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Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda: Empowering people and ensuring inclusiveness and equality

Written contribution

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A country will achieve its full potential only if its citizens can enjoy their human rights and fundamental freedoms. Human rights and development are interlinked. The Agenda 2030 allows to break development silos and to build the foundation of a State based on rule of law where no one is left behind. The principles guiding the Sustainable Development Goals putting people at the centre of all actions, universality, indivisibility of rights, equality, non-discrimination, and accountability will contribute to realize human rights for all. As the Universal Periodic Review, they encourage all stakeholders to have a holistic, inclusive and participatory approach. To achieve both the Sustainable Development Goals and the implementation of the Universal Periodic Review recommendations, several actors must be involved to ensure a sustainable and equitable development. Partnership between, and accountability of, the government, national human rights institutions, the parliament, civil society organisations and the private sector are key.

The Universal Periodic Review offers an opportunity to promote the respect of human rights and can support the 2030 Agenda if States refer and use the language of its goals and target in their recommendations to the State under Review. In the same vein, while reporting at the HLPF States can mention how in the implementation of the SDGs goals and targets, the human rights approach and commitments are put in place and achieved.

It is important, however, in supporting the monitoring and implementation of both UPR recommendations and SDGs to move towards an integrated approach through the development of a common reporting mechanism between these two mechanisms. Improving collection of disaggregated data, monitoring of progress and reporting are of paramount importance to ensure that SDGs and UPR recommendations translate into effective change and the improvement of human rights at the national level for all.

The 2030 Agenda has a core engagement to leave no one behind. It is therefore important to ensure that vulnerable and marginalised groups are not discriminated against and benefit from the economic development of a country. All rights-holders should be included in the decision making-process on issues



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affecting their life. Furthermore, an analysis of how human rights issues are affecting differently women and girls will contribute to gender equality. Women and girls are key actors in the development of a country and should therefore fully participate in the design and implementation of the legal framework and national plans. A review of the UPR recommendations received by States shows that women's rights are part of the top 5 issues raised and many countries are responding positively to them. The adoption of legal framework to address human rights violations and discriminatory practices are a good step forward the improvement of women's/human rights but have also to be accompanied by measures that will bring effective changes in people's life. Although we recognize the importance of having a goal focusing on gender equality, we consider it crucial to apply a gender equality perspective in the other SDGs aiming for instance at ending poverty in all its form, achieving peace, justice, access to health, quality of education, housing or promoting economic growth and decent work as well as combating climate change and its impacts.

Joining efforts to achieve the SDGs and implement the UPR recommendations will contribute to the realisation of human rights, development, peace and security.