



Dignity for All: Realizing Social Rights in the EU

**Contribution to the public consultation on the Action Plan
on the Implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights**

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Introduction

The European Parliament, the Council and the Commission proclaimed the European Pillar of Social Rights (“EU Social Pillar”) at the Social Summit for Fair Jobs and Growth in Gothenburg, Sweden, on 17 November 2017. The Pillar sets out 20 key principles and rights, structured around three chapters:

- Equal opportunities and access to the labour market
- Fair working conditions
- Social protection and inclusion.

The Pillar is the first set of social rights proclaimed by EU institutions since the Charter of Fundamental Rights in the year 2000. In 2024, by signing the Declaration on the Future of the European Pillar of Social Rights¹, they reaffirmed their commitment to a strong and resilient social Europe with the Pillar as the guiding compass.

The President of the European Commission, Ursula von der Leyen, committed to ensuring social fairness and to the principles of the Pillar becoming reality across the EU in her political guidelines for the 2024-2029 mandate of the European Commission, where she called for new impetus to advance in this area and a new Action Plan on the Implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights (“Action Plan”)

The United Nations Human Rights Office (OHCHR) welcomes the opportunity to contribute to shaping the new Action Plan through the consultation process launched by the European Commission in June 2025. This paper is an update of OHCHR’s 2021 submission to the consultation on the 2021-2025 Action Plan and sets out key considerations which will enable an implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights in compliance with international human rights.

While the realization of social rights is a competence of EU Member States, the European Union institutions – and the European Commission in particular – can support by setting the framework and giving direction. The Social Pillar is therefore a critical tool for strengthening social rights in the EU. With a view to ensuring the effective implementation of the Social Pillar, the Action Plan is an opportunity to achieve two objectives:

- (1) Strengthen the protection of people living in the EU by identifying areas requiring particular attention
- (2) Ensure broad and meaningful participation of key actors in the design, implementation and evaluation of the Social Pillar, its Action Plan, and related measures.

¹ <https://socialsecurity.belgium.be/sites/default/files/content/docs/en/publications/la-hulpe-declaration.pdf>

Situating this challenging endeavor in the broader international context, the UN Human Rights Regional Office for Europe submits that international human rights norms, standards and principles and the oversight bodies designed to monitor and assess State compliance and guide States towards continuous progress - can provide direction for the scope, content and methodology of the Action Plan and bolster the EU's effort to close gaps in the enjoyment of social rights across the region, while leaving no one behind.

1. Anchoring the EU Action Plan in international human rights instruments, recommendations and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda

The Action Plan should be guided and underpinned by international human rights norms, standards and principles and the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda. International human rights are universal, binding standards that can serve as a helpful guide and framework – in addition to relevant EU law – for an effective Action Plan.

All EU member States are party to most of the core international human rights treaties,² with the exception of the International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance and the International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of Migrant Workers - and receive detailed analysis of human rights gaps and recommendations on how to address them by UN monitoring bodies. The EU itself has ratified the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and underwent an expert review in March 2025 with recommendations as to how to further realize the human rights of persons with disabilities³. This information is publicly available⁴ and should serve as a blueprint when defining EU policy and investment priorities, including in the context of the Multi-Annual Financial Framework, the European Semester process and the new Action Plan. The most relevant international human rights instruments and standards for the Action Plan are listed in Annex I.

When it comes to social and economic rights, international law obliges States to devote the maximum available resources to ensure their progressive and full realization and to guarantee, even during adverse economic circumstances, the enjoyment of at least essential levels of these rights to all, without discrimination. While some dimensions of economic, social and cultural rights are to be realized progressively, States have an immediate obligation to ensure equality and

²International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Racial Discrimination; International Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women; Convention against Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment; Convention on the Rights of the Child; Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families; International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance

³ CRPD/C/EUR/CO/2-3

⁴ See Universal Human Rights Index at <https://uhri.ohchr.org/en>

non-discrimination in law and practice⁵, to ensure a pattern of improvement in the enjoyment of these rights and to refrain from any action that could result in a retrogression in the enjoyment of these rights.⁶

While the Social Pillar is not a legally binding document, its 20 principles reflect to some extent the social rights enshrined in international human rights treaties to which EU member States are parties. Yet, the Social Pillar does not reflect the entire scope or content of social rights as contained in international human rights law. For instance, Principle 19 of the Social Pillar on housing and assistance for the homeless⁷ reflects some of the important elements of the right to adequate housing in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (article 25.1)⁸ and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (article 11.1)⁹, but not entirely. The right to adequate housing, as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living, is broader in scope¹⁰ and, by extension, so are EU member States' legal obligations in this area. The UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, the UN Committee on the Rights of the Child and the UN Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing have also provided additional guidance on the interpretation and scope of this right to adequate housing.¹¹

The international human rights protection system is comprised of the human rights Treaty Bodies, the Special Procedures and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) of the UN Human Rights Council. All these mechanisms review progress by States in implementing the economic and social rights enshrined in international human rights treaties. Both the Treaty Bodies and the Human Rights Council – in the Universal Periodic Review – monitor States' records with certain periodicity. The UN Treaty Bodies further issue general comments to guide the interpretation of certain rights in the treaties or detail State obligations.

⁵ UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, General Comment No. 20 on Non-discrimination in economic, social and cultural rights, E/C.12/GC/20 and General Comment No. 3 on The Nature of States Parties' Obligations (Art. 2, Para. 1, of the Covenant), E/1991/23

⁶ Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, Fact Sheet No. 33, Frequently Asked Questions on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, pp. 14-16

⁷ "Housing and assistance for the homeless: a. Access to social housing or housing assistance of good quality shall be provided for those in need. b. Vulnerable people have the right to appropriate assistance and protection against forced eviction. c. Adequate shelter and services shall be provided to the homeless in order to promote their social inclusion."

⁸ "Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of himself and of his family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his control."

⁹ "The States Parties to the present Covenant recognize the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself and his family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions. The States Parties will take appropriate steps to ensure the realization of this right, recognizing to this effect the essential importance of international co-operation based on free consent."

¹⁰ https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/FS21_rev_1_Housing_en.pdf

¹¹ UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, General comment No. 4: The right to adequate housing, (art. 11 (1) of the Covenant), available at: https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/treatybodyexternal/Download.aspx?symbolno=INT%2fCESCR%2fGEC%2f4759&Lang=en

Special Procedure mandate-holders also issue thematic reports which would be of relevance for the preparation of the EU Action Plan (See Annex I).

In the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), which is currently in its 4th cycle, States “support” or “note” recommendations they receive from other States on a range of human rights issues. The fact that States are given three months to reflect, hold internal consultations and reach a sovereign decision on the acceptance of specific recommendations creates a legitimate expectation that, if a State supports certain recommendations, it has the intention to act on them within the next five years. The buy-in from the Government thus makes UPR recommendations useful entry points for engagement.

Anchoring the Action Plan in international human rights norms and standards will lead EU member States to implement it in accordance with their binding obligations under international law. Not only will such an approach strengthen human rights protection for people living in Europe; it will also enhance legal certainty for member States and domestic courts.¹²

The Action Plan should take into account the findings and recommendations of the international human rights mechanisms which, in addition to the EU’s own tools, like the Social Scoreboard,¹³ establish a useful baseline of where States currently stand with respect to the protection and promotion of the social rights reflected in the Social Pillar. The findings, recommendations and jurisprudence of international mechanisms are searchable through the Universal Human Rights Index¹⁴ and the EU Fundamental Rights Information System (EFRIS), the human rights gateway of the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights.¹⁵ A more consistent and systematic reflection of these findings and recommendations in the European Semester, which provides a framework for the coordination of economic policies across the EU, is equally recommended.

The implementation of the Social Pillar should further contribute to the achievement of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, which represents an agreed roadmap to eradicate poverty and to improve the quality of people’s lives. Specifically, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets should guide the Social Pillar Action Plan. The EU has already committed to implementing the SDGs both in its internal and external policies¹⁶ and underwent a

¹² *Future of Europe: International Human Rights in European Integration*, Study Commissioned by the UN Human Rights Regional Office for Europe, authored by Olivier De Schutter (2020).

¹³ <https://composite-indicators.jrc.ec.europa.eu/social-scoreboard/>

¹⁴ Universal Human Rights Index, Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights: <https://uhri.ohchr.org/en/>

¹⁵ <https://fra.europa.eu/en/databases/efris/>

¹⁶ *Delivering on the UN’s Sustainable Development Goals – A comprehensive approach*, Commission Staff Working Document, SWD (2020) 400 final. See also Council of the European Union conclusions on the EU Priorities in UN Human Rights Fora 2020, 17 February 2020 (5982/20). Furthermore, each European Commissioner was tasked by European Commission President Ursula Von der Leyen to “ensure the delivery of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals within their policy area. The College as a whole will be responsible for the overall implementation of the Goals.” See for example Mission Letter to Nicolas Schmit available at:

https://ec.europa.eu/commission/sites/beta-political/files/mission-letter-nicolas-schmit_en.pdf

Voluntary Review on its implementation in 2023¹⁷ The SDGs correspond overwhelmingly to existing international human rights commitments, and several SDGs are relevant to the Social Pillar (see Annex II).

2. Adopting a human rights-based approach to policy-making, implementation and monitoring

Whether explicit or implicit, norms and values shape policies and institutions.¹⁸ A human rights-based approach should guide the design, implementation and monitoring of the Action plan. The human rights-based approach to policy-making presents a conceptual framework for the protection and promotion of human rights based on international human rights law, standards and principles. This approach identifies who has rights (rights-holders) and what freedoms and entitlements they have under international human rights law, as well as the obligations of those responsible for respecting, protecting and fulfilling these rights (duty-bearers).

The human rights-based approach empowers rights-holders to claim their rights and supports duty-bearers in meeting their obligations. It further calls for analyzing legislation, policies and programmes through the lens of the human rights principles of non-discrimination, participation, transparency and accountability.

a. Non-discrimination, with a focus on those most left behind

Discrimination- whether in law or practice, direct or indirect, intentional or not - is often at the root of exclusion and marginalization. The central principle of the Sustainable Development Agenda is to leave no one behind and start with the ones most behind first.¹⁹ The measures foreseen in the Action Plan should therefore ensure that the most marginalized are able to access and claim the rights described in the Social Pillar. A human rights-based approach requires that decision-makers identify the most disadvantaged, using data disaggregated according to the prohibited grounds of discrimination reflected in international human rights instruments, e.g., disability, race, colour, sex, national or geographic origin.

Those most left behind include people living in poverty, and individuals experiencing multiple and intersecting forms of discrimination. An intersectional analysis would reveal that persons who cumulate various of the grounds listed, such as older persons with disabilities living in institutional care, women living in informal settlements or unaccompanied migrant children are at higher risk

¹⁷ See EU Voluntary Review on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, July 2023, at https://www.eeas.europa.eu/sites/default/files/documents/2023/SDG-Report-WEB_0.pdf

¹⁸ Office of the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights, *Principles and Guidelines for a Human Rights Approach to Poverty Reduction Strategies* (2006), available at <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Publications/PovertyStrategiesen.pdf>

¹⁹ *Transforming Our World: The 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda*, 21 October 2015 (A/RES/70/1)

of social exclusion and would thus warrant priority attention in the implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights.

A human rights based Action Plan should therefore require States to map those most left behind with respect to their socio-economic status, disaggregated by age, sex, geographic region, race, ethnicity, national origin, physical or intellectual disability, education, property or other criteria as nationally relevant.²⁰ This mapping could be supported by the EU Agency for Fundamental Rights, national human rights institutions and equality bodies, and should take into consideration country specific findings by the international human rights mechanisms.

b. Participation

The Action Plan should foresee mechanisms for the systematic participation of rights-holders – and organizations representing them – in the development of the Action Plan, its implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review. The process for the development of the EU Roma Strategic Framework for Equality, Inclusion and Participation (2020-2030) could serve as a model in this regard.

Participation makes policy-making more informed and sustainable, and public institutions more effective, accountable and transparent. This in turn enhances the legitimacy of authorities' decisions and their ownership by all members of society. Stakeholders to be consulted include international and regional organizations, local authorities, national human rights institutions, equality bodies, social partners, civil society organisations, academic institutions and human rights defenders, in particular representatives of the groups who are currently most marginalized in the European Union.

The right of all to participate in public affairs is recognized in article 25 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights and includes the following three elements: (a) the right to take part in the conduct of public affairs; (b) the right to vote and to be elected; and (c) the right to have access to public service. Participation in the conduct of public affairs can be realized by exerting influence through public debate and dialogue with elected representatives or through the capacity of rights-holders to organize themselves.²¹

At the request of the Human Rights Council and following a global consultation, the UN Human Rights Office issued *Guidelines for States on the effective implementation of the right to participate in public affairs*,²² outlining the right's basic principles. Realizing the right to

²⁰ See *Checklist for a Human Rights Based Approach to Socio-Economic Country Responses to COVID-19*, available at https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/democratic-governance/human_rights/checklist-for-a-human-rights-based-approach-to-socio-economic-co.html. See also UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights General Comment No. 20 on Non-discrimination in economic, social and cultural rights.

²¹ UN Human Rights Committee, General Comment No. 25 (CCPR/C/21/Rev.1/Add.7)

²² https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/PublicAffairs/GuidelinesRightParticipatePublicAffairs_web.pdf

participate requires promoting transparency in all aspects of decision-making and holding public authorities accountable.

The Guidelines could inform the preparation of the Action Plan as well as its implementation. In particular, the following elements could be of interest:

- Participation should be secured at all stages of the decision-making cycle, even though no specific set of modalities needs to be followed;
- Information and communication technologies participation tools should be human rights compliant by design, and participation through such tools should follow the same principles as offline participation.

c. Transparency

Transparency is also a cornerstone of the human rights-based approach and should be integral to the development, implementation and evaluation of the Action Plan.

Information should be available, accessible and disseminated to the population. The right to access and impart information is a component of freedom of expression guaranteed in article 19 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Freedom of expression is a “necessary condition for the realization of the principles of transparency and accountability.”²³ The Action Plan should also foresee the establishment of transparent and publicly accessible tools to track financial allocations and expenditures linked to measures under the Action Plan.

d. Accountability, including monitoring implementation of the Social Pillar

Accountability of the EU and its member States for the implementation of the Social Pillar should be a critical component of the Action Plan. Accountability should be ensured at all stages of the policy cycle, including the design, implementation, monitoring and review of the Action Plan. Accountability is also linked to transparency in programme implementation and in the use of the EU’s financial resources.

More can be done to strengthen the social dimension and integrate the principles of the Social Pillar in the European Semester process. The UN Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights has highlighted that “country-specific recommendations can support upwards social convergence in the European Union by demanding that member States strengthen public services, increase social investment, increase efforts to combat homelessness and ensure greater progressivity in taxation”.²⁴ It is also recommended that they be accompanied by proper human rights impact assessments.²⁵

²³ UN Human Rights Committee, General Comment No. 34 (CCPR/C/GC/34), para. 3.

²⁴ A/HRC/47/36/Add.

²⁵ Ibid.

Despite some positive contributions of the Social Scoreboard, observers have noted that it uses indicators that are either inadequate (i.e. on homelessness) or insufficient (i.e. not all 20 principles are covered).²⁶ The human rights indicators developed by the UN Human Rights Office at the request of the UN Treaty Bodies can provide an useful framework to monitor the implementation of the principles and rights contained in the Social Pillar.²⁷ Structural, process and outcome indicators measure the implementation of a right. Illustrative indicators are available on the right to work; on the right to participate in public affairs; on the right to non-discrimination and equality; on the right to health as well as on the right to social protection and the right to housing.²⁸

In addition, relevant indicators under the Sustainable Development Goals (see Annex II) should be used to measure progress by EU member States in implementing the Social Pillar. Data for these indicators are to be collected through a human rights-based approach, ensuring meaningful participation, especially by persons in vulnerable situations, in all stages of the data life cycle. This approach improves visibility around groups left behind and reinforces equality and non-discrimination, by espousing the key principles of participation, self-identification, data disaggregation, privacy, transparency, and accountability.²⁹

Independent national human rights institutions should be explicitly encouraged to monitor the implementation of the Action Plan at national level, in cooperation with the European Network of National Human Rights Institutions (ENNHRI). Their role in the different stages of the European Semester process should also be strengthened. National human rights institutions and ENNHRI can provide feedback to the European Commission on Country Reports and Country Specific Recommendations, and their input should be considered when preparing these documents. National Human Rights Institutions can further provide advice to the European Commission, tailored to the situation of each individual Member State. Sufficient resources as well as capacity should be provided in order for national human rights institutions to effectively execute this part of their mandate.

²⁶ Ibid.

²⁷ UN Human Rights (OHCHR), “Human rights indicators, A guide to measurement and implementation”, 2012, and the tables of illustrated indicators, updated to include SDG indicators:
https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/SDG_Indicators_Tables.pdf

²⁸ Ibid.

²⁹ UN Human Rights, 2018. A Human Rights-Based Approach to Data: Leaving No One Behind in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, available at
<https://ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/GuidanceNoteonApproachtoData.pdf>

3. Policy coherence

The Action Plan on the Implementation of the European Pillar of Social Rights should also be aligned with other EU policies seeking to advance the realization of economic and social rights, like the European Semester, European Disability Strategy, EU Anti-Racism Strategy, EU Gender Equality Strategy, Child Guarantee, Youth Guarantee, EU Roma Strategic Framework for Equality, Inclusion and Participation, LGBTIQ Equality Strategy, European Affordable Housing Plan and the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy. The 2028-2034 Multi-Annual Financial Framework should provide adequate financial resources to operationalize the Action Plan.

Conclusion and Recommendations

The Social Pillar Action Plan represents an opportunity to commit to the design and implementation of socio-economic measures that truly put people at the centre. It is an opportunity to recommit to the universal standards contained in international human rights law and strengthen equality and inclusion in the EU. The European Commission is therefore encouraged to consider the following recommendations in designing, implementing and monitoring the Action Plan:

- International human rights law – which represents universal standards binding on EU member States - and the SDGs should constitute the overarching framework of the Action Plan.
- The Action Plan should include, as a stated objective, that implementation of the Social Pillar should contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and their targets, with the SDG indicators to monitor implementation.
- The European Commission should take into account the recommendations and findings of international human rights mechanisms which, in addition to the EU's own tools, such as the Social Scoreboard, establish a useful baseline for where States currently stand with respect to the protection and promotion of the social rights reflected in the Pillar. These findings and recommendations should also be more consistently and systematically referred to in the European Semester process.
- The Action Plan should foresee a mapping of those most left behind with respect to their socio-economic status, disaggregated by age, sex, geographic region, race, ethnicity, national origin, physical or intellectual disability, education, property or other criteria as nationally relevant.
- The European Commission should ensure coherence with current and future EU policies relevant to the principles in the Social Pillar, in particular the Child Guarantee, the EU Anti-Racism Strategy, the EU Roma Strategic Framework for Inclusion, Equality and Participation, the European Affordable Housing Plan and the EU Anti-Poverty Strategy.
- The 2028-2034 Multi-Annual Financial Framework should provide adequate financial resources to operationalize the Action Plan
- The Action Plan should foresee mechanisms for the systematic participation of rights-holders and other key actors in the development, implementation, evaluation and eventual review of the Action Plan. Stakeholders to be consulted should include international and regional organizations, local authorities, national human rights institutions, equality bodies, social partners, civil society organisations, academics and human rights defenders, in particular representatives of the groups who are currently most marginalized in the EU.

- The Action Plan should foresee the establishment of transparent and publicly accessible tools to track financial allocations and expenditures linked to measures under the Action Plan.
- The European Commission should involve independent national human rights institutions in monitoring the implementation of the Social Pillar and its Action Plan, including through strengthened involvement in the European Semester process.
- The European Commission should consider the human rights indicators and the human rights-based approach to data developed by the UN Human Rights Office as a useful framework to monitor the implementation of the principles and rights contained in the Social Pillar.
- The Action Plan should explicitly recognize adequate housing as a human right and not a commodity.

The UN Human Rights Regional Office for Europe stands ready to support the European Commission with information and expertise from the international human rights system.

ANNEX I: Relevant United Nations Sources for the Implementation of the Pillar

I. INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS TREATIES & STANDARDS

Universal Declaration of Human Rights

- Article 2 – Non-discrimination
- Article 7 – Equality before the law
- Article 19 – Freedom of expression
- Article 22 – Social security
- Article 23 – Employment
- Article 25 – Adequate standard of living including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and social protection
- Article 26 – Education

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

- Article 6 – Work and employment
- Article 7 - Just and favourable conditions of work
- Article 8 – Form and join a trade union
- Article 9 – Social security
- Article 11 - Adequate standard of living, including adequate food, clothing and housing
- Article 12 - Highest attainable standard of physical and mental health
- Article 13 – Education

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights

- Article 2 – Effective remedy
- Article 19 – Freedom of expression
- Article 25 – Right to participate in public affairs

International Convention on Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

- Article 5 (e) – Prohibition of discrimination and equality before the law, in the enjoyment of economic, social and cultural rights

Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women

- Article 2 – Prohibition of discrimination and equality before the law
- Article 10 – Education
- Article 11 – Employment
- Article 12 – Health Care
- Article 13 – Other areas of economic and social life



- Article 14 – Rights of women in rural areas
- Article 15 – Equality before the law

Convention on the Rights of the Child

- Article 2 – Non-discrimination
- Article 6 – Survival and development of the child
- Article 23 – Children with disabilities
- Article 24 – Health
- Article 26 – Social Security
- Article 27 – Adequate standard of living, including nutrition, clothing and housing
- Articles 28 and 29 – Education
- Article 32 – Economic exploitation

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities

- Article 5 – Equality and non-discrimination
- Article 19 – Living independently and being included in the community
- Article 24 – Education
- Article 25 – Health
- Article 26 – Habilitation and Rehabilitation
- Article 27 – Work and Employment
- Article 28 – Adequate standard of living and social protection
- Article 29 – Participation in public and political life

II. INTERPRETATIVE GUIDANCE ON INTERNATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS STANDARDS

UN Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights

- General comment No. 23 (2016) on the right to just and favourable conditions of work, [E/C.12/GC/23](#)
- General comment No. 20 (2009) on non-discrimination in economic, social and cultural rights, [E/C.12/GC/20](#)
- General comment No. 19 (2007) on the right to social security, [E/C.12/GC/19](#)
- General comment No. 14 (2000) on the right to the highest attainable standard of health, [E/C.12/2000/4](#)
- General comment No. 13 (1999) on the right to education, [E/C.12/1999/10](#)
- General comment No.10 (1998) on the role of national human rights institutions in the protection of economic, social and cultural rights, [E/C.12/1998/25](#)
- General comment No. 4 (1991) on the right to adequate housing contained in document [E/1992/23](#).

See also:

- Statement on Social protection floors: an essential element of the right to social security and of the sustainable development goals (2015), [E/C.12/2015/1](#)
- Statement on Poverty and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (2001), [E/C.12/2001/10](#)

Human Rights Committee

- General comment No. 25 on Article 25 (1996) on the right to participate in public affairs, voting rights and the right of equal access to public service [CCPR/C/21/Rev.1/Add.7](#)

UN Committee on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination

- General recommendation No. 37 (2024) on equality and freedom from racial discrimination in the enjoyment of the right to health, [CERD/C/GC/37](#)
- General recommendation No. 34 (2011) on racial discrimination against people of African descent, [CERD/C/GC/34](#)
- General recommendation No. 27 (2000) on discrimination against Roma [CERD/C/GC/27](#)

UN Committee on the Rights of the child

- General comment No. 21 (2017) on children in street situations, [CRC/C/GC/21](#)

UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women

- General recommendation No. 36 (2017) on the right of girls and women to education, CEDAW/C/GC/36
- General recommendation No. 34 (2016) – on the rights of rural women, CEDAW/C/GC/34
- General recommendation No. 24 (1999) on women and health, CEDAW/C/GC/24
- General recommendation No. 23 (1997) on women in political and public life, CEDAW/C/GC/23

UN Committee on the Rights of the people with disabilities

- General comment No. 8 (2022) on the right of persons with disabilities to work and employment, CRPD/C/GC/8
- General comment No. 7 (2018) on Article 4.3 and 33.3 – the participation of persons with disabilities in the implementation and monitoring of the Convention, CRPD/C/GC/7
- General comment No. 6 (2018) on equality and non-discrimination, CRPD/C/GC/6
- General comment No. 5 (2017) on living independently and being included in the community, CRPD/C/GC/5
- General comment No. 4 (2016) on the right to inclusive education, CRPD/C/GC/4
- General comment No. 3 (2016) on women and girls with disabilities, CRPD/C/GC/3



- General comment No. 2 (2014) on accessibility, CRPD/C/GC/2
- General comment No. 1 (2014) on equal recognition before the law, [CRPD/C/GC/1](#)

III. REPORTS BY SPECIAL PROCEDURES OF THE UN HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

Special Rapporteur on the right to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living

- Breaking the cycle: Ending the criminalization of homelessness and poverty (2024), [A/HRC/56/61/Add.3](#)
- Report of Mission to the Netherlands (2024), [A/HRC/55/53/Add.1](#)
- A place to live in dignity for all: make housing affordable (2023), [A/78/192](#)
- Towards a just transformation: climate crisis and the right to housing (2023), [A/HRC/52/28](#)
- Spatial Segregation and the right to adequate housing (2022), [A/HRC/49/48](#)
- Discrimination in the context of housing (2021), [A/76/408](#)
- Report: COVID-19 on the right to adequate housing: impacts and way forward (2020), [A/75/148](#)
- Report of Mission to France (2020), [A/HRC/43/43/Add.2](#)
- Guidelines for the Implementation of the Right to Housing (2020), [A/HRC/43/43](#)
- Access to justice for the right to housing (2019), [A/HRC/40/61](#)
- Human rights-based national housing strategies (2018), [A/HRC/37/53](#)
- The right to housing for residents of informal settlements (2018), [A/73/310/Rev.1](#)
- Financialization of housing and the right to adequate housing (2017), [A/HRC/34/51](#)

Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights

- The working poor: a human rights approach to wages (2023), [A/78/175](#)
- Banning discrimination on grounds of socioeconomic disadvantage: an essential tool in the fight against poverty (2022), [A/77/157](#)
- Non-take-up of rights in the context of social protection (2022), [A/HRC/50/38](#)
- The persistence of poverty: how real equality can break the vicious cycles (2022), [A/76/177](#)
- Report of Mission to the European Union, (25 November 2020 to 29 January 2021) [A/HRC/47/36/Add.1](#)
- The “just transition” in the economic recovery: Eradicating poverty within planetary boundaries (2020), [A/75/181/REV.1](#)
- Report of Mission to Spain, (27 January to 7 February 2020), [A/HRC/44/40/Add.2](#)
- Report on Universal Basic Income (2017), [A/HRC/35/26](#)

Other Special procedures mandates relevant to the Social Pillar:

- Special Rapporteur on violence against women
- Special Rapporteur on the rights of persons with disabilities
- Special Rapporteur on the right of everyone to the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health
- Special Rapporteur on the right to food
- Special Rapporteur on the issue of human rights obligations relating to the enjoyment of a safe, clean, healthy and sustainable environment
- Independent Expert on the effects of foreign debt and other related international financial obligations of States on the full enjoyment of all human rights, particularly economic, social and cultural rights

ANNEX II: Table of Relevant SDGs and Global Indicators

[illegible]

3. Equal opportunities	SDG1 SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries	1.a.2 Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)
4. Active support to employment	SDG1 SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all Target 8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support decent job creation, Target 8.5: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men Target 8.6: By 2020, substantially reduce the proportion of youth not in employment, education or training	8.3.1: Proportion of informal employment in employment, by sex 8.5.1: Average hourly earnings of female and male employees, by occupation, age and persons with disabilities 8.5.2: Unemployment rate, by sex, age and persons with disabilities 8.6.1: Proportion of youth (aged 15–24 years) not in education, employment or training
Chapter II: Fair working conditions		
5. Secure and adaptable employment	SDG1	

	<p>SDG 8 <i>Target 8.3: Promote development-oriented policies that support decent job creation,</i> <i>Target 8.5: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men</i></p> <p>SDG10</p>	<p>8.3.1 (See above) 8.5.1 8.5.2</p> <p>10.4.1: Labour share of GDP, comprising wages and social protection transfers</p>
6. Wages	<p>SDG 1</p> <p>SDG 2: End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</p> <p>SDG8 <i>Target 8.5: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men</i></p>	<p>8.5.1 8.5.2</p>
7. Information about employment conditions and protection in case of dismissals	<p>SDG1</p> <p>SDG 8 <i>Target 8.8: Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers</i></p>	<p>8.8.1: Frequency rates of fatal and non-fatal occupational injuries, by sex and migrant status</p> <p>8.8.2: Level of national compliance with labour rights (freedom of association and collective bargaining) based on International Labour Organization (ILO)</p>

		<i>textual sources and national legislation, by sex and migrant status</i>
8. Social dialogue and involvement of workers	SDG1 SDG 8 Target 8.8: <i>Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers</i>	8.8.2 (see above)
9. Work-life balance	SDG 8	
10. Healthy, safe and well-adapted work environment and data protection	SDG 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages SDG8 Target 8.7: <i>eradicate forced labour, end modern slavery and human trafficking and secure the prohibition and elimination of the worst forms of child labour, including recruitment and use of child soldiers, and by 2025 end child labour in all its forms</i> Target 8.8: <i>Protect labour rights and promote safe and secure working environments for all workers</i>	8.7.1: <i>Proportion and number of children aged 5–17 years engaged in child labour, by sex and age</i> 8.8.1 (see above) 8.8.2
Chapter III: Social protection and inclusion		
11. Childcare and support to children	SDG 1 Target 1.2: <i>reduce at least by half the proportion of men, women and</i>	1.2.2: <i>Proportion of men, women and children of all ages living in poverty in all</i>

	<p><i>children of all ages living in poverty in all its dimensions</i></p> <p>1.3 Social protection floors</p>	<p><i>its dimensions according to national definitions</i></p> <p>1.3.1: <i>Proportion of population covered by social protection floors/systems, by sex, distinguishing children, unemployed persons, older persons, persons with disabilities, pregnant women, newborns, work-injury victims and the poor and the vulnerable</i></p>
12. Social protection	<p>SDG 1 Target 1.3: <i>social protection floors</i></p> <p>SDG3</p> <p>SDG5 Target 5.4: <i>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</i></p> <p>SDG8</p>	<p>1.3.1</p> <p>1.a.2 <i>Proportion of total government spending on essential services (education, health and social protection)</i></p> <p>5.4.1: <i>Proportion of time spent on unpaid domestic and care work, by sex, age and location</i></p>

	<p>SDG10 <i>Target 10.4: Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality</i></p>	<p><i>10.4.1: Labour share of GDP, comprising wages and social protection transfers</i> <i>10.4.2 Redistributive impact of fiscal policies</i></p>
13. Unemployment benefits	<p>SDG1</p> <p>SDG 8 <i>Target 8.5: Achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men</i></p>	<p><i>1.3.1</i></p> <p><i>8.5.2</i></p>
14. Minimum income	<p>SDG1</p> <p>SDG 2</p> <p>SDG 10 <i>Target 10.4 Adopt policies, especially fiscal, wage and social protection policies, and progressively achieve greater equality</i></p>	<p><i>10.4.2 Redistributive impact of fiscal policies</i></p>
15. Old age income and pensions	<p>SDG1</p> <p>SDG 3</p>	<p><i>1.3.1</i></p>

	SDG 8	
	SDG 10	
16. Health care	SDG 1 SDG 3 Target 3.8: Universal health coverage	3.8.1: Coverage of essential health services (defined as the average coverage of essential services based on tracer interventions that include reproductive, maternal, newborn and child health, infectious diseases, non-communicable diseases and service capacity and access, among the general and the most disadvantaged population) 3.8.2: Proportion of population with large household expenditures on health as a share of total household expenditure or income
17. Inclusion of people with disabilities	SDG 1 SDG 10 SDG 11	1.3.1 11.2.1 Proportion of population that has convenient access to public transport, by sex, age and persons with disabilities
18. Long-term care	SDG 3 E.g. 3.8: Universal health coverage	3.8.1 3.8.2
19. Housing and assistance for the homeless	SDG 1 SDG 10	1.4.2 Proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, (a) with legally recognized documentation, and (b)

	<p><i>SDG11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</i> <i>Target 11.1: access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums</i></p>	<p><i>who perceive their rights to land as secure, by sex and type of tenure</i></p> <p><i>11.1.1: Proportion of urban population living in slums, informal settlements or inadequate housing</i></p>
20. Access to essential services	<p><i>SDG 1</i> <i>Target 1.4</i> By 2030, ensure that all men and women, in particular the poor and the vulnerable, have equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to basic services, ownership and control over land and other forms of property, inheritance, natural resources, appropriate new technology and financial services, including microfinance</p> <p><i>SDG 2</i> <i>SDG6: Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</i></p>	<p><i>1.4.1</i> Proportion of population living in households with access to basic services</p>

