ANNEX

Word Version of online consultations with Member States

"Best practices, challenges and lessons learned concerning integrated approaches to the promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at national level"

1. **Background information**

   ✓ Name of the State: **Romania**
   ☐ The institution responding to the survey: **Department of Sustainable Development (DSD)**
   ☐ Name and contact email address of the respondent:

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

   ☐ Yes
   ☐ No

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

   Please add a hyperlink or upload the National Development Plan or equivalent document(s)
   https://dezvoltaredurabila.gov.ro/files/public/10000001/planul_national_de_actiune_pentru_implementarea_snddr_2030_hg.pdf /
   https://dezvoltaredurabila.gov.ro/files/public/10000001/Romania-Sustainable-Development-Strategy-2030-en.pdf

The National Action Plan *is the key document guiding the implementation of the Romania 's Sustainable Development Strategy 2030 (ROSDS 2030), in line with the objectives of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the strategic documents of the European Union, in all sectoral policies, for the sustainable development at national level, during 2022-2030.*

   ☐ *Please add the year when the national development plan took effect -2022*

4. **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. (Max. 300 words)**

The elaboration of the National Action Plan for the implementation of the RO SDS 2030 was coordinated by the General Secretariat of the Romanian Government through the Department of Sustainable Development, after several consultations with various representatives from

academia, national research institutes, business sector, youth organizations, civil society and representatives of the social partners.

Since 2017, Romanian Government, through the establishment of the Department of Sustainable Development (DSD) (GD No. 313/2017), is fully taking on board its active role in implementing the SDGs. With the approval of ROSDS in November 2018 (Government Decision No. 877/2018), the Romanian Government, has engaged in a constant effort to advance effective, efficient, transparent, innovative and citizen-centered governance for sustainable development.

5. **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. (Max 300 words)**

The Action Plan for the implementation of the RO SDS was finalized in 2021 and approved in 2022 following a consultation process that consisted of eight rounds of workshops with stakeholders from all social segments. Its approach is adapted to the institutional context and to the Department of Sustainable Development's ability to act as an institutional catalyst, as it sits within the Government Office of Romania. The actions are mainly aimed at inter-institutional coordination, so that line ministries and all institutions are actively involved in the implementation of the 2030 National Sustainable Development Strategy.

The governance of the SDGs is an important steering tool that aim at achieving a more sustainable future - the complexity and interrelation of the of the 17 SDGs requires integrated, holistic and coherent policy-making where decision-making, implementation and monitoring involves actors from the public and private sector as well as civil society. Diversity of participating actors is essential. - the inclusion of different actors in the drafting of policy proposals is important for more effective results on the basis of mutual learning, increased ownership - with regard to complex and interrelated sustainability goals, policy coherence can contribute to the reduction of trade-offs between different sectoral policies and thereby lead to more effective implementation.

6. **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? (Max 300 words)**

As a solution to the COVID-19 crisis and for aligning the short-term responses with achievement of long-term economic, social and environmental objectives of the 2030 Agenda, DSD enhanced its role and strengthened the governance of SDGs. The approach comprised several stands: designing and effectively applying the new ROSDS; strengthening the institutional framework for coordination and implementation; strengthening the effectiveness of Romanian institutions involved in implementation of Agenda 2030; mainstreaming SDGs in policy-making through an Action Plan for implementation of ROSDS; monitoring and

reporting; ensuring policy coherence for sustainable development; engagement of civil society, private sector and other stakeholders; engagement of DSD in the world.

According to the OECD evaluation (http://dezvoltaredurabila.gov.ro/web/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/Romania-Institutional-Scan_final.pdf) "Romania has a strong strategic framework in place to guide the implementation of the SDGs. Building on these efforts, there are opportunities to promote greater Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development (PCSD) as well as to further develop the government's capacity to link policy planning and budgeting to support the implementation of the SDGs" To support the PCSD, OECD recommended that: A sustainable development lens is incorporated into key government documents and processes, underpinned by supporting guidance and coordination mechanisms. 3. The capacity of the public administration is further developed to improve awareness of, and analytical skills in relation to, sustainable development. 4. The role of oversight bodies, such as Parliamentary Sub-Committee for Sustainable Development, is bolstered to provide greater scrutiny of government actions to implement the SDGs.

Existing sectoral indicators and multi-level dimensions are embedded in the development of National Sustainable Development indicators.

7. **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? (Max 200 words)**

In 2018, Romania submitted to the HLPF, its first VNR, with the perspective of the second VNR in 2023.

The aim of the 2018 Voluntary National Review was to provide information on the Romanian preparation process and the strategies for implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It also underscores the commitment at political level to create the optimal environment that would allow sustainable public policies.

At the heart of the Romanian development paradigm, as presented in the Report, lie the key principles of sustainable development, such as: good governance and respect for the rule of law, human rights and gender mainstreaming. Romania strives to address inequalities of all kinds and engages in the creation of opportunities by a series of long and medium-term strategies, countrywide. It is an ongoing process, and the present report will enable us to calibrate and set future goals.

The Report outlines the steps taken towards the development of strategies and we hope that the particular experience of our country may be considered useful to other countries facing similar challenges. The vast capital of shared expertise that peers can benefit from during the implementation process is a great learning tool and Romania has also taken full advantage of it.

8. **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? (max 200 words)

*DSD has undertaken concrete actions for setting up and operationalise the Romanian institutional framework that ensures policy coherence to reach all 17 SDGs: - the Interdepartmental Committee for Sustainable Development (ICSD), the Consultative Council for Sustainable Development (CCSD) - comprises 34 members representing academia, scientific community and civil society, who advise the ICSD regarding the Action plan and tracking the results of policies implementation in the field of SD, Sustainable Development Hubs (SD Hubs) - a national network of experts at the level of each ministry, who pursue SDGs implementation in their field, acting as liaisons between their institutions and the DSD and the National Institute of Statistics (implementing, monitoring, reporting), **Coalition for Sustainable Development - a national network of relevant stakeholders representing civil society, acting as communication channel between governors and citizens. Recently, the National Action Plan for sustainable development was finalized.***