



UNDP statement | HRC54 | 28 September

ID on SG Report on Reprisals

Report: Cooperation with the United Nations, its representatives and mechanisms in the field of human rights

Excellencies,

Human rights defenders risk their lives fighting for what should be an aspiration for all - more just and peaceful societies. Their role is recognized as essential to the 2030 Agenda. Yet, they are confronted with staggering threats of intimidation and reprisal.

At the midpoint toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals, UNDP with our partners the UN Office on Drugs and Crime and the UN Human Rights Office – launched the first Goal 16 Progress report last week¹.

The report points to a dangerous reversal across many Goal 16 indicators including to a 40% increase in killings of human rights defenders, trade unionists and journalists in 2022 from 2021.

UNDP continues to support civil society and human rights defenders in all facets of Agenda 2030 implementation. This includes: working with national human rights institutions, the business sector, and across our environment programming. In West and Central Africa, UNDP together with OHCHR and UN Women supported 18 women and young defenders to increase their knowledge of African and international human rights protection mechanisms and improve their advocacy skills².

UNDP will continue to support urgent action to accelerate the implementation of inclusive strategies and actions towards achieving peaceful, just and inclusive societies which is central to achieving the SDGs.

I thank you.

¹ [Global Progress Report on Sustainable Development Goal 16 Indicators: A Wake-Up Call for Action on Peace, Justice and Inclusion | United Nations Development Programme \(undp.org\)](#)

² [Protecting those who protect human rights | United Nations Development Programme \(undp.org\)](#)