# HRBA and a Free, Open and Secure Internet

This Technical Note (TN) is part of a series of thematic TNs that aims to support Sida staff and partners to apply the human rights-based approach (HRBA). The TN begins with a short introduction to the HRBA and Sida's PLANET tool. It then explains how human rights norms and standards underpin the thematic area. The TN goes on to demonstrate how PLANET can guide staff in planning, assessing and monitoring of a contribution through a series of guiding questions and examples. Finally, it provides a simple model for empowerment and capacity development analysis and a list of additional resources to explore.

ABOUT HRBA AND PLANET

The HRBA builds on the norms and principles outlined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and the subsequent legally binding UN treaties, which forms the basis for all development cooperation. Application of the HRBA contributes to effective development cooperation processes and sustainable development outcomes. It challenges unequal power relations and social exclusion that deny people their human rights and often keep them in poverty and oppression. Sweden is committed to the HRBA through the Swedish Policy for Global Development, the EU Consensus on Development agreement, and the UN common understanding of a HRBA.

The HRBA places people living in poverty and oppression (rights holders) at the centre. It is about:

- Empowering rights-holders to enable them to take action to address their situation and to claim their rights individually and collectively.

- Developing capacities and interests of duty-bearers to fulfil their obligations to respect, protect and fulfil human rights.
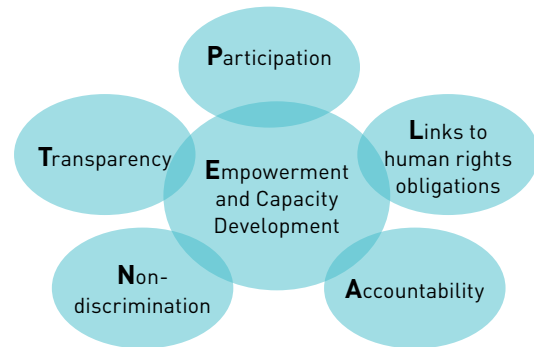
PLANET is a tool that guides staff on the practical application of the HRBA. It has six elements:

Participation = Do all stakeholders engage actively, in a way which allows rights-holders to contribute meaningfully and influence processes and outcomes?

Links to human rights obligations = How are relevant human rights standards and recommendations from human rights mechanisms identified and used to advance processes, outcomes and objectives?

Accountability = Who are the duty bearers on various levels, and do they have sufficient capacity and interest to be accountable to rights holders?

Non-discrimination = Are rights holders and the root causes of their lack of human rights identified and taken into account, particularly those most subjected to discrimination, marginalisation and vulnerability?

Empowerment and capacity development = How does the intervention contribute to the empowerment of rights holders to claim their rights, as well as capacity development of duty bearers to uphold their responsibilities and of other relevant stakeholders to contribute to positive outcomes?

Transparency = What measures are put in place to ensure that all stakeholders are able to access relevant information and knowledge regarding the contribution?

Learn more about HRBA and PLANET at Human Rights Based Approach – rättighetsperspektiv | Sida and Thematic method support – human-rights-based-approach (sida.se)

A FREE, OPEN, AND SECURE INTERNET ENABLES HUMAN RIGHTS

In July 2012, the Human Rights Council recognised the internet as an enabler of human rights and that the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online. This applies particularly to the right to freedom of expression, "which is applicable regardless of frontiers and through any media of one's choice" on the internet and in other technologies (HRC, 2012).[1] Ensuring a free, open and secure internet is therefore vital for the protection and promotion of human rights online.

Meaningful access to the internet and other information communication technologies (ICTs) make it possible for people —rights-holders—, to freely express thoughts and opinions, find and share information, organize and participate in protests, and take action to claim their rights individually and collectively. Meaningful access also makes people more likely to do essential activities online, such as accessing health care, education, or job opportunities[2]. More than a third of the world's population is still, however, offline.[3] States, as duty-bearers, are required to take measures to make access to the internet and ICTs available to rights holders, to not disrupt such access intentionally through full or partial internet shutdowns, and by respecting and promoting human rights on the internet.[4]

The internet and ICTs also pose risks for human rights. Gender-based violence, discrimination, and hate related activity amplify in an online environment. Wide-spread use of and access to internet-related technologies facilitate, for example, the spread of mis- and disinformation, mass- or targeted surveillance, or data collection practices disregarding human rights. People experiencing poverty or oppression are often disproportionately affected by such practices. A human rights based approach to contributions supporting a free, open and secure internet needs to consider risks and opportunities, particularly as technology evolves, posing new challenges.

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THE HRBA AND COLLABORATIONS FOR A FREE, OPEN AND SECURE INTERNET

The HRBA helps ensure that contributions support a rights-based, open, and accessible internet governed through multi-stakeholder cooperation that supports sustainable development in a given country (ROAM REF).[5] A free, open, and secure internet requires, among other things, equitable, affordable, safe and secure access to infrastructure, content that is trusted and culturally and linguistically diverse, online civic spaces, and independent media. It also requires that governance, policy, regulatory processes, as well as business models and private sector operators respect, protect and promote human rights online, such as freedom of expression and association, and the right to privacy, through rights-based approaches to, for example, data collection, storage, and processing.

Sida's work supporting a free, open and secure internet is widespread and includes a number of areas strengthening human rights and democracy, such as independent media and journalism, artistic freedom and cultural expression, as well as digital and physical safety for human and environmental rights defenders.

APPLYING PLANET

The PLANET letters can be applied in any order that works for the context. The outline below starts with identifying human rights deficits/violations and the usefulness of linking up with human rights commitments to inform programming and enhance outcomes (L). It then discusses how to identify the rights holders

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1   The promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the internet adopted by the Human Rights Council in July 2012.
2   Alliance for Affordable Internet and the Web Foundation report Advancing Meaningful Connectivity Towards Active and Participatory Digital Societies (2022).
3   The International Telecommunications Union (ITU), a United Nations specialized agency for information and communication technologies (ICTs) Facts & Figures 2021 report.
4   As expressed in the African Commission on Human and People's Rights Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression of 2019: "States shall recognise that universal, equitable, affordable and meaningful access to the internet is necessary for the realisation of freedom of expression, access to information and the exercise of other human rights." (Principle 37:2).

5   In accordance with UNESCO's Internet Universality Indicators that aim to assess the state of Internet development at the national level according to the ROAM principles of human Rights, Openness, Accessibility, Multistakeholder participation.

concerned, especially the most marginalized (N), how to identify and engage with duty bearers (A), how to ensure meaningful participation (P) and how to communicate and inform stakeholders to give them opportunities to engage (T). Finally, a tool is presented on how to identify possible change makers and their needs for empowerment and capacity development (E).

Linking to Human Rights commitments and core obligations (L)

The most important human rights instruments related to a free, open and secure internet and ICTs are the binding legal International Conventions outlining civil and political and social and economic rights, child rights, and the rights of women and persons with disabilities. Because of the central role played by companies who build and maintain the internet-based platforms and applications people rely on, the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights are also relevant.

There is a vast body of material, referenced at the end of this document, that can help with understanding the specific links to human rights in ICT and internet-related initiatives. They include HRC resolutions and reports by HRC Special Rapporteurs[6] on specific aspects of internet-related human rights, such as the right to freedom of expression on the internet (2011) and freedom of assembly (2019). These reports explain how existing rights, obligations, and commitments apply to ICTs and the internet. They provide a wealth of examples of risks and opportunities, for example on how the internet can amplify gender-based violence (2018), how online content regulation (2018) links to freedom of expression, how online surveillance (2019) violates the right to privacy and restrict civil and political rights and how online hate speech (2019) impacts on the human rights of women, LGBTQI communities, or religious minorities. Recent reports explore how ICTs used in the response to the pandemic can violate the right to privacy – privacy and COVID19 (2020) – and how disinformation online (2021) threatens the right to freedom of expression and opinion.

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6   Starting with the Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Opinion in 2011, many others have since looked at human rights in the context of the internet covering topics from privacy to artificial intelligence to new forms of racism and gender-based violence. A list of current Special Rapporteurs is available at https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Welcomepage.aspx

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Using UNESCO's R O A M – X Internet Universality Indicators to assess links to human rights commitments and obligations

Developed with Sida support, the Internet Universality Indicators are designed to assess how the internet environment complies with specific human rights at national level and whether policy and regulation applies a HRBA. The indicators employ the **R.O.A.M.- X** framework which translates into a **Rights-based, Open, Accessible** Internet governed through **Multi-stakeholder** cooperation. The **X** refers to **Cross-cutting** indicators related to gender, children, sustainable development, trust and security, and legal and ethical aspects of the internet and internet development. These indicators are particularly useful for Sida and partners in applying the HRBA to national initiatives and can be used in any project for context analysis.

Guiding questions

- What specific rights are at stake and are they clearly explored in the context analysis and described in the contribution?

- What international human rights agreements and policies, regional or national commitments are relevant and applicable in regards to what rights are at stake? Does the contribution refer to these? Generalised references to human rights are not sufficient.

- Are existing treaties and laws sufficient to ensure the protection and promotion of these rights? Does the design of the contribution describe and address underlying obstacles to the fulfilment of these agreements and standards?

- How will these commitments be monitored and what will be done if there are gaps in compliance?

- Is there a risk analysis of the potential of doing harm, through the contribution? Have impacts of the use of technical tools, platforms, and applications such as machine learning and big data analysis, been considered? Have risks and opportunities related to specific rights or environmental impacts – and the resulting links to human rights – been considered and addressed?

- Have measures to protect and promote relevant rights – and assess impacts – been built into the programme design? Is, for example, the gathering, storing and processing of people's data is involved? If so, is it for a specific purpose and is the data adequately protected? Will the data be stored safely and securely, and who will access it under what conditions?

Non-discrimination and equality (N)

Finding and addressing the root causes of discrimination and inequality is a fundamental part of the HRBA. A free, open and secure internet and ICTs enable individuals and groups to access spaces free from discrimination. The online environment is also, however, a continuum of offline realities and can exacerbate and compound existing inequalities and amplify prejudice and discrimination. Contributions must keep the specific circumstances and needs related to non-discrimination and equality – articulated in their own voices – of people affected by the contribution in mind. This includes aspects of language, digital or technical literacy, and culture in online spaces. Women, for example, are disproportionally subject to various forms of gender based violence online inhibiting their political participation and economic empowerment.

Discrimination in emerging digital technologies can take many forms and affect people differently based on a number of factors, such background and identity. Discrimination can be direct and explicitly stated through the design and use of emerging digital technologies. It can also be indirect, and have unequal impacts on groups according to their gender, sexual identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, or national origin. When direct and indirect forms of discrimination exist in combination, they can have "such a significant holistic or systemic effect as to subject groups to racially discriminatory structures that pervade access to and enjoyment of human rights in all areas of their lives." [7] All actors involved must therefore pay close attention to context and gendered, racialized, ethnic, or other potential discriminatory impacts of emerging digital technologies.

Guiding questions

- Who are the rights holders in relation to the human rights addressed by the contribution, and how are they affected by discrimination and unequal treatment?

- To what extent are the rights holders aware, and have knowledge, of their human rights? Are key rights holders participating in the planning, implementation and monitoring of the contribution?

- Is the contribution based on an analysis of the causes of exclusion of marginalised groups (women, ethnic minorities, people with disabilities etc.)? Does the contribution aim to reduce or eliminate

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these root causes and if yes, does it take into account how social and cultural norms contribute?

- Has non-discrimination and equality been considered in relation to the technical tools, platforms and applications that form part of the contribution? For example, does everyone involved in the programme have access to ICTs and the internet on an equitable, affordable, safe and secure basis? If not, are the actions needed to enable such access being taken? For example, through policy and regulation, or financing, and infrastructure and capacity development?

- Have different levels of literacy, and digital literacy and digital security capacity been considered in the design of the contribution?

- Is information content emerging from the initiative available to people in languages and formats they understand and that are accessible to them? For example, would people that are visually impaired be able to find and use the content using free and open source tools?

- Does the Theory of Change of the contribution include objectives, outcomes and disaggregated indicators regarding people in situations of discrimination or inequality?

- Are specific references to non-discrimination and equality referenced in national, regional and international human rights mechanisms identified and addressed in the design of the contribution?

- What do monitoring bodies of those mechanisms say in observations and recommendations regarding non-discrimination and equality in relation to the rights holders, and has that been taken into account?

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7   Racial discrimination and emerging digital technologies: a human rights analysis Report of the Special Rapporteur on contemporary forms of racism, racial discrimination, xenophobia and related intolerance, Human Rights Council Forty-fourth session 15 June–3 July 2020 Agenda item 9.

- Has the duty-bearer put in place any specific policies or plans to ensure the upliftment of the marginalised groups and if so, does the contribution integrate these?

Accountability (A)

Identifying duty bearers and their capacity and interest to be accountable to rights-holders is central to integrating accountability into the contribution. For example, States, as duty-bearers, are required to take measures to make access to ICTs and the internet available to rights holders, to not disrupt such access intentionally through full or partial internet shutdowns, and by respecting and promoting human rights on the internet.[8] A free, open, and secure internet, as well as most ICTs, however, also depend on the actions of non-state actors, particularly businesses. Private actors' roles and responsibilities should therefore also be explored when looking at (A) accountability. For instance, when social media platforms remove political content posted online by individuals for violating the company's "community standards"[9] they are responsible for limiting freedom of expression. Similarly, by not taking action to address gender-based violence online, these companies may be responsible for limiting the human rights of people affected.

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The [UN guiding principles for businesses and human rights](#) helps navigating this terrain. They have three pillars: Protect, Respect, and Remedy:

- **The state has a duty to protect human rights**. This means that states must: (a) Enforce laws that are aimed at requiring business enterprises to respect human rights; (b) Ensure that other laws and policies, such as corporate law, do not constrain but enable business respect for human rights; (c) Provide effective guidance to business enterprises on how to respect human rights throughout their operations; (d) Encourage, and where appropriate require, business enterprises to communicate how they address their human rights impacts.

- **Business has a responsibility to respect human rights**. This means that business must a) Avoid causing or contributing to adverse human rights impacts through their own activities and address such impacts when they occur; (b) Seek to prevent or mitigate adverse human rights impacts that are linked to their operations. In order to fulfil these responsibilities, businesses need to have in place a) a policy commitment to meet their responsibility to respect human rights; (b) a human rights due diligence process to identify, prevent, mitigate and account for how they address their impacts on human rights; (c) processes to enable the remediation of any adverse human rights impacts they cause or to which they contribute.

- **Access to remedy for business related abuses.** Without proper remedying mechanisms, duties and obligations become vague. Therefore, effective remedying mechanisms play an important role in the state's duty to protect and the corporate responsibility to respect. States must ensure the effectiveness of domestic judicial mechanisms and facilitate access to effective non-State-based grievance mechanisms dealing with business-related human rights harms. Business must establish or participate in grievance mechanisms for individuals and communities who may be adversely impacted.

Guiding questions
- Who are the duty bearers tasked with protecting rights relating to ICTs and a free, open and secure internet, particularly the right to freedom of expression but also other human rights online in general in the specific context? Is this clear in the design, and monitoring and evaluation framework of the contribution?

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8 As expressed in the African Commission on Human and People's Rights' [Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression of 2019](#): "States shall recognise that universal, equitable, affordable and meaningful access to the internet is necessary for the realisation of freedom of expression, access to information and the exercise of other human rights." (Principle 37:2)
9 The term commonly used by social media platforms for their rules on what content is allowed or not allowed.

- Are duty bearers aware of their obligations as mentioned in L and have a plan on how to meet them? If the contribution involves private sector actors or practices, has the context analysis considered related human rights implications? Does the design of the contribution address these implications? Have private sector actors acknowledged these links and agreed to meet their responsibilities for upholding specific rights through the course of the contribution?

- Is there a national human rights institution in the country where the contribution is taking place, and are they aware of the contribution and how it relates to human rights?

- To what extent do duty bearers have the capacity (authority, administrative framework, knowledge, resources) and interest to fulfill these obligations? What are the key gaps?

- Which other non-state actors involved in the contribution have specific responsibilities for human rights? Are duty bearers aware that they need to ensure these actors meet these responsibilities and do they have mechanisms in place to hold them accountable?

- Does the duty bearer carry out human rights and social impact assessments on its internet-related initiatives and policies? Has the duty bearer made use of the UNESCO internet universality indicators?

- Have the duty bearers created an enabling environment for civil society organisations, the media, and individuals to be able to advocate for rights, monitor violations and demand accountability for these? Are whistle blowers protected?

- Does the duty-bearer (the state) itself violate human rights through intentional disruption of internet services, censorship and unlawful surveillance?

- Are there monitoring mechanisms for compliance with human rights by duty bearers and other key non-state actors, as well as indicators of progress and penalties for non-compliance to commitments?

- Is there an effective complaint mechanism for the public with legal capacity to act? Is this mechanism known and accessible also at local level and to marginalised groups?

Participation (P)

Meaningful and inclusive participation of stakeholders throughout the life cycle of the contribution – from the needs assessment phase to design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation – lies at the heart of the HRBA. Information, meeting spaces and methods – with respect to style, location, language and format – need to be accessible to all stakeholders. Participation is both a means to an end, and an end in its own right. The sustainability of an contribution will be enhanced if it contributes to longer term participation of affected stakeholders in the governance, policy and regulation of ICTs and the internet and linked programmes. To assess if participation is effectively integrated into contribuions, three initiatives supported by Sida can be used alongside the guiding questions below. The Principles for Digital Development are particularly helpful for contributions that involve the design of ICT or internet-based solutions. The M=multistakeholder component of the UNESCO Internet Universality Indicators help assess how participative national policy, regulation and planning processes are. The Feminist Principles of the Internet enables in-depth exploration of the participation of women and gender-diverse people and communities and how this relates to structure of power and control in the internet and ICT sector.

Guiding questions:
- Is stakeholder participation part of the Theory of Change and have the stakeholders been involved in its development (including objectives, outcomes, and indicators), operationalisation/implementation, and follow-up?

- Does the contribution consider context-specific power dynamics (ie. gender, age, race, class, culture, identity and language) in its facilitation of participation. Are deliberate measures in place to make information and consultation processes accessible to and making space for those most marginalized to be heard?

- Are efforts to ensure participation or engage in co-design among stakeholders safe and secure for CSOs and human rights defenders as well as environmental defenders and women human rights defenders?

- Do stakeholders have access to free, comprehensive, age-appropriate, accessible, context-specific, timely and available information relevant to meaningfully participate, through languages and channels that reach them?

- Do all actors involved have the resources and skills to participate effectively in a participative design, and or implementation process?

- Does participation processes empower stakeholders, giving them access to design and decision-making? Has participation at both formal and informal levels been considered? Practical examples include inviting CSOs or community organisations to be part of formal decision-making bodies such as steering committees.

- Does the contribution include capacity development of duty bearers, and other relevant stakeholders, to contribute to meaningful participation?

Transparency (T)

Stakeholders have the right to information about the purpose, plans, and scope of development contributions. They are also entitled to know who the key actors involved are. All actors involved, including duty bearers, funders, private sector partners, civil society organisations and others need to ensure openness and transparency throughout the life cycle of the contribution.

Transparency implies more than making information available. Documents published online are often long and dense, and budgets are often not disclosed or discussed. Effective transparency makes information accessible to affected stakeholders and ensures full access and use of this information. The Digital Participation Principles is a helpful resource – in particular the principle on using open standards, open data, open source and open innovation.

Guiding questions:
- Are there relevant national, regional, and international human rights mechanisms that talk about transparency and are they referenced in the programme design?

- Is information about the contribution available and accessible to those concerned, including rights holders, duty bearers and other relevant stakeholders? Has it been made available to the stakeholders in contextually effective ways, such as through radio, TV, mobile phones, websites, printed publications or other?

- Do stakeholders know that this information is available, that they are entitled to it? Is it easy to find and accessible in terms of physical locations, format and channels (e.g. using local languages, community radio, sign language etc.)? If not, how can this be supported?

- Is information about the initiative shared in a timely manner to enable meaningful participation particularly during planning?

- Can stakeholders access and share information without fear of reprisal?

- Are sources of funding and in-kind support fully disclosed?

- Are human rights/environmental and social impact assessments that were done as part of the initiative publicly available and presented in an accessible manner?

Empowerment and capacity development (E)

Sustainable development and human rights outcomes rest on rights holders and duty bearers having the power, capacity, and interest to bring about change where it is needed. Identifying the root causes of dis-empowerment, and strategically selecting whom to engage with is a vital element of an effective HRBA.

Start with a stakeholder analysis that identifies all relevant stakeholders – building on the rights holders and duty bearers identified through (L, N) and (A) above – and how they are positioned in relation to the contribution's desired outcomes. Other stakeholders can be UN agencies, CSOs, religious leaders, bilateral donors and humanitarian actors, etc. This is done through Sida's multidimensional poverty analysis (MDPA), but also needs to be specific to each contribution.

Key questions to be addressed in a stakeholder analysis include:

- Who are the current stakeholders?

- Are they rights holders (RH), duty bearers (DB), or others (including UN agencies, businesses, CSOs, religious organisations, bilateral donors, humanitarian actors)?

- What is their current power or capacity to improve human right/s?

- What is their current interest in improving human right/s?

In order to facilitate the overview of each stakeholder, you can make an assessment of their current power and capacity to engage as well as their willingness and interest to improve the issue. You can facilitate the assessment by rating this for each stakeholder, using a scale of 0=negative 1=nonexistent, 2=very low, 3=low, 4=moderate, 5=high 6=very high.

Example: Increased legal protections of the Right to Privacy and support to communities at risk of being subject to cyber crime in Pakistan

In the table below you will find an example from the Digital Rights Foundation in Pakistan which is part of The Digital Age Initiative by Access Now, a project supported by Sida. The Digital Rights Foundation is a women-led organisation working for an open and safe internet that is inclusive of all genders, religious groups, classes and abilities, with a focus on women's rights in digital spaces through policy, advocacy, and digital security awareness-raising. In response to growing privacy concerns in digital spaces and a repressive environment on and offline in Pakistan, the organisation works to increase awareness about

these issues and defend the right to privacy through research, monitoring and reporting. It also rallies together with other actors for stronger legal protections for privacy in the country by proposing viable solutions to the government. The efforts result in the effective opposition of proposed regulations failing to meet human rights standards, increased understanding within the federal investigation agency in how to address cybercrimes, empowered collaborations with lawyer associations and industry actors, locally derived policy positions and effective advocacy strategies, and an increased availability of direct and sustained support for communities most at risk. Please note that some elements in the analysis are made up for the purpose of this example.

Example Outcome: Increased legal protections of the Right to Privacy and support to communities at risk in Pakistan through elevated understanding of and resources to combatting cybercrimes and defending women's rights in digital spaces			
Who are the stakeholders?	Are they rights holders, duty bearers or Other?	What is their current power or capacity to engage?	Current interest in improving the issue?
Women, girls, others who identify as other than men, and the LGTBQI community	Right Holders	2	4
Women activists, journalists, student associations	Rights Holders	4	6
Coalition of civil society actors	Rights Holders	5	6
Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA)	Duty Bearers	6	3
The office of National Coordinator	Duty Bearers	6	3
Federal investigation Agency	Duty Bearers	6	5
Lawmakers in the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights	Other	5	6
Lawyer associations	Other	5	6
Industry actors	Other	6	4

A visualisation of this analysis provides an overview that can assist with planning the contribution.

A. High power/capacity (score 4-6), Low interest (1-3)	B. High power/capacity (score 4-6), High interest (score 4-6)
National Government Pakistan Electronic Media Regulatory Authority (PEMRA) The Office of National Coordinator *Influence directly or via intermediaries*	Women activists, journalists, student associations Coalition of civil society actors Federal Investigation Agency Lawmakers in the Standing Senate Committee on Human Rights Lawyers associations Industry actors
C. Low power/capacity (score 1-3), Low interest (score 1-3))	D. Low power/capacity (score 1-3), High interest (score 4-6)
Local farmer associations TanWomFa	Women, girls, others who identify as other than man, and the LGBTQI community *Scope for capacity building*

Working with a HRBA entails contributing to changes in stakeholders' powers, capacities and interests in a way that advances human rights outcomes. Such changes are referred to as "transformative". Actors in squares B and D normally have a high interest in realising the desired HRBA outcome. Actors in D could need empowerment to be able to engage in a way that influences the outcome. The key for a successful contribution is to engage effectively with the duty bearers identified in A as they are responsible for achieving the desired change, also through intermediaries if direct engagement is not possible. Actors in square C may or may not be worth the effort to involve since they currently have both low interest and power/capacity to contribute to the desired change.

Guiding questions
- What outcomes are being sought in terms of empowerment? Among who?

- What is their existing context and what are their needs, from their perspective? Does the role they play in the planned contribution give them sufficient agency throughout its life cycle? Are the solutions proposed sustainable and relevant to them? Are the duty-bearers involved in the solution development?

- How could empowerment of identified key rights holders' advance outcomes? Has the contribution considered support to capacity development of associations representing rights holders? Has the contribution considered capacity development of authorities, investors and businesses to monitor and adhere to legal and voluntary human rights instruments?

- Who are the actors needed to sustain the contribution over time, for example through providing technical support, training, maintenance or content and services? Consider this with respect to all stakeholder groups, government, civil society, business, technical actors as well as social movements. Always consider that none of these stakeholder groups are homogeneous.

- Finally, it cannot be over-emphasized that there are risks of doing harm when working to change power, capacity and interest dynamics. Identifying those risks and including key stakeholders with knowledge and experience on conflict prevention and mitigation in the context from the very start can make a difference.

USEFUL LINKS AND REFERENCES

International Human Rights Conventions

International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (1966)

International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (1966)

Convention on the Elimination of All forms of Discrimination Against Women (1979)

Convention on the Rights of the Child (1989)

Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (2007)

Web page where these treaties can be monitored http://uhri.ohchr.org/en/

Internet Statistics

Measuring Digital Development: Facts and Figures 2021, International Telecommunications Union Development Sector (2021)

Resources from the Office of the High Commission for Human Rights (OHCHR)

The right to privacy in the digital age: report (2021)

United Nations Human Rights and Digital Technology Resource Hub.

Human Rights Council (HRC) Resolutions and Reports from Special Rapporteurs

Resource: Discrimination and Equality | Human Rights Digital (ohchr.org)

Resolution on "The promotion, protection and enjoyment of human rights on the Internet" (2012)

HRC Special Rapporteur on Freedom of Expression and Opinion reports on: the right to freedom of expression on the internet (2011); online content regulation (2018); online freedom of assembly (2019); online surveillance (2019); online hate speech (2019) and disinformation online (2021) .

HRC Special Rapporteur on Privacy reports on: privacy and COVID19 (2020)

HRC Special Rapporteur on Gender-based Violence report on: online gender-based violence (2018)

Other Relevant Declarations, Commitments, Principles or Guidelines

African Commission on Human and People's Rights Declaration of Principles on Freedom of Expression (2019)

The African Declaration on Internet Rights and Freedoms (2014)

The Association for Progressive Communications (APC) Internet Rights Charter (2001)

Charter of the Internet Governance Forum's Dynamic Coalition on Internet Rights and Principles.

Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (2011)

The Human Rights Committee's General Comment 34 which linked the internet to the right to freedom of expression and opinion (2011)

The Manila Principles on Internet Intermediary Liability (2015)

Necessary and Proportionate – The International Principles on the Application of Human Rights to Communications Surveillance (2013)

The Santa Clara Principles on Transparency and Accountability in Online Content Moderation (2018)

Resources on the HRBA

OHCHR Human Rights Based Approach Frequently Asked Questions

The UN Statement of Common Understanding on Human Rights-Based Approaches to Development Cooperation and Programming (the Common Understanding) adopted by the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) in 2003

The Human Rights Based Approach to Social Protection, UNRISD Issue Brief (2016)

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