

# SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND UN HUMAN RIGHTS MECHANISMS

## from a feminist perspective

### SDGs, ICERD & ICMW

## Women's Major Group

The [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#), also known as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are a collection of 17 interlinked global goals designed to be a "blueprint to achieve a better and more sustainable future for all." It was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly in 2015 and is intended to be achieved by 2030.

As racial discrimination intersecting with other forms of discrimination is a major factor that exacerbates poverty and inequality, the SDGs will not be achieved without addressing and ending racial discrimination.

Poverty, inequalities whether of wealth, gender, race, religion or ethnicity, the availability and access to decent work, education, water or energy, safe and peaceful society and climate change context which the SDGs aim to address are often the contributing factors to the decisions and options for migrants to stay or leave their countries of origin. Addressing many of the issues within the SDGs is also a way to address the root and structural causes of migration, particularly, forced migrations.

### WHAT ARE THE SDGs?

### WHAT IS THE INTERLINK AND INTERPLAY BETWEEN THE SDGs AND THE ICERD & ICMW?

### TOOLS TO CHECK OUT

### WHAT IS ICERD?

The [International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination](#) (ICERD) is a treaty adopted by the UN General Assembly resolution in December 1965 that came into force on 4 January 1969 and has been ratified by 182 governments so far. Governments who have ratified ICERD are required to submit regular reports to the [Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination \(CERD\)](#), usually every two years. The CERD, which consists of independent experts, also has other monitoring functions under the conventions such as its [early-warning procedure](#), examination of [inter-state complaints](#) and the examination of [individual complaints](#).

### WHAT IS ICMW?

The [International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families](#) (ICMW) treaty adopted by the UN General Assembly resolution in December 1990 and came into force on 1 July 2003 and has been ratified by 56 governments so far. The Convention governs the protection of migrant workers and families. Governments who have ratified ICMW are required to submit regular reports to the [Committee on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of their Families \(CMW\)](#), usually every five years. Article 77 of the ICMW which allows the CMW to receive and consider individual communications alleging violations of the ICMW by state is currently not in effect yet and will be once 10 states parties have made the necessary declaration under the article. The CMW also produces [General Comments](#) on themes related to its work and interpretations of the content of the provisions in the Convention.

### ICERD

"[A Guide for Civil Society Actors](#)" by IMADR provides useful information about the ICERD/CERD mechanisms and their effective use by civil society organizations, indigenous, minority and migrant rights defenders.

The most recent 2017 [submission](#) from the CERD to the High Level Political Forum on SDGs.

See [guideline](#) of the CERD early warning measures which allows it to receive information from reliable sources demonstrating either a risk of racial discrimination or evidence that such discrimination is occurring and CERD will engage in a dialogue with the State in question to prevent or stop that discrimination.

### ICMW

The ILO's online resource on the [Relevant SDG Targets related to Labour Migration](#).

Explore the Migration Data portal which also includes a [Migration Data and SDGs page](#) which explores how each SDG relates to migration and learn more about migration-relevant data for each.



## WHO COULD YOU REACH OUT TO?

The **Women's Major Group** facilitates participation and inputs CSOs working to promote human rights based sustainable development with a focus on women's human rights at the UN

## ICERD

**International Movement Against All Forms of Discrimination and Racism (IMADR)** is an international NGO devoted to eliminating discrimination and racism, forging international solidarity among discriminated minorities and advancing the international human rights system. They provide support and capacity building to CSOs to strategically engage with the CERD.

**AfroResistance** is an organization working to educate and organize for human rights, democracy and racial justice throughout the Americas. They provide support and nurturing to movements and organizations to make more strategic and more impact reaching change, through aligning their external practices with their internal values, through a gender and racial justice lens.

## ICMW

The **International Organization for Migration (IOM)** is a UN inter-governmental organization working closely with governmental, intergovernmental and non-governmental partners in the field of migration.

## TIPS FROM THE MOVEMENTS

You can follow up on the implementations of the recommendations from the Committee to the government through parliamentarians, local governments, or even different ministries.

You can utilize the CERD early warning measures to raise issue and bring attention of the Committee to prevent a racial discrimination before it actually happens.

Whether your government is up for review at the CERD or CMW and the SDGs Voluntary National Review (VNR) at the same time or at different times, women's rights organizations can take advantage of either reviews or coinciding reviews by:

- Drafting a shadow report to the CERD or CMW and an Alternative Report to the VNR in a complimentary way by incorporating SDGs commitments into the CERD and CMW Shadow reporting and vice-versa or utilize one or the other report to highlight issues that cannot be covered in the other review process.
- Add whatever changes that might have occurred in the time between the various reviews and alternative reports in the latter reporting.
- Submit your SDGs Alternative Report to the CERD or CMW for its consideration in its review and Concluding Observations to your government.
- Use the Concluding Observation or General Recommendations from the CERD or CMW in your SDGs advocacies with your government.

## ICERD

While there are several SDGs which call for eliminating inequalities on the basis of race (SDG 10 Target 2) and removing discriminatory laws (SDG 10 Target 3 and SDG 16 Target B), the SDGs do not explicitly outline the use of "special measures" as a means to address racial discriminations and inequalities. ICERD on the other hand does explicitly mention the use of such special measures in its Article 1.4 which states that "Special measures taken for the sole purpose of securing adequate advancement of certain racial or ethnic groups or individuals requiring such protection as may be necessary."

## ICMW

The ICMW is the least ratified international convention out of the 9 core international human rights instruments. However, the SDGs in several of the goals and targets make specific mention of migrants rights which you can utilize even if your government has not ratified the ICMW. For example, **SDG 8 Target 8** calls for the "protection of labour rights and promotion of safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment." Comparatively, while the SDGs make many mentions of the inclusivity "for all" persons, for example, to appropriate social protection systems (Goal 1 Target 3) or universal health coverage (Goal 3 Target 8) the SDGs do not explicitly mention migrant workers and their families in ensuring the access to this. The ICMW on the other hand does explicitly mention the duty of the state to ensure these for migrant workers and their families in its Article 27 and 28.