Input by the International Telecommunications Union, received on 26 February 2021

**Questionnaire**

**A consultancy study on the contribution of development to the enjoyment of human rights**

**(A/HRC/RES/41/19, para. 13)**

**1. Please share your views on the contribution of development in promoting and protecting human rights, including its context, concept, specific aspects and means of implementation.**

Contribution of development to:

(1) Civil and political rights.

(2) Economic, social and cultural rights.

(3) The right to peace, the right to development, environmental rights, and digital rights.

*While development contributes significantly to the enjoyment of all human rights by all persons, other human rights create the conditions paving the way to facilitate development and guarantee the well-being of all persons in society.*

*ITU’s mission of connecting the world and ensuring that everyone* -*regardless of their gender, age, ability, or location- has access to the same opportunities offered by ICTs makes everyone an active player in the digital economy. Telecommunications and information and communication technologies (ICTs) are a key enabler for social, environmental, cultural and economic development; and therefore, for accelerating the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). They also play a role in various areas such as health, education, agriculture, governance, finance, commerce, among other, particularly in developing countries.*

*From a digital inclusion perspective, appropriate access to, affordability and accessibility of these technologies guarantees opportunities for boosting productivity and efficiency to improve the lives of all people and ensure that sustainable development becomes a reality.*

*While digital inclusion does not automatically lead to the reduction of poverty and inequalities and the elimination of discrimination, stereotypes, and social exclusion, given the fast-paced digitalization during and post COVID-19, it has become one of the necessary policy interventions to address digital divide and promote social inclusion, and as such need to be at the heart of all the efforts to fulfil the commitment of leaving no one behind in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, advance social development and well-being of people, and enable socially just transition towards a more inclusive, equitable, resilient and sustainable future for all.*

**2. How to ensure that development contributes to promoting and protecting human rights?** (The principles, strategies, policies and laws, action plans and programmes of development, what contents are important and what responsibilities should be taken into account)

(1) At the international level.

(2) At the national level.

(3) Through global and regional partnerships, civic space and engagement.

*All three pillars of sustainable development – economic development, social inclusion and environmental protection – need ICTs as key catalysts. The development potential of ICT as crosscutting enablers must therefore be fully harnessed for achieving the SDGs.*

*Digital technologies have the potential to promote social development and inclusion, if properly guided by public policies and measures. From a digital inclusion perspective, efficient and affordable ICT infrastructure and services, combined with enabling policy and regulatory environments, allow businesses and governments to participate in the digital economy and countries to increase their overall economic well-being and competitiveness.*

*Increased connectivity, digital technologies, information systems, digital skills and Internet use have the potential to reduce poverty and create jobs through applications and services, such as e-agriculture and digital finance; help end poverty and hunger; monitor and mitigate climate change and sustaining our natural resources; as well as improved efficiency and transparency.*

*With so many people working and studying from home due to the COVID-19 pandemic, digital inclusion of all has become one of the most urgent and defining issues of our time.*

*Finding the investments necessary to bring every person online by 2030 will require an unprecedented and concerted effort from the public and private sectors, as well as civil society and international organizations. There is a clear need to increase digital cooperation, across borders and sectors, and accelerate the development of digital societies.*

**3. Please share any concrete examples of best practices of contribution of development to the enjoyment of human rights.** Challenges, obstacles, lessons learned and experience with regard to principles, strategies, law and policies, action plans and programmes, the role of communities, organizations, and individuals and/or other stakeholders.

*As stated in the Advisory Committee’s report on “Contribution of development to the enjoyment of human rights (A/HRC/41/50), one of the challenges when supporting the implementation of national sustainable development agendas is the insufficient level of involvement of people (the beneficiaries) in planning and implementation processes, and in the design and adoption of these strategies.*

*At the same time, incorporating the perspective of the people (the beneficiaries) into their work programs, is also an effort that international organizations must strive to make.*

*One example of a good practice is the work of ITU on the digital inclusion of youth, recently making significant efforts to ensure that the youth perspective is incorporated in the work programs, management approaches and human resources development activities of ITU.*

*In 2020, ITU’s efforts to ensure meaningful participation of youth in all ITU-related activities, crystalized with the development of the new* [*ITU Youth Strategy*](https://www.itu.int/generationconnect/wp-content/uploads/2020/11/ITU_Youth_Strategy.pdf)*, which aims to focus the work on youth in a strategic, coordinated, and systematic way, to be Fit4Purpose, to reduce the youth digital divide and to improve the lives of young people around the world. As a next step and in support of the strategy, ITU also launched* [*Generation Connect*](https://www.itu.int/generationconnect/)*, an initiative that aims to engage global youth and encourage their participation as equal partners alongside the leaders of today’s digital change, empowering young people with the skills and opportunities to advance their vision of a connected future.*

*United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development. As the UN specialized agency in ICTs, ITU has a mandate, which includes several elements that are particularly relevant to*

*ITU is also playing a primary role in promoting youth engagement and dialogue within the UN system. In its role as co-chair of United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD), ITU is supporting concerted efforts to increase the efficiency of UN work in youth development by strengthening the coordination and collaboration among relevant agencies and organizations of the UN.*

**4. Are there any other aspects relating to the contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights for all that you would recommend for the study to focus on?**

*N/A*

**5. If you have differing views on the contribution of development to the enjoyment of all human rights for all, please explain and provide examples if possible.**

*N/A*