



Reports on the 45th session of the UN Human Rights Council

Interactive dialogue with the Human Rights Advisory Committee

25 September 2020

What is the Advisory Committee?

Pursuant to Council resolution 5/1 paragraphs 65 to 84, the Human Rights Council Advisory Committee has been established to function as a think-tank for the Council.

- The Advisory Committee provides expertise to the Council. It focuses on studies and research-based advice. It may also propose suggestions for further research proposals.
- In its work, the Committee should be implementation-oriented, and the scope of its advice should be limited to thematic issues pertaining to the mandate of the Council.

The Committee is composed of 18 independent experts from different professional backgrounds representing the various regions of the world.

Mr. Lazhari Bouzid - Chair of the Advisory Committee:

Report on national policies and human rights

The report seeks to **help states to implement the 2030 agenda** by integrating **human rights into national policies**. The SDGs are being increasingly incorporated in national development policies, plans and projects. All such measures should give practical content to the **principle of leaving no one behind**, by ensuring equality of treatment and opportunities, eliminating discrimination and ensuring equal rights for all, in particular those belonging to **vulnerable groups**.

While some progress have been made in implementing the SDGs, including **reducing extreme poverty**, **child mortality** and **natal mortality**, **promoting gender equality** and **improving access to electricity** and to **safe drinking water**, the reports also stresses that much remains to be done. It refers to current challenges and obstacles such as **lack of funding**, **insufficiently qualified personal** as well as shortcomings related to the implementation of the SDGs.

The report makes recommendations about:

- Integrating **human rights while implementing the SDGs**, including with increased attention to the **gender dimension** of development.
- Reviewing such policies **considering the specific situations and challenges in each country** and the periodic evaluation of the results.
- Promoting participation of all stakeholders including **civil society**, representatives of all sectors of the population, **trade unions** and **professional associations**.
- The necessary means must be made available for the realization of SDGs, including **budgetary allocations**, **national partnerships** and **private sectors cooperation**.

Report on the importance of a legally binding instrument on the right to development

This report provides an overview of the steps towards the **recognition of the right to development** as a human right, culminating in the adoption of a **declaration on the right to development**. It underscores the **importance of the 2030 agenda** for sustainable development as the fullest expression to date of the right to development and addresses specific dimensions of the SDGs.

While underscoring that the **right to development reflects the values of the UN charter**, the report notes that the potential of the **declaration on the right to development** remains unrealized. It recalls that the majority of member states are favourable to the adoption of a **legally binding instrument**, while some other members states are not in favour of this approach.

The report outlines the **added value of a legally binding instrument** and concludes that such an instrument would create an environment for development and **more favourable conditions** for all human rights. It would address **poverty**, strengthen basis for **inclusive growth**, help **reduce discrimination**, **promote gender equality**, strengthen the principles of **self-determination** and **sovereignty**. It would also enhance friendly ties between states and boost **solidarity and cooperation**.

The early implementation and realization of the right to development acquires a renewed urgency in view of the multidimensional challenges to eradicating **extreme poverty** and meeting the SDG timelines, taking in account the impact of the **Covid-19 pandemic** and **climate change**.

INTERACTIVE DIALOGUE

12 delegations took the floor during the interactive dialogue.

Each speaker thanks the Advisory Committee for its reports. States were **supportive of the right to development**. In times marked by **Covid-19**, the right to development could **mitigate the effects** of the pandemic.

Everyone also agreed that **implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** by 2030 was of utmost importance and that the **right to development** would be a **central tool** in implementing the SDGs. States also agreed with the Advisory Committee that a **human rights-based approach** was fundamental in implementing the SDGs.

A majority of states were supportive of the **elaboration and implementation of a legally binding instrument** on the right to development (China, Nepal, Pakistan, India, Iran, Venezuela).

Only the European Union expressed its **concerns over the idea** of having a legally binding instrument on the right to development, saying that it was **counter productive work** to focus on this.

Some states raised the **importance of fostering regional and international cooperation** in order to remove obstacles for the implementation of the right to development (Ecuador - on behalf of Algeria, Italy, Peru, Romania and Thailand -, Nepal, Venezuela).

In light with the report of the Advisory Committee on the **negative impact of terrorism on the enjoyment of human rights** (to be finalized in 2021), several states highlighted the importance of this report and the danger of **terrorism** and **extremism** on the enjoyment of human rights (China, Russian Federation, Egypt, Pakistan)

[Delegations that took the floor during the Interactive Dialogue \(12 delegations\):](#)

Human Rights Council members: Nepal, Peru, Pakistan, India, Venezuela, Indonesia.

Observer states: European Union, Ecuador (on behalf of the core group for resolution of national policies and human rights), China, Russian Federation, Egypt, Iran.

[Civil Society Organizations that took the floor during the Interactive Dialogue \(6 NGOs\):](#)

South Youth Organization, China NGO Network for International Exchanges, Institute for NGO Research, China Society for Human Rights Studies (CSHRS), International Committee for the Indigenous Peoples of the Americas, iuventum e.V.

[CLICK HERE](#) to access the full webcast of the interactive dialogue