

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND UN HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

from a feminist perspective

SDGs, CAT & CRPD

Women's Major Group

The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), also known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a “blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all.” It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 and is intended to be achieved by 2030.

There are strong connections between all of the human rights processes, as well as development processes within the Sustainable Development Goals and the environmental and climate processes.

There is a close relationship between the presence and absence of development and poverty, with corruption and inequity, with judiciary and the occurrence of torture as well as the availability of public health, services and infrastructures that are vital for achieving the rights of all persons including persons with disabilities.

WHAT ARE THE SDGs?

WHAT IS THE INTERLINK AND INTERPLAY BETWEEN THE SDGs AND THE CAT & CRPD?

WHAT IS CAT?

The [Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment \(CAT\)](#) is an international human rights treaty adopted by the UN General Assembly resolution in December 1984 that came into force on 26 June 1987 and has been ratified by 171 governments so far. The Convention aims to prevent torture and other acts of cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment around the world. Governments who have ratified CAT are required to submit regular reports to the Committee Against Torture, usually every four years. The Convention also has an [Optional Protocol](#), which creates the [Subcommittee on Prevention of Torture \(SPT\)](#) that has a mandate to visit places where persons are deprived of their liberty in the States parties. Under the Optional Protocol, States parties shall also establish a independent national preventive mechanisms for the prevention of torture at the domestic level which has also a mandate to inspect places of detention.

WHAT IS CRPD?

The [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(CRPD\)](#) is an international human rights treaty adopted by the UN General Assembly resolution in December 2006 and came into force in May 2008 and has been ratified by 182 governments so far.

It takes to a new height the movement from viewing persons with disabilities as “objects” of charity, medical treatment and social protection towards viewing persons with disabilities as “subjects” with rights, who are capable of claiming those rights and making decisions for their lives based on their free and informed consent as well as being active members of society.

Governments who have ratified CRPD are required to submit regular reports to the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, usually every four years. The Convention also has an [Optional Protocol](#) which allows the Committee to receive and consider communications from or on behalf of individuals or groups of individuals who claim to be victims of a violation by a state that is party to the protocol, of the provisions of the Convention.



WHO COULD YOU REACH OUT TO?

The [Women's Major Group](#) facilitates participation and inputs CSOs working to promote human rights based sustainable development with a focus on women's human rights at the UN

CAT

[World Organisation Against Torture \(OMCT\)](#) is an international coalition of NGOs fighting against torture. It works with its member organizations to end torture and ill-treatment, assist victims, and protect human rights defenders by providing support to organizations working to engage with the Committee on CAT, ensuring local and national compliance on CAT, carrying local missions and submitting individual cases to the various national, regional and international bodies.

CRPD

[International Disability Alliance \(IDA\)](#) is an alliance of 14 global and regional organizations of persons with disabilities. Unlike organizations that provide services to persons with disabilities, IDA distinguishes it as an umbrella organization for organizations that represent or are self representing persons with disabilities.

TOOLS TO CHECK OUT

CAT

The [SDG - Human Rights Data Explorer](#) by the Danish institute for Human Rights which compiles all of the recommendations issued by the Committee against Torture (CAT) are connected to the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda.

Various [practical guides, tools, and resources](#) that support efforts to ratify and implement the CAT through technical advice including examples of how different states have developed their national laws, policies, procedures and practical standards and addressed challenges for an efficient and functioning system of justice, built on laws, codes of conduct, innovation, transparency and accountability.

[OMCT's page](#) on the [Committee Against Torture](#) - its membership, functions and sessions as well how civil societies can participate in the process.

CRPD

Introductory [toolkit](#) by IDA presenting information on the 2030 Agenda, how it connects to the [United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities \(UN CRPD\)](#) and explores ways for persons with disabilities to be influential and participate in how they are achieved.

Also check out the [SDG-CRPD Resource Package](#) put together by the [UN Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner](#) which consists of guidelines, training materials and other resources that set out the main actions that should be used to develop policies to achieve the goals for persons with disabilities.

[A Handbook on the Human Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#), that explains the [Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities](#) in the context of other core human rights treaties and how to strengthen its place in the mainstream of human rights discourse.

TIPS FROM THE MOVEMENTS

All of the treaty bodies, the UPR and the Special Procedures form an entire human rights ecosystem that works closely and interlinks with each other. If you write one report for one particular committee, consider using the same report to another committee and entities by prefacing the report to say that while it was originally made for the former so and so process/committee it also contains relevant so and so information for the latter review.

The [Voluntary National Reviews \(VNRs\) of the SDGs](#), especially at the local and national level can provide valuable opportunities for different civil society groups and organizations within a country that might normally be working separately on their own agendas with different government departments and ministries on their respective advocacy points, to come together around the VNR processes, to find a common cause and to support one another.

CAT

Within the SDGs, the word torture was mentioned only once under Goal 16 Target 2 which states "end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children." However, the way Article 1 of the CAT defines torture to include as all other forms of violence and linked practices can also be considered as torture, Goal 16 Target 1 which aims to "significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere" along with other Goals and Targets such as around "eliminating all forms of violence against women and girls" (Goal 5 Target 2) or "eliminating all harmful practices, such as child, early and forced marriage and female genital mutilation" (Goal 5 Target 3) to be also related and interconnected to the CAT.

CRPD

The SDGs under Goal 16 Target 6 mentions that governments should "develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels." While the SDGs throughout the Agenda 2030 and its other goals and targets implies that the role and participation of persons with disabilities would be central and part of this, it does not have any specific targets or indicators that explicitly states this. However, the CRPD in its Article 4, 29, 33 and more, does outline the institutional set-up that is necessary to ensure that disability is considered in policy design in all areas and at all levels and for good governance that is inclusive of persons with disabilities.