

CALL TO ACTION FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Sustainable Development and Human Rights

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development marks a paradigm shift towards a more equitable and sustainable model of development. It sets out a vision for sustainable development grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights standards, putting equality and non-discrimination at the center of its efforts. When we take a human rights-based approach to development, we ensure that outcomes are more sustainable, powerful and effective. The 2030 Agenda's pledge to "leaving no one behind and reaching the furthest behind first" is ultimately a pledge to and for rights-holders, empowering people as active agents of sustainable development.

COVID-19 has underscored the urgency of human rights to sustainable development, and of the importance for the UN of putting human rights at the centre of all its work. The pandemic has proven more than ever the interconnectedness of human rights and that a holistic approach is necessary to address the structural inequalities that the pandemic has unveiled so starkly. The COVID-19 recovery is a historic opportunity for building a new social contract based on human rights, gender equality and equal opportunities for all. With solidarity and global cooperation, we can ensure that human rights provide better outcomes for everyone and bring us closer to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Much progress has been made in integrating human rights into development over the past decade and the 2030 Agenda and its human rights underpinnings reflects this progress. However, the implementation is still lagging behind, inequalities, including gender inequality, are pervasive and even deepening, and the comprehensive and transformative rights-based vision of the 2030 Agenda risks being lost. Confronting the emerging local, national and megatrends that are threatening hard-won human rights and development gains is critical to recover better and achieving the SDGs.

To have a concrete positive impact on peoples' lives – now and in the long term – the **Call to Action** aims to bridge the critical gap between policy and implementation by focusing on:

1. **Advocacy:** The UN system will have a common UN voice on the centrality of human rights in development and humanitarian contexts
2. **Analysis and Programming:** Human Rights, gender equality and LNOB, will be systematically integrated into the UN's country analysis and programming response, and the Covid-19 response and recovery, including by strengthening capacities and training
3. **Human Rights Mechanisms:** The work of human rights mechanisms is used more strategically, including in programming, national development planning, and in follow-up and reporting.
4. **Strengthening capacity:** Expand deployment of Human Rights Advisors at country level

