

NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTIONS

ENGAGING WITH THE

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

Given the convergence between the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and human rights standards, **National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)** can play a key role in the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.

The Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) has undertaken a study on how NHRIs support the implementation of the SDGs. The findings reaffirm the key role of NHRIs with regards to sustainable development, and contribute to the sharing of experiences, good practices and knowledge management with and among NHRIs, civil society, governments and other stakeholders.

The study includes:

✓ 14

Country-specific cases of how NHRIs engage with the SDGs

✓ 20

Examples of SDG-related cooperation between NHRIs - regionally and globally

✓ 33

References and links to policy papers, tools, official documents and other materials to enhance the role of NHRIs in the implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

NHRI ENGAGEMENT WITH SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development explicitly references human rights throughout its text and the SDGs “seek to realize the human rights of all”. In other words, the 2030 Agenda and human rights are inevitably tied together. Given their unique mandate and role, **National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)** can play a key role in the implementation and follow-up of the Agenda, and are at the core of the SDG ‘web of accountability’.

The **Mérida Declaration**, adopted by GANHRI, outlines how NHRIs can apply their unique mandate and functions to support the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the realisation of human rights. In accordance with the Mérida Declaration **NHRIs can contribute to the Agenda** by:

- **Monitoring** progress at the local, national, regional and international levels, including by building on existing international and regional human rights reporting and monitoring mechanisms;
- Assisting in the shaping of national indicators and sound data collection systems, including by providing advice and expertise on a **Human Rights-Based Approach to Data**;
- Promoting **transparent and inclusive processes for participation** and consultation in the development of national strategies to achieve the SDGs, including by reaching out to those who are furthest behind and collaborating with civil society and other actors;
- Supporting **capacity-building** and sharing of experiences on a Human Rights-Based Approach to the SDGs through regional and global NHRI networks.

In addition to this, NHRIs already contribute to the realisation of the 2030 Agenda through their core functions, including by monitoring human rights issues relating to specific goals and targets, such as **Goal 16** on peace, justice and sustainable institutions, **target 4.7** on human rights education and targets **5.c, 10.3 and 16.b** on elimination of discriminatory legislation.

The different NHRI experiences with SDG implementation and follow-up presented in the study bear witness of the wide range of approaches that NHRIs make use of to engage with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and ensure accountability in the process.