

**Message by the President of the Economic and Social Council to Mark the 75th Anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights**

**10 December 2023**

In 1990, a powerful voice defended the cause of humanity when he said that “To deny people their human rights is to challenge their very humanity.” He was Nelson Mandela.

This year we celebrate the seventy-fifth anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights. This foundational text was drafted by the former Commission on Human Rights of the Economic and Social Council.[[1]](#footnote-1) This historic commemoration coincides with the midway point to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

At the SDG Summit in September, world leaders adopted a political declaration calling for transformative action at all levels to achieve the SDGs. They also called on all of us to ensure that human rights and solidarity remain at the heart of achieving sustainable development as the world continues to address numerous crises. This will be key to ensuring that no one is left behind, and to preserving the dignity and well-being of all.

The Economic and Social Council remains committed to the promotion of human rights, guided by its Charter mandate and the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Let us put humanity at the core of our actions, and join together to respect, protect and fulfil human rights for everyone, everywhere.

1. [Seventh Session - Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948), Drafting History - Research Guides at United Nations Dag Hammarskjöld Library](https://research.un.org/en/undhr/ecosoc/7) [↑](#footnote-ref-1)