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**Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil,
political economic, social and cultural rights,
including the right to development**

Human rights bodies and mechanisms

Study on national policies and human rights

Report of the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee

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I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 35/32, the Human Rights Council requested the Advisory Committee to prepare a study that could help States to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by integrating human rights into national policies on the basis of the compilation prepared by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and to present it within its regular reporting cycle to the Council at its forty-fifth session, on the occasion of the fifth anniversary of the adoption of the 2030 Agenda.
2. At its nineteenth session, the Advisory Committee established a drafting group, currently composed of Milena Costas Trascasas, Ion Diaconu (Rapporteur), Ludovic Hennebel, Ajai Malhotra, Mona Omar, Javier Palummo, Elizabeth Salmon, Dheerujlall Seetulsingh, Changrok Soh (Chair) and Cheikh Tidiane Thiam.
3. In the conduct of the study, the Committee considered the good practices, challenges, lessons learned and recommendations in mainstreaming human rights into national policies to implement the 2030 Agenda compiled in the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) (A/HRC/41/21); the voluntary national reviews synthesis report on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by Member States for 2018; the note by the Secretariat on reports of the regional forums on sustainable development (E/HLPF/2019/3); the report of the Secretary-General on progress in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals for 2019; the report of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on local government and human rights (A/HRC/42/22); the report of the Secretary-General on empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality (E/2019/65); the report of the Secretary-General on the long-term impact of current trends in the economic, social and environmental areas on the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (E/2019/66); and the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development convened under the auspices of the General Assembly (Assembly resolution 74/4, annex).
4. The Advisory Committee also discussed the topic at its thirty-eighth to forty-third sessions, received input from OHCHR and posted a preliminary outline of the study on the web page of the Committee. Members of the Committee also attended high-level meetings organized by the Economic and Social Council at its 2018 and 2019 sessions and presented the work of the Committee on the topic.

II. Evaluation of activities in support of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

5. The 2030 Agenda provides a visionary road map for all countries and stakeholders to strive for a world of sustainable prosperity, social inclusion and equality, while preserving the planet and leaving no one behind.
6. The 2030 Agenda is grounded in the international human rights instruments and is devoted to the promotion of economic, social and cultural rights, as well as civil and political rights, and the right to development throughout the world. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals and 169 targets are aimed at realizing the human rights of all people in all countries, both developed and developing; they must be implemented in accordance with international law and with the commitment to leave no one behind. In its resolution 35/32, the Human Rights Council recommended that Member States integrate into their national policies a human rights perspective aimed at the promotion, protection and full realization of human rights and fundamental freedoms and take into consideration the views of civil society in the process. The implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals requires the taking of a human rights-based approach locally, nationally, regionally and globally.¹

¹ Statement made by the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights at the high-level panel meeting held on 16 July 2019.

7. It will take time for medical professionals, States, the international community and all those who are promoting respect for human rights to evaluate the impact of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. The lessons learned in that regard should be fully integrated into policies and measures adopted to implement the 2030 Agenda.

8. Activities in promotion of the realization of the 2030 Agenda have raised awareness about the goals to be attained and the steps to be taken among States. Initiatives taken at the central and local levels by State bodies and other stakeholders contribute to a public reaffirmation of the responsibility for promoting human rights. Some States adopted new legislation for that purpose, others adopted plans and programmes and established priorities, in many cases with the extended participation of civil society.

9. The 2030 Agenda has become an integrating factor for development and its implementation a transformative project for modern societies, due to the close linkages among the 17 Sustainable Development Goals. An integrating approach is therefore crucial. A development model based on the principles of equity, equality, sustainability and respect for human rights and development that includes social policies based on equality of treatment are envisioned.

10. The Sustainable Development Goals are being increasingly incorporated into national development policies, plans, budgets and projects, irrespective of a State's doctrinal orientation, are engaging entire societies and are accepted as objectives of international cooperation. States should continue to involve national parliaments, taking into account their essential role in enacting legislation, adopting national budgets and ensuring accountability for their implementation, as well as governance and all other central structures, but also local bodies and communities, civil society, including professional and political organizations, women's associations, young people's associations, trade unions, indigenous groups, minority groups and non-governmental organizations for the protection of human rights and representatives of older persons, persons with disabilities, migrants and asylum seekers and the poor.

11. There has already been a significant response from Governments, cities, local authorities, civil society, the private sector and academia towards realizing the Sustainable Development Goals. There has been some success in reducing extreme poverty, child mortality and neonatal mortality and some progress made in promoting gender equality, improving access to electricity and to safe drinking water and extending terrestrial and marine protected areas, as well as progress in other fields.

12. The OHCHR compilation of good practices and other documents contain the following examples of measures adopted by States to implement the Sustainable Development Goals:

Indigenous peoples

(a) In Colombia, agreements were reached between the local authority of Amazonas and indigenous communities concerning a comprehensive intercultural health system, participation in decision-making on infrastructure projects and the extension of medical insurance coverage for the local population;

(b) In Indonesia, recognition of the rights of some indigenous communities to customary forest areas, including the return of such areas;

(c) In Canada, measures to protect the native forests, their environment and ecosystems and the rights of indigenous peoples in the field of education;

(d) In Senegal, measures to strengthen the capacity of indigenous peoples to manage deforestation and to protect the environment;

Legislation concerning other vulnerable groups

(e) Legislation was adopted for the protection of vulnerable groups by:

(i) Panama, for Panamanians of African origin, aimed at reducing poverty;

- (ii) The European Union, Slovakia and the towns of Budapest and Naples, for Roma;
- (iii) Some Latin American countries, for migrants;
- (iv) Guinea, for persons with disabilities;
- (v) Germany, on equal pay for work of equal value;
- (vi) The Niger, for the protection of internally displaced persons;
- (vii) Tunisia, on the elimination of all forms of racial discrimination;
- (viii) Many countries, including Australia, Canada, Germany, Peru and Tunisia, for the protection of women's rights;

Poverty reduction strategies

(f) In Guatemala, measures are being undertaken to reduce poverty among persons with disabilities;

(g) In France, a decision was taken to eliminate slums over a five-year period, relocate the people there in mainstream housing and enrol children in school;

(h) In the African Union, Agenda 2063 was adopted, correlated with the Sustainable Development Goals, and its States members have been urged to facilitate the achievement of 30 per cent of documented land rights allocated to women by 2025;

(i) In India, projects to increase spending in the social sector are being undertaken;

(j) In China, efforts are being made to lift 700 million people out of poverty within three decades;

(k) In the United Republic of Tanzania and Zanzibar, strategies for growth and poverty reduction are being implemented;

(l) In Kenya and the Lao People's Democratic Republic, strategies for growth and poverty reduction are being implemented.

13. Some examples of progress in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals notwithstanding, the world is not yet on track to meet the Goals by 2030, there are substantial challenges ahead and much remains to be done (A/HRC/41/21, sect. III). The Secretary-General has maintained that, although gains have been made in several areas, progress remains slow on many targets, and it is imperative to act now, with renewed commitment and accelerated action. The Secretary-General has underlined the need to reduce inequalities in all fields, in particular for vulnerable people, and is of the view that the 2030 Agenda represents a consensus to move towards more peaceful, just and inclusive societies (see E/2019/65). He draws the attention to the megatrends which will have a major impact on the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals, including demographic changes, urbanization, climate change, conflicts and protracted crisis and frontier technologies, and to the need to take them into account in formulating plans and policies (see E/2019/66).

14. According to most of the voluntary national reviews on measures taken to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, and the reports received, States reaffirm their general directions, without including specific targets, and plans and programmes are not fully aligned with the Goals in a coherent framework of economic, social and financial measures to be applied in the medium and long term. The principle of leaving no one behind, which is the crucial element of the 2030 Agenda, is not effectively followed in all its dimensions. Efforts with regard to specific Goals are not planned to be carried out in a coordinated approach in order to achieve substantial progress. Increased participation from civil society in the process of the adoption, implementation and monitoring of national policies and a stronger partnership between stakeholders at all levels, including the private sector, are needed.

15. The main challenges and obstacles that some States face in their approach are a lack of funding, efficient development projects and sufficiently qualified personnel. Such challenges can be mitigated by mobilizing internal efforts and by intensifying international cooperation aimed at promoting development projects in recipient countries.

16. Developments to date show the importance of the engagement of OHCHR, United Nations regional bodies and other international organizations in mobilizing State authorities, at the central and local levels, civil society elements and the private sector, to adopt programmes, plans and other measures aimed at implementing the Sustainable Development Goals.

III. Leaving no one behind

17. The crucial and cross-cutting principle of the Sustainable Development Goals is leaving no one behind. All efforts are required to ensure equality of treatment and of opportunities, to eliminate discrimination and to ensure equal rights for all, in particular those belonging to vulnerable groups, such as women, children and young people, indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, older persons, migrants and asylum seekers, without distinction of any kind on the basis of race, colour, descent, sex, sexual orientation, language, religion, political or other opinion, ethnic, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status, and beginning with those who are the furthest behind,² mindful that a person can be vulnerable on several of those grounds.

18. Vulnerable groups, the furthest behind and the status of realization of the Sustainable Development Goals varies between countries. That makes it necessary for the authorities of each State to identify vulnerable groups, communities and individuals and those at risk of being left behind in their territories. That assessment is key to reaching the Goals, but it is not available everywhere, and some communities are still neglected.³ In order to adopt adequate policies and measures, reliable statistics and data are necessary in order to make a baseline assessment and to evaluate the results of the measures taken. States should ensure that data collection is not biased, does not create or reinforce discrimination or stereotypes and is developed with the meaningful participation of those concerned and other stakeholders, while fully respecting the right to privacy. Moreover, data must be disaggregated on the basis of gender, ethnic origin, age and other appropriate criteria, in order to reveal the disparities and specific challenges faced by different population groups. States and stakeholders should also develop online tools to allow access to information, facilitate reporting, evaluate progress and ensure the coordination of measures taken to fulfil different goals. Forty-seven per cent of the countries of the world lack the information needed for assessing the status of implementation of the Goals. OHCHR and other United Nations bodies should continue to assist States to develop and use appropriate indicators and statistics for measuring progress. As a good practice, in Kenya, State bodies and the National Commission on Human Rights have worked to identify groups that may be at risk of being left behind and established a preliminary list of 25 such population groups.

19. National policies, plans and programmes should give practical contents to the commitment to leave no one behind, focusing on the furthest behind and advancing specific measures, bearing in mind that that commitment will only be achieved through the implementation of all Sustainable Development Goals for all groups and individuals. Such national policies must be adopted with the widest participation of local government, representatives of those concerned and other stakeholders, including the private sector.

² Economists, including a Nobel Prize laureate, propose to analyse vulnerability as a capability approach, in terms of individual well-being, the assessment of the social organization and the possibilities for a drastic change in society (see the work of Amartya Sen and Martha Nussbaum). In the *Human Development Report 2019*, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) sets out the concept of the need to move from basic to enhanced capabilities in order to respond to the new inequalities in human development.

³ Economic and Social Council, press release No. 6939 of 13 July 2018.

States must take into account the recommendations addressed to them in the context of the universal periodic review process and the consideration by human rights treaty bodies of their periodic reports and individual communications, as well as recommendations made in the reports of the special procedures of the Human Rights Council.

20. In the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, Heads of State and Government committed to focusing their policies and actions on the poorest and most vulnerable, to realizing the Sustainable Development Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for all nations and peoples and for all segments of society and to reaching the furthest behind first.

A. Ending extreme poverty in all its forms everywhere

21. Sustainable Development Goal 1 sets out the commitment to eradicate, by 2030, extreme poverty for all people everywhere and to reduce by at least half the proportion of those living in poverty in all its dimensions. Close to 10 per cent of the world population continues to live below the extreme poverty line, on less than \$2 per day, on all continents.⁴ In the *Human Development Report 2019*, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) recommends looking beyond income, beyond averages and beyond today and asking for enhanced capabilities.

22. Recent reports show that extreme poverty has been reduced, but the rate of extreme poverty is still projected to be at 6 per cent in 2030, missing the global target to eradicate it. Moreover, according to statements made during the high-level political forum on sustainable development in 2018, some people are pushed further behind because of discrimination, environmental degradation, globalization and deliberate policies dispossessing them of their land, livelihoods, rights – and sometimes their lives. It was underscored that they should not be neglected.⁵ At the high-level political forum, the special representative of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development stated that persistent gender income gaps, stark economic inequality and obesity were affecting more than 30 per cent of Member States that were developed countries.⁶

23. Poverty is multidimensional, affects mainly rural areas and is exacerbated by violent conflict and climate change. It involves an interplay of social, political and economic factors and concerns not only the income available to individuals, but also their access to health care, affordable food, drinking water and sanitation, housing, high-quality education and a healthy environment. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean has made it a priority to implement the 2030 Agenda in such a way that places equality at the centre, through a balanced integration of economic and social development and environmental dimensions. The Commission is of the view that inequality is a source of economic inefficiency, that social inequality gives rise to adverse economic and social consequences, societies stratified by economic status, age, sex, disability, ethnicity, origin or religion and that it is not an inevitable outcome, but one that can be successfully addressed (E/2019/19, sect. V). The Commission adopted a report on an interregional perspective on promoting equality, including a consensus to move towards more egalitarian, cohesive and solidarity-based societies.

24. Reports received from many States do not contain information on specific programmes or measures aimed at eliminating or reducing poverty, as required under the 2030 Agenda, and do not refer to reducing poverty in all its dimensions.

⁴ United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs and others, *World Economic Situation and Prospects, 2020* (UNDP, New York, 2020), p. 22

⁵ Economic and Social Council, press release No. 6939; recent reports include United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, *World Social Report 2020*, (United Nations, New York, 2020); and United Nations Development Programme and Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative, *Global Multidimensional Poverty Index 2019* (UNDP, New York, 2019).

⁶ Economic and Social Council, press release No. 6999 of 9 July 2019.

25. Sustainable Development Goal target 1.3 is to implement appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and, by 2030, to achieve substantial coverage of the poor and vulnerable. That includes ensuring their equal rights to economic resources and access to basic services, as well as ownership and control over land, and building the resilience of the poor and those in vulnerable situations. Recent reports show that 55 per cent of the world population has no access to social protection. Most of the reports submitted in the context of the voluntary national reviews contain limited information on those issues, and there is insufficient localization of policies and plans related to the realization of the Goals to address marginalized groups and regions.

26. It is imperative that States, with the participation of stakeholders, adopt specific plans and programmes to implement Sustainable Development Goal 1, establishing precise targets and, if necessary, time frames, covering all communities and groups that could be affected by poverty or that are at risk of becoming poor. As a direct means of achieving Goal 1, it is recommended that States mobilize adequate and well-directed financing, aimed at inclusive development, by supporting the competitiveness of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises, as well as non-financial means of implementation, including a non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system, which has been recognized as an engine for development.

27. Although putting an end to hunger and achieving food security (Sustainable Development Goal 2) is closely related to ending poverty, voluntary national reviews and other reports do not contain much information on measures in that field. In the Human Development Report 2015, UNDP referred to some 800 million people confronted with hunger, mainly in developing countries,⁷ and recent reports affirm that hunger is on the rise for the third consecutive year. Targets of Goal 2 refer to ending different forms of malnutrition among children, women and older persons, increasing the agricultural productivity and incomes of small-scale food producers and other measures of development and protecting them in internal and international markets.

28. Some States noted in their voluntary national reviews that there was a higher level of food insecurity in rural areas than in urban settings and the double burden of malnutrition in some countries and obesity among children in others. National policies for implementing the 2030 Agenda should respond as appropriate to all targets under Goal 2 and should include specific measures to ensure the fundamental right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for themselves and their families, including adequate food, and to facilitate the development of sustainable and productive agriculture.

29. States' reports contain more information about Sustainable Development Goal 3, to ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. Some States recognize that public health is a national asset and a basis for achieving sustainable development. Some refer to the right to health in general, whereas others refer to universal health-care coverage. Many countries identified health care as a priority in their national plans of development and reported measures to fight child mortality or expressed concerns about health equity. Half of the world's population is still without access to essential health services and suffers from financial hardships in that field.

30. Health should remain among the priorities of the national policies, in particular for ensuring access to high-quality health care for everyone, including women, children, persons with disabilities and other members of vulnerable groups. The national policies of States should include more specific targets to adopt and implement such measures. In recent reports on health-care issues, following the high-level meetings on the Sustainable Development Goals, the need for concerted efforts to achieve universal health-care coverage, to continue to work to reduce child mortality, to extend immunization coverage, to decrease HIV incidence, to take measures to control and eliminate tropical diseases and to increase the number of health-care personnel in developing and mid-income countries were underlined, among other measures (see A/HRC/41/34 and Add.1 and 2).

⁷ UNDP, *Human Development Report 2015* (UNDP, New York, 2015), p. 18.

31. The consequences of the COVID-19 pandemic, affecting both developed and developing countries throughout the world, should be thoroughly evaluated, and comprehensive policies and programmes should be adopted, with the participation of civil society, in order to ensure the better preparation of societies to respond to infectious diseases, to prevent their spread and to ensure adequate treatment and recovery health services for all concerned, giving the utmost attention to the protection of vulnerable groups.

32. Ensuring inclusive and equitable quality education for all (Sustainable Development Goal 4) is also presented by most States as a central priority of sustainable development. Some States affirm that they focus on extending access to early childhood education and to vocational schools, whereas others focus on increasing the number of young women in higher education, in particular at the university level, in scientific and technical fields. Many States underline the need to improve access to education for low-income and rural students and to close the digital gap, by ensuring that all students have reliable Internet access. There is a global learning crisis, however, given that more than 55 per cent of children of primary and lower-secondary school age lack minimum proficiency in reading and mathematics, one third of school-age children are out of school and girls face barriers to access to education in some parts of the world.

33. In their voluntary national reviews, States do not include specific measures or a timetable for achieving the targets contained in the 2030 Agenda, including those concerning primary and secondary school, education and training for the labour market, elimination of illiteracy and support of developing countries in that field. Due to the paramount importance of high-quality education for all to leaving no one behind, more efforts should be concentrated to ensure adequate infrastructure and teacher training, to ensure that all adults learn to read and write and to promote substantial progress in that field in all countries, with the participation of local government, local communities and all stakeholders, including education professionals.

34. Taking into account the close relationship between access to water, access to food and the elimination of poverty, many countries referred to progress made in providing access to safe drinking water, but noted remaining challenges in rural areas, including with regard to access to sanitation and hygiene. They mention the existence of competing demands for water resources for households, manufacturing, energy, agriculture and food production, as well as the adverse impacts of climate change, conflicts and natural disasters, which challenge water availability. Some States reported steps taken to diversify sources of water, including by recycling, reclaiming and desalinating water.

35. Although some progress has been made, recent reports show that, in 2019, around 2.1 billion people were still living without safe drinking water⁸ and that accelerated action was needed to provide more people with safely managed drinking water and sanitation. To that end, States should adopt specific targets responding to those challenges and to ensure an increased supply of fresh water, the efficient management of resources and the coordination of water use by different competing sectors, so as to ensure full respect for the basic human rights of access to water, food, health and sanitation for all those who are at risk of being left behind.

36. Sustainable Development Goal 10 is directly related to the elimination of poverty and concerns the reduction of inequality within and among countries. According to the report of the Secretary-General on progress made towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in 92 countries offering data, 1 per cent of the population receives 75 per cent of the overall income, whereas 40 per cent of the population receives less than 25 per cent of income, 2 billion people lack access to waste collecting services and one quarter of urban residents live in slums.

37. Sustainable Development Goal target 10.1 is, by 2030, to progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40 per cent of the population at a rate higher than the national average. States are asked to ensure equal opportunities and reduce income

⁸ Message of the Secretary-General on the occasion of World Water Day, 22 March 2019.

inequality, by promoting social, economic and political inclusion for all, adopting social protection policies and progressively achieving greater equality. As for the relations among countries, those are covered under target 10.5, to improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions, target 10.6, to ensure enhanced representation of developing countries in decision-making, target 10. a, to implement the principle of special and differential treatment for them, in particular for least developed countries, and target 10. b, to encourage the increase of official development assistance to States, in accordance with their national plans and programmes.

38. As for the various aspects of development and the participation of developing countries, in some reports, the importance of regional cooperation was underscored, whereas in others, the need to rethink international cooperation for development so as to offer public global and regional goods was stressed. According to the annual report of UNDP for 2018, the 2030 Agenda demands a new approach to development, with more transformational solutions.⁹

39. National policies should include more targeted measures at the national level for promoting and developing inclusive societies, ensuring equal treatment and opportunities, reducing income inequality and eliminating discriminatory legislation, policies and practices. Such efforts should include the active participation of local government and consultations with all stakeholders, interested groups and the business and private sectors. At the international level, such efforts concern relations between all countries, developed and developing, and international economic and financial organizations, as well as United Nations agencies and regional bodies.

B. Vulnerable groups and leaving no one behind

40. Another cross-cutting principle of the Sustainable Development Goals is the imperative of achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls (Goal 5), as well as protecting children and young people. Under the Goals, States are required to reduce by half the proportion of women and children living in poverty, to eliminate all forms of discrimination against women in the public and private spheres, to adopt gender-sensitive development strategies, to eliminate violence and all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation, to ensure the full and effective participation of women at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life and to give them equal access to economic resources, ownership and control over land and other forms of property and to modern technologies.

41. The participation of women in the process of sustainable development is an asset to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals. Many countries report that inequalities persist, given that women have not achieved full parity in any dimension, still lag behind in participation in political life and leadership roles, are not paid equally for work of equal value, hold fewer managerial and executive positions and experience high rates of harassment and gender-based violence. Some countries reported the adoption of laws on equal rights for women in employment and social life, laws and policies for eliminating and combating domestic violence against women, as well as initiatives to increase the representation of women on the boards of State-owned entities and companies. The Economic Commission for Africa provided information about the African Gender and Development Index, introduced in 2004, and about the programme of delivering documents with regard to land rights to women, monitored by African Union bodies. Senegal provided information about a national programme for family security to help households living in extreme poverty, poor families with children under 5 years of age and people working in rural areas. Uganda grants legal aid to women, in support of their petitions against companies for violations of their rights.

42. Nevertheless, only a few countries reported measures taken in favour of the most disadvantaged women, which include rural women and Roma women, such as to promote

⁹ UNDP, "Annual report 2018" (UNDP, New York, 2019), p. 4.

access to employment and training programmes, to prevent school leaving and to eliminate gender-based violence and discrimination. In the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, States affirmed that gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls would make a crucial contribution to progress across all Sustainable Development Goals and requested targeted and accelerated action to remove all legal, social and economic barriers to the achievement of gender equality.

43. A few countries reported on plans and projects in favour of children and young people. They underlined specific challenges faced by them and the need for action to address those challenges, including in the areas of health, access to education, the prevention of trafficking, protection against violence and income support. According to the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF),¹⁰ 1 in 5 children in the world lives in extreme poverty, and 665 million children live in poor households. Young people are another group at risk of marginalization. Many are unemployed, and 38 per cent of those working are living in extreme or moderate poverty. In their voluntary national reviews, States mentioned measures to promote education and access to productive employment, to support young people in developing businesses and to offer scholarships to support students from remote areas. In the *Human Development Report 2019*, UNDP affirmed that, by 2030, 3 million children under 5 years of age are still expected to die every year and 225 million children are still expected to be out of school.¹¹

44. Children and the young people must be among the main beneficiaries of the national policies for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, because they must be prepared to continue those efforts. In the recent debate at the high-level political forum, the need for effective action of States to empower young people, ensure their full participation in productive life and offer enabling conditions for their participation in political life, as well as to support their innovative ideas for positive change, was underlined.

45. A few countries referred to specific measures or plans in favour of older persons. The Economic Commission for Europe drew attention to the diversity of individual needs and aspirations throughout the life cycle and the need to take into account aging populations and the capacity of older persons to contribute to the economy and to society (see E/2019/16). The Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia noted the relatively weak and non-inclusive social protection systems, which leave many older persons vulnerable to poverty, sickness and isolation (see E/2019/20). Although in their reports States of the Southern Asia referred to the rights to subsistence and to development as the paramount rights relating to the human dignity of elderly, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific drew attention to the reduced investment in social protection in developing countries in the region, which left many without protection, in particular persons with disabilities, pregnant women and older persons (see E/2019/18).

46. The eradication of poverty, elimination of hunger, the provision of health care and social coverage concern older persons and vulnerable persons directly, and all policies and measures in those fields should benefit them, with particular attention being paid to health care and social coverage. Their rights in those fields, and their human rights as a whole, should be fully respected. At the same time, with the increase in life expectancy States should take into account measures to facilitate their active participation in the labour market and in public life, taking into account their experience and abilities and their capacity to contribute to economy and society.

47. Some countries reported measures in favour of persons with disabilities, including the adoption or revision of specific laws, plans and programmes, in order to remove any policy barriers, to invest in human capital by training persons with disabilities, to improve their quality of life and to implement taxation and financial mechanisms to support them. The Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific provided information about the need to promote the rights of persons with disabilities, including through the adoption of a decade on persons with disabilities, 2013–2022 (E/2019/18, para. 18). It was noted in

¹⁰ UNICEF, "Annual report 2016" (UNICEF, New York, June 2017).

¹¹ UNDP, *Human Development Report 2019*.

reports on some regions that there were disadvantages for persons with disabilities, mainly girls and women with disabilities in rural areas, but also some progress made in shifting from the medical model to the social model in disability assessment and assistance (E/2019/20, para. 38). Older persons and persons with disabilities should be given more attention in national policies and programmes, bearing in mind projected demographic changes. States should take into account the different types of disabilities, which require different kinds of assistance.

48. Many countries, including Canada and countries in Latin America, Africa, Asia and the Pacific, referred to measures taken in favour of indigenous peoples. A bilateral programme adopted by the human rights commissions of New Zealand and the Philippines, focusing on the Maori community in New Zealand and three indigenous communities in the Philippines, involved the direct participation of indigenous peoples in their own development, as well as local government.

49. Serious challenges remain with regard to protecting the ecosystems of indigenous peoples, their forests and traditionally used lands and protecting them against the impact of climate change. UNDP referred to the need for new models of governance and management, in order to ensure that the 375 million indigenous peoples, whose lands account for 80 per cent of terrestrial biodiversity and a quarter of ground carbon stocks, have secure rights and protection.¹² In the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, indigenous peoples are included among the vulnerable people whose needs are reflected in the 2030 Agenda.

50. A few countries referred to specific challenges faced by migrants, including access to health care, education, in particular for migrant children, and the labour market and difficulties in ensuring decent living conditions. The large number of migrants in Western Asia was mentioned, as well as the need to promote migrant's rights in the Asia and the Pacific region. The Economic Commission for Africa clarified that most Africans migrate within the continent and referred to the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration.

51. Only a few countries mentioned measures to ameliorate the situation of migrants, including those taken in Latin America and in Mediterranean cities. None referred to asylum seekers or refugees, who are in principle protected by some norms of international law, but are facing many challenges in the exercise of their human rights, such as discrimination in access to employment, education and housing, nor to internally displaced persons, who should be protected by the States concerned. The Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration, a non-legally binding framework based on existing international instruments and commitments accepted by Member States, was adopted by the General Assembly in 2018, with the understanding that States would cooperate in order to ensure safe, orderly and regular migration, including the full respect for human rights and humane treatment of migrants, regardless of their migration status, refugees and displaced persons. National policies should include in development plans and programmes measures to ensure respect for the human rights of migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons, as vulnerable groups under many Sustainable Development Goals.

52. It is recognized that lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer and intersex persons are victims of ignorance, lack of understanding, intolerance and limited access to political participation. Only a few countries (Australia, Austria, Bolivia and Canada) and cities (Barcelona and Vienna) had measures in place for the protection of their human rights.

C. Development as a means of building societies in which no one is left behind

53. The 2030 Agenda reflects the importance of sustainable development for creating conditions for improved livelihoods. Targets, such as ensuring significant financial resources, doubling agricultural productivity, investing in rural infrastructure, supporting

¹² Statement by a representative of UNDP, 16 July 2018.

the research and development of vaccines and medicines, building and upgrading educational facilities and implementing integrated water resources management, are directly related to the commitment that sustainable development should benefit everyone. In their projects aiming at promoting development in different countries, States should consider including the necessary funding for such projects, granting technological transfer and building capacity in recipient countries. They should also give attention to the opportunities presented by new and emerging digital technologies and to the challenges with regard to the protection of human rights.

54. Sustainable Development Goal 7 and its targets affirm the commitment of States to ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services, to increase substantially the share of renewable energy and improve efficiency, to enhance international cooperation and to expand infrastructure and upgrade technologies. In their reports, some States referred to measures for diversifying energy sources, developing renewable energy sources, increasing efficiency and promoting sustainable consumption.

55. In Sustainable Development Goals 8, 9, 10 and 11, the commitments to promote sustainable economic growth and productivity, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all, build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and urbanization and ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns are set out. In connection with urbanization and making cities sustainable, ensuring access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrading slums also form part of the Goals.

56. In their voluntary national reviews, African States set out their plans of industrialization, based on agriculture and on the natural resources available, as the best way to ensure economic and social development and to eliminate poverty. They concluded a framework agreement with the United Nations on the 2030 Agenda and the Agenda 2063 of the African Union, identifying nine areas prioritized for aligning the implementation of the two Agendas. The Economic Commission for Africa initiated the development of a toolkit on integrated planning and reporting in order to support member States in aligning the two Agendas and integrating them into their national development plans (E/2019/17, sect. II.A). Rapid economic growth was noted in Eastern Africa as a result of pro-growth policies and public investment by Governments in the “blue economy”, by developing aquatic and marine ecosystems and associated resources. Many African States mentioned the outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), held in Quito from 17 to 20 October 2016, entitled “New Urban Agenda”, endorsed by the General Assembly in December 2016, and referred to rapid urbanization, housing shortages, shrinking public space, the proliferation of informal settlements and pollution. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean noted that the region was marked by highly segregated cities characterized by the exclusion of low-income groups from participating in their management (E/2019/19, sects. B–D).

57. Several countries reported their efforts towards more sustainable consumption and production and a circular economy. Developing countries mentioned population growth and difficulties in achieving economic growth. Some African countries reported efforts to break the vicious circle of overdependence on the export of commodities, including in the context of the drop in oil prices that created deficits in Central Africa, by measures of diversification and resource-driven, trade-induced industrialization.

58. Many countries described efforts to advance their infrastructure, including railways, roadways and aviation and maritime infrastructure, or information and communications technologies. Others reported efforts to advance manufacturing and help companies to gain access to global and regional markets by using advanced technology, science and innovation, including through partnerships with academia and the private sector. Following the interest of Mozambique to develop infrastructure as a transit country, the African Institute for Economic Development and Planning used geospatial information for such development on the entire continent (E/2019/17, paras. 17–20).

59. In connection with the increase in involving businesses in development projects, some States mentioned in their reports the need to create an enabling environment through tax codes and simplified licencing and permits, whereas others supported regulating the

activity of businesses and a national policy of taxation, so as to reduce inequalities and ensure the contribution of businesses to sustainable development and leaving no one behind. In its compilation of good practices and challenges, OHCHR took note of the commitment of States to foster a dynamic and well-functioning business sector, while protecting labour rights and environmental health standards, such as those affirmed in the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights.¹³ Many States affirmed the need for businesses to comply with human rights standards and contribute to advancing social development and the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

D. Protecting nature and the environment

60. Sustainable Development Goals 6, 7, 9 and 11 to 15 reflect the close connection between leaving no one behind, sustainable development and action to combat climate change and its impacts, to conserve and sustainably use marine resources, terrestrial ecosystems and forests and to combat desertification and halt land degradation and biodiversity loss.

61. Some States highlighted in their reports the cross-cutting nature of climate change for all Sustainable Development Goals and referred to numerous challenges that they faced, such as increased floods, mudslides and landslides, land degradation, intensive heat events, sea level rise, acidification and changing rain patterns. Some States underlined loss of livelihoods, food insecurity and destruction of natural resources, for example, the situation of the Lake Chad area, as effects of climate change on developing countries.¹⁴ Reports of the regional commissions and of research institutions underlined the need to invest in planet and people.

62. Some States, including from Eastern Africa, also reported on action taken towards enhancing their blue economies to support growth, food security and nutrition, as well as transport, employment and tourism opportunities, and on progress made in the effective management of key commercial fish stocks. Challenges were mentioned with regard to illegal, unregulated and unreported fishing and marine pollution, mainly by plastics and nutrients.

63. With regard to the protection of healthy ecosystems, States reported as challenges increased urbanization and population growth, causing competing demands on land use, climate change, habitat fragmentation and invasive alien species, as well as a strong decline in biodiversity, mainly in Europe and Central Asia. Some highlighted actions taken to combat deforestation, land degradation and the trafficking of protected species of flora and fauna, as well as efforts to integrate ecosystem and biodiversity values into national and local planning.

64. In view of the commitment to achieving a world in which humanity lives in harmony with nature, affirmed in the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, national policies should include such measures, taking into account their importance for the realization of all the Sustainable Development Goals.

E. Promoting peaceful and inclusive societies, providing access to justice for all and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions

65. Sustainable Development Goal target 16.1 is to significantly reduce all forms of violence, target 16.2 is to end the abuse and exploitation of children, target 16.3 is to promote the rule of law and ensure equal access to justice for all, target 16.4 is to reduce illicit financial and arms flows, target 16.5 is to reduce corruption, target 16.6 is to develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions, target 16.7 is to ensure inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels and target 16.10 is to ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms.

¹³ Endorsed by the Human Rights Council, in its resolution 17/4.

¹⁴ Office of the Deputy Secretary-General, press release No. 1195 of 11 July 2018.

66. Sustainable Development Goal 16 is considered vital and enabling for the entire 2030 Agenda. In their reports, States referred to measures to promote good governance, eradicate violence and respect human rights and underlined the importance of upholding the rule of law, promoting access to justice, peacebuilding efforts and the resolution of conflict.

F. Promoting international cooperation, trade and investment as means of implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

67. Extending international cooperation and international exchange promote economic and social development throughout the world. The Sustainable Development Goals set out the rationale for States enhancing development cooperation in order to assist developing countries to implement programmes and policies to end poverty and respond to health risks, as well as in the fields of higher education and training.

68. The Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean considers a review of the international cooperation for development to be necessary to ensure the provision of some global and regional public goods, to create a stable environment for international trade and finance, to extend the dissemination of technologies, to avoid the polarization of capacities and to promote employment and a fair distribution of income within countries and among them (see E/2019/19). It affirms that the alternative to the form taken by globalization after 1990 is a new multilateralism capable of correcting asymmetries and strengthening democracy.

69. Many States underscored the importance of investments in resilience and infrastructure related to development for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and respecting human rights. They mentioned the need to incentivize the financial sector to make such investments, to broaden the access of developing countries to financing and the need for a system of international cooperation, with emphasis being placed on countries with the biggest challenges and weakest capacities to mobilize their own resources. African States considered curbing illicit financial flows and corruption as a key policy priority.

70. The importance of South-South cooperation was highlighted as a means of overcoming asymmetries and gaps inherited from previous decades and of offering innovative opportunities to increase partnerships and solidarity. States, including Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Morocco, appreciated South-South cooperation as a method of alternative development, sharing good practices, facilitating the sharing of knowledge, resources and technologies and developing joint solutions.

IV. Participation and accountability: institutional frameworks

71. In most of the voluntary national reviews, States referred to the participation of stakeholders in the process of the elaboration and adoption of national policies for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular national and local organizations, representatives of women, children, young people, older persons, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups, trade unions and professional associations, civil society and the private sector. Some States mentioned partnerships between State bodies, at the central and local levels, and various private actors, both national and international, including international organizations and United Nations agencies and funds.

72. It is difficult to evaluate whether such frameworks included all those concerned and interested and could take into account their interests and opinions and whether the participation is envisaged to take place throughout the process of monitoring the application of the policies adopted. That should therefore remain at the forefront of efforts to promote the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

73. As institutional frameworks for considering national policies, States referred to national committees, interministerial bodies and other forms of internal consultations, either involving representatives of the civil society or consulting them separately. It was not specified whether such bodies had only a consultative competence or whether they were of a permanent or temporary nature. States did not refer to accountability for implementing the

objectives and targets established in the national policies, plans and programmes adopted. There seems to be a lack of clearly defined, structured and participatory mechanisms for reviewing and monitoring their evolution.

74. Specific provisions about periodic reporting, evaluation, responsibilities and accountability should be part of the plans and programmes for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets. Reports should also be submitted to regional organizations and other United Nations bodies, in view of the global evaluation of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with a view to exchanging experiences and good practices and, if necessary, receiving advice and assistance.

V. Involvement of local government

75. Reports received from the OHCHR (A/HRC/42/22) and from regional and local authorities detail their important roles in promoting human rights, in particular in adopting development plans and programmes that contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and of the New Urban Agenda.

76. There are numerous examples of municipalities and local bodies that have adopted measures to implement the objectives contained in the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda. The city of Lisbon adopted a programme on tackling discrimination against ethnic or social groups, such as Roma persons, people of African descent and lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex persons. In Sao Paulo, Brazil, a special committee identified homelessness and access to housing as a priority. In Nuremberg, Germany, the city established committees for disabled persons, refugees and migrants. In Albania and Croatia, local plans of action were adopted for the integration of Roma persons. The state of Hawaii and the city of Honolulu, United States of America, adopted at the state and city levels, respectively, the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and expressed the intention to implement them. The cities of Amsterdam, Barcelona, Spain, and New York formed the Cities Coalition for Digital Rights to protect human rights on the Internet, at the local and global levels, on the basis of five principles, namely, universal and equal access to the Internet, digital literacy, privacy, data protection and security, transparency and accountability, and non-discrimination. The Nairobi county authority adopted an integrated urban development plan for the period 2018–2022 and a policy on community participation. In Greece, partnerships were established between the local authorities, civil society and international actors in order to provide health care and education to refugees and migrants. A Mediterranean city-to-city migration programme, including cities on both sides of the sea, was created to improve the situation of migrants through coordinated efforts.

77. Treaty bodies adopted recommendations for States parties to ensure the participation of women, minorities, indigenous peoples and people of African descent in local government, to increase the capacity of local authorities to promote and protect the human rights of marginalized populations and persons belonging to minority groups.

78. While recognizing the challenges faced by local government, mainly the lack of autonomy and of financial resources, the regional and local authorities play an important complementary role in the promotion of sustainable development and respect for human rights, due to their proximity to people and contact with them, their knowledge of the situation and their specific function to provide public services that address local needs.

79. In national reports, States reported that local authorities made progress at local levels, which can supplement the changes proposed by the Government and implement them more quickly and effectively. Nevertheless, it is not always clear whether they are involved from the beginning and in all stages of the process to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.

80. States should therefore ensure the active participation of local government bodies, according to their constitutional and legal systems, in the elaboration and implementation of the plans and programmes to implement the Sustainable Development Goals, by integrating

human rights, and in the evaluation and follow-up of such plans and programmes at the local level.

VI. Continuity and strengthening of efforts to implement the Sustainable Development Goals

81. In the political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, Heads of State and Government and other representatives reaffirmed their determination to implement the 2030 Agenda as a plan of action for people, planet, prosperity, peace and partnership, to free humanity from the tyranny of poverty and heal and secure the planet for future generations. They recognized the need to accelerate action at all levels and by all stakeholders, in order to implement the Sustainable Development Goals.

82. The political declaration of the high-level political forum on sustainable development launched an ambitious and accelerated response to reach that goal by 2030 and affirmed the commitment to making the coming decade one of action and delivery.

83. The Heads of State and Government recognized the special challenges facing the most vulnerable countries and, in particular African countries, least developed countries, landlocked developing countries, small island developing States and countries in conflict and post-conflict situations, as well as the specific challenges facing middle-income countries, in pursuing sustainable development.

84. It is generally recognized that the 2030 Agenda has a transformative purpose and that action to implement the Sustainable Development Goals must involve coordinated efforts in the medium and long term. One of the key messages of the debate organized in 2019 by the General Assembly is that the Goals can still be achieved if the international community increases the speed and expands the ambitions of its actions.

Recommendations

Member States

85. The following recommendations can be made to Member States by the Human Rights Council:

(a) Continue to give the utmost attention to the adoption of policies, plans and programmes for implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and targets by integrating human rights, reviewing and adapting policies, plans and programmes, taking into account the specific situation and challenges in each country and the periodic evaluation of the results, as well as the recent experience of infectious diseases, in accordance with the primary principle of leaving no one behind;

(b) Ensure that national parliaments, Governments and other State and political bodies are involved in the adoption and review of those plans and programmes by adopting the appropriate legislation and budgetary allocations, in order to give them a national expression and significance, as representing the national will;

(c) Give specific means of implementation to the plans and programmes adopted, while fully integrating human rights, including the specific targets set out in the Sustainable Development Goals, a time frame for their realization and delegation of responsibilities, ensuring that no one is left behind, taking the furthest behind first and having in view in particular members of vulnerable groups;

(d) Give increased attention, in all plans and programmes, to the gender dimension of development and to leaving no one behind, eliminating any gender discrimination and taking into account the human rights and the specific situation of women and girls in different fields of life, in particular education, employment and political life, as well as the specific situation of those living in rural areas;

(e) Take the measures necessary to improve the situation of children, in particular in the fields of health and education, to end child labour and trafficking, to reduce the proportion of unemployed young people and to develop a constant dialogue with them, in accordance with the Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

(f) Ensure and mobilize the means necessary for the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including through budgetary allocations, national partnerships and private sector and international cooperation and assistance;

(g) Ensure the coordination of plans and programmes for their implementation, so as to achieve an integrated approach and increase the efficiency of the measures taken in all fields, taking into account the linkages between the Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

(h) Take into account the recommendations made by other Member States in the context of the universal periodic review process and by human rights treaty bodies when considering the periodic reports of States parties to the human rights treaties and individual communications, as well as those made by independent experts and other special procedure mandate holders;

(i) Collect, through the methods available, and make use of reliable disaggregated data and statistics on the economic and social situation in the country, including all regions and in particular the vulnerable communities and groups of the population, on the basis of generally accepted indicators, to ensure that no one is left behind and to reflect the evolution of the data with regard to the implementation of the commitments made;

(j) Make all efforts to ensure sustainable development by covering energy needs through non-polluting sources of energy, promoting sustainable industrialization and production and consumption patterns and sustainable water resources management and extending access to affordable and safely managed water and sanitation for all, while fully respecting human rights;

(k) In view of the trends towards urbanization, develop strategies and plans of transition to urbanization and take all measures necessary to ensure that cities respond to the needs of the increased population in terms of access for all to housing, health, education, affordable water and energy and all public services and all measures necessary to preserve a healthy environment, taking into account the lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic;

(l) Mindful of the transformative function of the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, which should determine structural changes involving State institutions and many actors, promote the participation, in an open and transparent process throughout all efforts related to the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, of civil society, representatives of all sectors of the population and vulnerable people, as well as trade unions, professional associations and non-governmental organizations;

(m) Ensure, in accordance with existing constitutional and legal systems, the active participation of local government bodies in the elaboration and implementation of the programmes to fulfil the Sustainable Development Goals, and in the follow-up to such programmes and their evaluation at the local level, and facilitate the participation of local government by allocating more resources and improved information and coordination;

(n) Develop methods and strategies to facilitate the participation of the private sector as an essential element in national efforts for meeting the Sustainable Development Goal targets, through public-private partnerships and other arrangements involving the private sector in development projects;

(o) Encourage the participation of businesses in the realization of development programmes and plans, by creating a favourable legal and administrative environment, while ensuring that the national and foreign companies involved act in conformity with national plans and priorities and fully respect human rights, taking into account the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (A/HRC/17/31, annex) endorsed by the Human Rights Council and the “Principles for responsible contracts: integrating the management of

human rights risks and State investor contract negotiations: guidance for negotiations” (A/HRC/17/31/Add.3);

(p) Make all efforts to develop international cooperation, as an additional mechanism in the efforts for sustainable development, particularly in developing countries, for promoting the international exchange of experiences and assistance, taking into account the needs and the economic plans of the recipient countries and fully respecting human rights;

(q) Promote the development of international trade as a means of favouring development in all countries, while taking into account in particular the interests of developing countries, and ensure that trade exchanges contribute to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets;

(r) Increase efforts to ensure the protection of the environment, to reduce the degradation and pollution of oceans and seas, to restore ecosystems, to promote the sustainable management of forests and mangroves, to reduce and stop desertification and to end the degradation of soil and the loss of biodiversity;

(s) Integrate climate action measures into national policies and plans and intensify, in accordance with their responsibilities, efforts to stop and reverse climate change by reducing and eliminating carbon emissions into the atmosphere, attenuate and mitigate the adverse effects already produced by climate change and assist developing countries, in particular the least developed countries, in the planning and management of responses to climate change events, including by focusing on women, young people and local and marginalized communities.

United Nations agencies, regional economic commissions, human rights treaty bodies and special procedure mandate holders

86. International organizations, regional economic commissions, human rights treaty bodies and special procedure mandate holders should promote the development of a multilateral approach in the consideration of all questions of global interest, in order to be able to elaborate and adopt global solutions, taking into account the interests of all States and of the international community as a whole.

87. United Nations entities and specialized agencies and other international organizations should include on their agenda and consider items related to the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, remain in permanent contact with their member States, organize consultations and meetings, assist them and promote programmes and activities that contribute to the realization of the Goals and targets.

88. The relevant international organizations should analyse the impact of the recent infectious diseases that have affected the world, consider and recommend measures to be taken in order to better prepare States and communities to respond to such diseases, reduce human suffering, continue sustainable development and strengthen respect for human rights.

89. The regional commissions should continue to periodically examine the status of implementation by States of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets and assist States to review their implementation, adopt new plans and programmes and apply adequate measures to implement them, bearing in mind the principle of leaving no one behind.

90. The human rights treaty bodies, in the examination of periodic reports submitted by States parties to the human rights treaties and of individual communications, should give due attention to the application of the treaty obligations related to the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals and targets, in particular the obligation to eliminate discrimination against all, including members of vulnerable groups.

91. The special procedure mandate holders should concentrate their reports on the situation in different countries with regard to the Sustainable Development Goals and targets and make specific recommendations addressing the challenges and difficulties faced by countries, taking into account good practices, the experiences of other countries and the possibility of receiving assistance through international cooperation.
