



Section A: Survey

A1. 1. Background information

Name of the State: E s t o n i a

The institution responding to the survey: G o v e r n m e n t

Name and contact email address of the respondent: l a u r a . v i i l

A2. Please confirm that you do agree that the responses to the survey will be made publicly available on OHCHR`s website?

Yes

No

A3. 2. Do you have a National Development Plan or equivalent document to guide SDG action?

Yes

No, the country does not have a national development plan or equivalent document to guide SDG action.

A4. Please provide us with the following information:

Please add a hyperlink to the National Development Plan or equivalent document(s) h t t p s : / / v a

Please add the year when the national development plan took effect. 2 0 2 1

A5. Please upload the National Development Plan or equivalent document(s).

If you have problems uploading the document please send the document to doris.schmitz-meiners@un.org



A6. 3. Does the national development plan (NDP) or equivalent document(s) adopt an “integrated approach” to the implementation of protection and promotion of human rights and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda? If so, please describe how.

Key issues: (a) How does the NDP promote the universally-applicable and interrelated nature of all SDGs and through this treats all human rights as inter-dependent and indivisible? (b) Does it use human rights standards applicable to different SDGs as a guidepost? (c) Does it draw upon / use relevant general comments and country recommendations by international human rights mechanisms (Treaty-based bodies, Universal Periodic Review, Special Procedures, ILO expert bodies)? Could you provide lessons learned and best practices?

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The “Estonia 2035” development strategy sets out strategic goals for the state and people of Estonia for the next fifteen years, and determines the changes necessary for achieving them. The activities are related to the development needs described in the strategy ‘Estonia 2035’ and Global Sustainable Development Goals (SDG). There is stated in the strategy that governance must be guided by the rule of law and people-centred approach, and the protection of fundamental human rights and freedoms must be guaranteed. The promotion and awareness raising of human rights are integrated in the “Estonia 2035” strategy and action plan. All necessary changes in the action plan are related to SDG-s.



A7. 4. Does the NDP or equivalent document(s) guiding national SDG action include a commitment to reduce discrimination and inequality including through a focus on groups at risk of being left behind? If so, please explain and share promising practices, lessons learned and remaining challenges.

Key issues: Does the NDP or equivalent document(s) (a) include a strategy and set out related actions to tackle discrimination and inequalities and ensure that no one is left behind? (b) How did the plan map disadvantaged groups in its analysis and its interventions based on all prohibited grounds of discrimination under international human rights law (c) Does it use disaggregated data, including sex-disaggregated data beyond gender, geography and age to monitor the situation of groups at risks of being left behind in the context of national development efforts (d) How does it make use of the recommendations of international and regional human rights mechanisms relating to inequalities and non-discrimination?

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The action plan highlights the objectives and indicators for the necessary change for each thematic bundle. Most of the indicators are presented by the disaggregated data. The activities are related to the development needs described in the strategy 'Estonia 2035' and Global Sustainable Development Goals. Commitments to reduce discrimination and inequality and ensure that no one is left behind are determined mainly in the strategic goals about people and society. For example, changes, to increase social cohesion and equal opportunities in education and the labour market, are planned through minimisation of the gender pay gap and creating opportunities for people with special needs.



A8. 5. Faced with the COVID-19 pandemic, has your country been able to adopt economic and financial policies and measures to avoid human rights setbacks and to bring your country back on track to achieve the SDGs? How has your country approached aligning SDG financing with its human rights obligations? What have been the main challenges and lessons learned?

Key issues: Please share examples of good practices and lessons on: (a) Ways in which macroeconomic policies aimed at generating the necessary resources both domestically and internationally have been guided by obligations on economic, social and other human rights? (b) Approaches to rebalance public expenditure and fiscal policies with the aim of tackling pre-existing inequalities; (c) Examples of how stimulus packages have been designed and assessed with a non-discrimination and equality lens? (d) Methodologies to monitor the impact of loans and grants from international financial institutions on states' ability to meet ESCR core obligations? (e) Approaches used to integrate a human rights perspective into national SDG financing strategies/frameworks.

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Estonia has adopted different financial policies to bring country back on track during COVID-19 pandemic. For example, to restore the accessibility of education, government supported quick testing in schools to provide face to face learning instead of online learning. Also there were support measures to maintain the salary in the sectors where the COVID-19 had severe impact.



A9. 6. Has your country been able to use the Voluntary National Review (VNR) under the umbrella of the High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) to strengthen the integration of human rights in national development efforts? If so, please describe how and provide examples?

Key issues: (a) Has the country received support from the UN System on using the VNR to help address human rights issues? (b) What approaches were used to make best use of the analysis and recommendations of international and regional human rights mechanisms when preparing the VNR? (c) Where consultations with stakeholders, including with vulnerable groups, held in preparation of the VNR? If so, how was the information used by ministries/institutions to advance human rights implementation and accelerate SDG progress?

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Estonian last review since the adoption of the UN 2030 Agenda was presented in 2020. In the VNR we brought out main strengths (quality education, effective healthcare organisation, high employment rate with minimal long-term unemployment) and weaknesses (gender equality, decreasing the risk of poverty for women and disabled people, including families with disabled children). Stakeholders and other non-governmental organisations gave input about several activities which protect and promote human rights. Our side-event, co-hosted with Georgia, dealt with education and innovation. Due to the unprecedented crisis caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, there have been major losses in learning around the world. In the event there was discussed about different actions how to provide quality education for everyone in these circumstances.



A10. 7. Does the national development plan establish a monitoring and accountability mechanism where civil society and other stakeholders, including representatives of vulnerable are included and which offers the possibility for feedback, complaints and contributing inputs into policy-making?

Key issues: (a) Does the NDP or equivalent document guiding national-level SDG action provide for an ad-hoc or formal monitoring mechanism? (b) Are civil society and other stakeholders, including representatives of vulnerable groups, participating in decision making and monitoring processes? What methodologies have you developed to ensure their active and meaningful participation? (d) Does the strategy envisage any possibility for non-judicial/judicial recourse (including with the support of NHRIs) should human rights concerns emerge in the context of national development efforts?

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In order to monitor the implementation of the sustainable development goals, Estonia operates on the basis of sustainable development indicators agreed with the participation of ministries, Statistics Estonia, and stakeholders. In 2021, the list of Estonia's sustainable development indicators was updated to be in line with global sustainable development goals and confirmed by the Estonian Commission for the Sustainable Development. The Commission consists of umbrella organisations dealing with various sustainable development issues. Sustainable development indicators, are available to all on the web as a data-driven "statistics tree" (<https://tamm.stat.ee/?lang=en>), which provides an overview of the state of implementation of the goals by all areas of the government.

A11. 9. Is there any other information that you would like to share on integrated approaches to the promotion and protection of human right and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda?

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Thank you for taking this survey!