

## **Stakeholder Consultation on Indicators for Monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in an EU Context**

Further to our participation in the stakeholder consultation meeting, please find below the input from the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI), as reflected in oral interventions on 30 March 2017.

The input of ENNHRI to the current EU consultation on the SDGs is embedded in the wider engagement of ENNHRI and its members on the SDGs at different policy-levels, including the UN, regional and national levels. The 2015 Merida Declaration gives an overview of the '[The Role of National Human Rights Institutions in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#)'

As human rights instruments and the 2030 SDG Agenda are mutually reinforcing, ENNHRI promotes and supports the work of NHRIs on the SDGs, including through cooperation on the topic with international and regional partners.<sup>1</sup>

### **1. Align the EU Monitoring Framework with the Global Monitoring Framework**

We would again like to emphasise the importance of the EU indicators being aligned with the Global Monitoring Framework as closely as possible. The 2030 Agenda is intended to be universal, and in order to ensure systematic monitoring against the global indicators, it is crucial that regional and national efforts are as closely aligned with this framework as possible, to enable systematic monitoring and comparability of data across regions. We recognise the unique characteristics of the EU, which might require some adaptation from the Global Monitoring Framework, but many indicators will still be relevant.<sup>2</sup>

We also recommend that, in line with the commitment to 'leave no one behind', the EU prioritises the disaggregation of data in its first report, which will act as a baseline for future measurement.

### **2. Include Human Rights Indicators beyond EU Statistical Information**

Human rights are reflected throughout the SDGs and targets. Concretely, 156 of the 169 targets have substantial linkages to human rights and labour standards. The SDGs and human rights are thereby tied together in a mutually reinforcing way.<sup>3</sup>

The proposed EU indicators are of a purely statistical nature and are exclusively outcome based, whereas the SDG indicator framework also includes other types of indicators. We recommend pursuing a more comprehensive monitoring of SDG implementation, through supplementing outcome indicators with additional structural and process indicators. These have a shorter response time, and so can directly measure states' commitments and

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<sup>1</sup> For example: in cooperation with UNDP, and the Arab Network for NHRIs, ENNHRI organised a Regional Consultation on 'The Role of National Human Rights Institutions in Implementing the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals', 5 December 2016, Istanbul.

<sup>2</sup> See, for example, EU's experience of monitoring the implementation of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

<sup>3</sup> For an overview of the links between SDGs and human rights instruments, including European human rights instruments, see the DIHR, 'the Human Rights Guide to the Sustainable development Goals': <http://sdg.humanrights.dk/>.

efforts. Complementarity can be sought with existing human rights monitoring information, which focuses considerably on structural and process elements. For example, the ratification of international human rights treaties, or the adoption of national laws and policies to implement international human rights standards, are easily identifiable structural indicators.

There are many source of data on human rights indicators, which can be used to measure progress on SDGs, including research from the EU Agency on Fundamental Rights and many national actors, such as NHRIs. A collaborative approach can develop creative, innovative, efficient and cost-effective monitoring and data collection, which can supplement statistical data.

### **3. Inclusion of an Indicator on National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)**

We recommend the inclusion of an indicator that is aligned with SDG Indicator 16. a.1 (Existence of independent National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) in compliance with the Paris Principles). As we highlighted in the Consultation meeting on 30<sup>th</sup> March, it is not only the existence of NHRIs, but also their level of compliance with the Paris Principles that is of relevance in this context.

The [Paris Principles relating to the Status of National Human Rights Institutions](#) clearly outline the international principles relating to the composition and responsibilities, guarantees of independence and pluralism and methods of operation of NHRIs. The level of compliance of NHRIs with the Paris Principles is assessed on a regular basis, and NHRIs are given a status depending on their compliance with the Paris Principles. As recognised across the UN and in Europe, NHRIs accredited with an A-status are considered to be compliant with the Paris Principles.<sup>4</sup> A full and regularly updated list of the status of NHRIs –including across Europe- is available at: <http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/Documents/Status%20Accreditation%20Chart.pdf> .

NHRIs are crucial actors in the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs, and their compliance with the Paris Principles is a crucial indicator under SDG Goal 16 relating to accountable institutions.

#### **About ENNHRI and NHRIs**

ENNHRI brings together 41 National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI) from across wider Europe. NHRIs are state bodies, independent of government, with a broad mandate to promote and protect human rights. Their functions include monitoring human rights, advising state bodies, individual complaints handling, awareness raising, and reporting to international mechanisms. NHRIs are accredited every five years to ensure their independence, pluralism, and accountability.

ENNHRI supports its members to promote and protect human rights. It carries this out through assisting in the establishment and accreditation of NHRIs; coordinating exchange of information and good practice between members; facilitating capacity building and training; and engaging with regional and international mechanisms.

More information can be found at [www.ennhri.org](http://www.ennhri.org)

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<sup>4</sup> For more information, see ENNHRI 'Accreditation at a Glance': [http://ennhri.org/IMG/pdf/ennhri\\_s\\_at\\_a\\_glance\\_final\\_and\\_covers.pdf](http://ennhri.org/IMG/pdf/ennhri_s_at_a_glance_final_and_covers.pdf) .