Regional Seminar on Universal Periodic Review and

Technical Consultation on SDG 16+ on Inclusion and Human Rights

SUMMARY

30 November 2018, Praia, Cabo Verde

Opportunities and strategies for mainstreaming Human Rights in the adaptation, implementation, monitoring and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):

- The 2030 Agenda is anchored in human rights and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: achieving the SDGs will also mean furthering the realization of human rights;
- The 2030 Agenda recognizes the importance of adopting a human rights-based approach for a more participatory, inclusive, transparent and accountable process for sustainable development;
- Aligning SDG implementation with human rights objectives can help to mutually support the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the realization of human rights commitments;
- The recommendations of the United Nations human rights mechanisms, including recommendations emerging from the Treaty Bodies, Special Procedures and UPR process, provide a valuable set of country-specific information that can be used for SDG implementation, monitoring and reporting;
- Focusing on "leaving no one behind" and to "reaching the furthest behind first" can help in ensuring that development policies target populations that are most marginalized, including through analysis of who is being left behind and why;
- Support to national capacities for human rights-based monitoring and data collection is important to ensure evidence-based policy decisions, including support to National Statistics Offices to collect disaggregated data, support to National Human Rights Institutions in monitoring implementation of the SDGs in a human rights-based manner and supporting civil society and marginalized groups to engage in the SDG implementation processes;
- The important role of Regional Human Rights Mechanisms and Parliaments was also recognized.
- The linkages with the African Union 2063 Agenda were also highlighted throughout the discussions.

In the coordination and follow-up of human rights recommendations, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), it is important to:

- Create national reporting, implementation and follow up mechanisms, led by the executive branch, with relevant Ministries, State entities, Parliament, NHRI and civil society organizations with the capacity to:

o Coordinate all national stakeholders, including timely preparation of such coordination, integrating sectoral experts and holding thematic sessions;

o Ensure consultation as a fundamental and indispensable factor for the preparation of reports and follow-up to recommendations;

o Undertake joint implementation of human rights recommendations and SDG targets and indicators, including through information management tools;

- Promote the use of tools such as the Universal Human Rights Index, the development of human rights implementation/ action plans and the National Recommendations Tracking Database to facilitate integration of human rights recommendations in SDG implementation plans;

- Use all human rights recommendations including those of the Treaty Bodies, the Special Procedures and the UPR to identify groups left behind and promote sectoral policies with direct impact on the fulfillment of Human Rights and SDGs;

- Develop institutional frameworks and methodologies that lead to the participation of various actors, including representatives of the legislature, judiciary, national human rights institutions, civil society and regional organizations;

- Coordinate and work in partnership with United Nations system in the implementation of human rights recommendations, starting with accepted UPR recommendations;

- Use the 3rd cycle of the UPR to generate data that can support the implementation of the SDGs;

- Link human rights reporting to the SDGs targets and indicators by grouping as a minimum accepted UPR recommendations along the SDGs, so that States can frame their SDGs implementation plans taking into account already established national priorities and commitments;

- Bring together regularly those government actors responsible for human rights reporting and follow up (e.g. UPR reports, submissions to Treaty Bodies and Special Procedures) with those working on SDG reports and implementation plans to reduce burden of reporting and to ensure the timely and consistent preparation of reports, including for the HLPF in NY.

Key Messages for the SDG 16+ Technical Consultations

- SDG 16 is both an important Goal in itself and an enabler and accelerator for the whole agenda;

- SDG 16 has strong links with other goals that also address and measure aspects of peace, inclusion and justice, this is what we call SDG 16+.

- In order to promote the SDGs, and SDG 16+ in particular, it is important for national governments to have ownership and try to integrate a holistic vision of the 2030 Agenda, especially SDG 16, as part of its national and local planning processes;

- 'Leaving no one behind' is key to ensuring peace, justice and inclusion and vice versa – this is especially important to address marginalization felt by different population groups in post-conflict recovery situations;

- Improving gender equality in particular is necessary to accelerate progress on sustainable development and to uphold the principle of 'leaving no one behind';

- Access to information is critical to SDG monitoring and implementation, and the safety of journalists and human rights defenders (16.10) is necessary to ensure that issues around conflict, corruption, effective institutions, are reported on;

- Key messages and good practices emerging from CPLP countries on peace, justice and inclusion include:

Peace	Justice	Inclusion

o Support implementation of human rights-based data collection and disaggregation, including by sex, age and other grounds of discrimination prohibited by international human rights law, on key issues including child labor, human trafficking, armed violence, safety and security; o Support national peace and reconciliation processes, particularly promoting inclusion of marginalized groups and women; o Encourage human rights education from primary school level to encourage tolerance, non-discrimination and respect for human rights o Promote policies to address inequality and promote social inclusion to address risks of instability and violence	o Support countries in aligning their legal framework with human rights standards to address key issues of SDG 16 (e.g. review of Family Code to address child marriage, or review of the Penal Code to address human trafficking); o Identify specific strategies to address pretrial detention, for example by a) adopting alternative measures (non-detention) to address overcrowded prisons and reduce rates of detention; b) establishing a 24-hour deadline to present someone who is detained before a judge; c) alternative dispute resolution to ensure access to faster, more effective and less costly administration of justice; d) access to legal aid and counselling; o Encourage partnership between government civil society and private sector to support educational services, skill development and opportunities for people living in or recently released from prison.	o Efforts to localize the SDGs, i.e. implement and monitor the SDGs at the local level, are critical to ensure participation of those at risk of being left behind; o Encourage a focus on geographic exclusion and access to services in rural and remote areas; o Tax policies are a key instrument to address inequalities and achieve inclusion; o Offering integrated government services in one-stop-centers, e.g. for migrants, can help to foster inclusion; o Countries' steps to implement human rights treaties such as the CRPD can lead to better policies and structures for inclusion.

Challenges and follow-up:

- Support national bodies and institutions in the implementation of human rights recommendations, taking particular note of those accepted by the State within the context of the UPR, preventing the overload of their work;
- Create tools in Portuguese, such as the translation of the Universal Index of Human Rights and the National Recommendations Tracking Database, and support exchanges among Portuguese speaking countries on SDGs and human rights, through the raising of funds from national, regional and international organizations;
- Better direct existing funds within the United Nations system, as well as Official Development Assistance (ODA) and commitments from the Financing for Development (Addis Ababa) Action Agenda, to the implementation of the recommendations mentioned above;
- Raise people's awareness of the SDGs, human rights and inclusion, by engaging society in achieving the SDGs and SDG 16 in particular;

- Support national actors to utilize human rights commitments and recommendations to prioritize national SDG planning and budgeting processes, including identification of priority populations groups in line with the principle of 'leaving no one behind'.
- Aligning national development plans with the SDGs and human rights is not enough to ensure action, governments need to develop action plans with clear identification of those responsible, proper budget allocations, as well as key benchmarks and timelines;
- Promote an integrated approach to Human Rights and the SDGs, e.g. by encouraging direct collaboration of the national coordination bodies for UPR/Human Rights reporting and SDGs/VNR reporting;
- Support national actors to utilize human rights commitments and recommendations to prioritize national SDG planning and budgeting processes, including identification of priority populations groups in line with the principle of 'leaving no one behind';
- Lack of resources to address key issues around peace, justice and inclusion is a significant barrier in the implementation of SDG 16;
- Facilitate the exchange of good practices from countries with different contexts and institutional capacities (showcase progress and commitment in reporting, monitoring and implementing) and promote lessons learned between countries with similar languages, including organizing more seminars similar to this one.