

ALLIANCES AND PARTICIPATION

FOSTERING A HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO THE SDGs (The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission)

The 2030 Agenda envisions a world ‘of universal respect for human rights and human dignity’. It also emphasises the importance of inclusion and participation as a means to leave no one behind. When adopting this global plan of action, countries agreed that sustainable development can only be achieved ‘with the participation of all countries, all stakeholders and all people’.¹⁵ They also committed to ‘build on existing platforms and processes’ to avoid duplication and ‘minimize the reporting burden on national administrations’.¹⁶

NHRIs have a unique mandate and role in the promotion and protection of human rights, including in the context of SDG implementation. Their engagement with duty-bearers, rights-holders and other key actors place them in a privileged position to raise awareness and promote dialogue and concerted efforts for implementation and monitoring of human rights and the 2030 Agenda. Across the regions, NHRIs are using their convening power to foster a human rights-based approach to the SDGs and help raise awareness among stakeholders.

The Afghanistan Independent Human Rights Commission (AIHRC) is actively engaged with SDG implementation and monitoring efforts. As a member of the National Committee of SDGs, it worked on the development of the National Action Plan for the SDGs and on efforts to localize the 2030 Agenda. AIHRC has also conducted a baseline survey on the SDGs and is planning to launch a country-wide research program to assess the extent of SDG implementation.

Since 2015, AIHRC has hosted international, national and local conferences on human rights and SDGs, gathering hundreds of government officials, representatives from civil society organizations, academia, media and human rights activists. These events have been instrumental in raising public awareness of the 2030 Agenda and of the synergies between SDGs and human rights.

Some key activities include the International Conference on Human Rights and Development Goals (held in 2016) and the Gender Equality Conference. The latter took place in 2017 and focused on the implementation of SDG 5, with a view to promoting equal rights for women in the political, economic and social spheres. AIHRC also organized a series of conferences in the 12 provinces of Afghanistan in 2016, promoting knowledge of SDGs and human rights among local governments, civil servants, civil society organizations and human rights activists.

¹⁵ A/RES/70/1, preamble

¹⁶ A/RES/70/1, 74 (f)