



## HUMAN RIGHTS AND THE 2030 AGENDA: Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality



16 January 2019, 10 am - 6 pm, Room XX, Palais des Nations, Geneva

### Concept Note

In March 2018, the Human Rights Council adopted resolution 37/24 on the promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The resolution acknowledged that human rights and the 2030 Agenda are “interrelated and mutually reinforcing,” while noting the contribution of international human rights mechanisms in promoting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

In the resolution, the Council decided to organize two one-day intersessional meetings for dialogue and cooperation on human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This first meeting will focus on the theme of the 2019 session of the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) (“Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality”), which will review global progress in achieving the following Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): SDG 4 (Quality education), SDG 8 (Decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (Reduced inequalities), SDG 13 (Climate Change), SDG 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) and SDG 17 (Partnership for the goals).

#### Focus and objectives

The intersessional meeting will provide a space for States, relevant United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, national human rights institutions (NHRIs) and civil society organizations (CSOs) to voluntarily share good practices, achievements, challenges and lessons learned in the promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Focus will be placed on (i) measures to promote empowerment, inclusion and equality in the context of the implementation of the SDGs; (ii) the role of the human rights mechanisms in supporting the SDG process; and (iii) the importance of ensuring adequate space for civil society, business and other partners in this regard.

By focusing on the exchange of practical experiences as well as on tools and methodologies the meeting will deepen the existing understanding of the relationship between the promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It will also highlight the importance of synergies between the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the promotion and protection of human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development.

The meeting will also enhance understanding of the relationship between the High-level Political Forum (HLPF) and human rights processes and mechanisms, and opportunities to strengthen cooperation between them in the implementation of the SDGs. To this end, the outcomes of the meeting will feed into the discussions of the HLPF regarding progress in the achievement of the SDGs to be reviewed in 2019.





### Methodology and format

The meeting will bring together representatives of Member States along with 15-20 experts from State institutions (including national parliaments, NHRIs, national development agencies and statistical offices); United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms; United Nations agencies and country teams (UNCTs); academia and CSOs. The meeting will be open to observers, including nongovernmental organizations in consultative status with the United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC).

The meeting will commence with a high-level opening followed by thematic sessions and a closing session. A combination of formats, including a Davos-style conversation and panel discussions, will help facilitate the exchange of information and ideas among all participants.

The meeting will be made fully accessible as per HRC resolution 37/24. International sign interpretation and real-time captioning (English) will be provided and webcasted. In Room XX, four seats are reserved for participants using wheelchairs, in the seventh (last) row. Hearing loops are available for collection from the Accessibility focal point at the Secretariat desk. Oral statements may be embossed in Braille from any of the six official languages of the United Nations, upon request and following the procedure described in the [Accessibility guide to the Human Rights Council for persons with disabilities](#).

### Outcome

This meeting is part of an initiative to generate focus on and attention to the importance and relevance of the synergies between the SDGs and human rights. The Chair together with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights will prepare a report summarizing the discussions of the meeting, which will be made available to the 40th session of the Human Rights Council.

Pursuant to resolution 37/24, the report will also be made available to the HLPF in preparation for its July and September 2019 sessions. This report will be disseminated widely to give greater visibility to the opportunities to advance human rights and the SDGs together.

### Chair

H. E. Mr. Morten Jespersen, Permanent Representative of Denmark to the United Nations and other international organizations in Geneva

### Useful documents and links

- [Human Rights Council resolution 37/24](#) of 23 March 2018 entitled “Promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”
- Website of the [Human Rights Council intersessional meeting](#)
- Website of the [2019 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development](#)