

# Leaving No One Behind: Equality and Non-Discrimination at the Heart of Sustainable Development

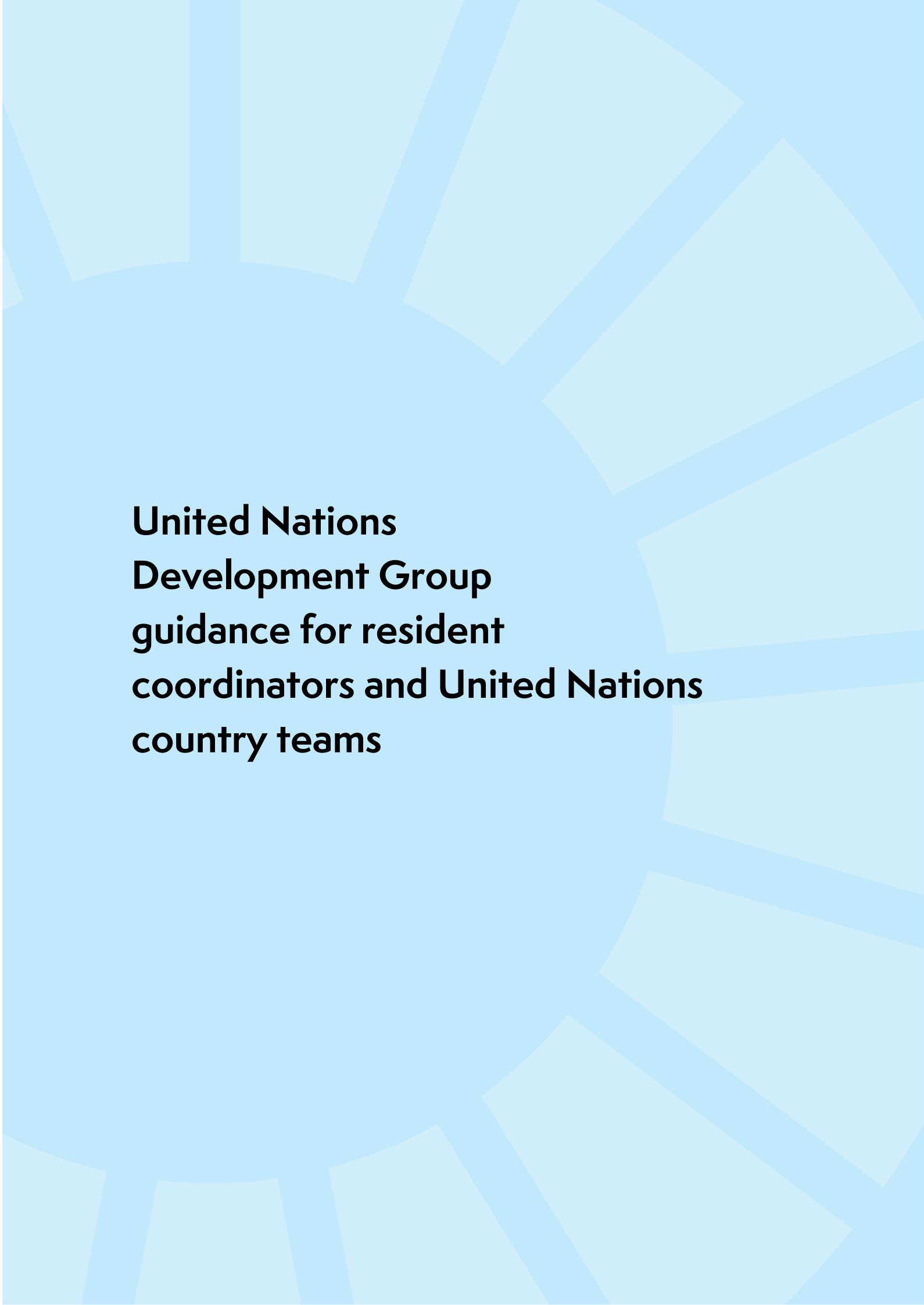


A Shared United Nations System Framework for Action



United Nations System  
Chief Executives Board for Coordination





**United Nations  
Development Group  
guidance for resident  
coordinators and United Nations  
country teams**

# United Nations Development Group guidance for resident coordinators and United Nations country teams



Ongoing **United Nations Development Group (UNDG) advisory and operational support** aims to build public ownership of and accountability for the 2030 Agenda, including through a multi-stakeholder toolkit on Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) awareness and public engagement for parliaments, local governments, media, youth groups, private sector, volunteer groups and others. It includes localized campaign materials and analysis of citizen perception trends, and urge support to countries undertaking Common Country Assessments (CCAs) and United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAFs) to foster direct citizen engagement. Women and youth groups, and those previously excluded such as Indigenous Peoples and people with disabilities are particularly targeted.

The UNDG Sustainable Development Goal Working Group, drawing on the experience of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) era during which the United Nations supported the preparation of over 500 national MDG reports, has produced a set of guidelines to assist United Nations country teams and Member States in the preparation of the country-led national SDG reports. These national SDG reports are expected to be key inputs into national and subnational SDG review exercises, which, as outlined in the 2030 Agenda, provide the building blocks of the overall follow-up and review for the SDGs. These guidelines, inter alia, will focus on producing these reports in an inclusive manner that encourages active multi-stakeholder engagement, mutual accountability and policy dialogue.

The UNDG has also **revised its 2010 UNDAF guidelines** so as to incorporate elements from the 2030 Agenda and ensure that United Nations country teams are fit for purpose and



have the programming tools required to effectively support SDG achievement at the country level. These new guidelines have a strong focus on integrated programming approaches that build on risk management, data, partnerships, systems-thinking, policy coherence and cross-charter integration as key enablers. They also introduce a number of core programming principles that strongly resonate with the ambition of the Shared Framework for Action that United Nations country teams will be required to mainstream into all UNDAF programming: (i) human rights, gender equality and women’s empowerment, (ii) “leave no one behind” and (iii) accountability.

The UNDG Human Rights Working Group developed a **Guidance Note on Human Rights for Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams** as well as a set of policy and operational messages on integrating human rights into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda in order to provide further practical support and policy coherence to United Nations Country Teams. These messages provide guidance on issues such as: how to ensure that priorities for implementing the SDGs are aligned with the country’s human rights commitments, such as combating inequalities and discrimination; how to fulfil the pledge to “leave no one behind” and to “reach the furthest behind first”; how to ensure active and meaningful participation; and how to build robust accountability frameworks in the implementation of the SDGs. This highlights that, in order to ensure that “no one is left behind”, measures need to be taken so that those not usually heard, not organized and not empowered to participate are included. It also emphasizes the need for recommendations by international human rights mechanisms to be included in plans to monitor, review and report on implementation of national plans to achieve the Goals.

Finally, it is critical that national Governments be supported in localizing the SDGs to context-specific problems. To achieve this, guidance needs to be provided on the **customization of baskets of indicators** that can yield relevant and actionable results. It is imperative that this exercise be inclusive and that UNDG actively ensure that the relevant entities assume sectoral leadership so that the capacity of the United Nations system as a whole can be leveraged.