

The methodology behind the database

This Guide is intended to show the linkages between the SDGs and their associated targets and States' obligations (and in some cases, voluntary commitments) under international and regional human rights, labour and environmental instruments.

Overall, the database demonstrates that, of the 169 targets:

- 156 are linked with international human rights instruments and labour standards.
- 132 are linked with Inter-American regional human rights instruments.
- 135 are linked with African regional human rights instruments.
- 68 are linked with European regional human rights instruments.
- 79 are linked with international environmental and climate change instruments.

Basic premise

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is “grounded in [...] international human rights treaties”, is informed, among others, by the UN Declaration on the Right to Development, and is guided by the “purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including full respect for international law” (para. 10).

The 17 SDGs and their related targets “seek to realize the human rights of all” (Preamble of the 2030 Agenda). They are based on three integrated and interdependent pillars - environmental, social and economic - and bear a link with ongoing “processes in the economic, social and environmental fields” (para. 55). Strategies to implement the Agenda shall therefore be “consistent with relevant international rules and commitments” (para.21).

The 2030 Agenda also makes direct reference to key international instruments aimed at environmental protection, linking the aims of environmental protection clearly with economic and social pillars of development. This database demonstrates the linkages between these instruments and specific SDG targets, but also demonstrates where these environmental principles have human rights linkages.

Basic principles employed

In order to develop the Guide, a number of considerations have been made in order to ensure the links between SDG targets and the provisions of international and regional human rights, labour law and environmental instruments, are as systematic and targeted as possible. Moreover, the Guide should be both user-friendly, and able to capture key linkages between the SDGs and regional and international instruments without being overly-general. The basic principles of the methodology used are as follows:

- It employs a *human-rights based understanding* of the main themes covered in the SDGs in accordance with the foundations of the 2030 Agenda on human rights treaties (see above). For example, poverty in Goal 1 is understood in line with the multi-dimensional concept of poverty endorsed by the UN Committee on Economic

Social and Cultural Rights.¹ Likewise, the themes of hunger and food security addressed in Goal 2 are approached through the lens of the human right to adequate food.²

- It focuses only on the *direct linkages* between targets and international instruments, listing those rights/provisions/obligations whose realisation underpins the targets in question. Thus, for example, the focus on doubling agricultural productivity and income of small-scale food producers in target 2.3 is linked, among others, to the right to an adequate standard of living and adequate food.

Emerging or new interpretations of legal provisions

- Linkages are illustrated by quoting provisions from the relevant instruments. Hence, developments and/or clarifications concerning the implications of these provisions provided by international supervisory bodies and regional courts in their decisions or general comments are not reported. For example, article 8 of the European Convention on Human Rights providing for the respect for private and family life, has been interpreted as encompassing also the protection of a particular life style linked to traditional livelihoods. It has however not been included in the review of direct linkages with the SDGs.

Exclusions

- Finally, not all the provisions of the instruments reviewed have been included in the template. In particular, provisions concerning the administration of the treaty and the establishment of supervisory bodies have been excluded.

Cross-cutting or widely applicable rights and principles

There are a number of principles and rights enshrined in international and regional instruments that are so broadly applicable, or cross-cutting, that they could potentially apply to most, if not all, targets. The methodology adopts a pragmatic approach, aimed at ensuring that the inclusion of these principles and rights in the database is as targeted as possible, so it remains a practical tool aimed at users' needs. This means that cross-cutting or broadly applicable rights and principles that could apply to most targets are only linked to the targets that are most directly relevant.

The main cross-cutting or widely applicable rights and principles are:

1. Non-discrimination

The principle of non-discrimination is a cross-cutting principle of all human rights instruments, and therefore must be considered generally applicable to all targets. Due to its universal applicability, and the need to limit the number of links displayed in the database to ensure maximum usability, relevant provisions on non-

¹ E/C.12/2001/10 (2001).

² The core content of the right to adequate food has been illustrated by the UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights in its general comment No. 12, E/C.12/1999/5 (1999).

discrimination have not been displayed in relation to every target – only where the specific wording of the target in question highlights the need to eliminate disparities. However, the principle of non-discrimination should nevertheless remain applicable across the board in line with the Human Rights-Based Approach.

2. The right to development (Article 22 of the African Charter on Human and Peoples' Rights – ACHPR), and the right to general satisfactory environment favourable to development (Article 24 of the ACHPR).

These rights are also relevant to most or all SDG targets. Due to their wide applicability, and the need to limit the number of links in the database to ensure maximum usability, these provisions are not displayed in relation to every target. Thus, the following rules have been employed for displaying these articles in the database:

- When the wording of the target refers to processes necessary to ensure the right to development and/or refers to aspects of States' duties to ensure the exercise of the right to development.
- When the wording of the target describes specific policy or other measures intended to create a satisfactory environment favourable to development, or relates to general environmental conditions favourable to development.
- When the wording of the target describes broad conditions that would constitute a general satisfactory environment favourable to development.

Language versions of the instruments in the database

The list below is a list of the **official translations** of the instruments contained in the Human Rights Guide to the SDGs, where they are in languages included in the database.³ Any other translations contained in the database are unofficial translations.

Some official translations that are not in an IT-readable format (for example, older pdf files that are derived from photocopies) are also not included in the database. These include, for example, the Arabic and Chinese translations of the Convention on Biological Diversity, which can nevertheless be found online.

Instrument	Official Language
Aarhus Convention	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
ACHPR	English, French
ACHPR Protocol on Women's Rights	English, French
ACHR	English, French, Spanish
ACRWC	English, French
ADRDM	English, French, Spanish
Basel Convention	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
CAT	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
CBD	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
CEDAW	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
Convention of Belém do Pará	English, French, Spanish
CPPCG	Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
CRC	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
CRPD	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
CTOC	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
DEVAW	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
ECHR, ECHR Protocol, ECHR Protocol No. 12, ECHR Protocol No. 4, ECHR Protocol No. 6 and ECHR Protocol No. 7	English, French
European Social Charter	English, French

³ In some cases there may also be additional official translations into languages that are not included in the database.

FCTC	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
European Framework Convention on Minorities	English, French
ICCPR	Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
ICERD	Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
ICESCR	Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
ICPPED	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
ICRMW	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
ILO 100	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
ILO 102	English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Chinese
ILO 105	English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Chinese
ILO 111	English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Chinese
ILO 118	English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Chinese
ILO 122	English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Chinese
ILO 129	English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Chinese
ILO 131	English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Chinese
ILO 138	English, French, Spanish, Arabic, Russian, Chinese
ILO 142	Arabic, English, French, Russian, Spanish
ILO 143	Arabic, English, French, Russian, Spanish
ILO 144	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
ILO 155	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
ILO 156	Arabic, English, French, Russian, Spanish
ILO 157	Arabic, English, French, Russian, Spanish
ILO 159	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
ILO 161	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
ILO 169	Arabic, English, French, Russian, Spanish
ILO 172	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish

ILO 181	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
ILO 182	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
ILO 187	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
ILO 188	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
ILO 29	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
ILO 81	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
ILO 87	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
ILO 94	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
ILO 95	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
ILO 97	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
ILO 98	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
ILO Protocol 29	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
ILO Rec 151	Arabic, English, French, Russian, Spanish
ILO Rec 189	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
ILO Rec 202	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
ILO Rec 203	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
ILO Rec 86	Arabic, English, French, Russian, Spanish
Inter-American Convention on discrimination against persons with disabilities	English, French, Spanish
Kiev Protocol	English, French, Russian
MLC	Arabic, English, French, Russian, Spanish
NAGOYA	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
Paris Agreement	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
Protocol of San Salvador	English, French, Spanish
Ramsar convention	English, French, Spanish
UDHR	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish

UN Convention on the Law of the Sea	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
UN Convention to Combat Desertification	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
UNCAC	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
UNDRIP	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
UNFCCC	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish
UNGP	Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian, Spanish