



**Interactive dialogue with experts  
on the implementation and realization  
of the right to development**

**10:00 – 13:00, Tuesday 4 April 2017**

**Conference room XVI  
Palais des Nations  
Geneva, Switzerland**

**Statement by  
Maria Luisa Silva  
Director  
UNDP Office in Geneva**

Mr. Chair-Rapporteur His Excellency Ambassador Akram,  
Distinguished fellow panelists,  
Excellencies,  
Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Many thanks for the invitation extended to UNDP to participate in this interactive dialogue.

As you know, UNDP has neither a normative nor a monitoring mandate on human rights.

We provide extensive support for Member States in meeting their human rights obligations and in operationalizing the human rights-based approach to development programming.

Our objective is to ensure human development, which means that every person has a voice in the decision-making processes that affect their lives and that we all benefit from development gains.

We achieve this by strengthening institutions, including national systems for the promotion and protection of human rights – for example, by building the capacity of National Human Rights Institutions, strengthening the rule of law or focusing advice and policy attention on the disadvantaged and vulnerable.

Supporting Member States in their efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals is our focus now and will remain so in the years to come.

We firmly believe that efforts of Member States to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and the broader Agenda 2030 will help to address inequalities and discrimination in societies.

It is also an agenda for dignity.

In this respect, and as host of the coordination of the UN operational system for development, UNDP is leading efforts in the UN system to provide specific country-focused support to implementation of the SDGs through our three-pronged approach aiming to ensure that no-one is left behind in living lives of dignity and inclusion. We call it “MAPS”.

“Mainstreaming” aims to help governments to land and contextualize the agenda at national and local levels; ultimately reflecting the agenda in national plans, strategies and budgets.

“Acceleration” aims to support governments and national stakeholders to target resources at root bottlenecks to sustainable development, paying special attention to synergies and trade-offs across sectors.

“Policy support” aims to provide UN coordinated, coherent and pooled policy support to countries that demand it, making the thematic expertise housed in different UN entities available in an effective and coherent way.

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development provides a new development framework, which is integrated, rights-based and structured to produce concrete implementation results.

The transformation of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development into policies and initiatives that generate changes in people’s lives is in its early stages.

Requests for support from Member States to the UN system show that there is a great need for policy, programmatic and advocacy support on the SDGs and how to internalize them into national development plans, measurement and reporting.

We should all contribute to this endeavor.

For example, UNDP’s most recent Human Development Report, issued 15 days ago (21 March) aims to contribute to the intellectual and policy debate on what “leaving no one behind” means.

The report, entitled “Human Development for Everyone”, forcefully argues that caring for those left out requires a four-pronged policy strategy at the national level:

- Firstly, we must reach those left out by using universal policies (for example, inclusive growth, not mere growth) by:
  - enhancing opportunities for women;
  - addressing lifecycle capabilities; and,
  - mobilizing resources for human development priorities, whether domestic or international.
  
- Secondly, we must pursue measures for groups with specific needs (for example, by using affirmative action or promoting human development for marginalized groups, such as persons with disabilities).
  
- Thirdly, we must make human development resilient by:
  - promoting social protection;
  - addressing epidemics, shocks and risks;
  - combating violence and ensuring people's security;
  - maintaining human well-being in post-conflict situations; and,
  - addressing climate change.
  
- Fourthly, we must empower those left out by:
  - upholding human rights;
  - ensuring access to justice;
  - promoting inclusion; or,
  - ensuring accountability.

The report rightly recognizes that national policies need to be complemented by actions at the global level. It addresses issues related to the mandate, governance structures and work of global institutions.

It draws our attention to the fact that even though we have grown accustomed to heated debates winding up in gridlock at the national, regional and global levels, underneath the rumble of all that, consensus has been emerging around many global challenges to ensure a sustainable world for future generations.

Mr. Chair,

Let me end by making two final points:

The support of the Working Group could also be useful in identifying practical examples, good practices and means of support to ensure that the right to development remains rooted in efforts to support the achievement of the SDGs.

UNDP will continue to support and engage with the Chair of the Working Group on the Right to Development, its members and the recently appointed Special Representative. It is in this light that I look forward to the discussions and recommendations that will emerge from this 18<sup>th</sup> session of the Working Group.

Thank you.