“Human rights and the 2030 Agenda: Unleash the potential of Goal 17’s focus on partnerships and participation to promote human rights and the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals”

Venue: Public Foyer, Ground Floor UNCC
Date: Thursday, 29 March 2018
Time: 12:00-13:30

Background

The 2030 Agenda is explicitly grounded in the Universal Declaration for Human Rights, international human rights treaties and the Declaration on the Right to Development. The Sustainable Development Goals “seek to realize the human rights of all” and to “leave no one behind”. The Agenda emphasizes the need for a “revitalized Global Partnership for Sustainable Development, based on a spirit of strengthened global solidarity, focused particularly on the needs of the poorest and most vulnerable and with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people”, and puts partnerships at the heart of Goal 17. There is thus an important interface between human rights and the global development agenda, and a framework for partnerships attending to inequality and discrimination so that no one is left behind.

States and other stakeholders must work together to leverage the inter-dependent and mutually reinforcing nature of human rights and the 2030 Agenda, to help promote this vision of people-centered and human rights-based development. Innovative multi-stakeholder partnerships are vital to achieve this.

Scope

Some positive examples of partnerships and participation in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda have emerged, involving multiple stakeholders at national and international levels. For example, in 2017, many States (including Denmark, and Fiji and Thailand from Asia-Pacific) established the Group of Friends initiative on ‘Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” during the 34th session of the Human Rights Council in 2017. It aims to facilitate a practical, action-oriented and inclusive conversation, and concerted and inclusive action about the role of human rights in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and the positive effect its fulfilment will have. Partnerships have also been established with national human rights institutions, civil society organizations, indigenous peoples and other groups to build engagement at national, regional and global levels on implementation of human rights and SDGs.
To bring this conversation on SDGs and human rights to the regional level, and foster exchange of ideas and lessons learned among multiple partners, the government of Denmark, IPMG, DIHR, UNDG Asia-Pacific Human Rights Network and OHCHR are organizing this side-event. The objective is to provide a space for multiple stakeholders, including representatives from States, civil society, rights holders, national human rights institutions and the UN to share their views on how to strengthen partnerships and participation for integrating human rights in the implementation of the SDGs.

**Key Questions**

- What are the emerging experiences and good examples of partnerships and participation in establishing multi-stakeholder partnership to SDG-human rights implementation?
- How can human rights frame and guide national and regional partnerships to leave no one behind, through collaboration on SDG and human rights monitoring, data collection and analysis?
- How can human rights contribute to ensuring an enabling environment to strengthen partnerships and meaningful participation of stakeholders in the implementation of the SDGs?
- What practical tools are available for supporting integrated approaches to human rights and SDG implementation and follow up?

**Programme**

The event will be a moderated discussion with welcome remarks by the Ambassador of Denmark, followed by a representative of Thailand (TBC). Moderated by the UNDG AP Human Rights Network Co-Chair, panelists’ remarks will be followed by an interactive discussion with the audience, and a presentation by DIHR of relevant tools for integrated approaches to human rights and SDG implementation and follow up.

**Panelists/discussants**

Mr. Anders Lønstrup Graugaard, Deputy Head of Mission, Royal Danish Embassy (Bangkok)

Ms. Kanwana Hemkamon, Counsellor, Development Affairs Division, Department of International Organizations, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Thailand

Ms. Joan Carling, Convener, Indigenous Peoples’ Major Group for Sustainable Development (Philippines)

Mr. Mimin Dwi Hartono, Acting Head of Human Rights Education Division, Komnas HAM, National Human Rights Commission of Indonesia (Jakarta)

Ms. Heike Alefsen, Senior Regional Human Rights Adviser, UN Development Group Asia-Pacific / Co-Chair, UNDG AP Human Rights Network (Bangkok)

Ms. Sachini Perera, Programme Officer, International Women’s Rights Action Watch Asia Pacific

Presentation of tools: Ms. Birgitte Feiring, Danish Institute for Human Rights (Copenhagen)

Closing remarks: Ms. Cynthia Veliko, OHCHR South-East Asia Regional Representative (Bangkok)

**Moderator:** Ms. Ingrid Fitzgerald, Gender and Human Rights Adviser, UN Population Fund (UNFPA), Regional Office for South-East Asia / Co-Chair, UNDG Asia-Pacific Human Rights Network (Bangkok)
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