



THE HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL AND THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS  
INPUT FOR THE HIGH-LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM ON SUSTAINABLE  
DEVELOPMENT 2025

29 February 2025

Contents

<b>INTRODUCTION .....</b>	<b>1</b>
<b>FINDINGS .....</b>	<b>2</b>
2.1. Resolutions citing the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda .....	3
2.2. Resolutions in 2024 .....	4
2.3. Reports by the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights .....	6
2.4. Top SDGs mentioned in resolutions and reports .....	6
2.5. Council activities relating to the thematic focus of HLPF 2024 .....	8

## 1. INTRODUCTION

### 1.1. Background

The following submission is a contribution to the 2025 United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) to be convened under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) from 14 to 23 July 2025.

The theme of the 2025 HLPF is *“Advancing sustainable, inclusive, science and evidence-based solutions for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals for leaving no one behind”*.

The 2025 HLPF will review in-depth the following Goals:

- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages;
- Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;
- Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;
- Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;
- Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

The President of the ECOSOC invited the President of the Human Rights Council and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights to provide an input to the thematic review of the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development in 2025.

This document provides substantive input to the HLPF regarding the Human Rights Council’s contribution to the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda), in particular the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and targets most relevant to its mandate.

### 1.2. Scope

This submission is an analytical overview of initiatives and actions presented at the Human Rights Council that are directly related to the 2030 Agenda and to the SDGs.

It covers all outcomes of regular sessions of the Human Rights Council that took place after the adoption of the 2030 Agenda, namely from the 30th session (September 2015) to the 57<sup>th</sup> session (September 2024), with a particular focus of sessions during 2024.

The Human Rights Council is a human rights inter-governmental body of the United Nations. Given the established links between human rights and the 2030 Agenda, virtually all activities and outcomes of the Council may be understood as contributing to the overall aim of “leaving no one behind”. However, this research focuses on Council texts and documents that refer explicitly to the 2030 Agenda or the SDGs.

This document is accompanied by a separate Annex containing a summary of relevant data that may be useful for further analysis. Detailed information and disaggregated data are available for consultation upon request.

### 1.3. Methodology

Data for this research was collected from the following sources:

- All resolutions, decisions (excluding the UPR adoptions) and President's statements adopted by the Council.
- All reports submitted by the Secretary-General (SG), the High Commissioner for Human Rights (HC), and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) following a mandated request.

Search keys include direct mentions of the "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" (2030 Agenda) and the "Sustainable Development Goals" including each Goal/Target.

Mentions in adopted Council resolutions were classified by their location either in the title or in the body of the document.

This analysis was carried out exclusively based on official documents of the Human Rights Council. Other sources emanating from such activities as panel discussions, side events, the Universal Periodic Review, the work of special procedures, and the Advisory Committee, were not considered, unless they were produced in the form of an SG/HC/OHCHR report. This selection was intentional to ensure the highest possible degree of objectivity and transparency.

In relation to the thematic focus and specific SDGs of the 2025 HLPF, this analysis also includes mandated activities of the Council, such as panels, interactive dialogues, and intersessional meetings.

## 2. FINDINGS

### 2.1. Resolutions citing the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda

Between September 2015 and February 2025 (time of writing), the Human Rights Council held 28 regular sessions. It adopted a total of 912 resolutions, decisions, and President's statements (excluding decisions on Universal Periodic Review outcomes) under all of its 10 agenda items.<sup>1</sup>

A total of 403 resolutions mentioned the 2030 Agenda and/or the SDGs, representing 44% of all adopted texts. Of those resolutions, 12 referred to the 2030 Agenda/SDGs in the title (1% of all texts) and 391 in the body of the text (43% of all texts).

Regarding their classification under the Human Rights Council agenda, most SDG references appear in resolutions adopted under the thematic agenda item 3 (87%), "*Promotion and protection of all human rights, civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights, including the right to development*". Some references to the 2030 Agenda have also appeared in

---

<sup>1</sup> Session-specific disaggregated data is included in the Annex document.

resolutions relating to States, under the technical cooperation agenda item 10 (4%) and the country situations agenda item 4 (3%). A minor number of references were seen in resolutions under the agenda items relating to human rights bodies; racism; reports of the HC/OHCHR/SG; and the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (1-2% under each item) ([Figure 11](#)).

*Figure 11. HRC resolutions mentioning SDGs/Agenda 2030 disaggregated by HRC agenda item.*

HRC Agenda item	Total number of SDG/2030 Agenda mentions in resolutions
Item 2	<b>3</b>
Item 3	<b>354</b>
Item 4	<b>10</b>
Item 5	<b>5</b>
Item 8	<b>6</b>
Item 9	<b>8</b>
Item 10	<b>19</b>

States have taken a (voluntary) approach to adopt reoccurring thematic resolutions during sessions. As such, references to the 2030 Agenda varies between the three regular sessions in a year. The number of resolutions referring to SDGs/2030 Agenda adopted during June sessions tends to be higher on average (66% of all adopted resolutions), compared to September sessions (39%) and March sessions (35%). However, this trend seems to be changing in 2024. The last September session witnessed the highest number of adopted resolutions referring to SDGs (43% on average) compared to the last March (27% on average) and June sessions (29% on average). This is due to the fact that the last September session had the highest number of adopted resolutions in 2024 (37 out of 91 resolutions).

## 2.2. Resolutions in 2024

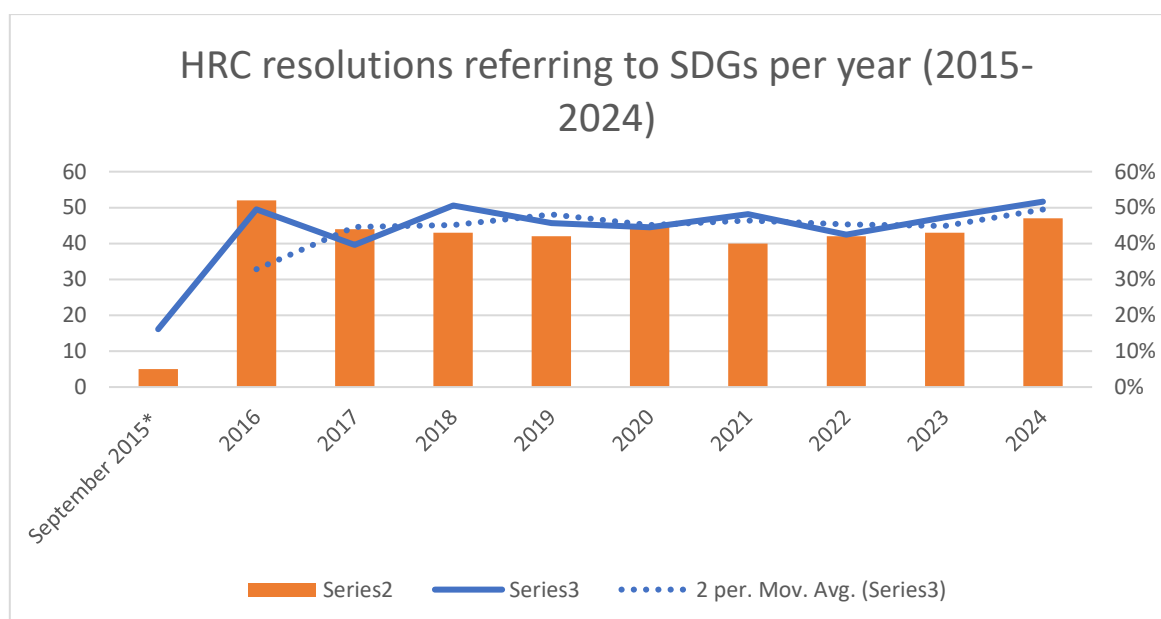
In 2024, the Council adopted 47 resolutions referring to the SDGs/2030 Agenda (52% of all adopted resolutions). This is higher than the number of resolutions adopted in 2023 (43 resolutions, representing 47% of all adopted resolutions). In relative terms, the percentage of resolutions referring to SDGs remains on average around 44% of all adopted resolutions ([Figure 1-2](#)).

Resolutions adopted in 2024 mention the SDGs in the context of a variety of topics. In relation to economic, social and cultural rights, the SDGs/2030 Agenda were mentioned in resolutions on the right to education, health, climate change, water and sanitation, food, adequate housing and extreme poverty.

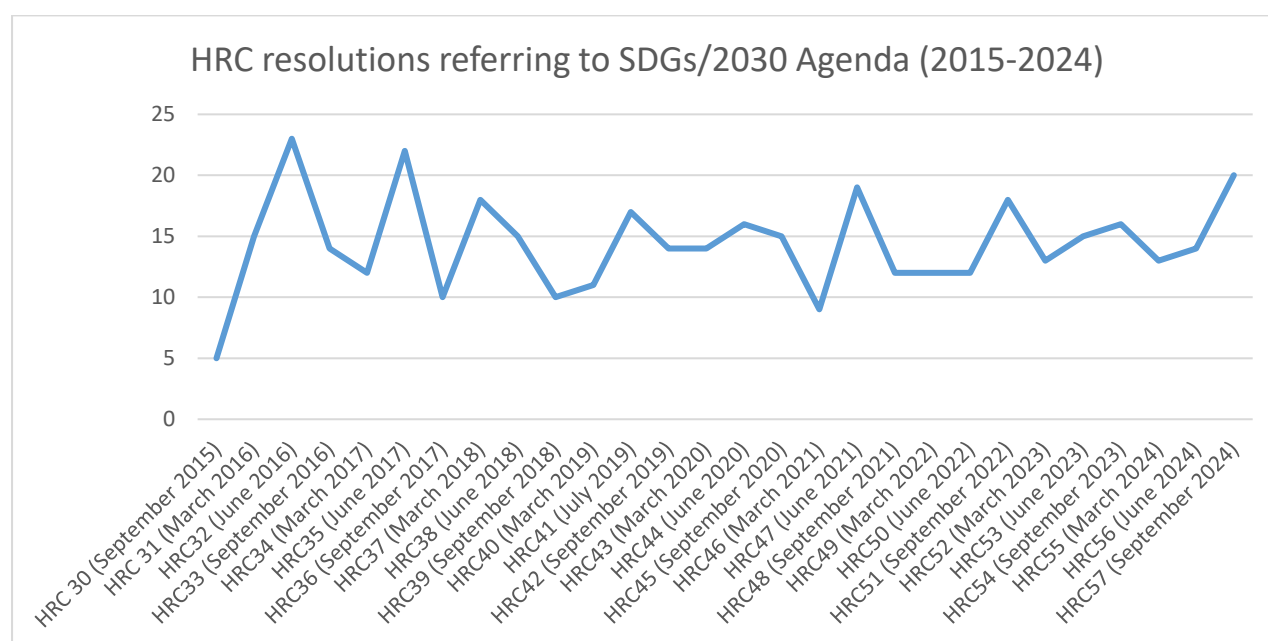
SDGs were also referred to in resolutions concerning the human rights of various groups such as Indigenous Peoples, children and youth, persons with disabilities, persons with albinism and minorities.

Other thematic resolutions of relevance were on good governance, minority issues, unilateral coercive measures, democracy and the rule of law, clean, healthy and sustainable environment, civil society space, the use of firearms, combating discrimination against intersex persons, and the promotion of human rights on the internet.

*Figure 1. HRC resolutions referring to SDGs per year*



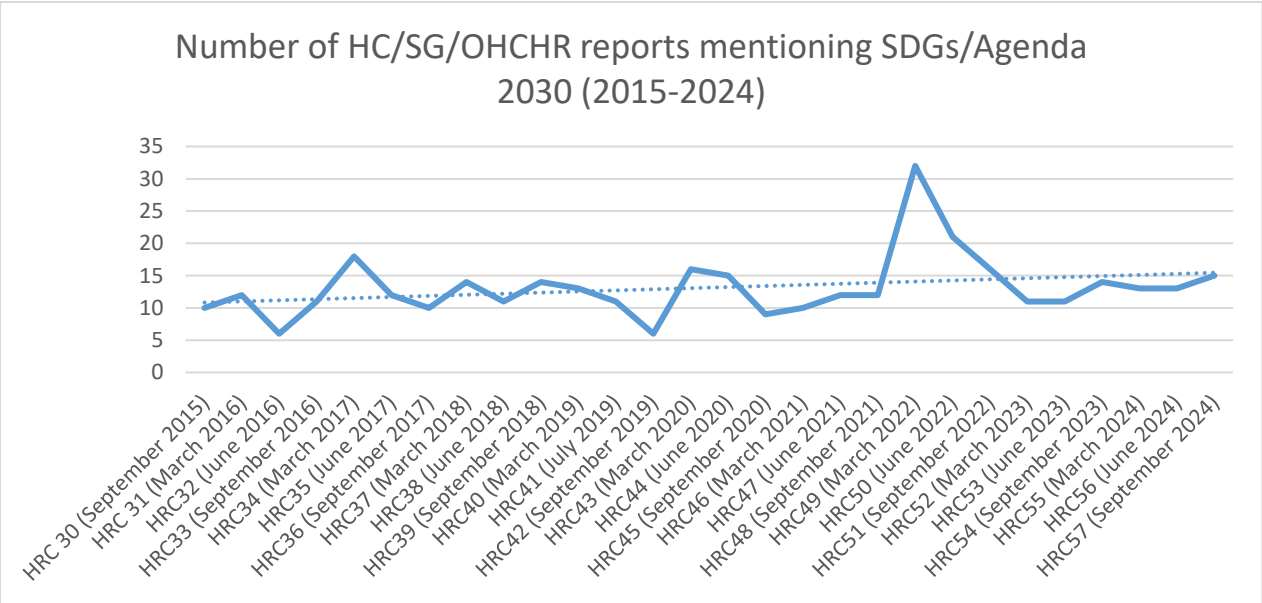
*Figure 2. HRC resolutions referring to SDGs per Council session*



2.3. Reports by the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner, and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights

Since 2015, a total of 368 Council reports that have referred to the 2030 Agenda and/or the SDGs, were prepared by the Secretary-General, the High Commissioner for Human Rights, or the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights. This represents 53% of the overall number of reports submitted by these actors. The trend suggests an increasing integration of the 2030 Agenda/SDGs in such Council reports. ([Figures 9](#)).

Figure 9. Number of HC/SG/OHCHR reports mentioning SDGs/Agenda 2030

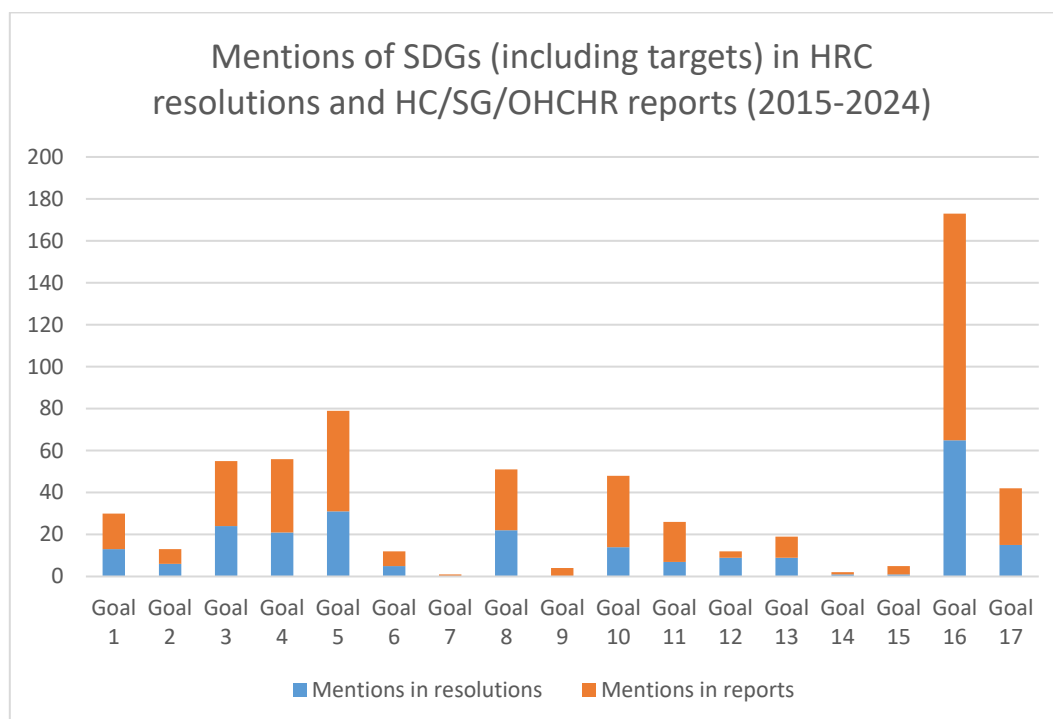


In 2024, at the Council’s 56<sup>th</sup> session, OHCHR presented the report, “Sixth intersessional meeting for dialogue and cooperation on human rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development ” ([A/HRC/56/35](#)). The report contains a summary of the intersessional meeting held on 18 January 2024 in advance of the high-level political forum on sustainable development and the Summit of the Future. The previous intersessional meetings for dialogue and cooperation on human rights and the 2030 Agenda were held in January and December 2019, January 2021 and January 2022 and January 2023.

2.4. Top SDGs mentioned in resolutions and reports

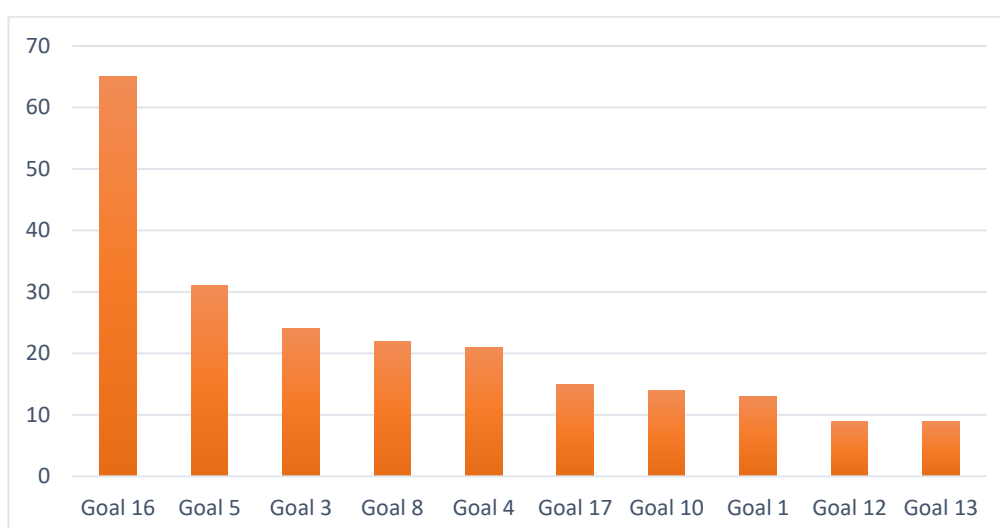
Goal 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions) is by far the most cited SDG, as seen in 76 resolutions and in 120 reports. Goal 5 (gender equality) is the second most cited SDG, seen in 36 resolutions and 53 reports ([Figure 5](#)).

*Figure 5. Mentions of specific SDGs (including targets) in resolutions and HC/SG/OHCHR reports (2015-2024)*



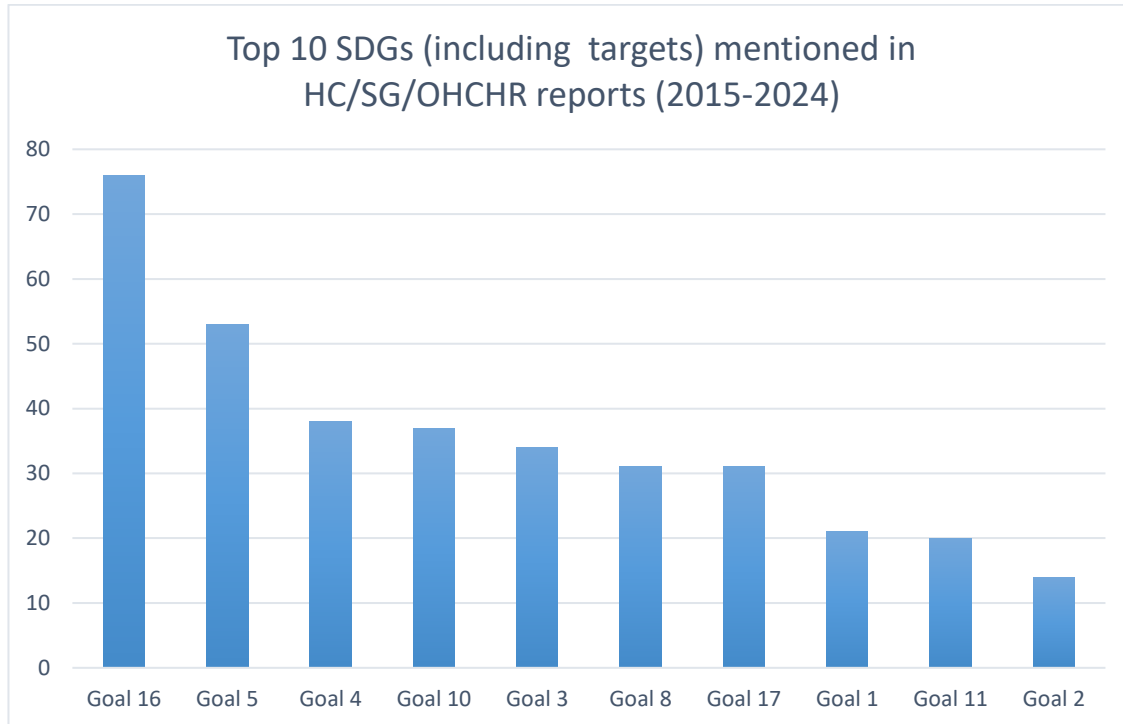
In resolutions, Goals 3, 8 and 4 are the next most cited SDGs (24-27 references). This is followed by Goals 17, 1 and 10 (15-18 references). Goals 7, 9, 14 and 15 have had minimal or no references in resolutions (0-2 references) ([Figure 6](#)).

*Figure 6. Top 10 SDGs (including their targets) mentioned in HRC resolutions*



In reports, Goals 4 and 10 are cited 38 and 37 times respectively, while Goals 3, 8 and 17 are cited an average of 32 times. Goal 7 was only mentioned once in reports ([Figure 7](#)).

Figure 7. Top 10 SDGs (including their targets) mentioned in HC/SG/OHCHR reports



## 2.5. Council activities relating to the thematic focus of HLPF 2025

The 2025 HLPF will review in-depth the following Goals:

- Goal 3. Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages;
- Goal 5. Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls;
- Goal 8. Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all;
- Goal 14. Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development;
- Goal 17. Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development

In February 2025, the Council held its seventh intersessional meeting on human rights and the 2030 Agenda. The intersessional meeting based its discussions on the theme of the 2025 HLPF, in particular Goals 3, 5, 8, 14, 17.

### ***Goal 3: Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages***



In 2024 the Council adopted a thematic resolution on ‘Combating discrimination, violence and harmful practices against intersex persons’ [A/HRC/RES/55/14](#), adopted on 4 April 2024. This new resolution affirms the aim to realize the enjoyment of the highest attainable standard of physical and mental health for persons with innate variations in sex characteristics, underlining the importance of Goal 3.

Also in its resolution on ‘Human rights in the context of HIV and AIDS’ ([A/HRC/RES/56/20](#)), Goal 3 is highlighted in a preambular paragraph to reaffirm target 3.3, which envisages ending, by 2030, the epidemic of AIDS, among others, and recognizing that the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development must be consistent with States’ obligations under international human rights law, including ensuring respect for and the protection and fulfilment of all human rights and fundamental freedoms for all. It further urges States to bring their laws, policies and practices, including their strategies for implementing the HIV- and other health-related Sustainable Development Goals, fully into compliance with their obligations under international human rights law.

#### ***Goal 5: Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls***

The Council adopted, its 57<sup>th</sup> session a resolution on ‘Marking the thirtieth anniversary of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action’ [A/HRC/RES/57/4](#). The resolution reaffirms the Sustainable Development Goals, and the obligation of all States to promote and protect the full and equal enjoyment of all human rights by all women and girls.

During the 56<sup>th</sup> session, the Council adopted a report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on ‘Cross-border and transnational female genital mutilation’, in which it highlighted target 5.3 which calls for the elimination of female genital mutilation and harmful practices under Goal 5.

During the 55<sup>th</sup> session, the Council adopted the report of the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights on the Question of human rights in Cyprus, which cites Goal 5 as key to ensuring women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life.

#### ***Goal 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all***

In its 55<sup>th</sup> session, the Council adopted resolution A/HRC/RES/55/9 entitled “Right to work”, which encourages States to effectively implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Sustainable Development Goal 8.

#### ***Goal 14: Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development***

The Council adopted in its 57<sup>th</sup> session a thematic resolution on “Biodiversity and human rights”, adopted on 11 October 2024 ([A/HRC/RES/57/28](#)). This recent resolution focuses on

conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas and marine resources, and on halting biodiversity loss.

***Goal 17: Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development***

During the 56<sup>th</sup> session, the High Commissioner presented his reports [A/HRC/56/34](#) and [A/HRC/56/35](#) in which he emphasized the importance of global partnership for the goals.