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## Human Rights Council

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Technical assistance and capacity-building

### **Written statement\* submitted by the Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association, a non- governmental organization in special consultative status**

The Secretary-General has received the following written statement which is circulated in accordance with Economic and Social Council resolution 1996/31.

[21 May 2018]

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\* This written statement is issued, unedited, in the language(s) received from the submitting non-governmental organization(s).

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## **HRC Role in the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals**

### **The role of the Human Rights Council in the implementation of the Sustainable Development goals**

**Submitted to:** Human Rights Council, 38th session.

**Submitted by:** Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association. (in consultative status with the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations)

**Date:** June 2018.

**Provided on:** Item 10: Report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on support to United Nations human rights mechanisms and United Nations country teams in the implementation of the 2030

### **Preface**

The entire sustainable development strategy 2030 contains references to human rights, with explicit recognition that implementation must remain consistent with and contribute to the achievement of relevant international norms and obligations. The 17 Sustainable Development goals and their 169 targets reflect human rights standards directly or indirectly, integrating overarching principles of human rights such as participation, accountability and non-discrimination, taking into account the specific challenges and circumstances of each State and therefore Sustainable development strategy 2030 has a major impact on the enjoyment of human rights in all countries of the world if it is properly implemented.

### **General content of sustainable development goals**

The sustainable Development Goals 2030 are based on economic and social rights, with the aim of eradicating poverty (goal 1) and hunger (Goal 2) and ensuring access to health care (goal 3), education (Goal 4), water and sanitation (goal 6), as well as employment and work (eighth objective). The sixteenth objective is also aimed at achieving peaceful and inclusive societies, access to justice and the creation of inclusive and accountable institutions that reflect a range of civil and political Rights.

The eradication of poverty and inequality and the achievement of human dignity are among the key objectives of the sustainable development agenda 2030 and the commitment to leave no one behind and reach those in the rear first, it is a commitment to the principles of human rights, equality and non-discrimination. These principles are promoted through the autonomous objectives of reducing inequality within and among States (goal 10) and achieving equality gender (goal 5) also includes explicit references to indigenous peoples, persons with disabilities, children, migrants and other rights holders Including Afro-descendant communities in the Americas.

It can therefore be said that international mechanisms, bodies and charters provide an important framework for the implementation of sustainable development goals where it contributes to the realization of human rights, indicating that international and regional human rights mechanisms can be used, including; the Human Rights Council, the special procedures, the universal periodic review and the treaty bodies, as well as the supervisory bodies of the International Labour Organization to assess and guide the implementation of the sustainable Development goals.

### **Assessment of the role of the Human Rights Council in the implementation of the Sustainable Development goals**

Maat Foundation points out that the role of the Human Rights Council in supporting sustainable development goals needs to be more prominent than the current situation. As the Council must directs all its mechanisms towards prioritizing the sustainable development agenda and contributes to the development of effective tools for measurement, follow-up and evaluation.

The foundation considers that some of the mechanisms emanating from the Council are trying to play an effective role in this direction, perhaps the most prominent mechanism is the universal periodic review, where the human rights situation in all States Members of the United Nations is reviewed every four and a half years. The outcome of each review is issued in a final report containing all the recommendations accepted by the State under review to be implemented prior to the next review cycle. It provides an opportunity for all States to publicize the actions they have

taken to improve their human rights situations and the actions they are taking to overcome challenges faced through the participation of the review in international experiences and ensuring the promotion, respect and protection of human rights, which intersect with the goals of the sustainable development strategy.

Through the universal periodic review and the reports submitted by special rapporteurs, the Human Rights Council was following the action taken by States to eliminate on poverty and hunger as well as elimination of discrimination in all its forms, in particular discrimination against women, measures taken by States to provide adequate housing and employment Development, which provides human beings with a decent life, also takes legislative action and actual practices on the ground in order to eliminate all forms of violence against women and the compatibility of counter-terrorism measures with general principles of human rights, the establishment of peace and equal access to justice for all.

However, despite the progress made by many countries in implementing the sustainable development goals, in particular the eradication of poverty and the improvement of health standards, eradication of epidemics and chronic diseases the final report of the United Nations 2017 on the progress of development goals Sustainable 2030 has made it clear that there are many shortcomings where we find:

-Although nearly 1 billion people have emerged from extreme poverty, poverty rates are still high in many countries, especially sub-Saharan African States, where half of the world's poverty live, especially in the context of the proliferation of armed conflicts that exacerbate poverty.

-Gender inequality, violence and discrimination against women continue to register high rates in many countries of the world, for example twenty-one percent of women between the ages of 20 and 24 are married before the age of 18 in South Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, according to the statistics for the year 2015.

-Climate and global warming issues are a real challenge to the environmental dimension of the 2030 Sustainable Development goals, especially as many countries are unable to meet their climate commitments.

-Progress in the promotion of justice, peace and equal access to justice has continued to vary within States and improvements in the enjoyment of better access by people in many States. The proliferation of armed conflicts in a number of regions around the world and the intensification of violence have led to further poverty and hunger, which has adversely affected the enjoyment of human rights <sup>1</sup>.

On the other hand, the rest of the human rights protection mechanisms are still less attentive and integrated into the issues of sustainable development in their work, in particular the human rights treaty bodies, and the Council did not adopt the sufficient number of resolutions and frameworks necessary to ensure that the issue of sustainable development goals is integrated and supported through its mechanisms.

### **Recommendations**

- Adopt the decisions necessary to ensure that the various human rights bodies are committed to addressing sustainable development issues in a systematic, institutionalized and sustained manner.
- Placing the sustainable development goals and their relationship to human rights as a separate item within the regular sessions of the Human Rights Council.
- The Human Rights Council should actively follow up on States' commitments to implement the goals of the sustainable development agenda 2030, particularly with regard to the commitments of developed countries to allocate 0.7% of their national income to development assistance to the poorer countries.
- Activating the mechanisms for the eradication of poverty and hunger, as it is the basis for the effective implementation of the objectives of sustainable development.
- Provide an effective benchmark for measuring progress in the implementation of recommendations made to States with regard to the promotion and protection of human rights and the associated implementation of the goals of the Sustainable Development Strategy 2030.

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<sup>1</sup> Sustainable Development Goals reports 2030, United Nations, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg3#1->