



SUSTAINABLE

DEVELOPMENT GOALS

A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR NATIONAL
ACTION AND ACCOUNTABILITY

AMNESTY
INTERNATIONAL



Amnesty International is a global movement of more than 7 million people who campaign for a world where human rights are enjoyed by all.

Our vision is for every person to enjoy all the rights enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and other international human rights standards.

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Cover photo: A boy at a refugee camp in the port area of Thessaloniki, Greece, 16 July 2016. © Amnesty International

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GLOSSARY

ENGLISH	
ACHPR	African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights
AfCHPR	African Court on Human and Peoples Rights
BIS	Bank for International Settlements
CAT	UN Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment
CBOs	Community-Based Organizations
CEDAW	UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CESR	Center for Economic and Social Rights
CRC	Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSD	UN Commission on Sustainable Development
CSOs	Civil Society Organizations
DESA	Department of Economic and Social Affairs
DIHR	Danish Institute for Human Rights
ECOSOC	UN Economic and Social Council
FUR	follow-up and review
ECtHR	European Court of Human Rights
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GNI	Gross National Income
GSDR	Global Sustainable Development Report
HLPF	High-Level Political Forum
HRC	Human Rights Council
IAEG-SDGs	Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
ICMW	International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
ILO	International Labour Organization
IOM	International Organization for Migration
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
NHRIs	National Human Rights Institutions
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OHCHR	The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDSN	UN Sustainable Development Solutions Network
TAP	The Transparency, Accountability and Participation Network
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UPR	Universal Periodic Review

INTRODUCTION

An Agenda of the people, by the people and for the people – and this, we believe, will ensure its success”.

Transforming our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, para. 52

On 25 September 2015, all members of the UN adopted a new sustainable development agenda, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.¹ The aim of the agenda is to establish new Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The agenda contains 17 ambitious goals which are designed to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all. To implement such transformational goals, and at the same time preserve the planet for future generations and fulfil the principle of “leaving no one behind”, member states have committed to “respecting all human rights, including the right to development... ensure gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment”.²

The agenda includes a global indicator framework which is being established by the UN Inter Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goals Indicators (IAEG-SDGs). Member states are encouraged to contribute to the agenda by adapting the global indicators to their own national context as part of the implementation plan. This framework “will be complemented by indicators at the regional and national levels which will be developed by member states... This framework will be simple yet robust, address all SDGs and targets, including for means of implementation, and preserve the political balance, integration and ambition constrained therein”.³ The global indicators framework⁴ proposed by the IAEG-SDGs was adopted in the 47th session of the UN Statistical Commission in March 2016.

Despite its 17 goals, 169 targets and the global indicators framework, the 2030 Agenda is a political declaration, it is not legally binding for member states. The active engagement of individual member states at the national level is therefore vital. They have to ensure that they take all necessary steps to implement the goals, create and disseminate national relevant indicators to access progress, disaggregate data and mobilize resources at their national level to fulfil the ambitious targets of the 2030 Agenda.

Member states have agreed that the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), under the auspices of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council⁵, is the platform for regular reviews of countries’ progress of the implementation of the SDGs.⁶ More information on the format and organizational aspects of the HLPF are outlined in the [67/290 resolution](#). The first HLPF after the adoption of the Agenda 2030 was held in New York from 11- 20 July 2016 under the theme: “Ensuring that no one is left behind”. The forum is set to effectively deliver on its mandates to provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations on the Agenda’s implementation and follow-up; keep track of progress; spur coherent policies informed by evidence, science and country experiences; as well as address new and emerging issues. Twenty-two countries participated in the first National Voluntary Review in the 2016 session of the HLPF, including China, Colombia, Egypt, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Madagascar, Mexico, Montenegro,

1 Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN Doc. A/RES/70/1, available at http://www.un.org/ga/search/viewm_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1

2 Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, A/Res/69/313, 17 August 2015, para. 1.

3 Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN Doc. A/RES/70/1, para. 75.

4 Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, available at: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/47th-session/documents/2016-2-SDGs-Rev1-E.pdf>

5 The High-Level Political Forum will also meet every four years under the auspices of the General Assembly. It will “provide high-level political guidance on the Agenda and its implementation, identify progress and emerging challenges and mobilize further actions to accelerate implementation”. Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN Doc. A/RES/70/1, para. 87.

6 Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN Doc. A/RES/70/1, para. 84.



Young women hold hands in a shelter run by nuns in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, July 2014. Many young women have fled their homes to escape early and forced marriages and unwanted pregnancies. By the time they are 19 years old, most girls in Burkina Faso are married, and nearly half of them are already mothers. © Amnesty International



This family, three adults and eight children, from Aleppo in Syria, lives in a two-bedroom basement flat in Amman, Jordan. They came to Jordan in 2013 after their eight-year-old daughter lost her left leg when a rocket landed 1m away from her. The daughter needs regular surgery and new prosthetic limbs. She cannot access the public health system without the correct documentation and relies on support from NGO-run clinics. © Amnesty International



Romani girl solves a maths exercise on the blackboard in grade 3 of a primary school for pupils with "mild mental disabilities" in Ostrava, Czech Republic, 10 February 2009. Romani children in the Czech Republic face discrimination; they are sent to special schools where they cannot fulfil their potential. © Amnesty International

Morocco, Norway, the Philippines, Republic of Korea, Samoa, Sierra Leone, Switzerland, Togo, Turkey, Uganda and Venezuela.⁷ The inputs from these countries are available on the [HLPF website](#).

The 2030 Agenda sets guiding principles for the follow-up and review (FUR) processes at the national, regional and international levels⁸, which should contribute to “promote accountability to... citizens, support effective international co-operation in achieving this Agenda and foster exchanges of best practices and mutual learning”.⁹ Among the principles is the recognition that every country’s ownership of these processes is “key to achieving sustainable development [and] the outcome from national-level processes will be the foundation for reviews at the regional and global levels”.¹⁰ Therefore, wide participation and engagement of all sectors of society are crucial to develop a comprehensive and thorough process, and to design country-specific indicators that are based on human rights, as well as to ensure that people – particularly the most vulnerable and marginalized groups – are at the centre of any initiative for the implementation of the SDGs.

As requested in the 2030 Agenda, the UN Secretary-General has proposed a report outlining “Critical milestones towards coherent, efficient and inclusive follow-up and review at the global level” in January 2016.¹¹ The Permanent Representative of Belize, Lois M. Young, and the Permanent Representative of Denmark, Ib Petersen, were then appointed to lead an open, inclusive and transparent process of informal consultations with member states on the issues addressed in the report. Information about consultations and statements from stakeholders and member states are also available on the UN website,¹² including the release of the element paper,¹³ zero draft,¹⁴ revised draft¹⁵ and final draft resolution.¹⁶ An open letter was sent by over 370 civil society organizations (CSOs) to the co-facilitators concerning the mutual accountability, commitment to leave no one behind and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda FUR process at the global level.¹⁷

On 7 June 2016, the co-facilitators announced the “final draft resolution” to be in silent procedure until 8 June (the deadline was later extended to 9 June, 12pm).¹⁸ The resolution is based on an informal brainstorming session on 31 March and a series of informal consultations with member states and other stakeholders that were held in April, May and June 2016.¹⁹

However, the consultations with UN member states did not result in a consensual solution as the silent procedure was broken by one member state on 9 June.²⁰ On 22 July 2016, the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) president further informed member states that informal consultations on the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda “effectively have to be concluded” by 2 September 2016.²¹

The [Global Sustainable Development Report \(GSDR\) 2016](#) was released by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (DESA) in July 2016, right before the HLPF meeting. The report features chapters on: ensuring that no one is left behind and the 2030 Agenda; the infrastructure-inequality-resilience nexus; perspective of scientists on technology and the SDGs; inclusive institutions for sustainable development; and identification of emerging issues for sustainable development. To identify the emerging issues, the GSDR 2016 provides an overview of existing approaches and processes for their identification, and introduces guiding criteria for scanning and filtering them.²²

7 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/inputs>

8 This briefing focus at follow-up and review process at the national level. For further information on the regional and global reviews including review of progress in specific areas, please refer to: Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN Doc. A/RES/70/1; and Critical Milestones towards Coherent, Efficient and Inclusive Follow-up and Review at the Global Level, UN Doc. A/70/684.

9 Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN Doc. A/RES/70/1, para. 73.

10 Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN Doc. A/RES/70/1, para. 74.

11 http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/684&Lang=E

12 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/follow-up>

13 http://www.un.org/pga/70/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2015/08/19-April_2030-Agenda-Follow-up-and-review-19-April-2016.pdf

14 [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10124Follow-up and review - 6 May 2016.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/10124Follow-up%20and%20review%20-%206%20May%202016.pdf)

15 http://www.un.org/pga/70/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2015/08/20-May_2030-Agenda-Follow-up-and-review-20-May-2016.pdf

16 http://www.un.org/pga/70/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2015/08/26-May_2030-Agenda-Follow-up-and-review-26-May-2016.pdf

17 <file:///intsec.amnesty.org/data/users/hsiangyun.lai/Downloads/10R5141652016ENGLISH.PDF>

18 <http://www.un.org/pga/70/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2015/08/2030-Agenda-Follow-up-and-review-7-June-2016.pdf>

19 <http://sd.iisd.org/news/resolution-on-2030-agenda-follow-up-under-silence-procedure/>

20 <http://www.un.org/pga/70/wp-content/uploads/sites/10/2015/08/2030-Agenda-Follow-up-and-review-9-June-2016.pdf>

21 <http://sd.iisd.org/news/unga-president-urges-agreement-on-2030-follow-up/>

22 <http://sd.iisd.org/news/gsdh-highlights-contributions-to-science-policy-interface/>





©

Around 200 Indigenous women from Huancabamba gathered in Piura, Peru, 9 October 2015 to denounce forced sterilizations carried out without consent by the government against Indigenous women in the late 1990s. © Raul Garcia Pereira/Amnesty International

GETTING INVOLVED

HOW CAN YOU AS A NATIONAL STAKEHOLDER PARTICIPATE IN THE FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW OF THE 2030 AGENDA IMPLEMENTATION?

The 2030 Agenda was developed by member states “in a broad consultative process that included unprecedented engagement with civil society. The broad ownership of the 2030 Agenda must translate into a strong commitment by all stakeholders to implement the Agenda and achieve the Goals”.²³

Any stakeholders and CSOs that would like to contribute to the review process to influence the creation and implementation of the goals in their country can follow the steps below.

UNDERSTANDING YOUR GOVERNMENT’S POSITION AND THE REVIEW PROCESS

At the start, it is important to understand your government’s plans, sometimes called the national development plans and actions, and the opportunities that may be available for engagement. Asking the following questions can be a starting point for discussions with your government and may suggest the best possible action plan/strategy for you to influence the review process.²⁴

- Has your government launched the implementation of the SDGs?
- Has there been any formal consultation process with civil society? If yes, what is the mechanism established by the government for civil society consultation on the SDG implementation?
- Do you have any indication if CSOs will be participating in the implementation of the SDGs, including data collection for monitoring and review? If so, how will they be participating?
- Has your country volunteered to be reviewed at the global level? If yes, how is your government involving civil society and other stakeholders in the review process?
- Have there been any attempts by your government to ensure participation of all stakeholders in planning, delivery and reporting?²⁵

DETERMINING HOW TO ENGAGE IN THE FOLLOW-UP AND REVIEW PROCESSES

The 2030 Agenda encourages member states to prepare “ambitious national responses... [and] to conduct regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and sub-national levels... [drawing] on contributions from Indigenous Peoples, civil society, the private sector and other stakeholders”.²⁶ The role of national parliaments is particularly highlighted in the 2030 Agenda due to their role in the “enactment of legislation and adoption of budgets and their role in ensuring accountability for the effective implementation of... [member states’] commitments”.²⁷

There are a number of ways that national stakeholders, including civil society, the public, academia, media, and the private sector, can participate and contribute to the FUR processes.²⁸ A national consultation should be part of the preparation of the voluntary review. As a way to participate in and prompt a comprehensive consultation as part of the FUR process you could:

23 Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN Doc. A/RES/70/1

24 See TAP Network, Goal 16, Advocacy Toolkit: A practical Guide for Stakeholders for National-level Advocacy around Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, <http://tapnetwork2030.org/goal16/>

25 For information on National Voluntary Reviews including your country focal point/s for the review and report/s submitted by the government, inter-governmental bodies and forums, major groups and other stakeholders, and the multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments see <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/inputs>

26 Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN Doc. A/RES/70/1, paras 78-79.

27 Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN Doc. A/RES/70/1, para. 45.

28 See <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/majorgroups>

- Identify who the main co-ordinating body or individual for the SDGs is and at which level of government they operate;
- Encourage the government to put in place a broad national consultation plan for developing indicators, planning and budgeting for the 2030 Agenda;
- If your country has volunteered to be reviewed, establish what the stakeholder involvement in the review process is, including general and theme/target specific meetings with various sectors of society;
- Encourage a human rights-based approach FUR framework²⁹ including data collection;³⁰
- Promote integration and linkages of the review process with the existing human rights reporting mechanisms;
- Identify the factors likely to influence your government's action, for example, involvement of the parliament, advice from officials, committees or organizations, news coverage, public pressure, etc.;
- Alert civil society contacts, the public, media and academia, and promote the widest possible engagement and participation in the consultation process; and
- Raise awareness of the FUR at the national level and the ways in which different stakeholders can participate in and contribute to it.

ENGAGEMENT WITH OTHER STAKEHOLDERS AND DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION IS CRUCIAL BEFORE, DURING AND AFTER YOUR COUNTRY'S VOLUNTARY REVIEW:

- Create and maintain a network of contacts to share information, monitor developments and help disseminate information to build public awareness around the SDGs and the FUR processes in the country;
- The media can be used to help raise awareness and expectations for a credible and inclusive consultation as well as to add pressure for follow-up and implementation of the government's commitments to the SDGs;
- Sign in to the Partnerships for SDGs online platform and submit your progress reports to the HLPF;³¹
- Participate in the workings of one of the nine major groups or relevant stakeholder constituency which are the main channels through which broad participation in UN activities related to sustainable development are facilitated;³² and
- If your organization has UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) consultative status or is on the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) Roster, you may be able to register and attend the HLPF.³³

29 Birgitte Feiring and Adrian Hassler, "Human Rights in Follow-up and Review of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, Draft Paper", The Danish Human Rights Institute, February 2016, http://www.humanrights.dk/sites/humanrights.dk/files/media/dokumenter/sdg/dlhr-fur_paper_final_draft_29_02_16.pdf

30 UN Human Rights Office Issues Six Principles for Data Collection on SDGs, read more: <http://sd.iisd.org/news/un-human-rights-office-issues-six-principles-for-data-collection-on-sdgs/>

31 For Amnesty International sections, more information is available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnerships/>

32 <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/majorgroups/about>

33 Registration information available at <http://esango.un.org/irene/?page=viewContent&nr=27603&type=8§ion=8>

During your country's review at the HLPF:

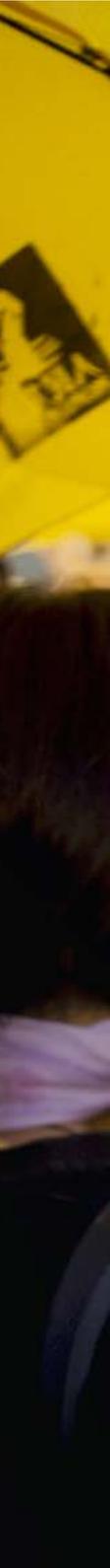
- Organize a roundtable or side event³⁴ and/or take part in events organized by other organizations;
- Disseminate your national report within your country and if necessary translate it into national and/or local languages; and
- Network with civil society representatives and others observing the review of your country. You can use the spaces provided to make statements or ask questions to the member state being reviewed.

After your country has been reviewed, it is fundamental for the transparency and accountability of the FUR processes that people learn about the HLPF work and understand and relate to its conclusions:³⁵

- Disseminate the outcome of your country review and if necessary translate it into national and/or local languages;
- Continue to engage the media to follow up on the government's implementation of the Agenda;
- Provide an assessment of your country's review either by issuing a press release or a public statement; and
- Continue ongoing engagement via lobbying and campaigning for the implementation of the SDGs in your country.

34 2016 Meeting Convened Under the Auspices of ECOSOC, Guidelines for Organizers of Side Events, 11-20 July 2016, New York, <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/9915HLPF%202016%20Side%20Events%20Guidelines.docx>

35 Critical Milestones towards Coherent, Efficient and Inclusive Follow-up and Review at the Global Level Report of the Secretary-General, UN Doc. A/70/684, 15 January 2016, para. 15. http://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/70/684&referer=/english&Lang=E





A pro-democracy protester shouts during a rally outside the government headquarters in Hong Kong, China, September 2015. © REUTERS/Tyrone Siu

RESEARCHING STATES'

PERFORMANCE ON THE SDGS

The success of the 2030 Agenda lies in its implementation at the national level. The SDG framework takes an integrated approach linking people, planet and prosperity as an essential ingredient for sustainable development.

Many areas such as sexual and reproductive health and rights, inequality, discrimination, rule of law, and good governance, which are part of the agenda, have a direct link to Amnesty International's ongoing work and strategic priorities. More broadly, as governments, financial institutions, donors, philanthropic entities and the private sector align their investments towards the SDGs, there needs to be an equally strong alignment between resources, social policies and human rights obligations.

While the agenda has an inbuilt mechanism for monitoring and review, it lacks a robust framework for accountability at the national, regional or global level. One approach to strengthen accountability is to use the SDG framework as an additional tool for ongoing or proposed research work on civil, political, economic and social issues (see further below).

The following is an example of how to start researching a state's performance against a sample goal and target, focusing on accountability by (a) measuring it against a range of potential indicators; and (b) considering the type of questions you might want to ask and data you might want to source and verify.

Your research will involve a combination of desk and field research. It is important to remember that the relevant laws and policies may not be found in one official area – for example at the Ministry of Justice – but may cut across several governmental areas. At the same time, there will be a variety of sources – parliamentary, non-governmental, professional, academic, and media – which you would want to verify. This desk research can be backed up by field research including household surveys. Amnesty International undertakes a range of types of research for all of its research work.

For the purpose of this exercise, let us focus on Goal 16 which can be seen as a cross-cutting goal that has implications for other goals. This goal on good governance, effective institutions and peaceful societies addresses a major weakness which was missing in the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) – the need for effective accountability, a principle which underpins human rights.

GOAL 16 – PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

Target 16.3: Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all.

MAKING A COMPLAINT

SAMPLE INDICATOR

- Proportion of those who have experienced a dispute in the past 12 months and who have accessed a formal, informal, alternative or traditional dispute resolution mechanism and who feel it was just.

DATA REQUIRED

- What are the different bodies people can complain to – both formal and informal?
- Survey a sample of complainants to determine: (a) Who/what have they complained to, and what they have complained about (for example alleged rights violations)? (b) Have they received the remedy they needed to right the wrong suffered – just satisfaction, level of compensation etc?³⁶ (c) Has the decision been effectively implemented? (d) Was there supervision by the decision-making body?
- What powers do the courts/ others exercise in cases of non-compliance?

Potential sources: complaints bodies' websites; annual reports; lawyers; academic studies; NGOs; Community-Based Organizations (CBOs); and media reports.

36 Available here: <http://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/47th-session/documents/2016-2-SDGs-Rev1-E.pdf>

THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK

RATIFICATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF RELEVANT INTERNATIONAL AND REGIONAL TREATIES

- Which treaties have been signed/ratified by the state?
- Have they entered any reservations which would affect access to justice for any particular individuals or groups?

Source: <http://ohchr.org/EN/Pages/Home.aspx>

DATE OF ENTRY INTO FORCE AND COVERAGE OF LEGISLATION GUARANTEEING NON-DISCRIMINATORY ACCESS TO COURTS

- Which general laws protect access to justice and the right to an effective remedy?
- How are they formulated? Do they include access to a court when a right has been violated and, if so, when?
- Do the law(s) incorporate the particular rights and/or other laws include the right to a remedy?

Sources: legal textbooks; official collections of statutes; and parliament/government websites.

PROPORTION OF PEOPLE WHOSE HUMAN RIGHTS RELATED TO THE 2030 AGENDA ARE PROTECTED UNDER THE NATIONAL LAW AND HAVE ACCESS TO AN AVAILABLE EFFECTIVE REMEDY

- Are there different types of remedies for different rights? For example, are all rights covered by judicial remedies? Are economic and social rights treated differently to civil and political rights?
- Can courts look at issues concerning the adequacy of a right or can they only look at access/non-discrimination issues?
- Can courts look at resources issues?
- Is there an opportunity to appeal decisions to higher courts and/or a supranational body?
- Can people take constitutional rights claims directly to a constitutional court?
- What type of remedies (if any) are stipulated under the law for particular violations or are courts free to decide? For example is compensation the only option? Is there any restitution available for victims?
- Are some/all rights subject to non-judicial remedies? For example, from an administrative body or a national human rights commission?
- What type of powers do these non-judicial bodies have?

Sources: court decisions; annual reports of judicial/quasi-judicial bodies; lawyers; NGOs; academic textbooks and articles; parliamentary committee reports; and media reports.

PRACTICE

- Find out the proportion of people who have physical access to a relevant national complaints body;
- Survey the average distance to offices of a complaints body in urban/rural areas;
- Find out if the offices are physically accessible for people with disabilities; and
- Find out if the authorities are taking any positive measures to help people access and secure justice.

Sources: survey; complaint bodies; NGOs working on disability rights; government ministries; and parliamentary committee reports.

- Proportion of people for whom a national mechanism is affordable;
- Proportion of justice sector budget allocated for provision of free legal aid services;
- Percentage of criminal cases in which the defendant/s do not have legal or other representation in court;
- Find out if legal aid is provided for in law;
- Find out if legal aid is available in practice. Investigate if particular groups are disproportionately excluded based on gender, ethnicity, religion, economic status etc.; and
- Find out if this is reflected in the number of cases being taken by particular groups/individuals in respect to particular violations; and survey complainants as to whether cost is a barrier to taking cases to court – cost as a proportion of average income especially for vulnerable and marginalized groups.

Sources: laws; court reports; public expenditure information; annual reports of complaint bodies; lawyers; and complainants.

- Average time to resolve (civil) disputes;
- Percentage of people who trust the police/courts; and
- Survey different groups disaggregated by status.

Sources: survey and statistics from dispute bodies.

USING THE DATA TO STRENGTHEN YOUR RESEARCH

As previously stated, measuring and analyzing SDGs-related data can be valuable in strengthening your own research as all stakeholders deliver on the new Strategic Goals.

With respect to Goal 16, target 3, we know that one of the key challenges is securing effective remedies and justice for victims whose human rights violations Amnesty International has documented. However, at the same time it has been recognized that more needs to be invested in mapping-out the remedies available (or not available) and how these need to be improved. By selecting some of the relevant indicators above and collecting and analyzing the necessary data, everyone involved in generating the data can hopefully strengthen their own work in this area.

For example, we can show how certain vulnerable groups are being denied access to justice for violations when looking at Amnesty International's Strategic Goal 2 on economic and social rights and discrimination. We can monitor trends – positive and negative – whilst enhancing our credibility on the issue through deeper understanding and rigorous analysis. We can make concrete recommendations on the need to strengthen existing accountability mechanisms or create new ones whilst leveraging the political and economic power of the SDGs to influence governments to act. At the same time, all research undertaken can contribute to strengthening the SDGs implementation and the links to existing human rights obligations.



Malawi has seen a surge in killings of people with albinism, whose body parts are used in ritual practices. Systematic failure of policing in Malawi has left this vulnerable group living in fear. © ZIMLINK-LAWILINK 2014



MAKING THE TARGETS NATIONALLY RELEVANT - A CASE FOR NATIONAL INDICATORS

The Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) was created by the UN Statistical Commission on 6 March 2015 to provide a proposal for a global indicator framework on the 2030 Agenda. The latest version of the “Report of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators” was published on 19 February 2016. In this report, the IAEG-SDGs puts forward a total of 229 indicators, including 149 “green” (those with general agreement) and 80 “grey” (those which still require more in-depth discussion) indicators. Based on the level of methodological development and data availability, these indicators are currently grouped into three different tiers: “tier I” for which an established methodology exists and data is already widely available; “tier II” for which a methodology has been established but data is not easily available; “tier III” for which an internationally agreed methodology hasn’t yet been developed. The global indicators framework proposed by the IAEG-SDGs was officially endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission on 11 March 2016. On 3 June 2016, the UN Secretary-General launched a report on “[Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals \(E/2016/75\)](#)”, providing an overview of the progress and challenges in implementing SDGs based on the proposed global indicator framework developed by the IAEG-SDGs and agreed by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2016.



Knitting and sewing are among the many skills taught at this shelter for survivors of forced marriage in Kaya city, northeast Burkina Faso, so that the survivors can make a living. Burkina Faso has one of the lowest rates of contraceptive use among women globally and one of the highest maternal mortality rates in the world. © Sophie Garcia/Corbis for Amnesty International

Despite of the adoption of global indicators, countries are encouraged to come up with their own national indicators and accountability frameworks as “targets are defined as aspirational and global, with each Government setting its own national targets guided by the global level of ambition but taking into account national circumstances”.³⁷ This approach, to let countries decide on their own indicators and review processes, is a unique opportunity to advocate human rights-friendly indicators and review processes based on human rights principles.

The global partnership for sustainable development has emphasized in the 2030 Agenda that technical and financial assistance are critical in supporting countries to deal with poverty and to achieve sustainable development. Instead of starting entirely from scratch, Amnesty International argues that platforms and obligations for such international co-operation have already been provided in several human rights-related treaties and agreements, including the UN Charter, the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), the 2011 Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-operation, and the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action.³⁸ For instance, the ICESCR binds 161 countries to:

“...take steps, individually and through international assistance and co-operation, especially economic and technical, to the maximum of its available resources, with a view to achieving progressively the full realisation of the rights recognised in the present Covenant by all appropriate means, including particularly the adoption of legislative measures”.³⁹

The Accra Agenda for Action affirmed that donors and developing countries must ensure that their development policies are consistent with their agreed international commitments on human rights and gender equality. Therefore, human rights-related international agreements and treaties can fill in gaps that are needed to fulfil the 2030 Agenda.

Amnesty International believes that human rights go hand-in-hand with success in economic and social development, as implementing human rights contributes to people’s empowerment and therefore to sustainable development. This is consistent with Amnesty International’s [Theory of Change 2016-2019](#), which calls for equal rights for all with an emphasis on gender equality (Goal 2), and a world where human rights abusers are held accountable (Goal 4). Therefore, in this document, Amnesty specifically focuses on Goal 5 (Gender equality), Goal 10 (Reduce inequalities) and Goal 16 (Peace, justice and strong institutions) of the SDGs. In order to make SDGs targets nationally relevant, Amnesty International presents the following table with potential indicators that can be presented to governments and adopted at national level. These proposed indicators reflect ongoing discussions by CSOs, intergovernmental institutions and UN bodies. We added a reference to those indicators put forward by other organizations and institutions.

³⁷ Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, UN Doc. A/RES/70/1, para.55.

³⁸ Amnesty International, Delivering a just future for all: Why human rights matter to sustainable development, (Index: ACT 35/008/2014).

³⁹ Article 2.1, ICESCR, available at: <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/ICESCR.aspx>

GOAL 5

GENDER EQUALITY

SDGS	GLOBAL INDICATORS BY IAEG-SDGS	SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS
5.1 End all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere	5.1.1 Whether or not legal frameworks are in place to promote, enforce and monitor equality and non-discrimination on the basis of sex and gender	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratification and implementation of CEDAW, ICESCR and ICCPR • Number (in %) of countries with legal frameworks that promote gender equality and non-discrimination against all women and girls (UN Women) • Percentage of women, men, Indigenous Peoples and local communities with secure rights to land, property, and natural resources, measured by (i) percentage with documented or recognized evidence of tenure; and (ii) percentage who perceive their rights are recognized and protected (SDSN) • Primary education completion rates for girls and boys (SDSN) • Secondary education completion rates for girls and boys (SDSN) • Gender gap in wages, by sector of economic activity (SDSN)
5.2 Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation	<p>5.2.1 Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner, in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age</p> <p>5.2.2 Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner, in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratification and implementation of CEDAW, ICESCR, ICCPR and CRC • Existence of national laws prohibiting all forms of violence against women, including domestic violence (Amnesty International) • Percentage of referred cases of sexual and gender-based violence against women and children that are investigated and sentenced (SDSN) • Number of detected and non-detected victims of human trafficking per 100,000 by sex, age and form of exploitation (UN Women)
5.3 Eliminate all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation	<p>5.3.1 Proportion of women aged 20-24 years who were married or in a union before age 15 and before the age of 18</p> <p>5.3.2 Proportion of girls and women aged 15-49 years who have undergone female genital mutilation/cutting, by age</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Existence of a legal minimum marriageable age (Amnesty International) • Ratification and implementation of international humanrights treaties, including ICCPR, CEDAW; CRC; ICESCR; Protocol on the Rights of Women in Africa to the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights; Inter-American Convention on Human Rights • Existence of domestic laws prohibiting female genital mutilation (Amnesty International) • Prevalence of harmful traditional practices, including female genital mutilation/cutting (SDSN)
5.4 Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work through the provision of public services, infrastructure and social protection policies and the promotion of shared responsibility within the household and the family as nationally appropriate	5.4.1 Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratification and implementation of CEDAW • Average number of hours spent on paid and unpaid work combined (total work burden), by sex (SDSN) • Proportion of educational institutions at the primary and secondary level with educational programmes that challenge traditional gender stereotypes and teach that care work/housework is a common responsibility of men and women (Amnesty International) • Perception among children aged 5-18 and adults 18-49 who consider domestic work to be a woman's responsibility versus a social and collective responsibility, indicate awareness of and openness to non-traditional male/female roles (Amnesty International) • Number of girls who have missed school in the past three months in order to undertake unpaid care work/housework (Amnesty International) • Percentage of women without incomes of their own (SDSN)

5.5 Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life	<p>5.5.1 Proportion of seats held by women in national parliaments and local governments</p> <p>5.5.2 Proportion of women in managerial positions</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratification and implementation of CEDAW & ICCPR & ICESCR • Women's share of managerial positions in both state and non-state institutions (Amnesty International) • Presence of gender quotas for parliament (Amnesty International) • Women's representation in public office and services, including their share of: (a) government ministerial positions; (b) proportion of seats held by women in national parliament; (c) share of female police officers including share at senior level; (d) share of female judges; and (e) share of female civil servants at national and local government level (Amnesty International) • Stipulated duration of compulsory education and minimum age for admission into school for both boys and girls (Amnesty International) • Share of women on corporate boards of national/multinational corporations (SDSN) • Share of female researchers, by seniority level (UN Women)
5.6 Ensure 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	<p>5.6.1 Proportion of women aged 15-49 years who make their own informed decisions regarding sexual relations, contraceptive use and reproductive health care</p> <p>5.6.2 Number of countries with laws and regulations that guarantee women aged 15-49 years access to sexual and reproductive health care, information and education</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratification and implementation CEDAW & ICESCR & CRC • Contraceptive prevalence rate for women and girls aged 15-49, disaggregated by age (SDSN) • The proportion of demand for family planning which has been satisfied (SDSN) • Total fertility rate (SDSN) • Mean age of mother at birth of first child (SDSN) • Percentage of young people who receive comprehensive sexuality education (SDSN)
5.a Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws	<p>5.a.1 (a) Proportion of total agricultural population with ownership or secure rights over agricultural land, by sex; and (b) share of women among owners or rights-bearers of agricultural land, by type of tenure</p> <p>5.a.2 Proportion of countries where the legal framework (including customary law) guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership and/or control</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratification and implementation of ICESCR, CEDAW, and ICCPR • Percentage of women, men, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities with secure rights to land, property, and natural resources, measured by (i) percentage with documented or recognized evidence of tenure; and (ii) percentage who perceive their rights are recognized and protected (SDSN)
5.b Enhance the use of enabling technology, in particular information and communications technology, to promote the empowerment of women	5.b.1 Proportion of individuals who own a mobile telephone, by sex	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Timeframe and coverage of national policy to promote access to information technology (OHCHR) • Mobile broadband subscriptions per 100 inhabitants, by urban/rural (SDSN)
5.c Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels	5.c.1 Proportion of countries with systems to track and make public allocations for gender equality and women's empowerment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratification and implementation of CEDAW & ICCPR & ICESCR • Expenditure on gender equality policies as a percentage of total government expenditures (UN Women) • Existence of government provision/funding/support for childcare/provision of supporting social services (affordable health care, childcare, primary education) to enable parents to combine family obligations with work responsibilities and participation in public life (Amnesty International) • Proportion of national laws and policies relevant to gender equality and empowerment for women and girls that have been reviewed nationally for consistency with international human rights standards and UN treaties, through a transparent and participatory process, including a transformative gender assessment, and revised where necessary (Amnesty International) • Availability of independent judicial or administrative mechanisms that have the power to provide a remedy in an instance of non-compliance with human rights standards (Amnesty International)

GOAL 10

REDUCED INEQUALITIES

SDGS	GLOBAL INDICATORS BY IAEG-SDGS	SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS
10.1 By 2030, progressively achieve and sustain income growth of the bottom 40% of the population at a rate higher than the national average	10.1.1 Growth rates of household expenditure or income per capita among the bottom 40% of the population and the total population	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Income inequality pre- and post-social transfers/tax at national, regional and global levels (because income growth will be affected by changes in price level) (OHCHR) Growth rates of real household disposable income by income quintile (OHCHR) Average tax rate by income quintile (OHCHR) Indicator on inequality at top end of income distribution: Gross National Income (GNI) share of richest 10% or Palma Ratio (SDSN)
10.2 By 2030, empower and promote the social, economic and political inclusion of all, irrespective of age, sex, disability, race, ethnicity, origin, religion or economic or other status	10.2.1 Proportion of people living below 50% of median income, by age, sex and persons with disabilities	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ratification and implementation of ICCPR & CEDAW Percentage of major socio-economic laws and policies that have been subject to public consultation, including among the most marginalized and disadvantaged, prior to coming into force (Amnesty International) Gini coefficient; income/wage persistence (SDSN) Percentage of women, men, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities with secure rights to land, property, and natural resources, measured by (i) percentage with documented or recognized evidence of tenure; and (ii) percentage who perceive their rights are recognized and protected (SDSN) Ratification and implementation of fundamental ILO labour standards and compliance in law and practice (SDSN) Proportion of non-governmental organizations, trade unions or other associations consulted about government decisions, strategies and policies in their sector (OHCHR)
10.3 Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard	10.3.1 Proportion of the population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed within the previous 12 months on the basis of discrimination which is prohibited under international human rights law	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Ratification and implementation of CEDAW Existence of an independent body responsible for promoting and protecting the right to non-discrimination (Amnesty International) Percentage of women, men, Indigenous Peoples, and local communities with secure rights to land, property, and natural resources, measured by (i) percentage with documented or recognized evidence of tenure; and (ii) percentage who perceive their rights are recognized and protected (Amnesty International) Number of hate crimes reported, disaggregated by social group (OHCHR) Prevalence of discriminatory provisions in existing laws and policies (OHCHR) Progressivity of tax and social expenditures (OHCHR) Percentage of population covered by minimum social protection floor (OHCHR) Ratification and implementation of fundamental ILO labour standards and compliance in law and practice (SDSN) Income/wage persistence (intergenerational socioeconomic mobility) (SDSN)

10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality	10.4.1 Labour share of GDP, comprising wages and social protection transfers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratification and implementation of ICESCR & CEDAW • Existence and level of a minimum/living wage for all economic sectors (Amnesty International) • Percentage of eligible population covered by national social protection programmes (SDSN) • Palma ratio measured pre-tax and post-social transfers (CESR)
10.5 Improve the regulation and monitoring of global financial markets and institutions and strengthen the implementation of such regulations	10.5.1 Financial Soundness Indicators	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Adoption of a financial transaction tax (Tobin tax) at a world level (OHCHR)
10.6 Ensure enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in global international economic and financial institutions in order to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions	10.6.1 Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Indicator on share of least developed countries/least industrialized countries' representatives on boards of International Monetary Fund/ World Bank (and international financial institutions) (SDSN)
10.7 Facilitate orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies	<p>10.7.1 Recruitment cost borne by employee as a proportion of yearly income earned in country of destination</p> <p>10.7.2 Number of countries that have implemented well-managed migration policies</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratification and implementation of ICMW, CEDAW, ICCPR, CRC & 1951 Refugee Convention • Migration Governance Index (IOM) • Number of migrants killed, injured or victims of crime while attempting to cross maritime, land or air borders (OHCHR) (Amnesty International) • Number of refugees (SDSN) • The existence of a legal framework to grant asylum or refugee status in accordance with international and regional conventions and system for refugee protection (Amnesty International) • Presence of basic essential services (clean drinking water, sanitation, adequate food, minimum shelter, heating) in camps/locations where migrants are detained (Amnesty International) • Ratification and implementation of human rights treaties including the 1951 Refugee Convention
10.a Implement the principle of special and differential treatment for developing countries, in particular least developed countries, in accordance with World Trade Organization agreements	10.a.1 Proportion of tariff lines applied to imports from least developed countries and developing countries with zero-tariff	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of international trade/investment agreements with explicit human rights safeguards (OHCHR)
10.b Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to states where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing states and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programmes	10.b.1 Total resource flows for development, by recipient and donor countries and type of flow (e.g. official development assistance, foreign direct investment and other flows)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of government revenues (including ODA and natural resource concessions) that are publicly available and reflected in national and sub-national budget (OHCHR) • Official development assistance and net private grants as percent of GNI (SDSN) • Private net flows for sustainable development at market rates as share of high-income country GNI, by sector (SDSN)
10.c By 2030, reduce to less than 3% the transaction costs of migrant remittances and eliminate remittance corridors with costs higher than 5%	10.c.1 Remittance costs as a proportion of the amount remitted	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Global average total cost of sending US\$200 (or equivalent in local sending currency, adjusted for inflation) with the three cheapest remittance services available in each market and accessible to the large majority of senders and recipients (OHCHR)

GOAL 16

PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS

SDGS	GLOBAL INDICATORS BY IAEG-SDGS	SUGGESTED IMPROVEMENTS
16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere	16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratification and implementation of ICCPR, CEDAW, CRC and CAT • Percentage change in public confidence in the ability of justice and security providers to contribute to security and safety effectively and fairly (Amnesty International) • Score on the annual Global Peace Index (positive/negative peace) (UNDP) • Political refugees and internal displacement caused by conflict and violence (UNDP) • Reported disappearances (UNDP)
	16.1.2 Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause	
	16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months	
	16.1.4 Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live	
16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children	16.2.1 Proportion of children aged 1-17 years who experienced any physical punishment and/or psychological aggression by caregivers in the past month	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratification and implementation of ICCPR; CRC; CAT; and CEDAW • Date of entry into force and coverage of legal frameworks that guarantee the right to education for all children for early childhood and basic education, and that guarantee a minimum age of entry to employment not below the years of basic education (Amnesty International) • Child Malnutrition (UNDP) • Child Labour Indicators, by sex (as percentage of children in the relevant age group) (UNDP) • Number of child-friendly police procedures (UNDP) • Reported number of victims of trafficking (within and across countries), slavery, exploitation and forced labour (OHCHR)
	16.2.2 Number of victims of human trafficking per 100,000 population, by sex, age and form of exploitation	
	16.2.3 Proportion of young women and men aged 18-29 years who experienced sexual violence by age 18	
16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all	16.3.1 Proportion of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratification and implementation of ICCPR& CEDAW • Proportion of those who have experienced a dispute in the past 12 months who have accessed a formal, informal, alternative or traditional dispute resolution mechanism and who feel it was just (UNDP) • Incidence of death or physical injury during arrest or apprehension or in custody (OHCHR) • Average period of pre-trial detention (OHCHR) • Date of entry into force and coverage of legislation guaranteeing non-discriminatory access to courts (Amnesty International) • Proportion of people whose human rights related to the 2030 Agenda are protected under the national law and have access to an available effective remedy (Amnesty International) • Proportion of people who have physical access to a relevant national mechanism (Amnesty International) • Proportion of people for whom a national mechanism is affordable (Amnesty International) • Percentage of criminal cases in which the defendant/people does not have legal or other representation in court (UNDP) • Proportion of justice sector budget allocated for provision of free legal aid services (UNDP) • Average time to resolve [civil] disputes (UNDP) • Percentage of people who trust the police/courts (UNDP) • Number of people who die in state custody (UNDP)
	16.3.2 Un-sentenced detainees as a proportion of overall prison population	

<p>16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime</p>	<p>16.4.1 Total value of inward and outward illicit financial flows (in current US\$)</p> <p>16.4.2 Proportion of seized small arms and light weapons that are recorded and traced, in accordance with international standards and legal instruments</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratification and implementation of the UN Convention against Trans-National Organized Crime • Ratification and implementation of the UN Arms Trade Treaty • Suggest to use the language “trade misinvoicing”; the 16.4.1 indicator does not make it clear if the total value should be provided at national level or just aggregated at global level as well as the frequency (TAP) • Recovered stolen assets as a percentage of illicit financial flows (TAP) • Percentage of businesses who believe organized crime imposes costs on business in their country (TAP) • Assets and liabilities of the Bank for International Settlements (BIS), reporting banks in international tax havens (as per OECD definition), by country in US\$ (SDSN) • Proportion of legal persons and arrangements for which beneficial ownership information is publicly available (SDSN) • Value of illicit production and trafficking of natural resources, as a total and percentage of GDP (UNDP) • Global volume of money laundering (UNDP) • Asset frozen and returned to foreign jurisdictions as reported by countries (OECD)
<p>16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms</p>	<p>16.5.1 Proportion of persons who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by these public officials, during the previous 12 months</p> <p>16.5.2 Proportion of businesses who had at least one contact with a public official and who paid a bribe to a public official, or were asked for a bribe by these public officials, during the previous 12 months</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Revenues, expenditures, and financing of all central government entities are presented on a gross basis in public budget documentation and authorized by the legislature (SDSN) • Adoption of the UN Convention against Corruption • Existence of domestic anti-corruption and bribery laws and commitments • Concerns: definitions of “persons” and “public official” (TAP) • Perception of public sector corruption (SDSN) • Corruption Perception Index (Transparency International)
<p>16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels</p>	<p>16.6.1 Primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratification and implementation of ICESCR • Revenues, expenditures, and financing of all central government entities are presented on a gross basis in public budget documentation and authorized by the legislature (SDSN) • Open Budget Index Score (TAP) • Corruption Perception Index (Transparency International) • Quality of public financial management and internal oversight mechanisms (UNDP) • Level of disclosure of private interests and public availability in information (OECD)
<p>16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels</p>	<p>16.7.1 Proportions of positions (by sex, age, persons with disabilities and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public service, and judiciary) compared to national distributions</p> <p>16.7.2 Proportion of population who believe decision-making is inclusive and responsive, by sex, age, disability and population group</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratification and implementation of ICCPR & ICESCR • The percentage of laws that have been subject to public consultation and parliamentary scrutiny prior to coming into force (Amnesty International) • Proportion of public service positions held by women and members of target groups (OHCHR) • Turnout as a share of voting-age population in national election (UNDP), (OHCHR) • Legislature conducts public hearings during budget cycle (UNDP) • Proportion of non-governmental organizations, trade unions or other associations consulted about government decisions, strategies and policies in their sector (UNDP) • Proportion of people who believe last national election was free and fair, by sex (UNDP)

16.8 Broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance	16.8.1 Proportion of members and voting rights of developing countries in international organizations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Proportion of General Assembly and Security Council resolutions formally initiated/led by developing countries (UNDP) • Share of senior UN positions (permanent five and above) occupied by nationals of developing countries, by sex (UNDP) • Percentage of voting rights in international organizations of developing countries, compared to population or GDP as appropriate (UNDP)
16.9 By 2030, provide legal identity for all, including birth registration	16.9.1 Proportion of children under five years of age whose births have been registered with a civil authority, by age	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratification and implementation of ICCPR & CRC & ICMW • Absence of late fees, fines or judicial procedures for late registration (Amnesty International) • Existence of a fair, transparent and accessible process for obtaining legal identification (UNDP) • Percentage of the population in possession of a birth certificate, disaggregated by age, sex, region and population group, displacement and migratory status (including statelessness) (UNDP)
16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements	<p>16.10.1 Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months</p> <p>16.10.2 Number of countries that adopt and implement constitutional, statutory and/or policy guarantees for public access to information</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratification and implementation of ICCPR & ICECSR & CRC • Average time taken and average fee charged by public bodies to respond to freedom of information requests (OHCHR) • Existence and implementation of a national law and/or constitutional guarantee on the right to information (SDSN) • Proportion of people with a legal entitlement to information held by public bodies provided within 30 days without arbitrary barriers (Amnesty International) • Proportion of people who apply to access information, and whose requests are accepted (Amnesty International) • Existence of laws requiring companies to disclose information, policies and processes relating to the human rights impacts of their operations, including those caused by their subsidiaries, as they relate to the Agenda 2030 framework (Amnesty International) • Extent to which the rights to freedom of expression, association, and peaceful assembly are guaranteed in law and practice (TAP), (UNDP) • Percentage of population who believe they can express political opinion without fear (UNDP) • World Press Freedom Index (Reporters Without Borders), (UNDP) • Proportion of people who perceive freedom of speech is granted in their country (UNDP) • Numbers of websites blocked and of data users provided by internet service providers on requests from governments (UNDP) • Number of registered CSOs per 100,000 inhabitants (UNDP) • Literacy rate of youth and adults, urban and rural literacy rate (UNDP)
16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international co-operation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime	16.a.1 Existence of independent national human rights institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Percentage of requests for international co-operation (law enforcement co-operation, mutual legal assistance and extraditions) made through existing conventions that were met during the reporting year (UNDP) • Percentage of population who express confidence in the impartiality of the security forces, police and judicial mechanisms (both formal and informal) in treating people fairly regardless of their race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status (UNDP) • Percentage of victims of violence in the previous 12 months who reported their victimization to competent authorities or other officially recognized conflict resolution mechanisms (also called crime reporting rate) (TAP)
16.b Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development	16.b.1 Proportion of population reporting having personally felt discriminated against or harassed in the previous 12 months on the basis of discrimination prohibited under international human rights law (same as 10.3.1)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ratification and implementation of ICESCR & ICCPR & CEDAW • Proportion of the population who believe that state institutions are treating people of all groups fairly, equitably and without discrimination (UNDP) • Existence of domestic laws for implementing non-discrimination (UNDP) • Existence of an independent body responsible for promoting and protecting the right to non-discrimination (UNDP)

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THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND ACCOUNTABILITY: WHY WE MUST EMBED HUMAN RIGHTS ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA

“We envisage a world of universal respect for human rights and human dignity, the rule of law, justice, equality and non-discrimination; of respect for race, ethnicity and cultural diversity; and of equal opportunity permitting the full realisation of human potential and contributing to shared prosperity.”

(2030 Agenda, para. 7)

Amnesty International believes that implementing human rights – such as rights to health, education, adequate housing, adequate standard of living, and access to justice, to name a few – contributes to people’s empowerment and thereby to sustainable development and social stability. The Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development⁴⁰ also argues that “in both economic and social terms, the most productive policies and investments are those that empower people to maximize their capacities, resources and opportunities” (para. 7). Considering that the global partnerships for sustainable development are especially emphasized in the 2030 Agenda, technical and financial assistance are critical in supporting countries to achieve sustainable development. Amnesty International also argues that platforms and obligations for such international co-operation have already been provided in several human rights-related treaties, including the ICESCR, the 2011 Busan Partnership for Effective Development Co-Operation and the 2008 Accra Agenda for Action.⁴¹

Despite human rights and development policies mutually reinforcing their aim to improve human wellbeing, the OHCHR points out that most development strategies simply prioritize economic growth and human rights standards can in this case ensure everyone benefits from such growth and that “no one is left behind”.⁴² Moreover, The Human Rights Guide to the SDGs put together by the Danish Institute for Human Rights (DIHR) systematically shows the linkages between the SDGs and human rights, providing solid arguments for a human rights-approach on SDGs. Overall, without considering equality, environment and human rights, the 2030 Agenda could potentially increase inequality and ignore vulnerable people as states strive to show cumulative gains. Amnesty International thus recommends countries to follow the principles below throughout all stages and all levels of SDGs implementation:

1. All persons have access to affordable and effective mechanisms able to ensure the realization of civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights related to the 2030 Agenda;
2. Ensure everyone is guaranteed access to information relevant to policies, programmes, decisions and resources related to the 2030 Agenda; and
3. Ensure that laws and policies for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda are consistent with human rights standards.

⁴⁰ Agreed in the World Summit for Social Development in 1995.

⁴¹ Amnesty International, Delivering a just future for all: Why human rights matter to sustainable development, (Index: ACT 35/008/2014).

⁴² OHCHR, Information note: Human Rights-Foundation for engagement to achieve the MDGs, <http://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/MDGs/MDGsInfonoteFinal.pdf>



Refugees live in "The Village All Together" camp (PIKPA), an open refugee camp in Mytilene, Lesvos, Greece, 14 June 2016. The camp is a self-organized, autonomous space run by volunteers and built on the principle of solidarity to respond to the refugee crisis on the island. © Giorgos Moutafid for Amnesty International

CURRENT MONITORING MECHANISMS AND PROCESSES AVAILABLE TO FURTHER ACCOUNTABILITY IN THE 2030 AGENDA

INTERNATIONAL FOLLOW-UP AND HUMAN RIGHTS MONITORING MECHANISMS

- **UN human rights treaty mechanisms**
The **human rights treaty bodies** are committees of independent experts monitoring the implementation of the core UN human rights treaties. Each state party to a treaty has an obligation to take steps to ensure that everyone in the state can enjoy the rights set out in the treaty. For example, the Human Rights Committee monitors the implementation of ICCPR; the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights monitors the implementation of ICESCR. There are also treaty-based complaints procedures available.
- **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner on Human Rights (OHCHR)**
As the main office in the UN dealing with human rights, OHCHR works to ensure that human rights standards are applied to all UN activities. OHCHR works with governments to strengthen their human rights capabilities by providing advice and technical assistance.
- **Human Rights Council (HRC)**
The HRC is the main UN body charged with monitoring and evaluating conditions of human rights in countries around the world and identifying major areas of concern. It includes a system of special procedures, expert advice and a complaints procedure.
- **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)**
The UPR is a unique process which involves a review of the human rights records of all UN member states under the auspices of the Human Rights Council. As a state-driven process, the UPR provides the opportunity for each state to declare what actions they have taken to improve the human rights situations in their countries and to fulfil their human rights obligations. Non-governmental organizations can also participate in the UPR process by submitting information to the “other stakeholders” report.
- **Human Rights Council complaints procedure**
The HRC established a new complaint procedure to address consistent patterns of gross and reliably attested violations of all human rights and all fundamental freedoms occurring worldwide and under any circumstances. This complaint procedure addresses communications submitted by individuals, groups, and non-governmental organizations claiming to be victims of human rights violations or that have direct, reliable knowledge of such violations.⁴³

43 OHCHR, <http://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/HRC/ComplaintProcedure/Pages/HRCComplaintProcedureIndex.aspx>

REGIONAL MECHANISMS

- **Inter-American human rights system**

Being responsible for monitoring and ensuring implementation of human rights in 35 countries of the Americas, the Inter-American system is composed of two entities: a commission and a court. Both bodies can decide individual complaints concerning alleged human rights violations and may issue emergency protective measures when an individual or the subject of a complaint is at immediate risk of irreparable harm.

- **European human rights system**

In Europe, the principal judicial and quasi-judicial organs responsible for defining and overseeing states' compliance with their regional human rights obligations are the **European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR)** and the **European Committee of Social Rights**, both created under the auspices of the Council of Europe. The ECtHR has jurisdiction to decide complaints submitted by individuals and states concerning violations of the European Convention on Human Rights, which principally concerns civil and political rights; whereas the Committee oversees the protection of most economic and social rights in most of Europe.

In addition, the **Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights** serves as an independent monitor, highlighting issues of concern in the region. The Commissioner's responsibilities include assisting member states in implementing regional human rights standards, promoting understanding and awareness of human rights in the region, identifying gaps in protection, facilitating the activities of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and similar actors, and providing advice and information on human rights protection in Europe.

- **African human rights system**

The African human rights system is composed of two entities: a commission and a court. The **African Commission on Human and Peoples' Rights (ACHPR)** promotes and protects human rights in the 54 member states of the African Union, which – with the exception of South Sudan – have all ratified the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. The Commission accepts complaints from individuals, groups of individuals, non-governmental organizations, and states concerning alleged violations of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights. The second organization guarding human rights on the African continent is the **African Court on Human and Peoples Rights (AfCHPR)**. This is a regional human rights tribunal with advisory and contentious jurisdiction concerning the interpretation and application of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights, which is also referred to as the Banjul Charter.

NATIONAL MECHANISMS

- **National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)⁴⁴**

NHRIs are state bodies with a constitutional and/or legislative mandate to protect and promote human rights. NHRIs monitor and analyze human rights situations at national level against international human rights standards; they also prepare shadow reports to the UPR and treaty bodies at international level. Therefore, NHRIs are in the position to: promote human rights in national implementation plans; monitor and hold governments to account for uneven progress; convert relevant human rights monitoring data into SDG-relevant data; design methodologies for exposing inequality via data disaggregation; uncover patterns of inequality and discrimination; as well as identify cross-cutting achievements or challenges across civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights at national level.

- **Parliamentary bodies**

Parliamentary bodies play an important role in ensuring the implementation, monitoring and compliance with human rights commitments at national level. These responsibilities include reviewing and assessing national laws and policies relevant to the 2030 Agenda framework to ensure consistency with international human rights standards through a transparent and inclusive process.

Accordingly, instead of starting from a blank canvas, countries can systematically integrate reporting on national implementation of the 2030 Agenda in reports to the UPR and to international and regional human rights treaties monitoring mechanisms. Overall, the international and regional human rights monitoring and reporting system can contribute to SDG follow-up and review by providing: systematized quantitative and qualitative data through state, UN, civil society and NHRI reports; recommendations for states; methodologies for innovative and participatory data collection; expertise on developing national monitoring systems consistent with global standards; and best practice on systematic engagement of stakeholders in monitoring, reporting and follow-up, including transparency and access to information.⁴⁵

Overall, please keep in mind that this work on the SDGs is evolving and changes are likely to occur over time. Therefore, everyone getting involved in the review and evaluation processes are encouraged to check the UN websites regularly for latest updates, documents and information.

44 Currently, there are over 100 NHRIs operating around the world (Source: <http://nhri.ohchr.org/EN/AboutUs/Pages/HistoryNHRIs.aspx>).

45 Danish Institute of Human Rights, "SDG data, indicators and mechanisms".

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TAP Network (principal author Charmaine Rodrigues), Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit: A practical guide for stakeholders for national-level advocacy around Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, <http://tapnetwork2030.org/goal-16-advocacy-toolkit/>



**IT IS BETTER
TO LIGHT A CANDLE
THAN TO CURSE
THE DARKNESS**

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

A PRACTICAL GUIDE FOR NATIONAL
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