Session at the Law, Justice and Development Week: Donor Experiences Implementing a Human Rights-Based Approach to Development as a Means to Achieving Sustainable Development

France, alongside many of its European partners, has decided to take a human rights-based approach to development in order to implement the Sustainable Development Goals. To this end, on the 70th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (10 December 2018), France has adopted a new national strategy “Human Rights and development” that will guide the country’s development cooperation policy.

In this context, France proposes to organize a session on the Human Rights-Based Approach to Development. The discussion will focus on the links between human rights and sustainable development. Its purpose is to explore how fulfilment of human rights is not only a common ideal as referred to in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, but also a means to achieve sustainable development. As affirmed notably by the Vienna Declaration and Programme of Action (1993), development and human rights are interdependent and mutually reinforcing. Many have indeed argued that development creates the conditions for the effective enjoyment of human rights for all, and the realization of human rights, whether civil, political, economic, social or cultural, is essential to the achievement of sustainable development in its three dimensions: economic, social and environmental.
A growing number of development actors have adopted a Human rights-based approach (HRBA) since the United Nations formalized its conceptual framework in 2003. The discussion will thus also permit to take stock of these initiatives and explain the value added of HRBA.

Introduction: Nathalie Broadhurst, Deputy Chief of Mission, French Embassy in the U.S.

Moderator: Sandie Okoro, Senior Vice President and WBG General Counsel (tbc)

The speakers will share experiences on HRBA and explain its added value, and more generally explore tools and policies that contribute to the realization of human rights in development:

- Mac Darrow, OHCHR, could present the OHCHR work aiming at placing human rights at the core of the 2030 agenda;

[- James Heintz (tbc) could share his views on the benefits of respect for human rights in terms of economic and human development and for the 2030 Agenda;]

- Antonio M. Cisneros De Alencar, Human Rights and Normative Advisor at the UN Development Coordination Office will share the UNDG experience regarding to the mainstreaming of HRBA in the UN Development System;

- Alice Mogwe, Vice-President of the International Federation for Human Rights could address the need to support human rights defenders, including environmental defenders, to ensure sustainable development;

- Hélène N’Garnim-Ganga, French Agency for Development (AFD);

- Mr Joergen Frotzler, Nordic Baltic Office to the World Bank and/or Ms Helena Bjuremalm, Sida, will discuss the application of HRBA and present concrete cases and examples of its use and value added;

Deliverables: these discussions aims at raising awareness about HRBA by highlighting the experiences of donors implementing such policies and the potential justifications for integrating human rights in development policies and the various means by which to do so. The outcome of the discussion could then be further explored in the context of the work of the Community of practice “Human Rights and Development”, in the framework of the Global Forum on Law, Justice and Development.