HUMAN RIGHTS, GOVERNANCE & SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT COURSE

Introduction

This executive programme introduces participants to the interconnected relationship between international human rights, accountable governance and sustainable development. As governments, international organisations, development agencies, civil society organisations and responsible businesses increasingly recognize that sustainable development cannot be achieved without respect for human rights, institutions are expected to integrate principles of equality, inclusion, participation, transparency and accountability into their policies, programmes and operations. The programme provides a comprehensive understanding of how international human-rights principles and standards can be translated into institutional policies, public programmes, development initiatives and accountability mechanisms. Participants will examine the practical relationship between human rights, good governance and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), with particular emphasis on the principles of equality, non-discrimination, meaningful participation, transparency, accountability and Leaving No One Behind. Through practical analysis and institutional applications, participants will explore how organisations can identify human-rights and governance gaps, strengthen participation and accountability, promote inclusive development and align institutional priorities with sustainable-development objectives.

Course Objectives

- Explain major international human-rights principles and standards.
- Examine the relationship between human rights, governance and development.
- Apply rights-based approaches to institutional decision-making.
- Identify governance and human-rights risks.
- Strengthen accountability, transparency and participation.

- Integrate human-rights principles into development programmes.
- Link institutional strategies to the SDGs.
- Address inequality, exclusion and discrimination.
- Strengthen stakeholder participation.
- Develop practical institutional human-rights and development strategies

Course Modules

> Module 1: Foundations of International Human Rights
- Evolution and principles of human rights
- Universal human-rights values and standards
- Civil, political, economic, social and cultural rights
- Contemporary human-rights challenges

> Module 2: International Human Rights Frameworks
- Universal human-rights instruments
- International treaties and conventions
- Regional human-rights systems
- National implementation of international standards

> Module 3: Human Rights and Good Governance
- Principles of good governance
- Transparency and accountability
- Participation and inclusion
- Rule of law and institutional integrity

> Module 4: Human Rights-Based Development
- Principles of HRBA
- Rights holders and duty bearers
- Participation and empowerment
- Accountability and non-discrimination

> Module 5: Human Rights and Sustainable Development
- Human rights and Agenda 2030
- SDGs and human-rights linkages
- Leaving No One Behind
- Inclusive development strategies

> Module 6: Equality, Inclusion and Non-Discrimination
- Equality and equal opportunity
- Discrimination and exclusion
- Vulnerable and marginalised populations
- Inclusive institutional policies

> Module 7: Institutional Human Rights Accountability
- Human-rights responsibilities of institutions
- Accountability mechanisms
- Complaints and grievance systems
- Monitoring institutional compliance

> Module 8: Stakeholder Participation and Engagement
- Stakeholder identification
- Rights-holder participation
- Community and citizen engagement
- Multi-stakeholder partnerships

> Module 9: Human Rights Risk and Institutional Response
- Identifying human-rights risks
- Assessing institutional vulnerabilities
- Prevention and mitigation strategies
- Remediation and corrective action

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