4699/2016/en/
Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit: A practical guide for stakeholders for national-level advocacy around Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (Transparency, Accountability & Participation (TAP) Network)	https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/9935TAP%20Network%20Goal%2016%20Advocacy%20Toolkit.pdf
Indigenous Navigator – a tool for participatory data collection (IWGIA, AIPP, Forest Peoples Programme, Tebtebba, ILO, DIHR)	http://indigenousnavigator.org/ Video: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5bMhTUhF5ec
Toolkit on Sustainable Development Goals and human rights: an introduction for SRHR advocates (IPPF)	http://www.ippf.org/sites/default/files/2016-11/SDG%2BHR_facts.pdf