SPECIAL PROCEDURES
UNITED NATIONS
HUMAN RIGHTS COUNCIL

# Call for a new post-2030 Goal on securing diversity in societies through minority recognition

**Special Rapporteur on minority issues, Nicolas Levrat***

*2 August 2026*

***Beyond 2030, we need a new Development Agenda that completes the ambitions of the current "2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" and strives beyond. Regrettably, very few of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) have been fully achieved; the SDGs will therefore need to be reset or extended. To renew commitments and adapt them to emerging challenges, the United Nations Special Rapporteur on minority issues urges the international community to include an entirely new goal aiming at preserving diversity in human societies, through, among other measures, the protection of minorities as vectors of diversity in societies.***

## 1. Artificial Intelligence threatens societal and cultural diversity

The reason for such a call is linked to the rapid development and generalized use of artificial intelligence (AI), which was not predicted at such speed and scale in 2015, and now threatens to diminish, and potentially erase, diversity in societies. It therefore threatens humanity as we know it. Contemporary AI[1] is primarily driven by advances in machine learning, the availability of large datasets, and increased computational power. Large language models constitute one prominent class of these AI systems. This means that the products of AI based on linguistic statistical characteristics will structurally lead to a loss of cultural and social diversity.[2] In other words, this does put at risk the continuing evolution of humanity[3] and the existing societies as we know them. Minorities represent diversity in societies. Recognizing, protecting and promoting such diversity would mitigate and hopefully guarantee against the risk of loss of diversity in societies due to the development of AI.

## 2. Protecting minorities sustains societal diversity and resilience

Article one of the UNESCO *Universal Declaration on Cultural Diversity*, adopted on 2 November 2001 in Paris, states: "cultural diversity is as necessary for humankind as biodiversity is for nature." The Special Rapporteur on minority issues uses that same

[1] The term has been in use among computer scientists since the mid-1950s. The computational tools it relies on have, however, considerably evolved during last 70 years, turning it today in a large-scale operational tool.
[2] Sukwoong Choi, Hyo Kang, Namil Kim, Junsik Kim, "The dual edges of AI: Advancing knowledge while reducing diversity", *PNAS Nexus*, Volume 4, Issue 5, May 2025, pgaf138, https://doi.org/10.1093/pnasnexus/pgaf138.
[3] Western philosophers such as Kant, Hegel or Fukuyama termed such risk as "the end of history."

comparison in his first report to the Human Rights Council in March 2024, A/HRC/55/51, explaining that promoting and protecting minorities is not only for the benefit of persons belonging to minorities, but also a contribution to the necessary diversity in society as a whole. "Improvements in the fate of minorities through a better understanding of the crucial contribution that the protection and promotion of diverse identities within national frameworks play, with the likely result of boosting creativity, productivity and dynamic forms of political and social stability at the national level",[4] is a genuine reason for protecting both minorities and human societies as we know them.

## 3. Ambitions to protect biodiversity exist, while societal diversity has been neglected

Despite repeated calls to include references to national or ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, there is no explicit reference to these groups in the SDGs.[5] Whereas SDG 15 identifies halting biodiversity loss as a key sustainable development objective, there has never been an equivalent goal as regard diversity in societies, neither in the Millenium Development Goals or in the SDGs. There are only very scarce references to cultural diversity[6] and there is no reference at all to minorities in United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) Resolution 70/1, which defines the SDG framework.

## 4. Minority rights have thus far been overlooked in global development agendas

On 18 December 1992, UNGA adopted by consensus the *Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities*. Article 4 paragraph 5 of this Declaration stipulates: "States should consider appropriate measures so that persons belonging to minorities may participate fully in the economic progress and development in their country." In addition, article 5 paragraph 2 of the same Declaration states: "Programmes of cooperation and assistance among States should be planned and implemented with due regard for the legitimate interests of persons belonging to minorities." In view of these two solemn commitments made by States in 1992, it is beyond understanding that "the legitimate interests of persons belonging to minorities" have not been taken into account in the Millenium Development Goals (2000-2015), or in the SDGs (2015-2030).

## 5. The time to integrate minorities into post-2030 goals is now

This situation led the United Nations Secretary-General in a statement delivered on 21 September 2022 at a high-level UNGA event to mark the thirtieth anniversary of the adoption of the *Declaration on the Rights of Persons Belonging to National or Ethnic, Religious and Linguistic Minorities* to state: "Today, we come to critically assess where

[4] A/HRC/55/51, para. 41.
[5] A/80/186.
[6] Para 8 and 36 of UNGA Res 70/1, establishing the SDG. Similarly, SDG Goal 4 (inclusive education), target 4.7. mentions "appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development."

we stand in realizing the Declaration […]. The hard truth is that – thirty years on – the world is falling short. Far short. We are not dealing with gaps – we are dealing with outright inaction and negligence in the protection of minority rights. […] Excellencies, it is past time we live up to the commitments made in this very hall in 1992". Four years later, things have not improved much. With the 2030 deadline approaching, and thus the need to update the global goals as regards development, this is the perfect opportunity for the international community to redress this negligence as regards minorities by properly including them in the post-2030 agenda, both as groups in situations of vulnerability and as guarantors of diversity in societies.

---

**Against this background, the Special Rapporteur on minority issues is calling for a "World Summit on Diversity in societies through the protection of minorities" to be convened before the adoption of the post-2030 agenda. This Summit would lead to the framing and inclusion of a new goal in the United Nations post-2030 agenda aiming at preserving diversity in human societies through recognition of minorities.**

---

* *The Special Rapporteur on minority issues, as a Special Procedures mandate holder appointed by the United Nations Human Rights Council, serves in his individual capacity, independent from any government or organization.*