

# Human Development Report 2021/22



## Uncertain Times, Unsettled Lives:

## Shaping our Future in a Transforming World

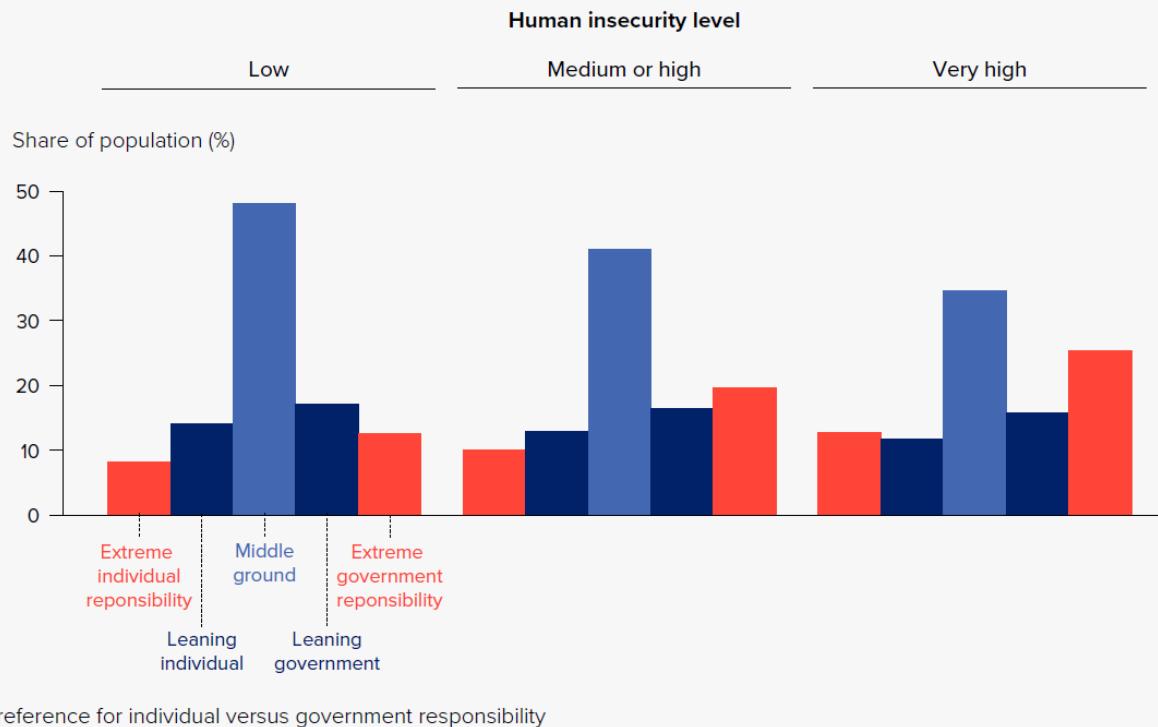
**PART II**

**What's standing  
in the way of our  
acting together?**

# Our societies are increasingly divided

- **Uncertainty and insecurity** are driving divisions between groups in society and affecting our ability to **cooperate and engage in dialogue** with each other.
- **Human insecurity** is linked to political extremism, diminished trust and lower individual agency.
- We are seeing democratic backsliding and intensified **polarization** across the world.

**People who feel more insecure tend to hold more extreme preferences**

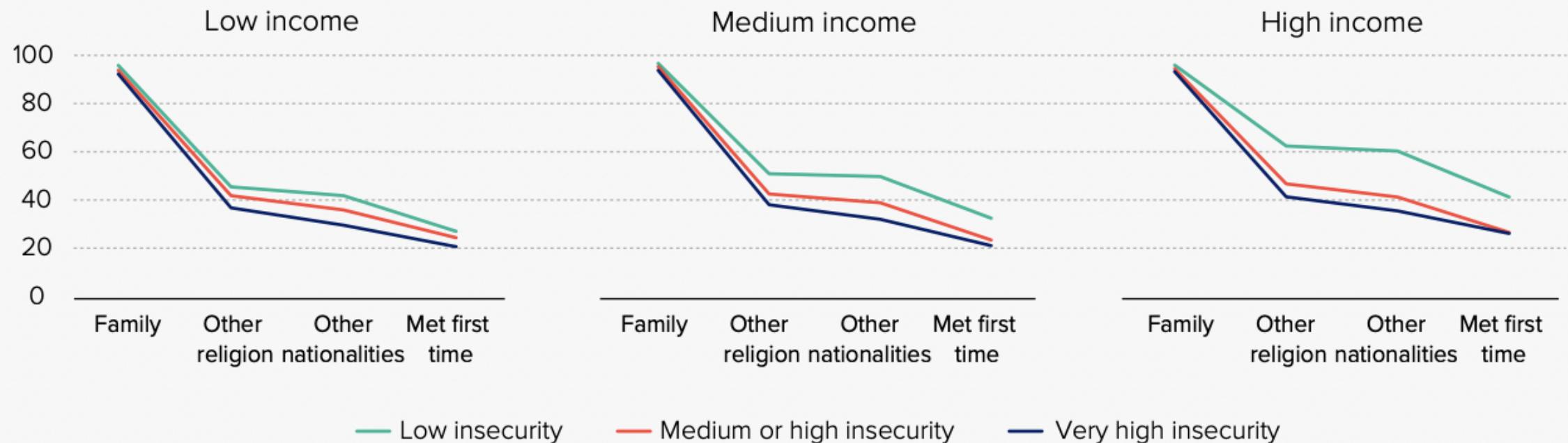


Source: Human Development Report Office based on World Values Survey, waves 6 and 7.

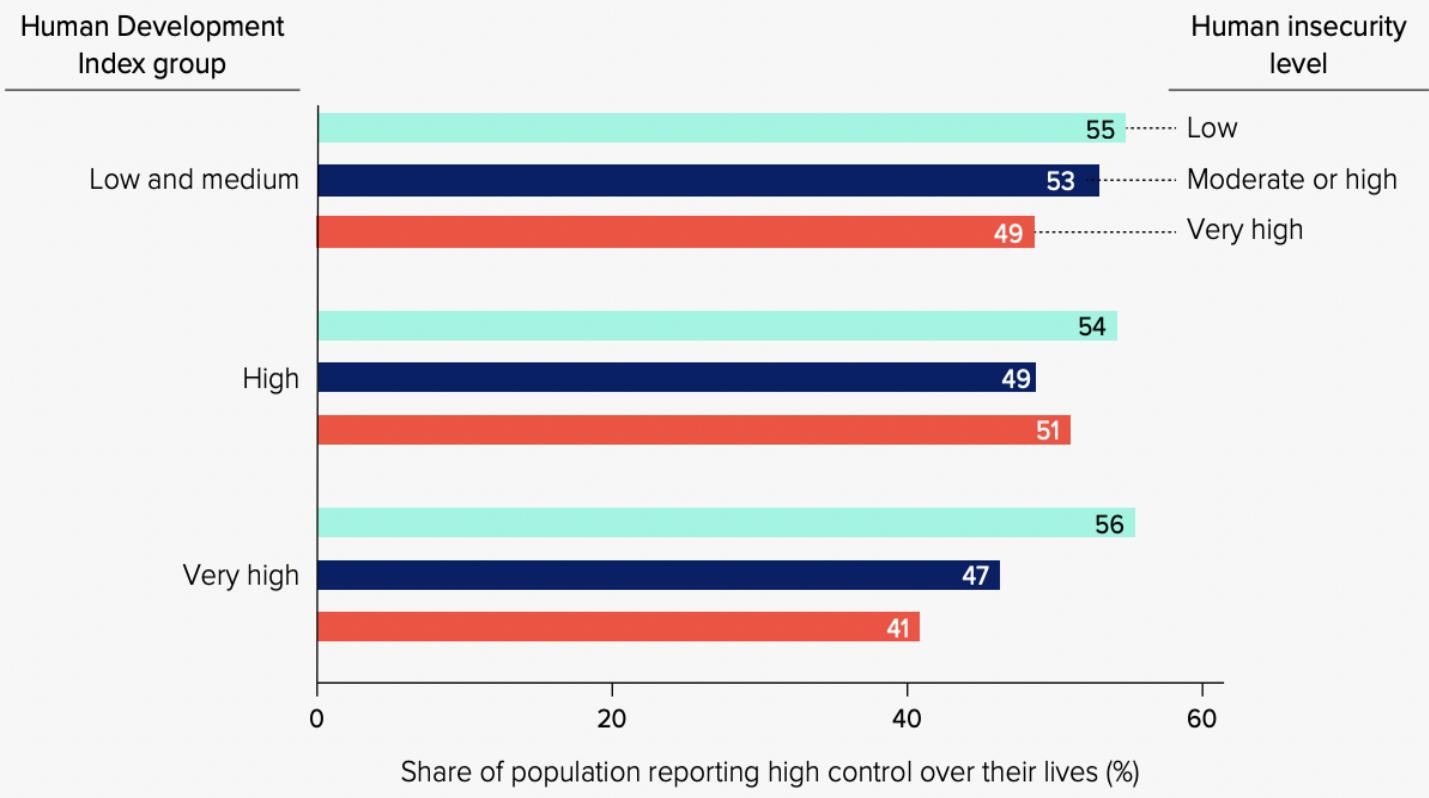
# Our societies are increasingly divided

**Trust declines with social distance more steeply at lower incomes and higher insecurity**

Interpersonal trust and social groups (% of population)



# Our societies are increasingly divided



**Insecurity is associated with lower personal agency**

**Scale**

**Structure**

**Information fidelity**

**Algorithmic decision-making**

**Technology:  
potential enabler  
and disruptor**

**Advancing human  
development in  
uncertain times**

# Uncertainty can also break open our imaginations – we must embrace it

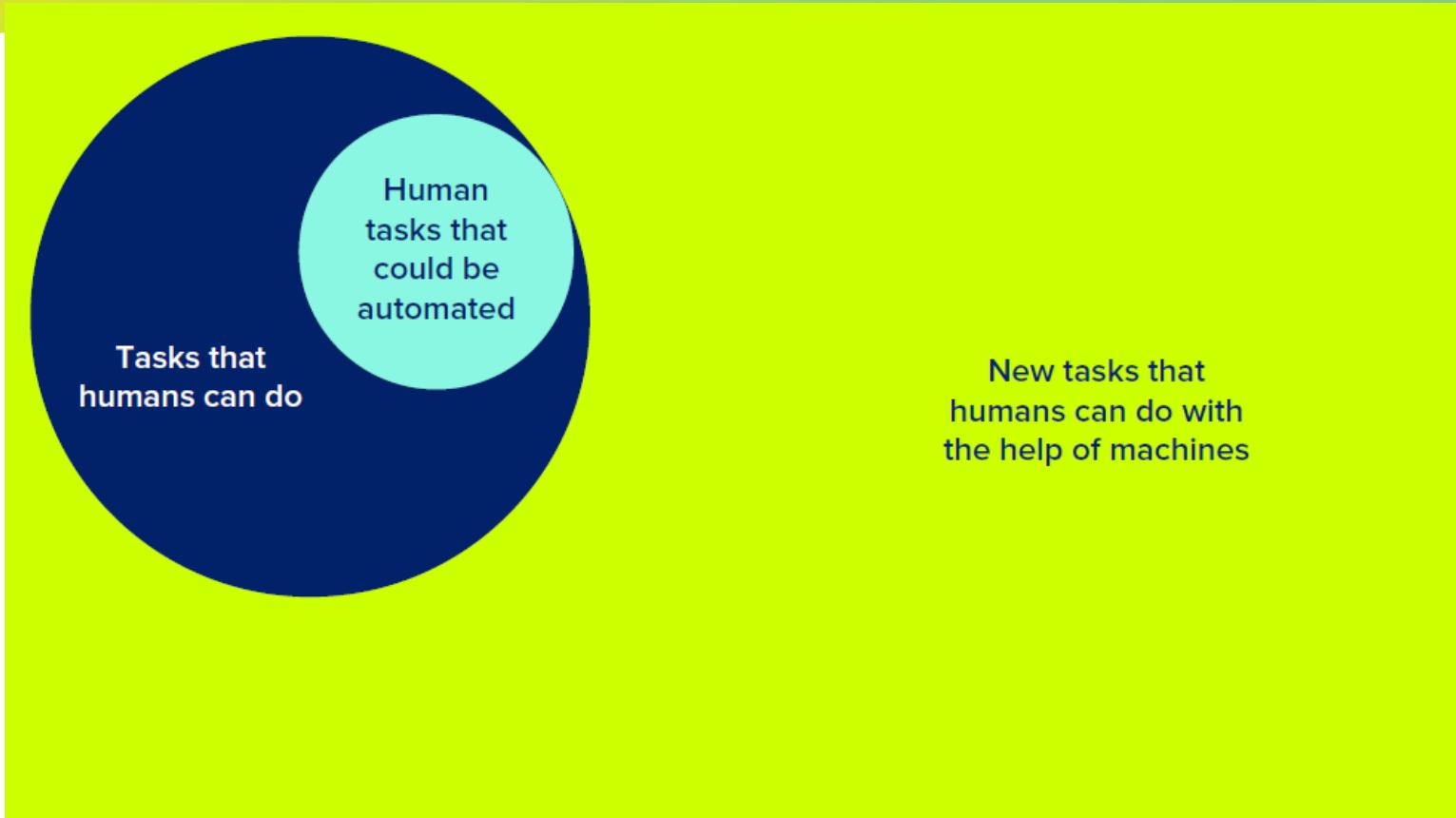


New reference  
points for  
technological  
breakthroughs

New reference  
points for social and  
fiscal protection

New reference  
points for altering  
norms and  
behaviour

# Uncertainty can also break open our imaginations – we must embrace it

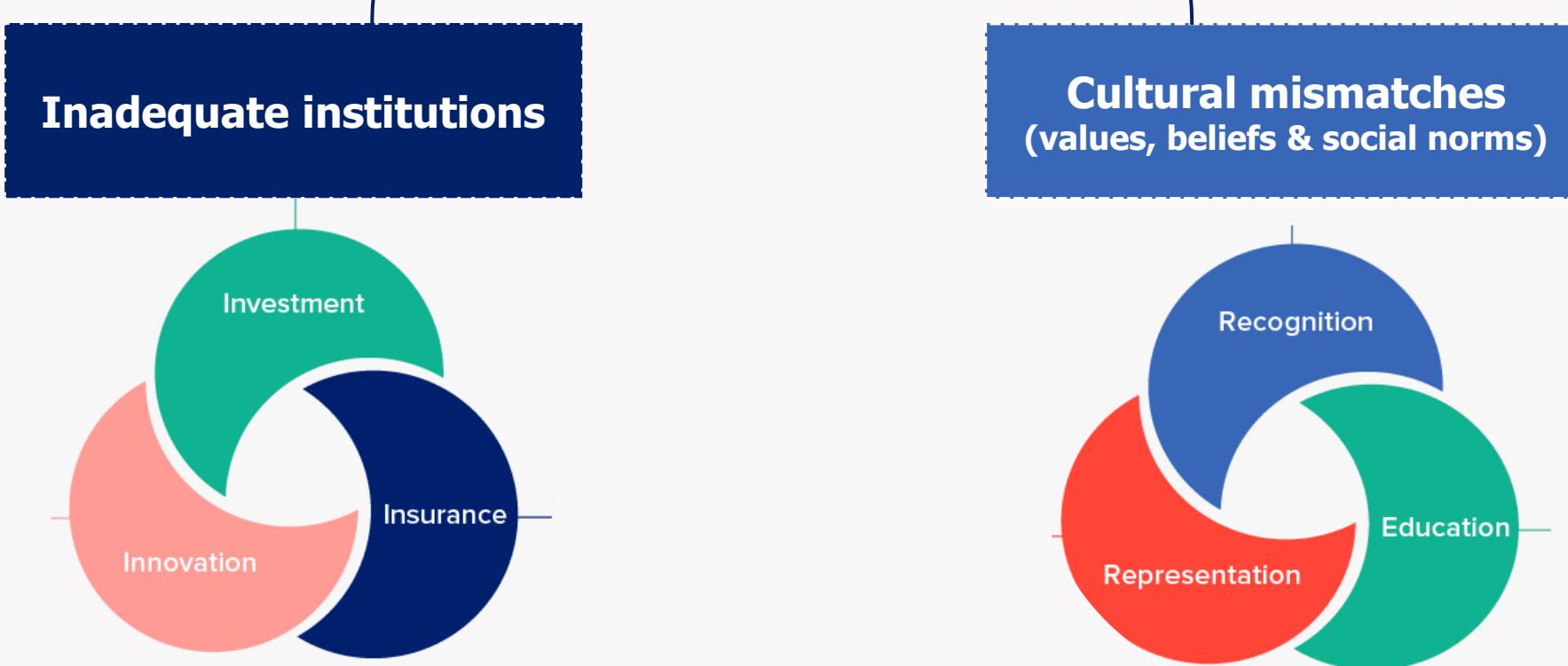


**Opportunities for augmenting what people do are far greater than opportunities to automate existing tasks**

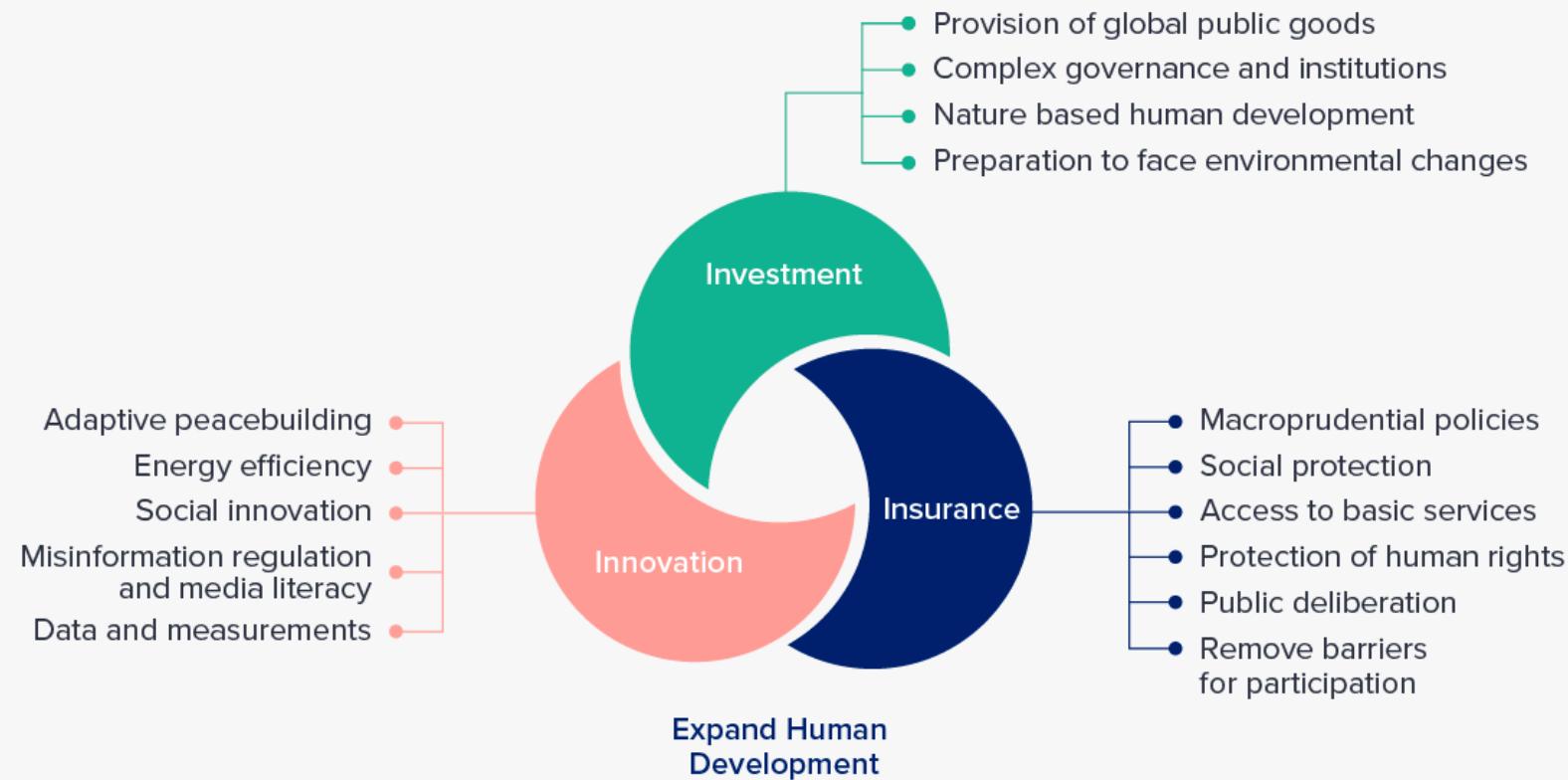
Note: Figure is illustrative.

Source: Human Development Report Office based on Brynjolfsson (2022).

# Charting paths to transformation



# How to navigate uncertainty?



# How to enable cultural change?

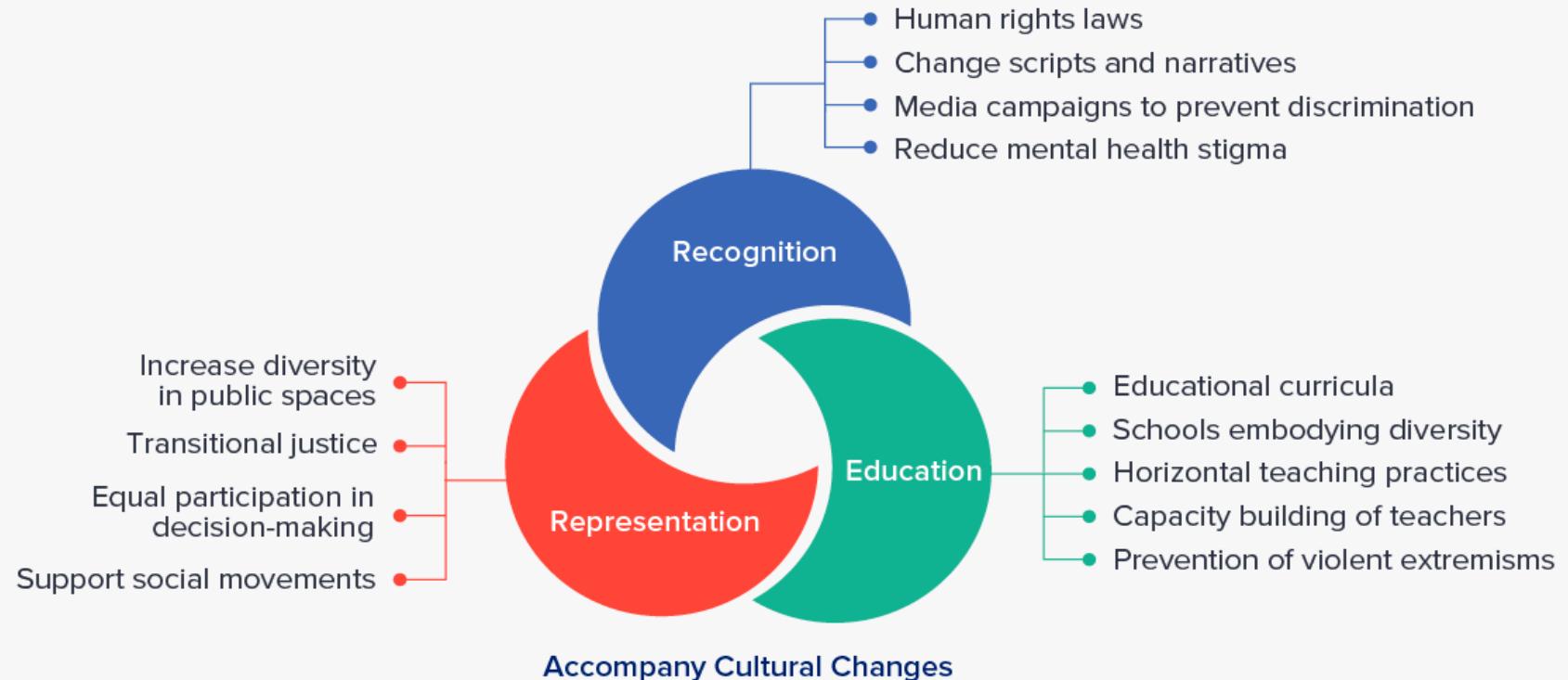




Photo UNDP  
Zambia 2018.

- We can imagine and create futures in which both people and planet thrive
- We can accomplish a lot with very little if we work together towards shared goals



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