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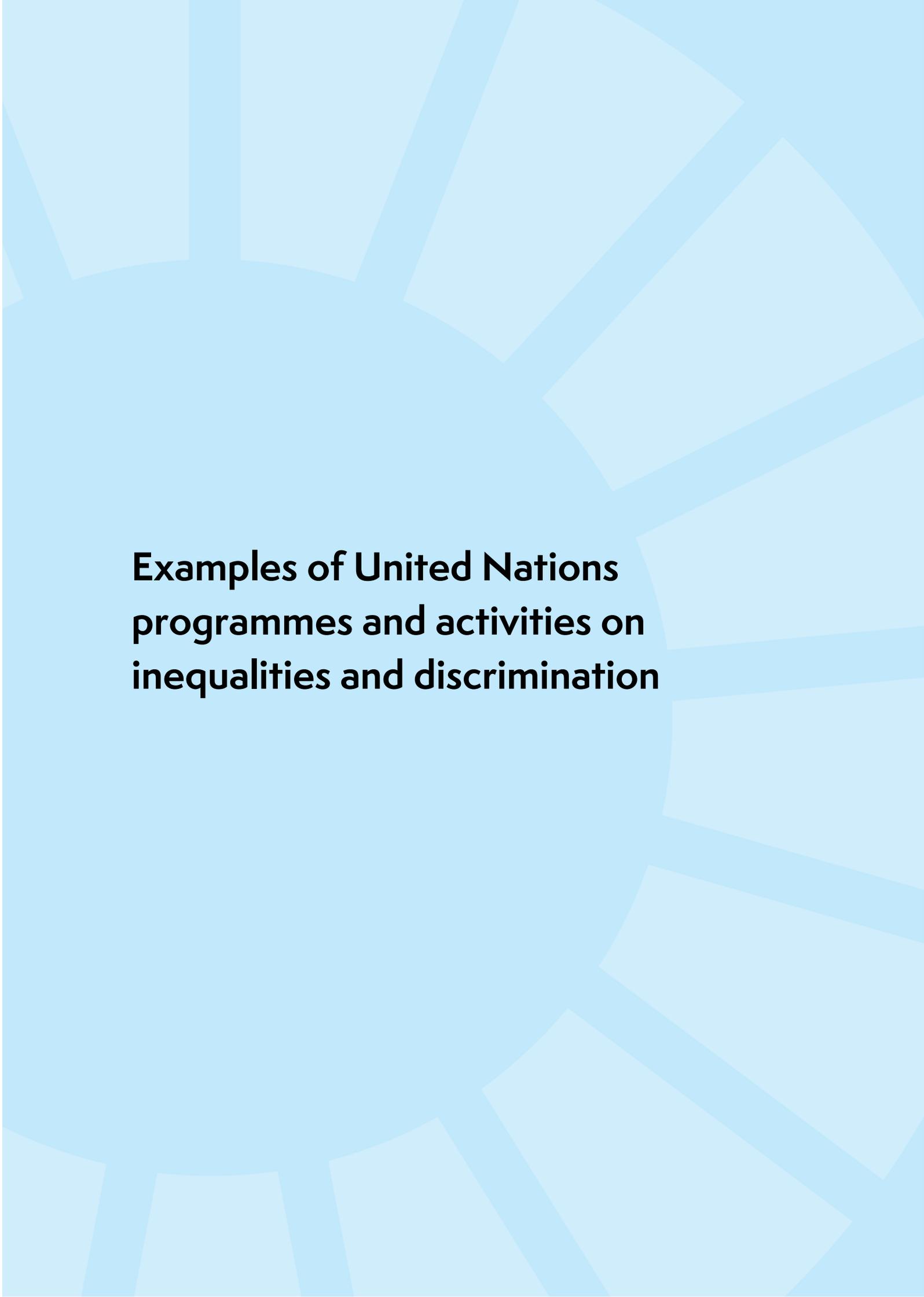

A Shared United Nations System Framework for Action

United Nations System
Chief Executives Board for Coordination

SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT
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Examples of United Nations programmes and activities on inequalities and discrimination

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This Annex provides a list of *illustrative examples* of programmes and activities being undertaken within the United Nations system that seek to reduce inequalities and eliminate discrimination. It *does not seek to provide a comprehensive list* of all activities of the different entities, but rather gives a few examples of some of the work already being undertaken to meet the imperative set out in the Shared Framework. Many of these activities already involve collaboration across the different United Nations entities.

A. Legal and anti-discrimination measures, rule of law and access to justice

Eliminating all forms of discrimination in laws, policies and practices

Eliminating discrimination in laws, policies and practices is critical for reducing inequalities that result from discrimination, including on the basis of sex, gender and all other grounds of discrimination, and is a strong commitment in Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 5 and 10 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Anti-discrimination laws, affirmative action and temporary special measures may be necessary to address persistent, historical and/or multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination.

- The **United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women)** focuses on promoting gender equality and eliminating gender-based discrimination.

- The mandate of the **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR),** which is the lead agency on human rights, includes eliminating all forms

of discrimination prohibited under the international human rights treaties, including racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, discrimination against women and discrimination on the basis of gender identity or sexual orientation. OHCHR promotes and protects the rights of individuals and groups affected by discrimination including, but not limited to, women and girls, older persons and children, ethnic, religious and linguistic minorities, migrants, Indigenous Peoples, LGBT persons, persons with disabilities and people of African descent, by contributing to the increased use of international standards in national legislation and policy and in legal systems. It also supports the development and implementation of international and national action plans against racial discrimination, persons of African descent, and the protection of minorities.

- The **World Health Organization (WHO)** and the **Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS (UNAIDS)** have developed a joint *Zero Discrimination in Health Care* campaign that sets out seven action areas in which they and their partners should align their activities. The Action Plan includes addressing legal and policy barriers to eliminate discrimination in healthcare settings, including discrimination on the basis of HIV status, sexual orientation, gender identity, sex, age, mental health, disability, ethnicity, or migrant status.[1]

- **United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)** also works with United Nations partners and civil society to support countries to review and reform laws, policies and practices impeding effective HIV responses, in line with the recommendation of the Global Commission on HIV and the Law.

- The **United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)** supports efforts to eliminate gender-based discrimination, particularly in criminal laws and criminal justice policies and practices. Non-discrimination is an essential principle of effective and human rights-compliant prevention of violent extremism and counter-terrorism because discriminatory practices (such as indiscriminate surveillance measures against certain religious, ethnic or political groups, or racial or religious profiling in law enforcement) may antagonize the communities on whose support governments mostly need to rely in order to prevent violent extremism.

- The **United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA)** advises governments on policies and relevant measures to advance equality and non-discrimination in line with the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

- The **Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)** assists governments in removing inequalities, inter alia in laws that limit women's access to tenure rights.[2]

Example: UNESCO International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities (ICCAR)

The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) advocates for city-level action in the struggle against racism and all forms of discrimination through the mobilization of the International Coalition of Inclusive and Sustainable Cities (ICCAR). Launched by UNESCO in 2004, ICCAR now has over 500 Member Cities worldwide across its seven regional and national coalitions. ICCAR promotes international cooperation

between cities to promote inclusive urban development free from all forms of discrimination, by sharing good practices, knowledge and expertise, and by advancing joint action through the development of participatory city-level policies and initiatives. In its 18 April 2016 Bologna Declaration, ICCAR's Global Steering Committee renewed its commitment to foster closer interregional cooperation, global advocacy and action in the context of the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Development (Habitat III). It emphasizes that "sustainable urban development cannot be achieved without addressing challenges posed by a culture of racism and discrimination". It also highlights that "translating human rights into concrete actions and mechanisms fostering gender equality is a key factor for development, democracy and inclusion".

Example: Plurinational Plan to Eliminate Racial Discrimination and Ethnic and Cultural Exclusion

The Plurinational Plan to Eliminate Racial Discrimination and Ethnic and Cultural Exclusion (2010 report of the United Nations system in Ecuador) was developed with support from UNDP and UNESCO in 2009 and is a strong example of a policy developed in a participatory manner with all social groups involved and with support at the presidential level.[3]

Promoting gender equality and eliminating all forms of violence against women and children

Addressing gender inequalities, which remain the most pervasive form of inequality and discrimination, must be central to all efforts to reduce inequalities. This is a core focus of all United Nations entities, with UN Women as the focal point for gender equality and women's empowerment in the United Nations system.

- **UN Women** supports the adoption and implementation of legal frameworks to promote gender equality across a broad range of areas including anti-discrimination, equal pay for work of equal value, land and property rights, marriage and family, violence against women and political participation. Supporting implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women is a key area of its work worldwide. UN Women provides technical and/or financial support to countries in every region to implement the Convention. This includes support for capacity building and training on the Convention and women's human rights for government officials, gender advocates and other stakeholders. Support is provided to States parties in reporting to and preparing for constructive dialogue with the Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women as well as for the preparation of shadow reports by non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and United Nations country team reports submitted to the Committee. UN Women supports follow-up to concluding observations of the Committee, including integration into national laws, policies and programmes.

- **OHCHR** also focuses on supporting the implementation of the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women and to strengthen gender equality, including women's rights and sexual and reproductive health and rights and combating sexual and gender-based violence.

- The **International Labour Organization (ILO)** has launched the Women at Work Centenary Initiative that includes a major assessment of the situation of women in the world of work as a basis for renewed action and benchmarks.[4]

- The **International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) and FAO** focus on rural women and developing their capacities to realize their legal rights to land and advocate for gender-sensitive inheritance and land rights laws. In addition, FAO addresses the effects of gender inequalities in the performance of the agricultural sector and levels of food security and nutrition. FAO has also developed guidelines, "CEDAW – A tool for gender-sensitive agriculture and rural development policy and programme formulation", which are being applied by member countries.

- The strategic vision of **World Food Programme's (WFP)** Gender Policy (2015-2020), allows for the integration of humanitarian protection concerns, gender equality and women's empowerment into all of its work and activities. UNODC promotes effective human rights-based crime prevention and criminal justice responses to violence against women.

- The **International Labour Organization (ILO)** focuses on legal frameworks to promote equal pay for work of equal value, while the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) focuses on legal frameworks related to eliminating harmful practices.

Enforcing labour rights, decent work and minimum wages, including for migrant workers, and eradicating forced and child labour

Combating inequalities also requires eliminating exploitation of workers and unfair wages that are below what is necessary to achieve an adequate standard of living.

- The **ILO** has a specific mandate in this regard and promotes the ratification and implementation of its conventions, including the core principles of equality and non-discrimination enshrined in its Constitution as well as international labour conventions, such as Conventions No. 100 and 111, which are close to universal ratification. The International Programme on the Elimination of Child and Forced Labour (IPEC+) aims to protect vulnerable children. The **ILO and UNODC** have developed a joint initiative on preventing and responding to abusive and fraudulent labour recruitment.[5]

- **OHCHR's** efforts focus on strengthening the right to work, including for migrants, by promoting ratification and implementation of International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families.

- **FAO** promotes youth employment in agriculture and supports several countries with its programme on Child Labour Prevention and Elimination in Agriculture.

- **UN Women** supports women's collective action to claim labour rights.

- **UNDP** supports governments in the Latin America and Caribbean region to develop a Gender Equality Seal Certification Programme through which they will be able to recognize private and public companies that meet specific standards in order to promote gender equality and empower women in the workplace.

Advancing access to justice, rule of law and fundamental freedoms

It is critical to promote access to justice and the protection of freedoms of expression, association and peaceful assembly, in line with SDG 16 on peaceful, just and inclusive societies. It is also critical to strengthen national systems of promotion and protection of human rights.

- **UNDP and OHCHR** support national human rights institutions (NHRIs) as vital bridges between civil society, the general population and the State in strengthening oversight and accountability mechanisms, including with respect to implementing the principles of equality and non-discrimination.

- **UNDP** works to expand human rights-based rule of law and access to justice among marginalized and vulnerable populations, including through legal aid and transitional justice programmes.

- **OHCHR** is working to strengthen accountability and the human rights-based rule of law, including through the fair and effective administration of justice systems, thus upholding the rule of law based on international norms and standards.

- **UNODC** focuses particularly on the strengthening the criminal justice framework, improving access to justice and prison reform.[6]

B. Social policy measures to reduce inequality

Social protection systems

These systems aim to reduce inequalities by providing safety nets for those at the bottom of the ladder to ensure that they do not fall further behind and to protect a range of economic and social rights.

- The **ILO** focuses on social protection floors for all, which is linked to human rights and has also been supported by **OHCHR**, which focuses on promoting the right to an adequate standard of living for all.[7] **UNICEF** works to promote measures such as cash transfers, school fee abolition, health insurance and social support services to protect children. **WFP** works to ensure that the food and nutrition needs of vulnerable people are considered in social protection policies and programmes and provides direct support to food-based safety net programmes as well as technical support for national social safety nets. The **ILO** works to promote universal access to maternity protection, which is relevant to a number of work-related SDG targets.[8]

- **UNDP** also assists in the implementation of social protection systems based on a human rights-based and inclusive approach by enabling communities to organize and articulate their needs, and generate evidence of the gaps in services to break the cycle of inequality and poverty. UNDP helps shape and adopt policy and institutional measures that increase women's access to social protection schemes and works with partners to help countries implement HIV-sensitive social protection, including a focus on those left behind by the AIDS response.

- **FAO** joins efforts with partners to strengthen government capacities in designing, implementing and monitoring social protection systems for the benefit of rural households

and those who depend on rural livelihoods, as well as to advance rural women's economic empowerment as part of reducing gender inequalities.

Universal health coverage

Universal health coverage (UHC) aims to implement laws and policies to promote universal access to health care and to ensure that no one faces catastrophic out-of-pocket expenditures as a result of health costs that push them into poverty.

- UHC is a flagship programme of **WHO**, which promotes universal and affordable access to health care for all.

- The **Global Strategy for Women's, Children's and Adolescents' Health** also has an entire pillar dedicated to rights designed to tackle issues such as early and forced child marriage and female genital mutilation and to address other barriers to health including through legal frameworks. As part of this initiative, **WHO** and **OHCHR** have established a high-level working group of global champions on health and human rights of women, children and adolescents to bridge the technical and mostly artificial divide between public health delivery and human rights. This is of the utmost importance to effectively respond to the commitment through the SDGs to leave no one behind, address discrimination and inequality, and ensure healthy lives for all.

- **UNDP, UNICEF and the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA**) further support countries in removing legal and human rights barriers to HIV and health services, including a focus on women and those left behind in the AIDS response.

- **WHO, UNICEF, UNFPA and UNDP** collaborate at the country level to encourage universal access to health and social services for marginalized populations in cities and urban settings.

Universal access to education, water, sanitation, care and other basic services

Universal access to services can also promote greater equality in outcomes by enabling all people to access the services.

- **UNICEF** encourages universal access to affordable education, including advocating for the end of user fees for those who cannot afford access.

- **OHCHR** promotes legal and policy frameworks for universal access to services to ensure the realization of economic, social and cultural rights, including the rights to education, water and sanitation.

- **IFAD** promotes sustainable and affordable sources of energy for poor rural households.

- **UN Women** promotes access to services including education, water, sanitation, care and health services as an important pathway for redressing women's socio-economic disadvantage and reducing their burden of unpaid care work.

- **FAO** is developing methodological tools for the integration of gender-sensitive indicators on agricultural water management in its global water information system (AQUASTAT).

- **DESA** focuses on e-government strategies that enhance transparency, accountable and equitable public service delivery and public participation.

Universal access to nutritious food

Promoting adequate nutrition and food security for all can reduce inequalities in cognitive and physical capacities, particularly of infants and children, contributing to greater equality of opportunities and outcomes

- Where food is available but inaccessible to the targeted hungry poor, **WFP** scales up cash-based transfers. These transfers offer an opportunity not only to address food security and nutrition issues, but also to increase inclusion of the target population in the local financial and market system. WFP is committed to providing these transfers for a range of basic needs in contexts where it is appropriate in conjunction with national social protection schemes.

- **FAO** engages in securing food security, ensuring people have regular access to enough high-quality food to lead active, healthy lives.

- **OHCHR** works to promote and protect the human right to adequate food.

Narrowing the digital divide and access to information and communications technologies

"Ensuring that no one is left behind" in telecommunications means *universal access and service*.

- The **International Telecommunication Union (ITU)** focuses on the role of information and communications technologies (ICTs) as a key enabler to accelerate social, economic and environmentally sustainable growth and development for all. According to ITU data, around 20 countries have also made broadband and/or Internet access a right—a basic legal right, a citizen's right or a constitutional right.

- **IFAD** is also focusing on extending ICT infrastructure to rural areas and training rural people in their use, for example, using mobile phones to access market information or to send/receive remittances.

C. Macroeconomic, employment and fiscal policy measures

Redistributive fiscal policy and progressive taxation

The 2030 Agenda calls for fiscal, wage and social protection policies to progressively achieve greater equality.[9]

- **DESA** has shown how redistributive and pro-poor fiscal policies are critical for reducing inequalities.

- **UNICEF's** work on public finance has also been promoting more progressive fiscal policies; for example, in Malawi, its support for a review of education and health sector spending underpinned successful advocacy to protect social sector funding during public

sector reforms of the Government and helped secure budget allocations for early childhood development for the first time.

- **UN Women** works to improve public financing for gender equality, including through the adoption of gender-responsive budgets that channel adequate resources to both women and men.

- **UNDP** also works on assessments of the impact of fiscal and social policies on poverty and inequality, and supports countries in advancing fiscal reforms that contribute to reducing inequality.

- **OHCHR** advocates for the justiciability of economic and social rights, and for the mobilization of the maximum available resources to promote the progressive realization of human rights, in line with the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, including by promoting a human rights approach to fiscal policy and development assistance.

Full employment and inclusive economic policies

SDG 8 calls for targets on full and productive employment, which requires fiscal policies that give priority to promoting full employment as a way of reducing poverty and inequalities.

- The **ILO** is the lead agency for full employment, together with the international financial institutions. The United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO) is making efforts towards more inclusive industrial development in order to address the lack of jobs and jobs that pay too little, as well as the economic empowerment of marginalized populations, in particular, women, youth, ethnic minorities and migrant workers. It also addresses pervasive inequalities between and within populations and regions.

- **IFAD** focuses on rural development, particularly for rural women, youth and Indigenous Peoples, who are most likely to be left behind, including through targeted training, access to productive resources and market access initiatives. It also engages in global and national policy processes, advocating for policies that are sensitive to the needs and realities facing poor rural people, e.g. equitable land policies, smallholder sensitive marketing, training, research and infrastructure policies, policies eliminating gender discrimination, and policies recognizing the rights of Indigenous Peoples.

- **UNDP** works to remove structural barriers that poor and disadvantaged groups face in the labour market and supports enabling conducive institutional, legislative and policy frameworks. UNDP also supports inclusive and sustainable market growth by working to overcome institutional and cultural barriers preventing women from starting businesses and by developing, expanding, greening and de-risking key livelihoods and job-creating sectors such as agribusiness, tourism, renewable energy, retailing, mining and large capital projects.

Tackling illicit outflows and tax evasion

This can help to expand resources available for redistributive purposes.

- **UNODC** works towards eradicating corruption and economic crimes such as fraud at customs and tax crimes, financial sector crimes, money laundering, and the financing of terrorism and transnational organized crime. It also supports Member States' efforts to implement the provisions of the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime.

D. Strengthening of participation and political representation

Protection of fundamental freedoms of expression, association, peaceful assembly, and strengthening democratic political participation and access to public information for all, including both men and women

This is critical for ensuring participation and political representation in order to address political and regulatory capture that may enable policies that allow inequalities to persist.

- The **ILO** works to protect freedom of association, including in relation to trade unions.

- **OHCHR** efforts focus on legal, policy, administrative and institutional reforms to guarantee the rights to freedom of opinion and expression, peaceful assembly and association, and participation in public life. These efforts aim to widen the democratic space and increase participation and representation of all people, women as well as marginalized and discriminated groups, in state institutions and decision-making bodies.

- **UN Women** works to achieve legislative and constitutional reforms to ensure women's fair and equal access to political spheres as voters, candidates, elected officials and civil service members.

- **UNDP** works to support free and fair elections, and to promote women's political participation. For example, in 2015, UNDP supported women candidates in national elections in 36 countries.

- **DESA** promotes effective, accountable, gender-responsive and transparent institutions at all levels and people's participation in the entire policymaking process (design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation).

More efforts are still needed in expanding access to other groups and partners, including more grassroots and local organizations rather than larger, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

Promotion of Indigenous Peoples' rights

Ensuring the fundamental freedoms should also include Indigenous Peoples, who are frequently excluded from participation and political representation.

- The **United Nations** "System-wide action plan for ensuring a coherent approach to achieving the ends of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples" (2015)[10] ensures a coherent approach towards the realization of the goals of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples . Guided by this action plan, several agencies, including **DESA, OHCHR, the ILO and UNDP**, actively promote the rights of Indigenous Peoples through the implementation of the Declaration and the

ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, 1989 (No. 169), with a particular focus on strengthening participation and consultation and seeking free prior and informed consent in the context of development.

- The **United Nations Development Group** (UNDG) Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues also provide guidance to United Nations country teams on how to integrate indigenous issues in their programme to support full implementation of the United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP).[11]

- The **United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO)** focuses on strengthening intercultural communication and cultural rights as part of the right of freedom of expression.

- **IFAD** works on tailoring development to local culture, in particular, on funding projects that strengthen the culture and identity of Indigenous Peoples.

- **United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)** works to promote access to genetic resources and the fair and equitable sharing of benefits arising from their utilization.

- In addition to its targeted country programmes, **UNDP** promotes Indigenous Peoples' rights through its Social and Environmental Standard, which seeks to ensure that projects that may impact indigenous peoples are designed in a spirit of partnership with them, with their full and effective participation. The objective is to secure their free, prior, and informed consent where their rights, lands, resources, territories, and traditional livelihoods may be affected.[12]

- **FAO** works in several sub-Saharan African countries to support the Dimitra Community Listeners' Clubs, which promote access to and sharing of information and knowledge among isolated and remote rural communities in order to empower women and men.

- The **World Intellectual Property Organization (WIPO)** offers training activities and information resources that aim specifically at enabling Indigenous Peoples to make more effective use of intellectual property principles and tools, if they so wish. For example, Indigenous Peoples often express the need for protection of their traditional knowledge (TK) and traditional cultural expressions (TCEs) against misappropriation and misuse. WIPO also hosts an intergovernmental negotiation on genetic resources, TK and TCEs. The key interest of Indigenous Peoples in these negotiations is recognized in the content of the negotiating texts as well as in the various modalities that facilitate their participation in the negotiations as observers.

Youth participation in decision-making processes

- DESA and the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development (IANYD) promote young people's effective inclusive civic engagement at the local, national, regional and global levels, and youth participation in inclusive political processes.

E. Accountability of the private sector

Building responsible practices and accountability of the private sector

The role of the private sector in addressing discrimination and inequality issues is also vital, given their increasingly powerful engagement in SDG implementation.

- **OHCHR** promotes the "United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights" and raises awareness on the standards applicable to business enterprises. It also promotes tools for carrying out human rights impact assessments toward effectively preventing and mitigating any negative impact on human rights due to business activities.

- Together with Save the Children and the United Nations Global Compact, **UNICEF** developed the Children's Rights and Business Principles, released in 2012, to provide businesses with a clear understanding of where and how they might impact children.[13]

- **WFP** partners with the private sector to improve its work in areas such as the value and supply chain, fortification, especially formulated nutritious foods, financial services for the poor, and food security mapping. For example, WFP uses mobile technology for real-time food security assessments and monitoring (mVAM). Through private partnerships, WFP and stakeholders can have a positive influence on organizational practices, policies and behaviours towards the achievement of SDG 2 on zero hunger.

F. Elimination of inequalities to prevent and mitigate environmental and humanitarian crises

Preventing, mitigating and building resilience to climate, natural disasters, desertification, land degradation and humanitarian crises, particularly for marginalized and excluded communities including refugees and migrants.

- The joint **UNDP-UNEP** Poverty-Environment Initiative (PEI) is committed to advancing equality to achieve poverty-environment objectives that lie at the core of sustainable development. Healthy ecosystems and the services they provide, such as food, water, disease management, climate regulation and spiritual fulfilment, are vital for the full enjoyment of human rights and food security. PEI will continue to support building accountability mechanisms that are nationally and locally appropriate, accessible, transparent and effective in strengthening overall monitoring and evaluation systems and capacities for sustainability.

- **WFP** promotes livelihoods and resilience-building activities linked to food security and nutrition, climate change adaptation, risk management, and strengthened sustainability and resilience of food systems. Examples of these efforts include WFP's support for the African Union's Africa Risk Capacity (ARC) and the R4 Rural Resilience Initiative (R4) approach that helps communities become more resilient to climate variability and shocks through a combination of four risk management strategies: improved resource management through asset creation, insurance, livelihoods diversification and microcredit, and savings.

- **UNEP** is making efforts to address **current patterns of production and consumption** towards achieving SDG 12 in order to rebalance unequal levels of consumption and end wasteful and harmful production and consumption, which are degrading the environment

and exacerbating inequality at many levels. IFAD's Adaptation for Smallholder Agriculture Programme (ASAP) channels climate finance to smallholder farmers so that they can access the information tools and technologies that help build their resilience to climate change.

- **FAO and UNDP** integrate gender-responsive approaches to agriculture and water management as part of climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives.

- **UNDP** also supports gender mainstreaming in sustainable forest management and through the United Nations Collaborative Programme on Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation in Developing Countries (UN-REDD). UNDP crisis response and early recovery efforts focus on restoring and improving economic opportunities, jobs and livelihoods for the most affected populations, in particular youth and women. This is critical to prevent the further deterioration of the well-being of the populations affected by crises as well as temporary shocks from having permanent effects on them. It is also an opportunity to "build back better" and ensure that the resilience of communities is strengthened.

- **DESA's** *World Economic and Social Survey 2016* identifies how polices to build climate resilience will need to address root causes of poverty and vulnerability, and thus provides an opportunity to reduce inequalities.[14] DESA also mainstreams disability in disaster risk reduction responses, policies and programmes as well as conducts monitoring and evaluation, by building on the successful outcome of the United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction (the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030) in close collaboration with the United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) and a multi-stakeholder caucus. DESA also promotes the mainstreaming of disability in all aspects of humanitarian action, building on the Sendai Framework and the outcome of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), including the international commitment to disability-inclusive humanitarian action, i.e. the WHS Charter.

- **WHO** addresses human rights issues and climate change with a focus on gender dimensions and on measuring inequities and impacts of climate change.

- **OHCHR** is also working to include human rights standards in humanitarian and disaster response.

G. Global policy measures

Trade

- **UNDP** advocates for a fair and open multilateral trade system and promotes regional integration and the development of regional trade strategies in order to enhance sustainable and equitable growth. UNDP also supports policy integration at the national level, enabling developing countries, the least developed countries in particular, to integrate pro-poor and pro-health trade policies in development strategies, and contributes to the identification of trade capacity gaps and solutions to overcome these challenges. Working in close collaboration with the **UNAIDS** Secretariat, UNDP also supports the United Nations Secretary General's High-level Panel on Innovation and Access to Health Technologies in recommending solutions for addressing policy incoherencies between trade rules, public health and human rights.

- **OHCHR** has issued guidance on how to safeguard human rights, including the principles of equality and non-discrimination, in the context of international trade and investment agreements, including through using tools for human rights impact assessment.

Finance

- **UNDP** provides strategic assistance in catalysing investment in green technologies for more inclusive and sustainable development that mostly benefits the poorest. UNDP works with countries to develop financial solutions for: sustainably managing ecosystem goods and services; improving water and oceans governance; scaling up climate change adaptation and mitigation; ensuring sustainable, affordable and clean energy; and sustainably managing chemicals and waste. To achieve this, UNDP supports national partners in planning, accessing, delivering, diversifying, scaling up and sequencing a variety of environmental vertical funds. These funds include the Global Environment Facility (GEF), Green Climate Fund, Adaptation Fund, Multilateral Fund for the Implementation of the Montreal Protocol and multi-donor trust funds managed by the United Nations system, such as UN-REDD and the UNDP Thematic Trust Fund. UNDP is combining this funding with other sources of public and private financing, in order to develop capacity, remove policy and regulatory barriers, and expand or transform green markets to increase resilience and reduce poverty and inequality.

Policy space and coherence

There is a need to preserve national policy space for laws and policies for reducing inequalities, including in the economic and trade spheres, as well as ensure greater coherence between international human rights law and international trade law.

- A number of agencies including **OHCHR and UNDP** have worked on these issues, promoting the World Trade Organization (WTO) Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) and Public Health, which balances the protection of free trade and intellectual property rights with the imperative of public health for all.

- **WFP** facilitates nationally led policy reviews towards achieving zero hunger objectives, which seek to identify gaps in the national policy framework and determine priority actions in the food security and nutrition sector to achieve SDG 2, in partnership with government and other institutions.

Migration

- **UNDP** supports countries in formulating and implementing comprehensive national policy and institutional frameworks for migration, and in strengthening government capacities to integrate migration into their development strategies and plans. UNDP works with host and return communities to address the local drivers of migration and root causes of displacement while leveraging the potential of migration for local sustainable development and managing the impacts of immigration, emigration, internal migration and displacement.

- **OHCHR** integrates a human rights-sensitive approach to international frameworks for migration and improve recognition of the rights of migrants and their families, and to support national authorities in developing and implementing human rights-compliant migration systems.

- **FAO** works with its partners to: generate evidence on international and internal migration, its root causes, and its contribution to agriculture and rural development; support institutional capacities to deal with large movements of refugees and migrants from an agriculture and rural point of view; disseminate lessons learned and best practices for scaling up innovative solutions; facilitate policy dialogue directed to improve understanding of rural migration; and strengthen partnerships and advocacy for addressing the root causes of migration and enhancing its positive contribution.[15]

Technology transfer

- **UNIDO's** Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) Programme promotes technological upgrading and South-South Cooperation. UNIDO's African (Accelerated) Agribusiness and Agro-industry Development Initiative (3ADI) also supports an investment programme that will significantly increase the proportion of agricultural produce in Africa that is transformed into differentiated high-value products. UNIDO promotes sustainable, inclusive business opportunities for the rural poor through agribusiness and agro-value chain development. Through its technical assistance, UNIDO links resources and markets in the agribusiness value chains and strengthens forward and backward industrial linkages in order to generate economic transformation of countries, improve employment and income opportunities, and reinforce sustainable livelihoods.

- The **International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO)**, through its No Country Left Behind initiative, aims to improve countries' air connectivity and access to the global aviation system, and to address the infrastructure and capacity gaps across States, countries and sectors. ICAO activities also promote the transfer of aviation technologies, access to equitable trade and inclusive policies, and builds resilience in States to facilitate humanitarian relief and response to crises and public health emergencies.

Intellectual property rights

- **WIPO** supports the implementation of the Beijing Treaty on Audiovisual Performances, which comprehensively brings audiovisual performers into the international copyright framework, for the first time, thus potentially enabling them to make a financial gain from their efforts. It also supports the implementation of the Marrakesh Treaty to Facilitate Access to Published Works for Persons Who Are Blind, Visually Impaired or Otherwise Print Disabled – a treaty that was the culmination of years of work on improving access to published works in formats such as Braille, large print text and audio books for the hundreds of millions of people who are blind, visually impaired and print disabled. In order to complement this effort and give effect to the Marrakesh Treaty, the WIPO Secretariat, in partnership with organizations that serve people with print disabilities and organizations representing publishers and authors, has developed the Accessible Books Consortium (ABC). The ABC is a multi-stakeholder partnership that aims to increase the number of

books worldwide in accessible formats and make them available to people who are blind or visually impaired.

1   See D. Clarke, D., Rajana D. and G. Schmets, "Creating a supportive legal environment for universal health coverage". 94 *Bulletin World Health Organization* 483 (2016).

2   One of the main achievements in this regard is the development and official endorsement of the "Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests" (VGGTS) by FAO and its partners, which were endorsed by the Committee on World Food Security (CFS) in May 2012. The VGGTs have been adopted by 190 countries. To assist governments in applying the principles of gender equality to the governance of land resources, the technical guide "Governing Land for Women and Men" was produced by FAO in 2013.

3   *Plan Nacional para Eliminar la Discriminación Racial y la Exclusión Étnica y Cultural 2009-2012,* SPO/EC/2009/SS/RP/PI/3 (September 2009), available at http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0018/001879/187968s.pdf

4   See, for example, ILO, *Women at Work Trends Report 2016* (2016).

5   ILO/UNODC, "Preventing and responding to abusive and fraudulent labour recruitment: A call for action" (2015), available at www.unodc.org/documents/human-trafficking/2015/Call_for_action.pdf

6   Together with UNODC, UNDP has supported the most comprehensive global study on legal aid, which will serve as an important baseline for national policy and future programming for United Nations support to Member States on access to justice – Global Study on Legal aid. Available at www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/democratic-governance/access_to_justiceandruleoflaw/global-study-on-legal-aid.html

7   See OHCHR report on the linkages at www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/SocialSecurity/ReportSocialProtectionFloors.pdf

8   See Maternity Protection, www.ilo.org/global/topics/equality-and-discrimination/maternity-protection/lang--en/index.htm; and Child, Maternity and Paternity Protection, www.social-protection.org/gimi/gess/RessourcePDF.action?ressource.ressourceId=53806

9   2030 Agenda, Target 10.4.

10   See the System-Wide Action Plan at https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=E/C.19/2016/5

11   United Nations Development Group, *Guidelines on Indigenous Peoples' Issues* (2008).

12   UNDP, *Social and Environmental Standards* (2014) (approved by the UNDP Organizational Performance Group in June 2014).

13   UNICEF, The Global Compact and Save the Children, *Children's Rights and Business Principles* (2012).

14   United Nations-DESA, *World Economic and Social Survey 2016: Building Resilience to Climate Change: An Opportunity for Reducing Inequalities,* available at https://wess.un.org

15   See, for example, FAO, *Migration, Agriculture and Rural Development: Addressing the root causes of migration and harnessing its potential for development* (2016) at www.fao.org/3/a-i6064e.pdf;FAO, *Migration and protracted crisis: Addressing the root causes and building resilient agricultural livelihoods* (2016), available at www.fao.org/3/a-i6101e.pdf; and FAO, Project Overview: "Youth mobility, food security and rural poverty reduction (RYM)" (2016), available at www.fao.org/3/a-i6099e.pdf