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The Global Initiative
for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights



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Annual Conference of the GHRP – Connectivity of Human Rights Mechanisms

CONCEPT NOTE - Panel 2

United Nations Human Rights Mechanisms and Sustainable Development Goals

Maison de la Paix (Pétale 5), Monday 3 June 2019,
11:30 – 13:00

“The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development presents unprecedented opportunities for advancing the realization of economic, social and cultural rights” (UN Secretary-General)¹

*“Realization of any development goals should be seen as an important step on the longer, and continuous, road towards the full and effective realization of all human rights for all”
(Chairpersons of the UN treaty bodies)²*

The aim of this panel is to discuss the role of United Nations (UN) human rights mechanisms in the implementation and monitoring of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular those that aim to realize ESCR. By including the SDGs more systematically in their work, UN human rights mechanisms can fill part of the accountability gap of the 2030 Agenda adopted by the UN General Assembly in 2015. The recommendations of UN human rights mechanisms play an important role in identifying key human rights issues at the country level, clarifying the legal obligations of States and ensuring the participation of rights holders in the implementation and monitoring of the Goals to “leave no one behind”.

Virtually all of the SDGs and many of the targets correspond to the key contents of ESCR, and the 2030 Agenda makes very clear links to international human rights law, envisaging “a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity, the rule of law, justice, equality and non-discrimination”. Member States have emphasized their commitment to implement the Agenda “in a manner that is consistent with the rights and obligations of States under international law”. In terms of follow-up and review processes, it states that these will be participatory and rights-based, and will “benefit from the active support of the UN system”. UN human rights mechanisms are ideally placed to play a key role in this support by the UN.

During this panel, representatives of UN member states, UN human rights mechanisms, OHCHR, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), civil society organizations and academia will be invited to discuss the role of UN HR mechanisms in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

This panel will provide an opportunity to discuss recommendations made by the Geneva Academy in its Academy Briefing No.11, [*No One Will Be Left Behind. The Role of United Nations Human Rights Mechanisms in Monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals that Seek to Realize Economic, Social and Cultural Rights*](#) and in its [*Research Brief on ESCR and SDGs*](#), as well as by the Franciscans International in its toolbox on [*Human Rights, Sustainable Development and Climate Policies: Connecting the Dots*](#), and the Danish Institute for Human Rights in its Research Papers on [*The Role of National Human Rights Institutions in the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda*](#) and [*The Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Realizing Rights Through the Sustainable Development Goals*](#).

These publications analyse the role that UN human rights mechanisms – and NHRIs – have played – and should continue to play – in monitoring the SDGs that seek to realize ESCR. The publications draw attention to the need to fully integrate human rights into the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs, while also providing a set of concrete

¹ Report of the UN Secretary-General (Question of the realization in all countries of economic, social and cultural rights), UN doc. A/HRC/34/25, 14 December 2016, §32.

² Joint statement of the Chairpersons of the UN human rights treaty bodies on the Post-2015 development agenda, May 2013.

recommendations for States, UN human rights mechanisms, OHCHR and other UN agencies.

PANELLISTS

- **Miloon Kothari**, President of UPR Info, former UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing
- **Emily Mattheisen**, FIAN International
- **Steven Jensen**, Senior Researcher, Danish Institute for Human Rights
- **Christophe Golay**, Senior Research Fellow and Strategic Adviser on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, Geneva Academy (moderator)
- **Rio Hada**, Team Leader, ESCR, OHCHR
- **Caroline Dommen**, Independent Researcher, Sustainability, Human Rights and the Economy

PARTNERS

[OHCHR](#), [Danish Institute for Human Rights](#), [FIAN International](#), [Franciscans International](#), [Global Initiative for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights](#), [Friedrich Ebert Stiftung](#)

ANNEX – SDGS AND HUMAN RIGHTS³

SDGs and Related Targets	Human Rights Standards
<p>Goal 1</p> <p>End poverty in all its forms everywhere</p> <p>Targets include eradicating extreme poverty (less than \$1.25 a day), halving poverty, implementing social protection measures, and ensuring equal access of</p>	<p>Right to an adequate standard of living - UDHR, art. 25; ICESCR art. 11; CRC art. 27</p> <p>Right to social security – UDHR, art. 22; ICESCR art. 9; CRPD art. 28; CRC art. 26</p> <p>Equal rights of women in economic life – CEDAW arts. 11, 13, 14(2)(g), 15(2), 16(1)(f)</p>
<p>Goal 2</p> <p>End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, and promote sustainable agriculture</p> <p>Targets include ending hunger and malnutrition, ensuring access by all to safe, nutritious and sufficient food, improving agricultural productivity and incomes of rural women, indigenous peoples, family farmers, pastoralists and fishers, ensuring access to</p>	<p>Right to adequate food - UDHR art. 25; ICESCR art. 11; CRC art. 24(2)(c)]</p> <p>International cooperation, including ensuring equitable distribution of world food supplies - UDHR art. 28; ICESCR arts. 2(1), 11(2)]</p>
<p>Goal 3</p> <p>Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all age</p> <p>Targets include reducing maternal mortality, ending preventable child deaths, ending AIDS, tuberculosis, and malaria, promoting mental health, ensuring universal health coverage, universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care service, access to quality</p>	<p>Right to life - UDHR art.; ICCPR art. 6; CEDAW art. 12; CRC art. 6</p> <p>Right to health – UDHR art. 25; ICESCR art. 12, CEDAW art. 12; CRC art. 24</p> <p>Special protection for mothers and children – ICESCR art.10</p> <p>Right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its application – UDHR art. 27; ICESCR art. 15(1)(b)</p> <p>International cooperation – UDHR art.</p>

³ Adapted by the Geneva Academy, the original table is on OHCHR webpage on *Human Rights and the Sustainable Development Goals*, http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/MDGs/Post2015/SDG_HR_Table.pdf

<p>Goal 4</p> <p>Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all</p> <p>Targets include ensuring universal access to free, quality pre-primary, primary and secondary education, improving vocational skills, ensuring equal access to education.</p>	<p>Right to education –UDHR art. 26; ICESCR art. 13; CRC arts. 23(3), 28, 29; CRPD art. 24</p> <p>Equal rights of women and girls in the field of education – CEDAW art. 10</p> <p>Right to work, including technical and vocational training – ICESCR art. 6</p> <p>International cooperation – UDHR art.</p>
<p>Goal 5</p> <p>Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</p> <p>Targets include eliminating discrimination and violence against women and girls, valuing unpaid care and domestic work, ensuring the full participation of women, access to reproductive health care, and equal access of women to economic resources</p>	<p>Elimination of all forms of discrimination against women – CEDAW arts. 1-5; CRC arts 2, 7, 11, 13, 16</p> <p>Right to decide the number and spacing of children – CEDAW arts. 12, 16(1)(e); CRC art. 24(2)(f)</p> <p>Special protection for mothers and children – ICESCR art. 10 Elimination of violence against women and girls – CEDAW arts. 1-6; CRC arts. 24(3), 35</p>
<p>Goal 6</p> <p>Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</p> <p>Targets include ensuring universal and equitable access to safe and affordable drinking water, and to adequate sanitation and hygiene for all, reducing pollution.</p>	<p>Right to safe drinking water and sanitation – ICESCR art. 11</p> <p>Right to health – UDHR art. 25; ICESCR art. 12</p> <p>Equal access to water and sanitation for rural women – CEDAW art. 14(2)(h)</p>
<p>Goal 7</p> <p>Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all</p> <p>Targets include ensuring universal access to</p>	<p>Right to an adequate standard of living – UDHR art. 25; ICESCR art. 11</p> <p>Right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its application – UDHR art. 27; ICESCR art. 15(1)(b)</p>

<p>Goal 8</p> <p>Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</p> <p>Targets include promoting sustained economic growth, improving resource efficiency in production and consumption, achieving full and productive employment and</p>	<p>Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work – UDHR art. 23; ICESCR arts. 6, 7, 10;</p> <p>CRPD art. 27</p> <p>Prohibition of slavery, forced labour, and trafficking of persons – UDHR art. 4; ICCPR art. 8; CEDAW art. 6; CRC arts. 34-36</p> <p>Equal rights of women in relation to employment – CEDAW art. 11</p>
<p>Goal 9</p> <p>Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialisation and foster innovation</p> <p>Targets include ensuring affordable and equitable access for all to quality infrastructure, promoting employment generating industrialisation, increasing access of small-scale enterprises to financial services and markets, supporting innovation</p>	<p>Right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its application – UDHR art. 27; ICESCR art. 15(1)(b)</p> <p>Right to access to information – UDHR art. 19; ICCPR art. 19(2)</p> <p>Right to adequate housing, including land and resources – UDHR art. 25; ICESCR art. 11</p> <p>Equal rights of women to financial credit and rural infrastructure –</p>
<p>Goal 10</p> <p>Reduce inequality within and among countries</p> <p>Targets include promoting higher growth rates for the bottom 40 per cent, promoting social, economic and political inclusion, reducing inequalities in opportunities and outcomes, ensuring social protection for all, securing participation in economic decision making, facilitating migration, and reducing transaction costs for migrant remittances</p>	<p>Right to equality and non-discrimination – UDHR art. 2; ICESCR art. 2(2); ICCPR arts. 2(1), 26; CERD art. 2(2); CEDAW art. 2; CRC art. 2; CRPD art. 5; CMW art. 7</p> <p>Right to participate in public affairs – UDHR art. 21; ICCPR art. 25; CEDAW art. 7; ICERD art. 5; CRPD art. 29;</p> <p>Right to social security – UDHR art. 22; ICESCR arts. 9-10; CRPD art. 28</p> <p>Promotion of conditions for</p>

<p>Goal 11</p> <p>Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</p> <p>Targets include ensuring access to housing, basic services and public transport for all, participatory planning of human settlements, safeguarding cultural and natural heritage, and strengthening resilience to disasters.</p>	<p>Right to adequate housing, including land and resources – UDHR art. 25; ICESCR art. 11</p> <p>Right to participate in cultural life – UDHR art. 25; ICESCR art. 15; ICERD arts. 5, 7; CRPD art. 30; CRC art. 31</p> <p>Accessibility of transportation, facilities and services particularly of persons with disabilities, children, and rural women – CRPD art. 9(1); CRC art. 23; CEDAW art. 14(2)</p> <p>Protection from natural disasters – CRPD art. 11</p>
<p>Goal 12</p> <p>Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns</p> <p>Targets include achieving sustainable management and efficient use of natural resources, improving waste management, promoting sustainable public procurement.</p>	<p>Right to health including the right to safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment – UDHR art. 25(1); ICESCR art. 12</p> <p>Right to adequate food and right to safe drinking water – UDHR art. 25(1); ICESCR art. 11</p> <p>Right of all peoples to freely dispose of their natural resources – ICERD</p>
<p>Goal 13</p> <p>Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</p> <p>Targets include strengthening resilience and adaptation to climate change and natural disasters, including in marginalised communities, and implementing the Green Climate fund.</p>	<p>Right to health including the right to safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment – UDHR art. 25(1); ICESCR art. 12; CRC art. 24; CEDAW art. 12; CMW art. 28</p> <p>Right to adequate food and right to safe drinking water – UDHR art. 25(1); ICESCR art. 11</p> <p>Right of all peoples to freely dispose of</p>

<p>Goal 14</p> <p>Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development</p> <p>Targets include reducing marine pollution, conserving coastal ecosystems, coastal marine areas and fish stock, securing market access for small scale fishers and protecting marine</p>	<p>Right to health including the right to safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment – UDHR art. 25(1); ICESCR art. 12; CRC art. 24; CEDAW art. 12;</p> <p>CMW art. 28</p> <p>Right to adequate food and right to safe drinking water – UDHR art. 25(1); ICESCR art. 11</p> <p>Right of all peoples to freely dispose of</p>
<p>Goal 15</p> <p>Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</p> <p>Targets include promoting sustainable management of freshwater, mountain ecosystems and forests, combatting desertification, halting biodiversity loss, and combatting poaching and trafficking of protected species.</p>	<p>Right to health including the right to safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment – UDHR art. 25(1); ICESCR art. 12; CRC art. 24; CEDAW art. 12; CMW art. 28</p> <p>Right to adequate food and right to safe drinking water – UDHR art. 25(1); ICESCR art. 11</p> <p>Right of all peoples to freely dispose of their natural wealth and resources</p> <p>– ICCPR, ICESCR art. 1(2)</p>
<p>Goal 16</p> <p>Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</p> <p>Targets include reducing all forms of violence, ending violence against and trafficking of children, promoting rule of law and justice for all, reducing illicit financial and arms flows, corruption and bribery, developing effective institutions, ensuring participation in decision making at all levels, and providing legal identity for all</p>	<p>Right to life, liberty and security of the person – UDHR art. 3; ICCPR arts. 6(1), 9(1); ICPED art. 1</p> <p>Freedom from torture – UDHR art. 5; ICCPR art. 7; CAT art. 2; CRC art. 37(a)</p> <p>Protection of children from all forms of violence, abuse or exploitation – CRC arts. 19, 34, 36, 37(a))</p> <p>Right to access to justice and due process – UDHR arts. 8, 10; ICCPR arts. 2(3), 14-15; CEDAW art. 2(c)</p> <p>Right to legal personality – UDHR art. 6; ICCPR art. 16; CRPD art. 12</p>

<p>Goal 17</p> <p>Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development</p> <p>Targets include strengthening domestic and international resources, debt sustainability, technology transfer and capacity building, promoting trade, enhancing policy and institutional coherence, respecting countries' policy space, promoting multi-stakeholder</p>	<p>Right of all peoples to self-determination – ICCPR, ICESCR art. 1(1)</p> <p>Right to development and international cooperation – UDHR art. 28; ICESCR art. 2(1); CRC art. 4; CRPD art. 32(1)</p> <p>Right of everyone to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its application, including international cooperation in the scientific field – UDHR art. 27(1); ICESCR art. 15(1)</p>
<p>List of International Human Rights Instruments</p> <p>UDHR (Universal Declaration of Human Rights), ICESCR (International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights), ICCPR (International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights), CERD (International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination), CEDAW (International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women), CRC (Convention on the Rights of the Child), CAT (Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, CMW (International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families), CRPD (Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, ICPEP (International Convention for the Protection of All</p>	