

UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee
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THE CONTRIBUTION OF DEVELOPMENT TO THE ENJOYMENT OF ALL HUMAN RIGHTS

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The Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) has received a questionnaire from the UN Human Rights Council Advisory Committee by email on 17 August 2017. Please see DIHR's comments to the questionnaire below.

1. Please provide examples of best practices such as policies, action plans and any other measures undertaken by your organization and/or entity in support of the national sustainable development agendas that promote and realize all human rights including the right to development for all?

DIHR has entered noteworthy partnerships with numerous actors of society. These include:

- An ongoing partnership with DANIDA, which is the term used for Denmark's development cooperation, and implement a number of programs to promote a human rights-based approach to SDG implementation.
- Director Jonas Christoffersen is a member of the Agenda 2030 Panel, established to advise the inter-Parliamentarian network on the SDGs.
- Statistics Denmark has established a Data Partnership on SDG Data, which aims to foster collaboration between parties and draw on many different data sources. DIHR will contribute to this Data Partnership.

DIHR has launched a number of instruments linking human rights and the SDGs. These include:

- The paper 'SDGs and Human Rights Monitoring', which links DIHR's recommendations in its Status Report of 2014-15 on human rights issues in Denmark to specific SDGs and targets.¹

¹ Filskov, Nadja (2015), 'SDGs and Human Rights Monitoring – Guidance for National Implementation', *Danish Institute for Human Rights*, 2015,

- In 2016, DIHR linked its UPR recommendations to Denmark and Greenland with the SDGs.²
- A database linking the SDGs to 56 human rights instruments.³

2. What are the main challenges or obstacles your organization and/or entity face in supporting the national sustainable development agendas that promote and realize all human rights including the right to development for all?

The Danish Government launched the Danish National Action Plan on the Sustainable Development Goals in March 2017. The action plan lists how the Government intends to pursue and fulfil the SDGs. As general remarks to the action plan as regards challenges or obstacles, DIHR notes that several of the indicators are not sufficiently comprehensive, ambitious or precise. In addition, the DIHR finds that a number of the indicators should be considered as positive steps, however the challenges may not appear at this stage but depends on efforts to follow up on said indicators.

Some specific indicators need further elaboration. For example, it is stated in the Danish action plan on SDG's that the Government intends to establish a model for assessment of new legislation and initiatives, which, e.g., should include an assessment of equality issues. DIHR finds that this matter should be addressed in the Ministry of Justice's guide on legal quality as this is to be considered one of the authoritative tools for authorities working with preparation of legislation. Most recently, the Ministry of Justice has submitted a draft proposal on amending the guide in which the ministry has stated in which situations there may be a need for an assessment of equality impacts of new legislation. However, DIHR notes that it is only to be included in the bills if the proposed legislation does have an impact on equality matters. DIHR finds that even if it is considered that new legislation does not have an impact on equality issues, but where there has been conducted such an assessment, this should be mentioned in the particular bill so that

available in English at:

https://www.humanrights.dk/files/media/dokumenter/sdg/sdgs_and_human_rights_monitoring.pdf.

² Danish Institute for Human Rights (2016), 'UPR Denmark 2016: List of selected recommendations – revised version', *Danish Institute for Human Rights*, 2016, available in English at:

https://www.humanrights.dk/sites/humanrights.dk/files/media/dokumenter/udgivelser/upr/list_of_selected_recommendations_upr_denmark_24_session_2016_-_new_version.pdf.

³ The Human Rights Guide to the Sustainable Development Goals is accessible at: <http://sdg.humanrights.dk/>.

the public and politicians may gain insight in the considerations that have been relevant for drafting a bill.

Furthermore, the Government has in the action plan suggested to intensify efforts on combatting gang-related crimes as well as preventing and combatting extremism, radicalisation and terrorism. DIHR considers these initiatives as relevant as regards to ensuring a safer society. However, such initiatives may include measures that ensure a safer society for the majority, but they may result in a less free society for the minority and have an impact on civil liberties. The challenges here will depend on how such initiatives are drafted and implemented.

Finally, as regards the Government's initiatives to pursue and fulfil the SDGs through its foreign policy, the DIHR finds it positive that the Government is processing its development cooperation through a human rights-based approach. However, DIHR notes that in these efforts, the challenge would be to ensure local involvement, including involvement of women, children and persons with disabilities.

Yours sincerely,

Christoffer Badse

DEPARTMENT DIRECTOR