

Transforming our world: The 2030 agenda for sustainable development as a safeguard for human rights.

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ABSTRACT

It is increasingly recognized that human rights are essential to achieve sustainable development. The 2030 Agenda by sharing the principle of universalism and by concentrating on such fundamental areas as eliminating extreme poverty, ending hunger and highlighting the core issue of sustainability. The human development approach and the 2030 Agenda can be mutually reinforcing by contributing to the narrative of each other, by exploring how human development and Sustainable Development Goal indicators can complement each other and by being a forceful advocacy platform for each other. We have every reason to hope that transformation in human development is possible. What seem to be challenges today can be overcome tomorrow. The world has fewer than 15 years to achieve its bold agenda of leaving no one out. Closing the human development gap is critical, as is ensuring the same, or even better, opportunities for future generations. Human development has to be sustained and sustainable and has to enrich every human life so that we have a world where all people can enjoy peace and prosperity.

THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND THE SDGS

Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" including its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets was adopted on 25 September 2015 by Heads of State and Government at a special UN summit. The Agenda is a commitment to eradicate poverty and achieve sustainable development by 2030 world-wide, ensuring that no one is left behind. The adoption of the 2030 Agenda was a landmark achievement, providing for a shared global vision towards sustainable development for all. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is described as 'a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity (that entails) bold and transformative steps which are urgently needed to shift the world onto a sustainable and resilient path. The 2030 Agenda and agreed goals draw on learning from two decades of development practice and 'aim to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what they did not achieve'. The 2030 Agenda is based on extensive consultation and negotiation that has been led by member states, facilitated by the United Nations, and has involved broad participation from major development groups, civil society stakeholders, the private sector, academia, the media and individual citizens. This inclusive and highly collaborative process was in contrast to the negotiations of the MDGs, which primarily involved the UN system, governments and major development.

The 2030 Agenda represents a political manifesto for the world over the next 14 years. It sets a clear objective for all people, nations, institutions, organizations, and enterprises: Transform our world to ensure that people and our planet thrive by ending poverty and hunger, reaching the most vulnerable first; by prioritizing human rights, addressing injustice and empowering women; and by building resilience and tackling the impacts of adverse climate events.

It defines the interconnected root of poverty, hunger, pandemics, inequalities, environmental degradation, climate change, forced migration, violence, and extremism. The 17 SDGs oblige developed and developing countries alike. They are truly a blueprint for action across all three pillars of the United Nations' work—peace and security, development, and human rights—integrating the social, economic, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

HOW AGENDA 2030 IS SUCCESSFUL FROM THE OTHERS WHAT CAME BEFORE

The 2030 Agenda is grounded in a number of principles that set it apart from what came before. The Agenda is universal - it applies to all countries, regardless of their level of development and irrespective of their political or socioeconomic status.

This sets it apart from the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which principally applied to developing countries. The 2030 Agenda sees every country as a developing country, in that every country needs to change the way it operates, considering the wider impact of its policies and actions beyond its own national borders, to contribute toward a sustainable future for the world.

The Agenda is transformative, seeking to end poverty and hunger once and for all, while safeguarding the planet. In its determination to leave no one behind, the Agenda is people-centered, putting human rights and social justice at its core.

It emphasizes that the needs of people who are missed out because they are hard to reach or displaced or because they cannot easily participate in development activities must be specifically targeted. The persistence of armed conflict and its impact on the

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fight against hunger, and on those who flee and those who are left behind were brought into sharp relief in the 2015 Global Hunger Index report, which asserted that the needs and rights of both visible and invisible victims of violent conflict must be addressed.

THE 17 SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS (SDGS) TO TRANSFORM OUR WORLD:

GOAL 1: No Poverty: End poverty in all its forms everywhere Targets include eradicating extreme poverty; implementing social protection measures; and ensuring equal access of men and women to economic resources.

GOAL 2: Zero Hunger: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture. By 2030 end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food for all year around. Promote sustainable food production system and implement resilient agricultural practices that increase productivity and production.

GOAL 3: Good Health and Well-being: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages. Targets include reducing maternal mortality; ending preventable child deaths; ending or reducing AIDS and other diseases; universal health coverage, affordable essential medicines, sexual and reproductive health care; vaccine research, and access to medicines.

GOAL 4: Quality Education: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all. Targets include universal access to free, quality pre-primary, primary and secondary education; improving vocational skills; equal access to education; expanding education facilities, scholarships, and training of teachers.

GOAL 5: Gender Equality: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls. Targets include eliminating discrimination and violence against women and girls; valuing unpaid care and domestic work; ensuring the full participation of women; access to reproductive health care; and equal access of women to economic resources.

GOAL 6: Clean Water and Sanitation: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all. Targets include ensuring universal and equitable access to safe, affordable drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for all; reducing pollution; increasing water-use efficiency; and promoting participatory management of water and sanitation services.

GOAL 7: Affordable and Clean Energy: Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all. By 2030 ensure universal access to affordable, reliable and modern energy services. Increase substantially the share of renewable energy in the global energy mix by 2030. Double the global rate of improvement in energy efficiency by 2030.

GOAL 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all. Targets include promoting sustained economic growth; improving resource efficiency in production and consumption; full and productive employment and decent work for all; eradicating forced and child labour and trafficking; protecting labour rights including those of migrant workers; and increasing access to financial services.

GOAL 9: Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure: Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation. Targets promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and by 2030 raise significantly industry's share of employment and GDP in line with national circumstances, and double its share in LDCs. Increase the access of small- scale industrial and other enterprises, particularly in developing countries, to financial services including affordable credit and their integration into value chains and markets.

GOAL 10: Reduced Inequality: Reduce inequality within and among countries. Targets include promoting higher growth rates for the bottom 40 per cent; promoting social, economic and political inclusion; reducing inequalities in opportunities and outcomes; ensuring social protection for all; securing participation in economic decision making; facilitating migration, and reducing transaction costs for migrant remittances.

GOAL 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Targets ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, and upgrade slums.

GOAL 12: Responsible Consumption and Production: Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns. Targets implement the 10 year framework of programmes on sustainable consumption and production all countries taking action, with developed countries taking the lead, taking into account the development and capabilities of developing countries. By 2030 achieve sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources.

GOAL 13: Climate Action: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts (in line with the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change) Targets strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related hazards and natural disasters in all countries. Integrate climate change measures into national policies, strategies, and planning improve education, awareness raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning.

GOAL 14: Life Below Water: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development. Targets 2025, prevent and significantly reduce marine pollution of all kinds, particularly from land-based activities, including marine debris and nutrient pollution by 2020, sustainably manage and protect marine and coastal ecosystems to avoid significant adverse impacts, including by strengthening their resilience, and take action for their restoration, to achieve healthy and productive oceans.

GOAL 15: Life on Land : Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss. Targets by 2020 ensure conservation, restoration and sustainable use of terrestrial and inland freshwater ecosystems and their services, in particular forests wetlands, mountains and dry lands, in line with obligations under international agreements. By 2020 promote the implementation of sustainable management of all type of forests, halt deforestation, restore degraded forests and restore degraded land and soil, by 2030 ensure the conservation of mountain ecosystems, including their biodiversity, to enhance their capacity to provide benefits which are essential for sustainable development.

GOAL 16: Peace and Justice Strong Institutions: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels Targets include reducing all forms of violence; ending violence against and trafficking of children; promoting rule of law and justice for all; reducing illicit financial and arms flows, corruption and bribery; developing effective institutions; participation in decision making at all levels; legal identity for all.

GOAL 17: Partnerships to achieve the Goal: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development Targets include strengthening domestic and international resources; debt sustainability; technology transfer and capacity building; promoting trade; enhancing policy and institutional coherence; respecting countries' policy space; promoting multi-stakeholder partnerships; measurements for progress, disaggregated data.

HUMAN DEVELOPMENT FOR EVERYONE

Over the past quarter-century the world has changed—and with it the development landscape. New countries have emerged, and our planet is now home to more than 7 billion people, one in four of them young. The geopolitical scenario has also changed, with developing countries emerging as a major economic force and political power. Globalization has integrated people, markets and work, and the digital revolution has changed human lives. Progress in human development has been impressive over the past 25 years. People now live longer, more children are in school and more people have access to basic social services. The Millennium Declaration and the Millennium Development Goals—global commitments at the turn of the century to end basic human deprivations within 15 years—added to the momentum. Yet human development has been uneven, and human deprivations persist. Progress has bypassed groups, communities, societies—and people have been left out. Some have achieved only the basics of human development, and some not even that. And new development challenges have emerged, ranging from inequalities to climate change, from epidemics to desperate migration, from conflicts to violent extremism.

The 2016 Human Development Report focuses on how human development can be ensured for everyone—now and in the future. It starts with an account of the achievements, challenges and hopes for human progress, envisioning where humanity wants to go. Its vision draws from and builds on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that the 193 member states of the United Nations endorsed last year and the 17 Sustainable Development Goals that the world has committed to achieve. The Report explores who has been left out in the progress in human development and why. It argues that to ensure human development for everyone, a mere mapping of the nature and location of deprivations is not enough. Some aspects of the human development approach and assessment perspectives have to be brought to the fore. The Report also identifies the national policies and key strategies that will enable every human being to achieve basic human development and to sustain and protect the gains. And addressing the structural challenges of the current global system, it presents options for institutional reforms.

WHAT IS THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS AND HUMAN POVERTY REDUCTION?

It is now generally understood that poverty is a result of disempowerment and exclusion. Poverty is not only a lack of material goods and opportunities, such as employment, ownership of productive assets and savings, but the lack of physical and social goods, such as health, physical integrity, freedom from fear and violence, social; belonging cultural identity and the ability to live with respect and dignity². Human right require the process of formulating a poverty reduction strategy to include the following elements and principles:

- Identifying and prioritizing action to improve the situations of the poorest;
- Analyzing the underlying power relations and the root causes of discrimination;
- Ensuring that both the process and the concrete poverty reduction targets are consistent with international human rights standards;
- Ensuring close links between macroeconomic design, sectoral initiative;

- Ensuring a basic standard of civil and political rights guarantees for active, free and meaningful participation, including freedom of information and freedom of association:
- Identify indicators and setting benchmark so that the progressive realization of economic and social rights can clearly be monitored.

THE 2030 AGENDA FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AS A SAFEGUARD FOR HUMAN RIGHTS

Transforming the world: The 2030 agenda for sustainable development that clearly mansand in the preamble that the We are resolved to free the human race from the tyranny of poverty and want and to heal and secure our planet. They seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what they did not achieve. They seek to realize the human rights of all and to achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. The agenda 2030 targets the all over development of the human beings.

People - We are determined to end poverty and hunger, in all their forms and dimensions, and to ensure that all human beings can fulfil their potential in dignity and equality and in a healthy environment.

Planet- We are determined to protect the planet from degradation, including through sustainable consumption and production, sustainably managing its natural resources and taking urgent action on climate change, so that it can support the needs of the present and future generations.

Prosperity- We are determined to ensure that all human beings can enjoy prosperous and fulfilling lives and that economic, social and technological progress occurs in harmony with nature.

Peace- We are determined to foster peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence. There can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.

Partnership- We are determined to mobilize the means required to implement this Agenda through a revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focused in particular on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people.

The inter linkages and integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals are of crucial importance in ensuring that the purpose of the new Agenda is realized. If we realize our ambitions across the full extent of the Agenda, the lives of all will be profoundly improved and our world will be transformed for the better. Goals and targets will stimulate action over the next 15 years in areas of critical importance for humanity and the planet.

Conclusion

We exist in a world that is always evolving and changing, a world that is increasingly complex. Our response to this, caring for each other and ourselves, is critical in creating a sense of connection and purpose in each of us. This then allows us to have the most significant impact possible in serving ourselves, our communities and broader society.

Einstein told us: "The significant problems we face cannot be solved at the same level of thinking we were at when we created them." This is as true today as it was in Einstein's time. Transformation is required if we are to live with a sense of purpose, connection and fulfillment. Most attempts at transformation and change are unsuccessful. A recent study of more than 100 companies engaged in major change efforts demonstrated that 85% do not yield tangible much less durable results. This is because the transformation in consciousness is missed: generally, what's addressed is only transformation in behaviour. Real and sustainable transformation occurs in the individual and the collective when a transformation of thinking/consciousness in the individual occurs. When this shift occurs, each of us is more able find and fulfill our purpose, access more of our gifts, live our lives with greater authenticity, skillfulness and balance and more powerfully respond to the ever increasing complexities in our world.

References

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