UNDG Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism

Statement for Rio + 20

Heads of State and Government should strongly articulate and reaffirm that UN principles of equality and non-discrimination, dignity, tolerance and respect for all human rights, including the right to development, are also the core principles of the sustainable development agenda.

Sustainable development can only be achieved in a climate of respect for human rights and fundamental principles and rights at work. These are enabling rights for any development process. Recent calls, in particular from the youth, for the full respect of human rights, including the right to decent work, must be heeded, and Heads of State and Government should ensure full coherence between efforts to advance the green economy and the norms and standards of the United Nations and its agencies, including all civil, cultural, economic, political and social rights.

Human rights are a key component of development processes and a guiding principle for the UNDAF. Heads of State and Government should champion a human rights-based approach to sustainable development, based on the principles of participation, accountability, non-discrimination, empowerment and the rule of law, and to pursue a model of economic growth that is socially and environmentally sustainable, just and equitable, and respectful of all human rights. To these ends, particular care should be taken to prevent and remedy any negative impacts on the human rights of vulnerable and marginalized groups, including through the use of environmental and human rights impact assessments.