

JOINT DECLARATION

BY THE PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE AND THE OFFICE OF THE UNITED NATIONS

Tirana, December 2016

“Aligning SDGs with Human Rights - Sustainable Development Goals and the role of the Human Rights Institutions in its implementation”

We, the United Nations Office to Albania and the People's Advocate institution, gathered on the occasion of the latter's Annual Conference themed: “Aligning SDGs with Human Rights - Sustainable Development Goals and the role of the Human Rights Institutions in its implementation”

KEEPING IN CONSIDERATION THE AGENDA 2030 FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT:

- Founded upon international human rights standards, Agenda 2030 represents a plan of action for people, planet and prosperity focused on the strengthening of universal peace in larger freedom, the eradication of poverty in all its forms and dimensions, the fight against inequality and injustices, and the address of climate change. The fulfillment of this Agenda by the comprehensive and sustainable partnership between the Albanian Government and all pertinent stakeholders is premised upon the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the respective 169 targets and 230 global indicators;
- The Agenda is all-encompassing and defines priority issues affecting humankind at a global level, with a view to ending poverty (Goal 1) and hunger (Goal 2); to guarantee access to health care (Goal 3), inclusive education (Goal 4), access to drinking water and electricity (Goals 6 and 7), economic growth and employment (Goal 8), a peaceful and inclusive society, access to justice and accountable institutions, reflecting an array of civil and political rights (Goal 16);
- Through its universal relevance and its salience for the shaping of prospective developmental priorities, Agenda 2030 shall open new paths for the integration of human rights in global and national policies during the forthcoming 15 years;
- The implementation of Agenda 2030 “Leave no one behind” demands an all-inclusive partnership among key actors at the global, regional, national and local levels – amongst others the Parliament, central and local governing authorities, the private sector, academic institutions and civil society organizations, including first and foremost those groups in need and left behind – women and girls, people with disabilities, children, youth, the elderly etc.

THE PEOPLE'S ADVOCATE AS A NATIONAL HUMAN RIGHTS INSTITUTION SHALL PLAY ITS ROLE WITH REGARD TO THE FOLLOWING:

- 1- The continued monitoring of the human rights situation, particular focus being devoted to the identification of issues affecting groups in need, with a view to safeguarding the respect for human rights by all relevant institutions, with reference to the 17 Sustainable Development Goals;
- 2- The clear alignment of the 17 SDGs in the People's Advocate action plans, reports and other key documents, premised upon well-defined references of these goals; the publication of pertinent reports shall serve to further stimulate the Albanian state in implementing the Agenda;
- 3- The close co-operation with all relevant stakeholders involved in the implementation of Agenda 2030;
- 4- The development of a clear methodology for monitoring the implementation of the 17 SDGs, with a view to enabling the effective monitoring of the quality of policies drafted, implemented and reported by the Albanian government. The support of international partners is considered vital in raising institutional capacities and developing the said methodological approach.
- 5- The co-operation with other institutions assembling and publishing statistical data, including INSTAT, the academic community and civil society organizations.

JOINT RECOMMENDATIONS FOR THE IMPLEMENTATION OF AGENDA 2030

- 1- We encourage the Government to draft a Plan of Action, in collaboration with all actors in the country, delineating Albania's approach and commitment to achieving the practical implementation of 17 SDGs on Agenda 2030. Amongst others, the Plan of Action ought to identify the following:
- 2- The creation of a National Council as a high-level coordinating body, tasked with the monitoring of the efforts of the Government and relevant stakeholders in addressing the obligations stemming from Agenda 2030. This National Council ought to be all-inclusive and provide for the participation of the civil society, the Parliament, local authorities, the academic community, the donor community, the private sector etc.
- 3- Increasing awareness and effective participation of local governing bodies, including Municipalities, Municipal Council, as well as the Civil Society, in implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and focusing on the nexus between SDGs and human rights;
- 4- The effective implementation of Agenda 2030 at the central and local levels requires a sustained inter-sectorial cooperation, as well as the adoption of multi-dimensional developmental approaches, addressing human development and sustainable environment, as well as investment of resources for the creation of implementation capacities and monitoring capacities for quality data regarding the progress achieved vis-a-vis the 17 SDGs.
- 5- We encourage the effective role of the Parliament in the implementation process of Agenda 2030 as a pivotal institutional guaranteeing the adoption and oversight of the necessary legal framework.