OHCHR has developed useful tools and approaches that can support States in reporting on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) through the Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) and at the same time may help States reduce their reporting burden.

THE UNIVERSAL HUMAN RIGHTS INDEX (UHRI)

The OHCHR online database "Universal Human Rights Index" (UHRI) compiles recommendations from all United Nations Human Rights Mechanisms and allows for searching against specific themes, Sustainable Development Goal targets and/or groups of persons affected. The UHRI can assist States in analysing who may be at risk of being left behind in their country, as well as mapping systemic, recurring and unresolved human rights issues that may impede the realization of the SDGs. Recommendations can also be exported in excel sheets, which helps process and cluster the information.

HUMAN RIGHTS-BASED APPROACH TO DATA

Data collection is an increasingly important tool in SDG implementation. OHCHR's Guidance Note to Data Collection and Disaggregation, outlines how a human rights-based approach to data (HRBAD) helps in improving the quality, relevance and use of data and statistics in line with international human rights norms and principles.

PROMOTING PARTICIPATION

In July 2018, OHCHR issued a set of Guidelines for States on the effective implementation of the right to participate in public affairs with the Human Rights Council (A/HRC/39/28), which provides a set of orientations for States on the effective implementation of the right to participate in public affairs.

The guidelines may contribute to the effective implementation of the SDGs, which rest on the meaningful participation of all actors in society, in particular those most at risk of being left behind.

REPORTING UNDER THE HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

All States report to human rights mechanisms. These reports have a wealth of information and data that States have compiled. Much of that is relevant for SDG reporting and VNR processes.

All States report under the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), which is a State-driven peer review of the human rights records of all UN Member States.

States also report on the human rights treaties they have ratified.

The reports produced by the special procedures of the Human Rights Council (special rapporteurs, independent experts, working groups) on their country visits and on specialised topics also provide important insights relevant to SDG implementation.

State reports to these various mechanisms can be found on the OHCHR's website.

NATIONAL MECHANISMS FOR REPORTING AND FOLLOW-UP (NMRFs)

All States have established some structures or processes for human rights reporting, which in their most institutionalized form are called National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (*see* OHCHR's Practical Guide and accompanying Study on "Effective State Engagement with International Human Rights Mechanisms – National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up").

It might be of assistance for States to explore **synergies between the different follow-up and reporting mechanisms, procedures and processes** for SDGs and human rights –including improving coherence; minimizing the reporting burden on national administrations and ensuring meaningful participation by rights-holders.