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## Measuring Youth Engagement under Goal 16

### Summary Report: Workshop on Youth-Focused Goal 16 Governance Indicators

New York, 26-27 May 2015

#### Background

As a constituency vital to the success of the [new development agenda](#), young people's voices, rights, solutions and innovations are critical to supporting and building **effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions at all levels**. Still, there is a gap in the understanding of—and in the global and national discourse on—how the SDGs can support and identify ways for governments to meaningfully engage young people in decision-making, policy development, and monitoring of policies and programmes.

It is crucial that Goal 16 indicators in particular are proposed and reviewed with young people's meaningful participation in mind **to ensure that these measurements promote inclusive, youth-friendly decision-making**, policy development and implementation, and ultimately enhance the quality of governance and the effectiveness and sustainability of development. In workshop discussions and this summary note, the terms 'youth' and 'young people' are used interchangeably to refer to individuals between 15-24 years of age, in alignment with the UN Secretariat.<sup>1</sup>

Building on previous consultations on youth priorities in post-2015 and the role of youth in the implementation, Plan International and UNDP decided to co-host, with the Permanent Mission of the Netherlands to the UN and in collaboration with the Youth Governance and Accountability Task Team<sup>2</sup> and the United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development, **a 1.5-day interactive workshop in New York on 26-27 May on measuring youth engagement in governance for post-2015** to suggest ways to viably bridge this gap. The

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<sup>1</sup> See <http://www.un.org/esa/socdev/documents/youth/fact-sheets/youth-definition.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> The Youth Governance and Accountability Task Team is a group of 17 young governance and accountability practitioners, acting both as champions at the international level and supporting children and youth around the world to engage within their countries. Supported jointly by Plan International UK, Restless Development, Action Aid and British Youth Council, the group aims to influence the negotiations on youth participation in governance and accountability and to ensure and support the meaningful engagement of young people in the implementation and accountability of the SDG framework at the national level after September 2015. For more information, see Annex D.

the commemoration of the twentieth anniversary of the World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY).

The consultative workshop included **experts from permanent missions to the UN in New York, civil society, academic bodies, UNDP and other UN entities (UNFPA, UN Women, DESA, Office of the UN Secretary-General’s Envoy on Youth), statisticians, and young leaders** with a background in SDG negotiations, youth policies, governance and participatory accountability. The workshop was facilitated by the CEO of Youth Policy Labs.

The results of the workshop will **feed into the upcoming report of UNDP’s Virtual Network of Stakeholders for the Development of Indicators for Sustainable Development Goal 16** (hereafter Virtual Network on Goal 16), to be finalized by July 2015, which aims to address concerns about the measurability of indicators for peaceful and inclusive societies; access to justice; and effective, accountable and transparent institutions.

This paper summarizes the **key messages and recommendations** from the workshop and will support further consultations and discussions with the Youth Governance and Accountability Task Team and other relevant stakeholders (e.g. the Major Group for Children and Youth [MGCY] and others). The key messages and recommendations will inform ongoing efforts by the Inter-Agency Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators (IAEG-SDGs), the Praia Group on Governance Statistics, Member States, National Statistics Offices (NSOs), the United Nations Development Group (UNDG), individual UN agencies and civil society organizations in strengthening relevant targets within the SDG framework, as well as intergovernmental negotiations on means of implementation, follow-up and review.

## Approach

The main objectives of the workshop were to: (1) reemphasize the importance of enhancing youth participation in Goal 16; (2) share relevant information on the SDG process and organize a multi-stakeholder and participatory discussion around the measurement of youth participation; (3) support the formulation by young people and other relevant stakeholders of key advocacy messages; and (4) suggest revised/new indicators to effectively measure youth participation in decision-making.

Participants were asked to consider global- and national-level indicators for targets 16.6, 16.7 and 16.10 (see full list of Goal 16 targets below below). As the [IAEG-SDGs](#)—comprised of representatives from NSOs—will be proposing a very limited set of indicators for global monitoring, recommendations at the global level aim to be ‘youth-sensitive’, recognizing the barriers young people face in participating in formal, national-level processes and the necessary enabling environment and support required for youth to be empowered and engaged fully in governance. For the national level, the workshop aimed to identify ‘youth-focused’ indicators to

measure the participation of young people in national- and local-level decision-making, where young people have the most potential to directly influence policy. The national level has also been identified as the primary locus for monitoring and accountability for progress toward the SDGs, so there is an opportunity to support the participation of young people in data collection, monitoring and holding their local, sub-national and national governments to account for implementation of the SDGs.

The workshop discussions built on the work of others in this area in the context of the SDGs, such as the March 2015 technical report of the UN Statistical Commission on indicators, the recommendations of the Virtual Network on Goal 16 and the [Sustainable Development Solutions Network \(SDSN\)](#), where appropriate, as well as experience measuring youth engagement more broadly (e.g. through the Children’s Environments Research Group, Commonwealth Youth Division, Center for Strategic and International Studies).

While the workshop concentrated on the two Goal 16 targets that address effective, accountable and participatory institutions and decision-making (16.6, 16.7) and the target on access to information and fundamental freedoms (16.10), the importance of youth being represented across all SDG targets was reemphasized by workshop participants.

<b>Goal 16: Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</b>	
16.1	significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere
16.2	end abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence and torture against children
16.3	promote the rule of law at the national and international levels, and ensure equal access to justice for all
16.4	by 2030 significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen recovery and return of stolen assets, and combat all forms of organized crime
16.5	substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all its forms
<b>16.6</b>	<b>develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels</b>
<b>16.7</b>	<b>ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels</b>
16.8	broaden and strengthen the participation of developing countries in the institutions of global governance
16.9	by 2030 provide legal identity for all including birth registration
<b>16.10</b>	<b>ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements</b>
16.a	strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacities at all levels, in particular in developing countries, for preventing violence and combating terrorism and crime
16.b	promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development

The workshop began with a high-level opening session in which the Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Plan International, UNDP and the Youth Governance and Accountability Task Team provided remarks to frame the discussions. Next, UNDP presented the state of play on the SDG negotiations, specifically for Goal 16, the work of the Virtual Network on Goal 16, and the background note developed by Plan International and UNDP to set the stage for the workshop.

Following these introductory presentations, the remainder of the workshop consisted of interactive discussions in small working groups. Specific templates were developed to structure the exchanges during the interactive segment and to capture the resulting recommendations. In the afternoon of Day 1, participants looked at possible indicators for each of the three Goal 16 targets noted above. On Day 2, the group work continued, including additional discussions on thematic indicators to complement target-specific work. The closing session focused on key advocacy messaging and next steps.

Members of the Youth Governance and Accountability Task Team, as well as a number of selected representatives of other youth networks such as the UN Major Group for Children and Youth (MGCY), played an essential role in the workshop, contributing reflections and ideas from their experience as practitioners and youth advocates at the local and national levels. Task team participants were prepared for the workshop through a two-day training organized by Restless Development and Plan International UK on the concepts addressed within Goal 16, the importance of measurement and data, and global post-2015 processes to date. Through interactive exercises and role-plays, they reflected on their own experiences and brainstormed on possible indicators to measure youth participation and the role of youth in governance and accountability, which they then brought into the discussions during the workshop.

The key messages and indicator proposals that resulted from the workshop discussions are listed in the following two sections.

## **Key Messages**

The following key messages emerged from the workshop.

### **Young People Are Critical Change Agents**

- Historically, young men and women have participated in, contributed to, and been catalysts for change. However, too often, they are left out of the political processes and public institutions at the national level. Young women and men remain largely excluded from decision-making, policy development and implementation, creating a disconnect between young people and the political leadership.

- In global, regional and national post-2015 UNDG consultations and discussions, **honest and responsive governance has been consistently identified<sup>3</sup> by young people as a top priority for the future development agenda.**
- Empowering young people to have a say in decisions that affect them not only contributes to **fulfilling their human rights**, but also **strengthens the long-term sustainability and effectiveness of all the SDGs.**
- It is important that youth have a say, beyond the so-called “youth sector.” For instance, young people need to be able to give feedback on their experience of public service delivery in general. Linkages need to be strengthened between the WPAY and overall SDG implementation.

### **Young People Are Key to Achieving the Ambition of the SDGs**

- As recognized by the UN Secretary-General in his post-2015 synthesis report, “young people will be the torch-bearers of the next sustainable development agenda through 2030.” Young people **have an important role to play in shaping and implementing the post-2015 agenda**, including through strengthening ongoing partnerships between duty bearers and youth-led organisations, helping to keep their countries on track toward achieving the SDGs and reaching out to youth who experience even greater marginalization.
- To achieve the ambition of the post-2015 agenda, it will be necessary to ensure that the voices and views of young people are heard and responded to in decision-making and review processes. However, despite the central role of young people in achieving the SDGs over the next 15 years, they are still rarely and inconsistently mentioned in the [zero draft outcome document](#) and subsequent [final draft](#).
- In particular, **Goal 16 cuts across the sustainable development framework** and is therefore a critical enabler for the agenda’s success as a whole.

### **SDG Indicators, Data and Disaggregation Must Recognize Youth**

- Data on youth participation and engagement worldwide is still very limited, and a long-identified gap in many youth indices, since the inception of the World Programme for Action on Youth (WPAY), launched 20 years ago. Thus it is necessary to identify strong indicators of youth participation in decision-making processes at the national, sub-national and local levels that would allow governments, civil society and individuals to understand the extent to which young people are engaged and able to contribute to implementation of the SDGs.
- As governments, statisticians and data experts work to select indicators for the SDGs, now is a crucial opportunity to identify youth-focused indicators of participatory decision-making, ensuring the “data gap” on youth participation does not persist for another 20 years.
- **Disaggregation by age is essential.** Disaggregation of data by age cohorts (0-14, 15-18, 19-24, 25-59, 60+) is necessary, as well as other factors such as sex, race, ethnicity, marital

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<sup>3</sup> See [MyWorld Survey](#) results and [Youth Voices on a Post-2015 World](#), DFID CSO Working Group, 2013.

status, geographic location and income. Specific target concerns of youth need to be singled out in the discussion and in implementation. The Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) argues that a human rights-based approach suggests disaggregating against all criteria that are ground for discrimination.

- There is a need to strengthen the capacities of national statistical systems to measure the SDGs, as well as the capacities of other stakeholders, including civil society, to collect data and to influence how data are used.

## Indicators Proposed by Workshop Participants

The following list includes potential areas of measurement identified by workshop participants as important for youth participation in decision-making. Not all of the proposals are youth-specific, but with appropriate disaggregation, some indicators were identified as potentially benefiting young people in addition to other social groups. The proposed measurements are intended to serve as a basis for developing stronger, alternative indicators than what has been proposed to date. They are organized below according to the various governance concepts currently included under Goal 16.

### Target 16.6 – Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels

- “Effective” dimension:
  - Degree of young people’s satisfaction with public services – for instance, education, health, transportation, public safety and justice – disaggregated by sex, race, ethnicity, marital status, geographic location and income
  - Existence of mechanisms to complain and critique public services
  - Perception of access to mechanisms to complain and critique public services without fear of recrimination
  - Proportion of young people who report poor services, disaggregated by sex
  - Proportion of young people who feel comfortable expressing opinions about public services or reporting poor services, disaggregated by sex and population group
  - Degree to which young men and women are satisfied with educational opportunities for secondary education
  - Degree to which young men and women are satisfied with educational opportunities for tertiary education
- “Accountable” dimension:
  - Existence of mechanisms for youth consultations in monitoring outcomes of policy-making and decision-making, including in monitoring progress toward the SDGs
  - Level of openness to advocacy by interest groups and civil society organizations
  - Degree to which young people feel they can influence or have influenced policy-making and decision-making at all levels

- Degree to which young people are engaged and supported to participate in national, regional and global follow-up and review mechanisms for the SDGs and other international agreements
- Degree to which government supports alternative, civil society reports in follow-up and review processes for the SDGs and other international agreements
- Perception of young people on the extent to which they can freely and confidently express their voice and hold government and duty bearers accountable
- Number of cases in which children and young people have influenced decision making processes at the local, national, and international levels
- Opportunity for young people to monitor and take part in reporting processes on the child rights situation in country for the Convention on the Rights of the Child and its Optional Protocols
- “Transparent” dimension:
  - Access to public information by young people in youth-friendly formats, including distribution of resources and financial information, i.e. budgets, expenditures and revenues
  - Access to information by youth on their rights and entitlements

**Target 16.7 – Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels**

- “Participatory” dimension<sup>4</sup>:
  - Implementation of free and fair elections
  - Number/proportion of youth registered to vote, disaggregated by sex and population group
  - Number/proportion of youth who vote, disaggregated by sex and population group
  - Follow-up question to, “Did you vote in the last election?”
    - If yes, “did you experience any difficulty accessing the polls?”
    - If no, “were there any specific reasons why you did not vote?”
  - Existence of policy that requires public bodies to consult with citizens and other stakeholders in decision-making
    - Are youth and youth-led organizations included in or exempted from public consultation policy?
  - Existence of policies that hinder youth participation:

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<sup>4</sup> A note of caution regarding formal structures to enable youth participation: Even when formal structures for youth engagement are established — youth parliaments or youth councils, for example — evidence suggests that these can end up reinforcing existing class structures and inequalities, serving to exclude rather than empower marginalized youth. Therefore, it is critical that governments and civil society organizations actively seek out, engage, and support the participation of marginalized groups, including youth, to promote their social and political inclusion.

- Minimum age at which one can stand for election for local, sub-national, national and regional public bodies
  - Requirements for parental consent
  - Number of active campaigns and advocacy initiatives led by young people
  - Number of registered, democratically elected and actively engaged youth groups and organizations contributing to local and national policy decision-making processes
  - Number of interface spaces in which government and young people came together to find joint solutions that affect young people
  - Existence of non-formal spaces enabling youth participation, outside of structural mechanisms
  - Enabling environment for young women to participate in democratic processes, for instance elections or campaigning
    - Percentage of young women who feel safe traveling alone in public spaces
    - Percentage of parents who allow their daughters autonomous mobility
- “Representative” dimension:
  - Existence of integrated national youth policies and frameworks at national and local levels
  - Existence of national, integrated, inter-ministerial coordination mechanisms for youth policies and programs, including thematic coverage, frequency of meetings, and participation of all ministries and young people
  - Existence of budget for and level of investment in youth policies and frameworks
  - Percentage of youth in decision-making bodies at lower levels
  - Percentage of young people employed at public institutions/ministries, including in decision-making positions
  - Existence of youth ministries/departments with professional statistical units for measuring the implementation of the World Programme of Action for Youth and the SDGs
  - Existence of youth focal points within thematic ministries and departments
  - Existence of structured advisory bodies for ministries and departments, disaggregated by sector of population, and existence of adequate resources for these bodies
  - Number of formal youth-led organisations
  - Number of physical spaces for young individuals outside of formal youth organizations
  - Number of student bodies
  - Number of youth workers
  - Number of political parties with youth wings
  - Number of young parliamentarians
  - Number of young people engaged in trade/labor unions
- “Responsive” dimension:



- Degree to which the government has implemented the World Programme of Action for Youth
- Public bodies publish and make freely available the results and outcomes of consultation with citizens and other stakeholders
- Proportion of young people who report they feel successful in influencing decision-making
- Proportion of young people who report that decision-making bodies take into account the feedback and input of young people
- Percentage of youth who believe their government serves their interests and that of their countries/communities, disaggregated by sex
- Degree of young people’s trust in government, disaggregated by sex
- “Inclusive” dimension:
  - Marginalized and vulnerable youth populations—including young women, migrant and refugee youth, youth from ethnic and language minority groups, youth from indigenous groups, and youth with disabilities—are engaged and supported to participate in public consultations on policy-making and decision-making
  - Marginalized and vulnerable youth populations—including young women, migrant and refugee youth, youth from ethnic and language minority groups, youth from indigenous groups, and youth with disabilities—are engaged and supported to participate in regional and global follow-up and review mechanisms
  - The voices and concerns of young people, including marginalized and vulnerable youth populations, are transmitted from the local to national, regional, and global follow-up and review processes
  - Degree of agreement with the statement, “Young women should have opportunities to participate in governance of their communities.”
  - Enrollment rates in secondary education, disaggregated by sex
  - Enrollment rates in tertiary education, disaggregated by sex
  - Accessibility to gender-sensitive curricula specifically addressing issues important to young women
  - Gender ratio of membership in youth organizations
  - Gender ratio of leaders in youth organizations

**Taret 16.10 – Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements**

- “Access to Information” dimension:
  - Existence of publicly available, inter-ministerial reporting mechanisms on youth issues
  - Public information is made available in a timely manner and in youth-friendly formats and language

- To what extent are citizens, including youth, informed of government policymaking?
- Frequency of refusals to requests for information, as a percentage of total requests
- Requirement of a fee for requests for information
- Requests for information can be submitted in a variety of formats, e.g. in person, via mail, online, via telephone/fax, via mobile technology
- Access to information and education by youth about public service obligations and individual's rights
  - Knowledge of individual rights and responsibilities, and government's obligations and responsibilities
  - Capacity of young people to engage constructively in political discussions
  - Extent to which young people possess the information and knowledge to evaluate government policymaking adequately
  - Inclusion of youth participation and governance in quality civic education as part of primary and secondary education
  - Capacity of young people and youth organisations to use and access data
- "Fundamental Freedoms" dimension:<sup>5</sup>
  - Extent to which individuals can form and join independent political or civic groups, disaggregated by age and sex
  - Extent to which these groups can operate and assemble freely, disaggregated by age and sex
  - The right to assemble and organize for young people under 18/21 is adequately protected by law
  - Young people under 18/21 are formally counted/integrated in national civil society
  - Existence of policies supporting freedom of expression and association for young people, including on the Internet
  - Proportion of young people who feel comfortable expressing political views and concerns, including via the Internet
  - Proportion of young people who feel they can criticize the government openly and freely in independent media without recrimination

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<sup>5</sup> **"A note on enabling environments:** The scope for young people's participation in existing and future accountability mechanisms from the local to the international level is bound with that of wider civil society stakeholders and the realities of the social and political environments in which they are seeking change. Upholding and guaranteeing all human rights, and civil and political rights in particular, is critical to providing an enabling environment for meaningful engagement and active youth participation in governance and accountability in the post-2015 agenda." [Young people's engagement in strengthening accountability for the post-2015 agenda](#), Davis et al., September 2014, p. 10.

## Next Steps

This workshop is the first in a series of consultations to be convened in 2015-2016. There was consensus among participants on the importance of forming a strong coalition to promote and support further consultations on the measurement of youth participation in governance and the SDGs.

Participants agreed on the importance of seizing all relevant opportunities this year and next to continue to share information on ongoing measurement exercises and advocate for greater youth participation in governance and SDG implementation. The workshop organizers will work with technical experts to narrow the list of proposed areas for measurement above in order to create a set of priority recommendations, along with a rationale for the prioritization and potential data sources. The key messages and priority recommendations will then be shared with the IAEG-SDGs and other post-2015 decision-makers, governments, civil society and youth organizations to support ongoing advocacy.

The Virtual Network on Goal 16 was identified as one of channel for advocacy. Bearing in mind that the Virtual Network is finalizing its work soon, the possibility of forming another network, specifically looking at youth participation in governance and the SDGs, was suggested. UNDP could host such a space to convene further virtual knowledge sharing, consultations and technical discussions.

UNDP proposed that after a series of similar consultations on youth engagement under Goal 16 and the SDGs, a few countries be identified to pilot/champion national-level indicators. UNDP will continue to support joint activities with the Youth Governance and Accountability Task Team, and is also planning on establishing a global network of young parliamentarians to champion the SDGs and the youth agenda. Also related to Goal 16, the IANYD working group on youth and peacebuilding is promoting a positive narrative on youth participation in peacebuilding.

Restless Development, jointly with Plan International UK, YES Ghana and African Monitor, and funded by the European Commission, are piloting a youth-led accountability project. The project will build the capacity of young leaders to monitor the implementation of the SDGs effectively, and will be piloted in seven different countries in Africa and Europe. Plan International UK will continue to support adolescent girls advocacy networks across Africa and Asia to advocate for their role in the implementation of the SDGs at the local, national and international level.

Further, both Restless Development and Plan International will continue to work with networks focused on indicators for the SDGs, including the Transparency, Accountability & Participation Civil Society Network (TAP Network), Beyond 2015, the Praia City Group and others, as well as facilitating youth participation in the discussion. Finally, the Commonwealth Youth Division mentioned the potential for a series of meetings with youth ministers, and with regard to measurement, the Commonwealth is also working on a youth development index.

This informal coalition of organizations<sup>6</sup> will continue to engage in joint advocacy and influencing through the end of the process to develop the post-2015 agenda and beyond into implementation, to support and build the capacities of young people to embed recommendations on their role in participatory governance and accountability mechanisms into national-level planning, implementation and monitoring of the SDGs.

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<sup>6</sup> In addition to the workshop organizers and participants, the following potential partners were identified for future work: the UN Major Group for Children and Youth; the UN Inter-agency Network on Youth Development; Beyond 2015; the TAP Network; the Open Government Partnership; the Praia City Group on Governance Statistics; the European Youth Forum; the World Federation of United Nations Associations (WFUNA); the UN Population Fund; the Commonwealth Secretariat; Organisation internationale de la Francophonie; and the Ibero-American Youth Organization.

**Annex A – Workshop Agenda**



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## Measuring Youth Engagement in Governance

Workshop on Youth-Focused Indicators for  
Goal 16 Governance Targets

26 – 27 May 2015

UNDP FF Building, 11th Floor, Large Conference Room  
304 East 45th Street, New York, NY

### Workshop Objectives

- Outline a range of youth-focused indicators of processes and outcomes in participatory governance for effective national-level monitoring, with specific attention to targets 16.6, 16.7 and 16.10
- Develop key advocacy messages around youth-focused indicators of participation in governance
- Build capacities of young people to embed recommendations on their role in participatory governance and accountability mechanisms into national-level planning, implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Day 1 Agenda – Tuesday, 26 May	
8:30 – 9:00	<i>Breakfast</i>
9:00 – 9:30	Welcome – Lori Heninger, Head of Office/UN Liaison, Plan International
9:30 – 10:00	Keynote Remarks – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peter van der Vliet, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UN</li> <li>• Patrick Keuleers, Director of the Governance and Peacebuilding Cluster, UNDP</li> <li>• Farah Mesmar, Youth Governance and Accountability Task Team Member</li> </ul>
10:00 – 11:00	Setting the Stage – <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Jana Schuhmann, Policy Advisor, Rule of Law, Justice and Security, Governance and Post 2015, UNDP</li> <li>• Serge Kapto, Policy Specialist on Data for Development, UNDP</li> </ul>
11:00 – 11:10	Workshop Purpose, Agenda, and Expected Outcomes – Andreas Karsten, Facilitator
11:10 – 11:30	<i>Coffee Break</i>
11:30 – 12:30	Discussion of Background Paper
12:30 – 1:30	<i>Lunch Buffet on 11<sup>th</sup> floor</i>
1:30 – 3:30	Group Work: One group per target
3:30 – 4:00	<i>Coffee Break</i>
4:00 – 5:15	Report Back and Wrap-Up
Day 2 Agenda – Wednesday, 27 May	
9:00 – 9:15	<i>Breakfast</i>
9:15 – 9:30	Review Day 1 Outcomes and Day 2 Agenda
9:30 – 11:15	Continuation of Group Work
11:15 – 12:00	Report Back and Discussion
12:00 – 12:30	Next Steps
12:30 – 1:00	Closing Address – Ahmad Alhendawi, UN Secretary-General's Envoy for Youth
1:00 – 1:15	Conclusion
1:15 – 2:00	<i>Lunch Buffet on 11<sup>th</sup> floor</i>

## **Annex B – List of Workshop Participants**

**Abhik Sen**, Head of Policy and Research, Commonwealth Youth Division

**Ahmad Alhendawi**, UN Secretary-General's Envoy for Youth

**Ahmed Ibrahim**, Intern/Adviser, Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Somalia to the UN

**Amelia Whitworth**, Advocacy Adviser, Plan International UK

**Andrea Glauber**, Post-2015 Coordinator, UN Foundation

**Andreas Karsten**, Workshop Facilitator

**Arooj Khalid**, UN Women

**Athini Nyatela**, Youth Governance and Accountability Task Team, South Africa

**Bander Al-Bander**, Second Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Iraq to the United Nations

**Bijan Kimiagar**, Research Associate, Children's Environments Research Group, The Graduate Center – City University of New York Center for Human Environments

**Farah Mesmar**, Youth Governance and Accountability Task Team, Jordan

**Helena Rovner**, Consultant, UNDP Latin America and the Caribbean, Youth Expert

**Jana Schuhmann**, Policy Advisor, Rule of Law, Justice and Security, Governance and Post 2015, UNDP

**Jelle Oldenhof**, Third Secretary, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UN

**Joke Lannoye**, Global Advocacy Manager, Restless Development

**Jon-Andreas Solberg**, Strategy and Policy Advisor, Youth and Livelihood Unit, UN-Habitat

**Kikelomo Taiwo**, Representative, UN Major Group for Children and Youth

**Layne Robinson**, Head of Programmes, Commonwealth Youth Division

**Lily Talapessy**, Senior Adviser Post-2015, UNFPA

**Lombe Tembo**, Youth Governance and Accountability Task Team, Zambia

**Lori Heninger**, Head of Office/UN Liaison, Plan International UN Liaison Office in New York

**Mari Ullmann**, Advocacy Adviser, Plan International UN Liaison Office in New York

**Marinka Wijngaard**, Adviser, Economic, Social, Humanitarian & Human Rights Section, Permanent Mission of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UN

**Mumbi-Michelle Kimani**, Permanent Mission of the Republic of Kenya to the UN

**Muna Farah Ali**, Intern/Adviser, Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Somalia to the UN

**Nicola Shepherd**, UN Focal Point on Youth, Permanent Co-Chair of the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development

**Nicole Goldin**, Principal, NRG Advisory

**Noëlla Richard**, Youth Policy Specialist, UNDP Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, Co-chair of the Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development

**Pablo Angulo-Troconis**, Youth Program Consultant, WFUNA

**Param Maragatham**, Representative, UN Major Group for Children and Youth

**Patrick Mwesigye**, Founder/Executive Director, Uganda Youth and Adolescents Health Forum

**Patrick Keuleers**, Director for Governance and Peacebuilding, UNDP Bureau for Policy and Programme Support

**Pauline Leonard**, Associate Social Affairs Officer, DESA-UN Focal Point on Youth

**Peter van der Vliet**, Deputy Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the UN

**Robert Johnston**, Consultant

**Sara Moore**, Global Youth Advisory Panel, Plan International USA

**Saskia Schellekens**, Special Advisor, Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy for Youth

**Serge Kapto**, Policy Specialist on Data for Development, UNDP

**Shaireen Moon**, Representative, UN Major Group for Children and Youth

**Steadman Noble**, Governance & Advocacy Capacity Building Officer, Plan International UK

**Stephanie Beecroft**, Policy Officer, UN & Global Affairs, European Youth Forum AISBL

**Sule Dedekarginoglu**, Administration and Advocacy Support Officer, Plan International UN Liaison Office in New York



**Annex C – Templates for Group Work**



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Which indicator are you proposing?	
To which target does the indicator relate?	<input type="checkbox"/> 16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels <input type="checkbox"/> 16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making <input type="checkbox"/> 16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms
What do you want to measure (in your own = normal words)?	
On which level could this indicator be useful (global/ regional/national/thematic)?	
Is this indicator easy to communicate and easy to understand?	
Is this indicator politically viable? What are risks?	
In case this indicator is not possible, what could be a clever proxy indicator?	
Any other comments you would like to make about this indicator?	



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Which indicator are you proposing?	
To which target does the indicator relate?	
What do you want to measure (in your own = normal words)?	
On which level could this indicator be useful (global/ regional/national/thematic)?	
Is this indicator easy to communicate and easy to understand?	
Is this indicator politically viable? What are risks?	
In case this indicator is not possible, what could be a clever proxy indicator?	
Any other comments you would like to make about this indicator?	

**Annex D – About the Youth Governance and Accountability Task Team**

## Youth Governance and Accountability Task Team

### WHY?

The development of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** creates a big opportunity to influence the decisions and actions of world leaders, donors and governments for a generation.

Young people must be central to the process of developing the Sustainable Development Goals as well as in the **implementation and monitoring** of the goals. The new framework must create an enabling environment that empowers children and young people to exercise their agency for change and allows them to hold their leaders to account on their commitments. This is crucial to the success of the new framework.

### THE ISSUE

In global post-2015 consultations and discussions, governance has been consistently identified by young people as a top priority: specifically, fair representation, active citizenship, accountability and strengthening good governance at the local and national level. This is also linked to the question of the role of children and youth following 2015, once the design and content of the goals are confirmed: *How can children and young people hold leaders to account on the new framework?*

Despite accountability and governance being consistently identified as a priority issue by young people, there is still a risk that this won't be translated in actionable goals, targets and indicators, and that governance and the role of children & youth will fall off the agenda. So it is time to take action!

### INTRODUCING... THE YOUTH GOVERNANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY TASK TEAM

The Task Team is a volunteer group of dedicated, connected and knowledgeable young advocates working to ensure good governance, civic participation and effective mechanisms to hold leaders to account. The team is supporting other young people globally and nationally to ensure that the [Sustainable Development Goals](#) take into account the priorities of children and youth and ensure their equal participation in shaping, implementing and monitoring these goals.

The Task Team was convened for the first time during the [2014 World Conference on Youth](#) and established by Plan, Restless Development, Action Aid and British Youth Council. The team now consists of 18 young people, acting both as champions at an international level and supporting youth around the world to engage at the national level, engaging during the negotiations and afterwards in the implementation of the SDGs framework.

### ACHIEVEMENTS SO FAR – SOME HIGHLIGHTS

Over the last 12 months this network has grown and seen young people advocate and campaign at their local and national levels as well as in international forums, bringing youth participation and youth-led accountability to the attention of key decision-makers.

*Task team speaking at high-level event during UN General Assembly in New York in September 2014*



- **Building the evidence** - 'Partners for Change. Young People and Governance in a Post-2015 World': A research report was developed with the Task Team and the Overseas Development Institute demonstrating how youth participation - at all levels of decision making - builds good governance structures. It explores the opportunities and the barriers that exist for young people engaging in governance processes and supports a standalone goal on governance in the post-2015 development agenda, with the role of young people clearly defined as crucial to the success of this goal.



*Cheick hands over research report to Prime Minister of Burkina Faso*

- **Empowerment and capacity building:** Capacity building resources have been developed, such as the advocacy toolkit 'Global Agreements, Grassroots Actions' and "Power, Rights & Participation" - a practical training guide. The capacity and skills of Task Team members has been built through in-person training workshops, webinars and direct support.



*Lombe speaks on Zambia national television on role of youth in Post-2015*

- **Global advocacy:** Task Team members have participated in and spoken at high-level events, such as during the UN General Assembly in 2014, alongside heads of state, directors of development and UN agencies and other influential stakeholders. Furthermore, Task Team members have been involved in influencing the Post-2015 discussions and negotiations at the global level, for example by ensuring speaking roles during the intergovernmental negotiations on the SDGs, and bilateral meetings with member states' representatives.

- **National and local level activity:** Supported by capacity building and small advocacy grants, Task Team members are leading national and local advocacy and awareness raising on youth participatory governance and youth-led accountability as part of the Post-2015 agenda. They have shared outcomes of the report with key national decision-makers, have spoken on national radio and television, and are organising training and outreach with their respective youth organisations and networks. Our member in Burkina Faso has recently been appointed as Youth Envoy to the President on the SDGs and our members in Kenya are building an online social accountability tool for young people to use on the SDGs.

## NEXT STEPS

In the lead-up to the SDG Summit in September 2015, the youth Task Team members will continue to **advocate and campaign on the key issues that are still at stake** in the negotiations on the Sustainable Development Goals. With support from Plan UK and Restless Development, they are also developing positions and recommendations on how participatory governance and accountable institutions could be measured, and contribute their expertise to discussions and decision-making around monitoring and review mechanisms for the SDGs.

A **Community of Practice** will be established to amplify the voice the Task Team members and engage a wider network of young people in monitoring and accountability of the new SDGs. The network will mobilise young people and youth organisations in holding their governments to account in the implementation of the new SDGs, and become youth accountability champions in their respective countries. The 'Community of Practice' will be an online platform to provide access to materials and toolkits and connect young experts and youth organisations to support collaboration and exchange of learnings, opportunities and information to advocate for youth as beneficiaries, partners and leaders at a national, regional and global level, with a special focus on governance and accountability of the SDGs.

## Annex E – Proposed Indicators for Goal 16 Governance Targets

*NOTE: The following tables were provided in a background note to participants in advance of the workshop. An updated [list of priority indicators](#) has since been released by the UN Statistical Division in July 2015.*

The preliminary indicators discussed in the UN Statistical Commission’s March 2015 technical report are listed under each target below, along with the revision under review with the Technical Support Team (TST) Working Group on Goal 16 as of 24 March 2015, comments and references to ongoing work, and recommendations from workshop participants.

<b>Target 16.6. Effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels</b>	
<b>Indicator 1.</b> Actual expenditures per sector and revenues as a percentage of the original approved budget of the government	
<b>NSO Rating<sup>7</sup></b>	BBB
<b>TST on Goal 16 Recommendation</b>	Primary government expenditures as a percentage of original approved budget
<b>Relevance to Youth</b>	No reference is currently made to youth or budget linked to social investment in youth. Reference may be made to the Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability data set at <a href="http://www.pefa.org">www.pefa.org</a> .  More reflection will be needed to define what we mean by investment in youth and what it should include.
<b>Indicator 2.</b> Proportion of population satisfied with the quality of public services, disaggregated by service	
<b>NSO Rating</b>	BAA
<b>TST on Goal 16 Recommendation</b>	Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services
<b>Relevance to Youth</b>	The youth age group should be explicitly identified in this indicator.
<b>Virtual Network on Goal 16</b>	Suggests additional or alternative wording on: trust in public officials/institutions; objective measures of quality of public services as in education test scores, maternal mortality; public publication of procurement contracts for more than 7 days; proportion of parliamentary seats open to competition; reduction in inequality and discrimination in public service delivery.  At country level the Virtual Network on Goal 16 suggests consideration of disaggregation among particular sectors, such as health, education, policy, revenue collection, which can be buttressed with results from expert

<sup>7</sup> Explanation of ratings from the [“Technical report by the Bureau of the United Nations Statistical Commission on the process of the development of an indicator framework for the goals and targets of the post-2015 development agenda”](#) (page 2): “The proposed provisional indicators have been assessed according to their feasibility, suitability and relevance, giving them a ranking from A to C for these three criteria. An indicator rated “AAA” has been found to be easily feasible, suitable and very relevant to measure the respective target for which it was proposed by a majority of national statistical offices (60 per cent or more). In a similar way, an indicator rated “CCC” would have been found by a significant number of national statistical offices (at least 40 per cent) to be not feasible, not suitable and not relevant to measure the respective target for which it was proposed.”

	assessments on experience or satisfaction with, and quality of public service, and illuminated with qualitative information from citizen report cards and focus groups.
<b>Open Societies Foundations and Namati, <i>Justice 2015</i></b>	Presents illustrative targets and indicators on the right to information and government data, legal identity for everyone, share of women and men with secure rights to land and property, participation of citizens in monitoring essential services, including health care, water and education, access by all to justice institutions and legal aid services that are affordable, fair and timely.
<b>Save the Children, <i>Framework for the Future, 2014</i></b>	Public perception surveys show that children and other marginalised groups have equal access to good-quality public services that meet their needs.  Legislation has been established that requires all large businesses to report on their social, human rights and environmental impact, including children's rights impact.
<b>Roger A. Hart, Children's Environments Research Group</b>	Regular consultation on, and critical evaluation of, the provision of resources and services

<b>Target 16.7. Responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels</b>	
<b>Indicator 1. Diversity in representation in key decision-making bodies (legislature, executive, and judiciary) compared to national distribution</b>	
<b>NSO Rating</b>	BBA
<b>TST on Goal 16 Recommendation</b>	Proportions of positions (by sex, disability and population groups) in public institutions (national and local legislatures, public services, and judiciary) compared to national distributions.
<b>Relevance to Youth</b>	Youth must be explicitly identified in this indicator (and specific age groups based on contexts).  The importance of inclusion of children and youth in SDG monitoring systems and of improved participation in data development for monitoring and evaluations mechanisms for national policies and programmes should be emphasized.
<b>Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU)</b>	IPU inquiry to parliaments on youth participation and consultation provides a solid basis for current statistics and indicators on youth and for their further development.  IPU has collected data and compiled indicators using a questionnaire distributed to national parliaments on the age of parliamentarians, voting age, upper and lower age limits for parliamentarians, and presence and description of measures to promote youth participation including informal youth networks for consultation and advocacy.
<b>SDSN</b>	Percentage of seats held by women and minorities in national parliament and/or sub-national elected office according to their respective share of the population (modified MDG Indicator)



<p><b>Commonwealth Youth Development Index</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth Policies and Representation - A score based on three questions (ACE Electoral Network): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ “Does the country have a national youth policy?”</li> <li>○ “Does the country have Youth Representative Bodies?”</li> <li>○ “Does the country have other mechanisms for youth participation?”</li> </ul> </li> <li>• Voting Education - A score based on the answer to the question “At the national level, how often are voter education programs conducted?” (Commonwealth Secretary)</li> <li>• Volunteering - Positive responses of people ages 15-24 to the questions: “Have you done any of the following in the past month? How about volunteered your time to an organization?” (Gallup World Poll)</li> <li>• Helped a Stranger - Positive responses of people ages between 15-24 to the questions: “Have you done any of the following in the past month? How about helped a stranger or someone you didn’t know who needed help?” (Gallup World Poll)</li> </ul>
<p><b>Indicator 2.</b> Percentage of population who believe decision-making at all levels is inclusive and responsive</p>	
<p><b>NSO Rating</b></p>	<p>CBB</p>
<p><b>TST on Goal 16 Recommendation</b></p>	<p>Turnout as a share of voting-age population in national elections</p>
<p><b>Relevance to Youth</b></p>	<p>The eligible youth age group must be identified in this indicator, by sex.</p>
<p><b>Save the Children, Framework for the Future, 2014</b></p>	<p>Public surveys show that children and marginalised groups engage effectively in civic activities, including policymaking, budgeting and other public processes</p>
<p><b>Roger A. Hart, Children’s Environments Research Group</b></p>	<p>Participation in local government decisions affecting youth through the democratic representation of youth in local government councils.  Regular consultation of youth regarding local government decisions affecting youth.</p>
<p><b>Alternative Indicator 3 Suggested by TST on Goal 16:</b> Extent to which legislature conducts public hearings during budget cycle</p>	
<p><b>Relevance to Youth</b></p>	<p>Alternative could be the extent of youth consultation in all public hearings.  Reference may be made to the International Budget Partnership (internationalbudget.org), the Global Initiative for Fiscal Transparency and the work of the Inter-Parliamentary Union.</p>
<p><b>Save the Children, Framework for the Future, 2014</b></p>	<p>The public, including children, has access to timely and user-friendly budget information, and to formal opportunities for participation in public budgeting and policymaking</p>
<p><b>Other Potential Indicators for Target 16.7</b></p> <p><b>Roger A. Hart, Children’s Environments Research Group:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Right to vote for local political offices (and at what age)</li> <li>• Right to vote for national political offices (and at what age)</li> <li>• Voting for local political office</li> <li>• Voting for national political office</li> <li>• Participation in local government budget allocations for youth programs and services (e.g. Porto</li> </ul>	

<p>Alegre, Brazil and Indian Panchayets)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of local government councils that are young</li> <li>• Participation in local government budget allocations</li> <li>• Participation in local government decisions affecting youth through the democratic representation of youth in local government councils</li> <li>• Opportunities to participate in the making of decisions in the governance of youth organizations (clubs, recreation group etc.)</li> </ul> <p><b>Other Ideas:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth membership of national electoral commissions</li> </ul>
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<b>Target 16.10. Public access to information and protection of fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreement</b>	
<b>Indicator 1.</b> Percentage of actual government budgets, procurement, revenues and natural resource concessions that are publicly available and easily accessible	
<b>NSO Rating</b>	BBB
<b>TST on Goal 16 Recommendation</b>	Percentage of government revenues, procurement and natural resource concessions that are publicly available and easily accessible in open data format.
<b>Relevance to Youth</b>	<p>Online access to government information by youth is a subject that could be taken up through public opinion surveys.</p> <p>The importance of inclusion of children and youth in SDG monitoring systems and of improved participation in data development for monitoring and evaluations mechanisms for national policies and programmes has to be emphasized.</p>
<b>Virtual Network on Goal 16</b>	The extent to which budget documents, off budget revenue documents, procurement and natural resource concessions are publically available and easily accessible in open data format.
<b>SDSN</b>	<p>Indicator 91: Revenues, expenditures, and financing of all central government entities are presented on a gross basis in public budget documentation and authorized by the legislature.</p> <p>Indicator 93: Existence and implementation of a national law and/or constitutional guarantee on the right to information.</p>
<b>Save the Children, Framework for the Future, 2014</b>	The public, including children, has access to timely and user-friendly budget information, and to formal opportunities for participation in public budgeting and policymaking
<b>Indicator 2.</b> Number of journalists, associated media personnel and human rights advocates killed, kidnapped, disappeared, detained or tortured in the last 12 months, by sex	
<b>NSO Rating</b>	CBB
<b>TST on Goal 16 Recommendation</b>	Number of verified cases of killing, kidnapping, enforced disappearance, arbitrary detention and torture of journalists, associated media personnel, trade unionists and human rights advocates in the previous 12 months
<b>Relevance to Youth</b>	<p>Disaggregation by sex and age is recommended by the TST and should be given high priority.</p> <p>Access to uncensored broadband and Internet is now widely considered a fundamental freedom and is of great importance for youth participation.</p>

	Data on access to smartphones and Internet are well-developed by the International Telecommunication Union (ITU).
<b>Virtual Network on Goal 16</b>	Ability to express political opinion without fear. [This is very relevant to youth in particular.]
<p><b>Other sources for Potential Indicators for Target 16.10</b></p> <p><b>World Programme of Action for Youth (WPAY):</b>  The United Nations “Proposed set of indicators for the World Programme of Action for Youth” includes three core and two supplementary indicators on information and communication technologies, as follows.  Core indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Percentage of individuals in the age group 15-24 who used a computer from any location in the last 12 months</li> <li>• Percentage of individuals in the age group 15-24 who used the Internet from any location in the last 12 months, by frequency (at least once a day, at least once a week, less than once a week)</li> <li>• Percentage of individuals in the age group 15-24 who used a mobile telephone in the last 12 months</li> </ul> <p>Supplementary indicators:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provisions for the protection of youth from harmful aspects of information communications technologies</li> <li>• Disaggregation of youth Internet use by location of use and by activity</li> </ul> <p><b>Commonwealth Youth Development Index:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Express Political Views - Positive responses of people ages between 15-24 to the question “Have you done any of the following in the past month (donated money to a charity; volunteered your time to an organization)? How about voiced your opinion to a public official?” (Gallup World Poll)</li> </ul> <p><b>Save the Children, <i>Framework for the Future</i>, 2014:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• The right to access information is embodied in the constitution and law Press freedom is protected in law and practice.</li> <li>• Public perception surveys show that people believe they can exercise the rights to freedom of expression and association without restrictions.</li> <li>• Restrictions on registration, funding and specific activities of civil society organisations have been removed.</li> </ul> <p><b>Roger A. Hart, <i>Children’s Environments Research Group</i>:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Youth are informed regarding their rights</li> <li>• Youth are informed regarding government structure and decision-making</li> <li>• Access to public space and freedom to safely meet with one’s peers</li> <li>• Free access of youth to local public recreational spaces that are non-segregated for use by people of all ages (municipal policy)</li> <li>• Freedom to debate politics within the community and to express dissent in public settings</li> <li>• Freedom and opportunity to form associations and to self-organize and manage organizations</li> <li>• Membership in youth organizations</li> <li>• Membership in politically-neutral youth organizations</li> <li>• Informed regarding public resources and services available to youth</li> <li>• Have regular access to uncensored press</li> </ul>	

**Other Ideas:**

- Access to social media platforms
- Number of online activists killed, kidnapped, disappeared, detained or tortured in the last 12 months, by sex