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Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development

Resolution adopted by the Human Rights Council on 31 March 2026

61/28. Promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

The Human Rights Council,

Guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

Reaffirming the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and that all human rights are universal, indivisible, interrelated, interdependent and mutually reinforcing, and that all human rights must be treated in a fair and equal manner, on the same footing and with the same emphasis,

Recalling the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and all other human rights instruments,

Reaffirming General Assembly resolution 60/251 of 15 March 2006, in which the Assembly decided that the work of the Human Rights Council would be guided by the principles of universality, impartiality, objectivity and non-selectivity, constructive international dialogue and cooperation, with a view to enhancing the promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development,

Reaffirming also Human Rights Council resolutions 37/24 of 23 March 2018, 43/19 of 22 June 2020 and 52/14 of 3 April 2023, and recalling other relevant resolutions adopted by the Council,

Reaffirming further General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which the Assembly adopted the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda and pledged that no one would be left behind,

Reaffirming the commitment to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals and uphold all principles enshrined in it, and considering that the 2030 Agenda remains the overarching road map for achieving sustainable development and overcoming the multiple crises faced and contains a pledge to act with urgency to realize its vision as a plan of action for people, the planet, prosperity, peace and partnership, leaving no one behind and to reach the furthest behind first,

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Recalling resolution 79/1 of 22 September 2024, in which the General Assembly adopted the Pact for the Future and its annexes, and recognizing, inter alia, that sustainable development in all its three dimensions – economic, social and environmental – is a central goal in itself and that its achievement, leaving no one behind, is and always will be a central objective of multilateralism, and recognizing also that the 2030 Agenda envisages a world of universal respect for and promotion of human rights and human dignity, the rule of law, justice, equality and non-discrimination,

Expressing concern at the interlinked global crises that are negatively affecting progress in the implementation and realization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, reversing years of progress and development, including in ending poverty, combating inequalities and achieving gender equality, and that progress on most of the Goals is either moving too slowly or has regressed below the 2015 baseline,

Recalling the unwavering commitment to achieving sustainable development in its three dimensions in a balanced and integrated manner, and reaffirming the need to avoid obstacles that are inconsistent with international law, and sustain efforts to build the future we want by addressing existing, new and emerging challenges to sustainable development by 2030 and beyond,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 79/323 of 25 August 2025, in which the Assembly endorsed the Sevilla Commitment adopted at the Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development, which reaffirmed a commitment to the realization of sustainable development, including full, effective and timely implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its 17 Sustainable Development Goals and upholding all principles enshrined in it, and that pursuit and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedoms for all, encompassing civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development, must be respected, protected and promoted, without distinction or discrimination of any kind, and decided to launch an ambitious package of reforms and actions to close the financing gap with urgency and catalyse sustainable development investments at scale,

Expressing deep concern at the growing Sustainable Development Goals financing gap, particularly in developing countries, preventing the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, which cover a wide range of issues relating to economic, social and cultural rights, and widening inequalities,

Emphasizing the pressing need to pursue deeper reforms of the international financial architecture, including by enhancing its resilience, coherence and effectiveness in responding to present and future challenges and crises, strengthening the voice and representation of developing countries, and addressing the pressing need to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, eradicate poverty, leave no one behind and advance the realization of human rights,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 80/5 of 4 of November 2025, by which the Assembly adopted the Doha Political Declaration of the "World Social Summit" under the title "The Second World Summit for Social Development", in which States reaffirmed the intergovernmental commitments related to social development, and noted that social development and social justice cannot be attained in the absence of peace and security or in the absence of respect for all human rights and fundamental freedoms, which requires strengthening international solidarity, upholding human rights, building trust, and a renewed commitment to multilateral action on the attainment of social development,

Recognizing that sustainable development and the protection of the environment, including ecosystems, contribute to and promote human well-being and the full enjoyment of all human rights, for present and future generations,

Recalling the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development, held in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, in June 2012, and its outcome document entitled "The Future We Want", which reaffirmed the principles of the Rio Declaration on Environment and Development, and taking note with appreciation of the outcomes of the thirtieth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, the sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the Convention on Biological Diversity, the

sixteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification, and of other meetings of multilateral environmental agreements,

Recalling also Human Rights Council resolution 48/13 of 8 October 2021 and General Assembly resolution 76/300 of 28 July 2022, recognizing the human right to a clean, healthy and sustainable environment,

Noting the International Court of Justice's advisory opinion of 23 July 2025 on the obligations of States in respect of climate change,

Recognizing that the 2030 Agenda is guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter, including full respect for international law, and is grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights treaties, the United Nations Millennium Declaration and the 2005 World Summit Outcome, and is informed by other instruments, such as the Declaration on the Right to Development,

Recognizing also that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda must be consistent with a State's obligations under international human rights law,

Acknowledging that the promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda are interrelated and mutually reinforcing,

Recognizing that national human rights mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up and voluntary national reviews contribute to the promotion and protection of human rights and to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

Noting the Secretary-General's Call to Action for Human Rights, the Global Accelerator on Jobs and Social Protection for a Just Transition and the report of the Secretary-General entitled "Our Common Agenda",

Recognizing the importance of coordination across the United Nations system to promote all human rights and ensure a coherent and integrated sustainable development agenda,

Acknowledging the contribution of international human rights mechanisms, including the treaty bodies, the special procedures of the Human Rights Council and the universal periodic review, in promoting the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in line with States' obligations and commitments to respect, protect and fulfil human rights,

Reaffirming that the high-level political forum on sustainable development, consistent with its universal intergovernmental character, shall provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for sustainable development, and follow up on and review progress in the implementation of sustainable development commitments, enhancing the integration of the three dimensions of sustainable development in a holistic and cross-sectoral manner at all levels, and have a focused, dynamic and action-oriented agenda, ensuring the appropriate consideration of new and emerging sustainable development challenges,

Reaffirming also General Assembly resolutions 74/4 of 15 October 2019 and 78/1 of 29 September 2023, in which the Assembly endorsed the political declarations adopted by the high-level political forum on sustainable development at the Sustainable Development Goals Summits held on 24 and 25 September 2019 and 18 and 19 September 2023, in which Heads of State and Government and high representatives committed to take continuous, fundamental, transformative and urgent actions at all levels and by all stakeholders to overcome the crisis and obstacles facing our world, as well as recognized the urgent need to take the actions necessary to reverse declines and accelerate progress to achieve the 2030 Agenda and implement the Sustainable Development Goals,

Recalling the commitment of States to accelerating implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, and their emphasis on the urgency to take bold, ambitious, accelerated, just and transformative action in the five years remaining, and noting with appreciation the preparatory work for the 2026 high-level political forum as well as for the forthcoming Global Sustainable Development Report that will inform the 2027 Sustainable Development Goals Summit,

Taking note of the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on best practices, challenges and lessons learned concerning integrated

approaches to the promotion and protection of human rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at all levels,[1]

Recognizing the important role that technical cooperation and capacity-building, in particular through the use of science, technology and innovation, can play in building States' capacities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in a way that is consistent with their respective obligations under international human rights law,

Noting the concept of a human rights economy proposed by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights as a tool of an approach based on full respect for human rights to reduce inequalities and realize the 2030 Agenda, which seeks to redress the root causes and structural barriers to equality, justice and sustainability, placing emphasis on inclusive participation and social dialogue, including the delivery of better results for people and the planet, grounded in economic, civil, political, social and cultural rights,

Reiterating that empowering people and ensuring equality, including equality and inclusiveness in a manner consistent with States' obligations under international human rights law, including in designing and implementing economic policies that advance the realization of human rights for all, are among the main elements for achieving sustainable development, and reiterating also the principles and values of the social and solidarity economy, which play a key role in eliminating poverty and catalysing social transformation,

Acknowledging the contribution of the Office of the High Commissioner, which continues to provide technical assistance in integrating human rights in country implementation plans and strategies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals, and the Office's work on Sustainable Development Goal indicators and data,

Recalling General Assembly resolution 79/226 of 19 December 2024, in which the Assembly recognized the United Nations contribution to the promotion of all human rights for sustainable development, called upon all entities of the United Nations development system, in accordance with their respective mandates, to assist States upon their request and in consultation with them in their efforts to respect and fulfil their human rights obligations and commitments under international law, as a critical tool to operationalize the pledge to leave no one behind,

Taking note of the 2025 report of the Secretary-General on progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals[2] and the Global Sustainable Development Report 2023,

Recalling that the organizations of the United Nations system and other relevant intergovernmental organizations are invited to contribute within their respective mandates to the discussions of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, and also recalling the commitment to enhancing global, regional and local partnership for sustainable development, engaging all relevant stakeholders, including Indigenous Peoples, civil society, the private sector, academia and youth, recognizing the important contribution they can make towards achieving the 2030 Agenda,

Welcoming the holding of the sixth and seventh intersessional meetings for dialogue and cooperation on human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, on 18 January 2024 and on 11 February 2025, and taking note of the summary reports thereof,

Noting with concern the liquidity and financial crisis affecting the United Nations on the sufficient resourcing of the mandate and mandated activities, including on the activities mandated by Human Rights Council resolution 52/14 of 3 April 2023,

1. *Decides* to organize two full-day intersessional meetings for dialogue and cooperation on human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, which will provide a space for States, relevant United Nations and regional human rights mechanisms, United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, national human rights institutions, local and regional governments, civil society organizations, and other relevant stakeholders, to voluntarily share good practices, achievements, challenges and lessons learned concerning integrated and gender responsive approaches in the promotion and protection of human

[1] A/HRC/51/9 and A/HRC/61/13.
[2] E/2022/55.

rights and the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, with particular attention to those who are marginalized or in vulnerable situations, in line with the principle of leaving no one behind;

2. *Also decides* that the intersessional meetings should be held in advance of the 2027 and 2029 meetings of the high-level political forum on sustainable development, and that the focus of each of the intersessional meetings will be informed by the themes of the 2027 and 2029 meetings of the high-level political forum;

3. *Requests* the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to organize the two intersessional meetings in consultation with Member States, relevant United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, international human rights mechanisms, national human rights institutions, civil society organizations, local and regional governments, and other relevant stakeholders, and to facilitate their participation in the meetings, as appropriate;

4. *Also requests* the High Commissioner to provide, for the above-mentioned full-day intersessional meetings, all the services and facilities necessary to make the discussions fully accessible to persons with disabilities, and to provide webcasting services for the meetings;

5. *Requests* the President of the Human Rights Council to appoint for each meeting, on the basis of regional rotation, and in consultation with regional groups, a chair for the meeting from candidates nominated by members and observers of the Council, who, together with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, shall be responsible for the preparation of summary reports of the discussions of the meetings, to be made available to all their participants, and for presenting them to the Council at its sixty-fifth and seventy-first sessions, respectively;

6. *Requests* the Office of the High Commissioner to increase its support, technical assistance and capacity-building for States, upon their request, to implement approaches that integrate the promotion and protection of human rights and the realization of the 2030 Agenda, taking into account a gender-responsive approach, including by working with national mechanisms for implementation, reporting and follow-up, in order to facilitate information and data collection for tracking the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, as well as with United Nations country teams, national human rights institutions and other relevant stakeholders, and requests the Secretary-General to further strengthen the dedicated capacity of the Office at the regional level to provide such increased support;

7. *Decides* that the summary reports of the discussions of the intersessional meetings should be made available to the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Sustainable Development Goals Summit, where applicable.

54th meeting
31 March 2026

[Adopted without a vote.]