CONDUCTING ANALYSIS AND PROVIDING ADVICE TO GOVERNMENTS (La Defensoría de los Habitantes de la República de Costa Rica)

NHRIs often have an advisory function as part of their mandate. This function places them in a position to bring in a human rights-based approach when providing advice to governments on SDG-related processes at the national and local levels.

They can, inter alia, identify the links between the SDGs and human rights obligations of the State and facilitate the strategic identification of national priorities and gaps in SDG implementation, including with regard to particular groups of rights-holders at risk of being left behind. Reference to regional and international human rights commitments can help raise awareness among government officials of the benefits of applying an integrated approach to SDG and human rights programming and monitoring, thereby increasing coherence, efficiency and accountability.

NHRIs can also produce contextual and in-depth analysis of human rights enjoyment with regards to rights-holder groups in a country. Such analysis can, inter alia, serve to guide national statistical offices in data collection to monitor the SDGs, in a way that leaves no rights-holder group behind in national and local statistics.

Every year the NHRI of Costa Rica (Defensoría de los Habitantes de la República – DHR) presents an annual report to the Parliament. The NHRI uses this strategic opportunity to raise awareness of and advise on critical issues that may influence the national political agenda. Its annual reports showcase the practical links between human rights and the SDGs, as well as DHR’s analysis of the main recommendations received by Costa Rica from the international human rights system.

Its latest report (2018-2019) fully integrates the SDG perspective and provides detailed analysis and data that can help guide the development of legislation and policies to fully address the needs of the people of Costa Rica.

DHR initiated the integrated analysis of SDGs and human rights in the early stages of the 2030 Agenda. In its 2015-16 report, DHR offered a detailed analysis of the issues it has historically worked with, and which are directly connected to 14 of the 17 SDGs. In the case of SDG 1 (End Poverty), DHR reviewed the indicators proposed by the State and highlighted the need for adequate data disaggregation in order to make vulnerable populations more visible and be able to elaborate information surveys with the greatest possible precision.