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Speech at High-Level Panel Discussion at the UN Human Rights Council on human rights mainstreaming: “The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and human rights with an emphasis on the right to development”

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I am pleased to participate in this important and timely discussion on human rights mainstreaming in the 2030 Agenda, and to speak on how UNDP and the broader UN Development System are working to support countries to integrate human rights into their implementation of the Agenda.

2015 was a landmark year for development. UN Member States reached historic agreements and set global agendas which will guide development priorities for a generation. Across these agendas, Member States have committed to eradicating poverty, reducing inequalities, and securing the future of the planet and the wellbeing of future generations. Our collective commitment is to leave no one behind.

The 2030 Agenda seeks to realize the human rights of all, and is grounded in the UN Charter, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights treaties, the Millennium Declaration, and the 2005 World Summit outcome. It is also informed by the Declaration on the Right to Development and other instruments. It emphasises the responsibilities of all States to respect, protect, and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all.
On UNDG mainstreaming of human rights in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda

Promoting respect for human rights is one of the three purposes set out in the United Nations Charter, and the importance of mainstreaming human rights within the UN system has been reaffirmed over many years. Within their specific mandates, all UN agencies, organizations, funds, and programmes contribute directly or indirectly to the realization of human rights.

In implementing the 2030 Agenda, many goals are very directly relevant to human rights, not least Goal 1 on poverty eradication, Goal 5 on gender equality, Goal 10 on reduced inequalities, and Goal 16 on peace, justice, and strong institutions.

Using a human rights-based approach to programming, UN Resident Co-ordinators and UN Country Teams (UNCTs) support Member States to strengthen national capacities for the promotion and protection of human rights. Implementation of Agenda 2030 can give momentum to this.


UNDG MAPS Approach to 2030 Agenda implementation

Support for human rights mainstreaming will be offered by the UN Development Group through its Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support (MAPS) framework. At countries’ request, MAPS
will help countries adapt the SDGs to national and local contexts, target efforts on priority areas, and access strategic policy support.

In collaboration with other UNDG entities, UNDP, WFP, and UNICEF have prepared a reference guide for UNCTs on mainstreaming the SDGs into national agendas, with tools for adapting the 2030 Agenda to national, sub-national, and local conditions which are based on human rights principles and aim to leave no one behind.

Already, many governments are requesting the UNDS to support SDG implementation – as of last week, more than eighty UNCTs had reported receipt of such requests.

SDG mainstreaming is underway in many countries:

- **Colombia** has already started integrating the SDGs into its national development plan, and monitors progress through a publicly accessible dashboard.

- **Honduras** has linked the SDGs to its Country Vision and Government Strategy

- In **Somalia**, UNDP is supporting initial SDG mainstreaming efforts such as the establishment of a statistical database for key indicators in line with Somalia’s national development plan. Tailoring support to SDG implementation in countries affected by conflict and fragility is critical in meeting the expectation of the 2030 Agenda that no-one should be left behind.

Many governments and UNCTs have already begun strategically repositioning the support offered by the UN system to align it with the 2030 Agenda. New UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAFs) are currently being prepared in more than thirty countries, and close to forty more will follow next year. This
newest generation of UNDAFs is driven by creative approaches and innovation, new partnership platforms, many more joint programmes among UN agencies, and a more dynamic set of funding strategies. These give us renewed opportunities to advance human rights-based approaches to programming.

**UNDP contribution to mainstreaming human rights in the 2030 Agenda**

UNDP sees human rights as an intrinsic part of development, and sees development as a means to realize human rights. All of UNDP's work is demand-driven, firmly grounded in the principle of national ownership, and focused on the capacity development of institutions.

UNDP currently supports more than sixty programme countries on human rights mainstreaming, including by integrating human rights into national development strategies, supporting follow-up to Universal Periodic Review (UPR) processes, and strengthening national human rights institutions.

Moreover, UNDP is the first UN agency to adopt and roll out formal social and environmental standards which guide us on translating the UN’s principles into on-the-ground impacts.

Within the framework of the UNDG’s MAPS approach, UNDP’s technical assistance is being sought to review, adapt, and amend national development plans, and develop new planning instruments which are aligned with the SDGs.

The 2030 Agenda encourages Member States to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress on the Agenda at the national and sub-national levels which are country-led and country-driven. Member States are already subject to reporting obligations in many areas related to the SDGs to UN bodies - such as to the Human
Rights Council, treaty monitoring bodies, and specialized agencies. Recommendations from international human rights mechanisms are taken seriously by Member States, and can provide practical guidance on priorities and on steps which can be taken to meet human rights commitments, which in turn can contribute to progress on Agenda 2030. By fully utilizing these existing human rights reporting and review processes for SDG reporting, countries can improve and facilitate their SDG reporting.

UNDP and the wider UN development system stand ready to support countries with the implementation of Agenda 2030, including on human rights mainstreaming. National human rights institutions will have an important role to play in building the more peaceful and inclusive societies envisaged under Agenda 2030. The UNDG counts on the support of all partners in realizing the development and human rights aspirations reflected in Agenda 2030.