

# The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development centered on well-being

Its call to “leave no one behind” and “to reach those furthest behind first” explicitly expresses the Sustainable Development Goal 10’s priority of reducing inequality within and among countries.



The search for greater equality is integral not only to goal 10, but the entire 2030 Agenda.

For example, it is present in the first and second goals, which project a life free of poverty and hunger for all people.

Goal five aims to achieve gender equality and empower all girls and women.

Other objectives are focused on achieving equal access for all people to basic conditions in matters of health, energy, clean water and sanitation services, along with decent work and justice.



The 2030 Agenda is a transformative one that centers on inequality reduction in all its dimensions, and all of its other objectives can be grouped by thematic focus.

For instance, goals one through five deal with social issues; eight, nine and twelve economic ones; thirteen, fourteen and fifteen environmental concerns; and 16 and 17 institutional matters.



Some goals are also related with more than one of these groups. Goal six, on clean water and sanitation, is a case in point given that the environment is our source of potable water that in turn is a social benefit.

Goals seven and eight constitute another example as energy is drawn from the environment and is economically beneficial in relation to equality, which intersects with economic and social issues on the level of incomes and from the social to the economic spheres through productivity.



The 2030 Agenda recognizes the role of equality as the cornerstone of development that can only be achieved by striving to recognize and overcome the gaps prevalent in the social development levels of different countries and communities.



## Equality viewed from a rights-based perspective

Public policies for closing inequality gaps should also be designed and administered from a human rights-based perspective

That outlook centers public policies on people and not simply as beneficiaries with needs to be attended to, but also as “rights holders” to whom the State is obligated.



An understanding of equality that is grounded in a rights-based perspective necessarily draws inspiration from the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which spells out the different economic, social, cultural, environmental, civil and political rights that must be guaranteed to every person.

Those rights include a standard of living adequate for providing access to food, health, clothing, housing, work, and social security.

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