

Sustainable Development Goals and human rights



An introduction
for SRHR advocates

Who we are

The International Planned Parenthood Federation (IPPF) is a global service provider and a leading advocate of sexual and reproductive health and rights for all. We are a worldwide movement of national organizations working with and for communities and individuals. IPPF works towards a world where women, men and young people everywhere have control over their own bodies, and therefore their destinies. A world where they are free to choose parenthood or not; free to decide how many children they will have and when; free to pursue healthy sexual lives without fear of unwanted pregnancies and sexually transmitted infections, including HIV. A world where gender or sexuality are no longer a source of inequality or stigma. We will not retreat from doing everything we can to safeguard these important choices and rights for current and future generations.

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The SDGs and human rights

Background

In September 2015, UN Member States adopted an ambitious new global framework – the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the centre of the Agenda are the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), a set of 17 goals and 169 targets across social, economic and environmental areas of sustainable development, which UN Member States have committed to making a reality over the next 15 years.

Many of the 2030 Agenda's commitments are inherently linked to UN Member States' human rights obligations as outlined in international human rights treaties and other international and regional instruments. The 2030 Agenda's declaration underlines the grounding of the Agenda in international human rights documents.

This fact sheet looks at some of the linkages of the 2030 Agenda to human rights and suggests ways in which civil society organizations working on sexual and reproductive health and rights may rely on states' human rights obligations to push for progress towards the implementation of the Agenda.

The 2030 Agenda and sexual and reproductive health and rights

The 2030 Agenda includes many achievements in relation to gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment and sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights.

Importantly, both SDG 3 on health and SDG 5 on gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment include targets relating to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights. **Target 3.7, under SDG 3, calls for universal access to sexual and reproductive health-care services, including for family planning, information and education, and the integration of reproductive health into national strategies and programmes. Target 5.6, under SDG 5, calls for universal access to sexual and reproductive health and reproductive rights as agreed in accordance with the Programme of Action of the International Conference on Population and Development and the Beijing Platform for Action and the outcome documents of their review conferences.**

In addition, the 2030 Agenda requires all countries to take measures to end discrimination and eliminate violence against women and girls as well as harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation. It also emphasizes gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls as crucial to achieving all goals and targets and calls for the systematic

mainstreaming of a gender perspective in the implementation of the Agenda.

The 2030 Agenda and human rights

The declaration of the 2030 Agenda recognizes human rights as foundational to the Agenda. It underlines the Agenda's grounding in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and international human rights treaties and emphasizes states' responsibilities to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind.¹

"The new Agenda [...] is grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights treaties [...]" (para 10)

"We reaffirm the importance of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, as well as other international instruments relating to human rights and international law." (para 19)

"We emphasize the responsibilities of all States, in conformity with the Charter of the United Nations, to respect, protect and promote human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, without distinction of any kind as to race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth, disability or other status." (para 19)

¹ United Nations General Assembly resolution 70/1, Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, paras 10 and 19: www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E.

Many of the goals and targets correspond to essential dimensions of states' human rights commitments, as outlined in international human rights treaties, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW) and the Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC),² as well as other international and regional instruments and documents relating to human rights.

SDG 5 on gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment, for example, is strongly linked to obligations of states under CEDAW, which sets out women's rights to freely enter into marriage and to decide freely and responsibly on the number and spacing of their children.³ CEDAW also demands that women have access to health care services related to family planning as well as access to information and advice on family planning,⁴ which corresponds to elements of target 3.7.



2 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights: www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CCPR.aspx; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights: www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/ICESCR.aspx; Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women: www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CEDAW.aspx; Convention on the Rights of the Child: www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CRC.aspx.

3 CEDAW, Article 16 para 1 b and e.

4 CEDAW, Article 12 para 1 and Article 10 h.

Linking advocacy on the SDGs to human rights

The most effective way to get action on the goals and targets in the 2030 Agenda is to link them to existing commitments of governments that address the same issues.

Access to sexual and reproductive health and rights is an international human rights issue. Elements of sexual and reproductive health and rights are reflected in multiple rights set out in human rights treaties, such as the right to the highest attainable standard of health, the right to life, the right to education, the right to privacy, the right to be free from torture and the right to non-discrimination. Several components of sexual and reproductive health and rights are also reflected in obligations of states under CEDAW, which requires states parties to take measures to eliminate discrimination against women in all fields, including in education and health care and in matters relating to marriage and family relations.

Sexual and reproductive health and rights have also been addressed in the work of human rights treaty bodies which monitor the implementation of the international human rights treaties by states parties.

References to sexual and reproductive health and rights have been included in general comments and recommendations, which outline the treaty bodies' interpretations of their respective treaties,⁵ as well as in country-specific concluding observations and decisions in relation to individual complaints. Furthermore, sexual and reproductive health and rights have been the subject of recommendations made to states under the Universal Periodic Review and have also been addressed by the Human Rights Council's special procedures.⁶

Using human rights to strengthen advocacy asks on SDG implementation

Linking advocacy on the implementation of the SDGs to human rights can strengthen advocacy asks and can be an effective way of pushing for progress at national level. While commitments under the 2030 Agenda are of a political nature, human rights treaties are legally binding on the states that have ratified them, which may bolster advocacy asks

in relation to goals and targets that correspond to human rights obligations.⁷

Advocates may ask governments to pay close attention to interlinkages between the SDGs and related human rights obligations and standards in implementing the Agenda. When they are setting implementation plans for the goals and targets, governments may draw guidance from relevant provisions of international and regional human rights treaties and the practice of human rights mechanisms, such as recommendations provided in human rights treaty bodies' general comments or country-specific concluding observations or outcomes of the Universal Periodic Review.⁸

Advocates may, for these purposes, want to examine the outcomes of their state's reviews by human rights treaty bodies and under the Universal Periodic Review and see if they mention any issues related to sexual and reproductive health and rights that they can draw on in their advocacy work.

In line with human rights obligations, advocates may also encourage their

- 5 See, for example, the recently released ICESCR General Comment 22 on the right to sexual and reproductive health, <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G16/089/32/PDF/G1608932.pdf?OpenElement>, as well as joint CEDAW General Recommendation 31/CRC General Comment 18 on harmful practices, <http://daccess-ods.un.org/access.nsf/Get?Open&DS=CEDAW/C/GC/31/CRC/C/GC/18&Lang=E>, which states that "[s]pecial attention is [...] needed to ensure that women and adolescents have access to accurate information about sexual and reproductive health and rights [...], as well as access to adequate and confidential services" (para 68). See also ICESCR General Comment 20 on non-discrimination in economic, social and cultural rights, <http://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=4slQ6QSmIBEDzFEovLCuW1a0Ssab0oXTdlmnsJZZVQdqeXgncKnyIFC%2blzJlZGhsosnD23NsqR1Q1NNNgs2Qqv64k2vYou4POAC1yRpwBNq9vAi%2ftE5XET1wJohest>, which refers to unequal access by adolescents to sexual and reproductive health information and services as amounting to discrimination on the ground of age (para 29), or CEDAW General Recommendation 33 on women's access to justice, <http://docstore.ohchr.org/SelfServices/FilesHandler.ashx?enc=6QkG1d%2fPPRICAgHk7yhsldCrOIUtlvLRFdjh6%2fx1pWCd9kc8NuhsZOT1QuzhrDy1rlpOgSyxJmK%2fSo2p3MpTl8XVX726sFstlDNUt3ltpYxbPx0ZXE2HODywdPg5cvoO>, recommending that states parties "abolish rules and practices that require parental or spousal authorization for access to services such as education and health, including sexual and reproductive health" (para 25 c).
- 6 Important provisions in relation to sexual and reproductive health and rights can also be found in regional human rights treaties, such as the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention) www.coe.int/en/web/conventions/full-list/-/conventions/rms/090000168008482e, the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment and Eradication of Violence against Women (Convention of Belém do Pará) www.oas.org/en/mesecv/docs/BelemDoPara-ENGLISH.pdf and the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa (Maputo Protocol) www.achpr.org/files/instruments/women-protocol/achpr_instr_proto_women_eng.pdf.
- 7 See <http://indicators.ohchr.org> for an interactive country by country overview of the status of ratification of international human rights treaties as well as declarations and reservations submitted to the treaties.
- 8 See http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/TBSearch.aspx?Lang=en for treaty body documentation by country, committee and document type. Documentation of the Universal Periodic Review can be searched by country at www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/Documentation.aspx. Also see <http://uhri.ohchr.org/en> for a database of country-specific recommendations deriving from human rights mechanisms (treaty bodies, the Universal Periodic Review and Human Rights Council special procedures).

governments to invest particular effort in addressing those targets of the 2030 Agenda that correspond to minimum core obligations under economic and social rights, such as non-discriminatory access to health facilities, goods and services, especially for vulnerable or marginalized groups,⁹ or access to reproductive health care.¹⁰

Advocates may also call on their governments to ratify, or withdraw reservations to, human rights treaties in relevant areas, such as CEDAW or the Istanbul Convention, as a way of implementing their commitments under the 2030 Agenda.¹¹

Using human rights mechanisms to push for SDG implementation

States are required to report on the progress that they are making in realising human rights through Treaty Body Examinations and the Universal Periodic Review. Advocates can use these fora to raise their views on the challenges and gaps, and on how their governments are implementing their commitments under the 2030 Agenda.

States parties to international human rights treaties, such as the ICCPR, ICESCR, CEDAW and CRC, have to report periodically on the progress that they are making in implementing the treaties' provisions to the respective human rights treaty body.¹² For these purposes, states are required to submit a report detailing progress, as well as to engage in an oral discussion with members of the treaty body during a public session. At the end of the session, the treaty body issues concluding observations, outlining recommendations to the state for the further implementation of the treaty.

Furthermore, each UN Member State has to participate in a review of its human rights record under the Universal Periodic

Review of the Human Rights Council. Under this mechanism, each state is peer-reviewed every four and a half years on the fulfilment of its human rights obligations and commitments as set out in human rights treaties it has ratified, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the UN Charter, applicable international humanitarian law and any voluntary pledges or commitments it has made.¹³ States under review submit a report assessing the national human rights situation and participate in a discussion with other UN Member States during a meeting at the Human Rights Council. The Universal Periodic Review results in a set of recommendations made to the state under review by other UN Member States.

Civil society organizations can participate in the reviews of their states by treaty bodies and the Universal Periodic Review in different ways. Civil society can engage in advocacy throughout the review processes, calling for sexual and reproductive health and rights issues to be addressed in relevant submissions and interventions by their government, by other UN Member States, members of the treaty bodies and other stakeholders, such as UN agencies and National Human Rights Institutions.

Civil society organizations may also be able to participate in any national consultations organized by their governments preceding the submission of the national report and they may also submit their own reports ('shadow reports') to the relevant body, outlining their views on the human rights situation and implementation of treaty provisions in their country and proposing recommendations for their government. During and following review, civil society organizations may advocate to their governments to accept and implement the recommendations that were addressed to them during the review.

Working with human rights mechanisms – Irish Family Planning Association

Ireland is due to report to the CEDAW Committee in 2016. A key part of the process is the adoption by the Committee of a List Of Issues Prior to Reporting (LOIPR), which is forwarded to the state prior to reporting. Issues included in the LOIPR will be central to the interactive dialogue with the state and the final concluding observations and recommendations by the Committee.

The Irish Family Planning Association (IFPA) used this process to put pressure on their government to implement the SDGs. The IFPA partnered with the National Women's Council of Ireland and the Women's Human Rights Alliance to submit a shadow report to the CEDAW Committee proposing issues for inclusion in the LOIPR. They called on the CEDAW Committee to make sure that Ireland "provide information on measures planned to ensure the full implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals...with particular emphasis on Goal 3 on health and Goal 5 on achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls."

9 ICESCR, General Comment 14, para 43, available at www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Women/WRGS/Health/GC14.pdf.




10 ICESCR, General Comment 14, para 44, available at www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Women/WRGS/Health/GC14.pdf.

11 An interactive country by country overview of declarations and reservations submitted to international human rights treaties is available at <http://indicators.ohchr.org/>.




12 See http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/MasterCalendar.aspx?Type=Session&Lang=En for a calendar of country reviews by treaty body.




13 See <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/UPR/Calendar3rdCycle.doc> for a calendar of reviews under the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review.

The SDGs and specific human rights references¹⁴

Sustainable Development Goals		Related human rights
1 NO POVERTY 	End poverty in all its forms everywhere Targets include eradicating extreme poverty; implementing social protection measures; and ensuring equal access of men and women to economic resources.	Right to an adequate standard of living [UDHR art. 25; ICESCR art. 11; CRC art. 27] Right to social security [UDHR art. 22; ICESCR art. 9; CRPD art. 28; CRC art. 26] Equal rights of women in economic life [CEDAW arts. 11, 13, 14(2)(g), 15(2), 16(1)]
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 	Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages Targets include reducing maternal mortality; ending preventable child deaths; ending or reducing AIDS and other diseases; universal health coverage, affordable essential medicines, sexual and reproductive health care; vaccine research, and access to medicines.	Right to life [UDHR art. 3; ICCPR art. 6], particularly of women [CEDAW art. 12] and children [CRC art. 6] Right to health [UDHR art. 25; ICESCR art. 12], particularly of women [CEDAW art. 12]; and children [CRC art. 24] Special protection for mothers and children [ICESCR art. 10] Right to enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its application [UDHR art. 27; ICESCR art. 15(1)(b)] International cooperation [UDHR art. 28, DRTD arts. 3-4], particularly in relation to the right to health and children's rights [ICESCR art. 2(1); CRC art. 4]
4 QUALITY EDUCATION 	Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote life-long learning opportunities for all Targets include universal access to free, quality pre-primary, primary and secondary education; improving vocational skills; equal access to education; expanding education facilities, scholarships, and training of teachers.	Right to education [UDHR art. 26; ICESCR art. 13], particularly in relation to children [CRC arts. 28, 29]; persons with disabilities [CRC art. 23(3), CRPD art. 24]; and indigenous peoples [UNDRIP art. 14] Equal rights of women and girls in the field of education [CEDAW art. 10] Right to work, including technical and vocational training [ICESCR art. 6] International cooperation [UDHR art. 28; DRTD arts. 3-4], particularly in relation to children [CRC arts. 23(4), 28(3)], persons with disabilities [CRPD art. 32], and indigenous peoples [UNDRIP art. 39]

14 Table reproduced from the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, with their permission; please see the full table at: www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/MDGs/Post2015/SDG_HR_Table.pdf.

Sustainable Development Goals		Related human rights
5 GENDER EQUALITY 	<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] and girls [CRC art. 2], particularly in legislation, political and public life (art. 7), economic and social life (arts. 11, 13), and family relations (art. 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]</p> <p>Elimination of violence against women and girls [CEDAW arts. 1-6; DEVAW arts. 1-4; CRC arts. 24(3), 35]</p> <p>Right to just and favourable conditions of work [ICESCR art. 7; CEDAW art. 11]</p>
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 	<p>Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</p> <p>Targets include ensuring universal and equitable access to safe, affordable drinking water, sanitation and hygiene for all; reducing pollution; increasing water-use efficiency; and promoting participatory management of water and sanitation services.</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>
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	<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; full and productive employment and decent work for all; eradicating forced and child labour and trafficking; protecting labour rights including those of migrant workers; and increasing access to financial services.</p>	<p>Right to work and to just and favourable conditions of work [UDHR art. 23; ICESCR arts. 6, 7, 10; CRPD art. 27; ILO Core Labour Conventions and ILO Declaration on Fundamental Principles and Rights at Work]</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; ILO Conventions No. 100 and No. 111]</p> <p>Prohibition of child labour [CRC art. 32; ILO Convention No. 182]</p> <p>Equal labour rights of migrant workers [CMW art. 25]</p>

Sustainable Development Goals	Related human rights
10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES 	<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; DRtD art. 8(1)]</p> <p>Right to participate in public affairs [UDHR art. 21; ICCPR art. 25; CEDAW art. 7; ICERD art. 5; CRPD art. 29; DRtD art. 8(2)]</p> <p>Right to social security [UDHR art. 22; ICESCR arts. 9-10; CRPD art. 28]</p> <p>Promotion of conditions for international migration [CMW art. 64]</p> <p>Right of migrants to transfer their earnings and savings [CMW art. 47(1)]</p>
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 	<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; participation in decision making at all levels; 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] including 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, 37(a)], including trafficking (CRC arts. 34-36; CRC-OP1)]</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>Right to participate in public affairs [UDHR art. 21; ICCPR art. 25]</p> <p>Right to access to information [UDHR art. 19; ICCPR art. 19(1)]</p>
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 	<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 partnerships; measurements for progress, disaggregated data.</p> <p>Right of all peoples to self-determination [ICCPR, ICESCR art. 1(1); DRtD art. 1(1)]</p> <p>Right of all peoples to development, & international cooperation [UDHR art. 28; ICESCR art. 2(1); CRC art. 4; CRPD art. 32(1); DRtD arts. 3-5]</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>Right to privacy [UDHR art. 12; ICCPR art. 17], including respect for human rights and ethical principles in the collection and use of statistics [CRPD art. 31(1)]</p>

Resources

IPPF publications

Sustainable Development Goals: A SRHR CSO guide for national implementation
www.ippf.org/resource/Sustainable-Development-Goals-SRHR-CSO-guide-national-implementation

Sexual Rights and the Universal Periodic Review: A toolkit
www.ippf.org/resource/Sexual-rights-and-Universal-Periodic-Review-toolkit

Resources by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR)

Human Rights Treaties website
www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/CoreInstruments.aspx

Human Rights Bodies website
www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/Pages/HumanRightsBodies.aspx

Interactive country by country overview of the ratification of international human rights treaties (including declarations and reservations submitted to the treaties)
<http://indicators.ohchr.org>

Calendar of country reviews by treaty bodies
http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/TreatyBodyExternal/MasterCalendar.aspx?Type=Session&Lang=En

Calendar of country reviews under the third cycle of the Universal Periodic Review
<http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/HRBodies/UPR/Calendar3rdCycle.doc>

Search engine for treaty body documentation by country, committee and document type
http://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/treatybodyexternal/TBSearch.aspx?Lang=en

Documentation of the Universal Periodic Review by country
www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/Documentation.aspx

Search engine for country-specific recommendations deriving from treaty bodies, the Universal Periodic Review and Human Rights Council special procedures
<http://uhri.ohchr.org/en>



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