



PROMOTE PEACEFUL, JUST AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES

Info Digest – Edition 5

Welcome to the SDG 16 info digest – edition 5!

This fifth edition of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 info digest tracks the progress of recent initiatives and provides some updates from the global, regional and local perspective on this global goal. In this digest, you will find information related to the SDG 16 Global Alliance, the High Level Political Forum, the SDG 16 Monitoring Pilots Initiative, the SDG16 experts group meeting on indicators in Oslo as well as sign posts to related resources, knowledge products and tools.

The SDG 16 info digest provides updates on recent events and activities within the UN System and outside; and shares information about resources including publications, articles, blogs, tools and upcoming events. We invite you to share any SDG 16 related information and resources that we can feature in future editions of this digest with [Aseem Andrews](#).

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RECENT ACTIVITIES AND EVENTS – Updates from UN / UNDP:

High-level Political Forum: Relevant SDG16 side events:

Strong Institutions for Gender Equality and Poverty Eradication: the role of reporting in promoting partnership, peace, and prosperity in a changing world, 19th July, 2017



The Global Alliance organized a side-event during the High Level Political Forum, a multi-stakeholder dialogue on the different ways in which institutions can promote inclusive dialogues to build trust, advance gender inclusion, women's participation and protect minorities and marginalized groups. The panel, chaired by Qatar, was composed of representatives from government, parliament, civil society and private sector. It was later followed

by a discussion with experts from UNDP and UNODC and Member State representatives. During the event, several expert reports were presented as well as a demo of the [SDG16 Resource Center](#) which showcases the latest in science, law, business, events that can help drive forward the SDGs.

High Level Consultation on the Roadmap for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies Hosted by the governments of Brazil, Sierra Leone and Switzerland, 18th July, 2017



A high-level panel chaired by Brazil, Sierra Leone, Switzerland and the [Center on International Cooperation of New York University](#) took place at the UNHQ. The panel featured the Deputy Secretary General and several Ministers from Member States which reflected their impressions on the Roadmap towards more Peaceful, Just and Inclusive societies and expressed their continuous commitment to implement and report on Goal 16+. Moreover, representatives from the civil society, private sector and several other experts presented their different perspectives on the ways to implement effectively goal 16+ at the national and local level.

SDG16+ Forum: Mid-year expo on Building on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, 17th July, 2017



The SDG16+ Forum, a multi-stakeholder platform which shares best practices on delivering SDG16+ nationally and locally, organized a mid-year expo titled "Building on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies." The event started with an interactive discussion with experts from Government, civil society and private sector followed by a discussion by several Member State representatives and from the civil society about the implementation of SDG16+ at the national and

local level and the interlinkages of SDG16+ with other SDGs. The panellists and experts from the audience showcased their current experiences related to specific policies and programmes on the implementation of SDG16+ and discussed different options for potential multi-stakeholder partnerships in order to face the next steps and challenges ahead.

Update on Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Promoting Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies:



Recognizing the need to form new partnerships to support Member States, the Global Alliance brings together Member States, civil society, private sector and international entities to support effective and meaningful reporting on the achievement of the SDG16 and related targets. It takes into account different national realities, capacities and levels of development and respects national policies and priorities.

From the 14th to the 16th of June 2017, the First International Workshop on the Global Alliance for Reporting SDG 16: Peaceful, Just and Inclusive

Societies, co-organised by UNDP, UNODC, and UNESCO, in partnership with Governments and representatives of the private sector and civil sector, was held in Buenos Aires, Argentina. The aim of the workshop was to discuss SDG16, the overall reporting framework of the 2030 Agenda, the tools and methodologies to enable reporting, data visualization and analysis, inclusivity of planning processes, monitoring and reporting, and practical country

examples. The workshop showed that even though there is an overall interest in reporting on SDG16, there is a lack of expertise to monitor and report on SDG16 and related targets.

The Global Alliance, besides offering direct assistance, can provide examples for possible adoption as “best fit” approaches, tools and resources to enable Member States address some of these challenges, specifically to: help countries to coordinate nationally and locally to implement the 2030 Agenda; foster private sector engagement in implementing SDG16; assist countries for developing indicators, collecting and analysing data for reporting on SDG16; enhance high level political engagement in the reporting of SDG16; and create a community to share experiences at the national, regional and international level. Further information about the Buenos Aires workshop is available from the Global Alliance Secretariat – SDG16Alliance@undp.org

Simultaneously, UNDP is preparing a regular report of progress on Goal 16; a “Compilation of best-fit solutions on implementing Goal 16” to ensure lesson learning from innovation and successful delivery across the world and across sectors, in a wide variety of development settings to showcase early starters. It will also host an annual innovations forum for Goal 16 with a focus on south-south, south-north and triangular cooperation.

National-level Monitoring of SDG16

UNDP in collaboration with the Open Government Partnership (OGP), the Community of Democracies (CoD), and with the financial support of the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is assisting and supporting national stakeholders to establish reliable, objective and independent monitoring systems of SDG16 indicators and integrated indicators into national planning, and encourages Member States to work in close partnership with multiple stakeholders including the private sector and the civil society, in order to “leave no one behind.” The countries involved in this pilot initiative include: El Salvador, Georgia, Indonesia, Mexico, South Africa, Tunisia and Uruguay.



A mid-term meeting was held in Mexico City, with support from Secretaría de Relaciones Exteriores (SRE), Secretaría de la Función Pública (SFP) and Oficina del Presidente (OP) attended by members of the pilot project teams from each participating country, government counterparts and technical advisors to the project and UNDP global and country office focal points, and pilot project partners from USAID Mexico, JICA and the SDG16 Data Initiative. Each country has defined its own process, but the Pilot Projects on Monitoring SDG 16 include four similar

phases in each country: Indicators Matrix & Data Collection, Consultations, Scorecard & Report, Finalization & Feedback. Key Takeaways from the pilot include: Monitoring is integral to implementation; Inclusive and participatory consultations are vital; important to align with existing mechanisms; SDG 16 monitoring is a conversation-starter for digging into implementation issues, including broader 2030 Agenda; and policy development and implementation is ultimate goal of SDG 16 monitoring.

Some key next steps include: need for continued experience-sharing amongst pilot countries and moving into the final stages, a virtual network for further exchange of experiences be made available; finding innovative ways to present scorecards: Exploration of creative ways to share the SDG 16 data and accompanying narratives for various stakeholders. El Salvador and Uruguay Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) at the High Level Political Forum (HLPF) 2017 incorporated the pilots’ work and discussion around monitoring implementation of Goal 16. For further information about the Pilots initiative contact [Jairo Acuna-Alfaro](#) and [Alexandra Wilde](#).

Measurement for Monitoring and Evaluation and the Expert Group Meeting on Indicators for SDG 16.6 and 16.7.7 in Oslo, Norway (9 – 10 May, 2017)



For effective SDG16 implementation UNDP has been working in close partnership with other agencies and groups, particularly the Praia “City” Group on Governance and Statistics, in order to develop further methodologies for global indicators which do not have a commonly agreed and standardized methodology, and at the same time help countries to define indicators at the

country level. UNDP through its Oslo Governance Centre supports the global monitoring framework through effective data collection at the global level and for strengthening the statistical capacity at the global and national level.

In this regard, an Expert Group Meeting of statisticians and governance experts was convened by the UNDP Oslo Governance Centre and the Praia City Group secretariat, and hosted by Statistics Norway (a Praia City Group member), to further the methodological development of three “Tier 3” indicators (of which UNDP has assumed custodianship) which measure: 16.6.2 – people’s perceptions of the quality of public service; 16.7.1 – the representativeness of public institutions; and 16.7.2 – inclusiveness of decision making.

The objectives of the meeting were to: discuss definitional, methodological and practical issues to be considered in developing the methodology for each one of these three indicators; identify areas where there is a consensus or at least clear recommendations (with respect to conceptualisation, definitions, standards, etc.); and to identify areas in need of further refinement and/or research before a second expert meeting to be held in the fall of 2017. As interim custodian for these three indicators, UNDP’s aim in facilitating a year-long discussion around these three indicators is to support the formulation of a widely-agreed definition and metadata sheet for each indicator, which should be submitted to the UN Statistical Commission (UNSC) through the Praia City Group on Governance Statistics and the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators (IAEG-SDGs) by the end of 2017. For more information contact: [Alexandra Wilde](#)

Regional AECID-UNDP workshop on SDG16: Cartagena, Colombia



This was the first regional workshop of its kind to better understand how SDG16 contributes to Agenda 2030 in the region, as well as the roadmap of regional HDR implementations (combos approach) as it was not about indicator measurement, but rather about “where to start” the discussion at national level. Organised in December, 2016 it brought together academics (Spain-UCM, Mexico-ITAM and CIDE, FLACSO-El Salvador,

PRIOS-Oslo, Institute of Economics for Peace), regional organizations (OAS, SEIGB, DPA-virtually), national experiences (Uruguay, El Salvador, Mexico and Colombia), representatives of afrodescendants and indigenous peoples (the workshop followed a 1-day workshop on indigenous peoples and afrodescendent perspectives on Agenda 2030 in the region), as well as AECID (Centro de Formación de Cartagena) and UNDP regional and national staff. Other organisations, such as UNASUR, SICA, CRIES or ParlAmericas are interested in pursuing a collaboration on these topics, even though not represented if were not able to attend the event for different reasons. Following the event, a [video](#) (in spanish) “ODS 16: Objetivos de Desarrollo Sostenible y Sociedades Inclusivas y Pacíficas en América Latina” was prepared by AECID: For more information and a report from the event, please contact [Gerardo Noto](#) at the UNDP Regional Hub for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Agenda 2030 related communication released by the European Commission (EC)



The EC released a series of three communications some time back, that outline its approach to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in Europe, including through a renewed partnership with African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries. The communications are titled: 'Next steps for a sustainable European Future: European action for sustainability' 'Proposal for a new European Consensus on Development: Our World, our Dignity, our Future,' and 'Joint Communication from the EC and the High Representative of the EU for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy', issued to the European Parliament and the Council, which addressed

'A renewed partnership with the countries of ACP.' The Communication among other things recommends the EU's response strategy focus on six specific priorities related to: promoting peaceful and democratic societies, good governance, the rule of law and human rights; promoting inclusivity, sustainable growth and employment; mobility and migration; promoting human development and dignity; protecting the environment and fighting climate change; and joining forces on areas of common interests. A link to the press release by the EC and further links related to this matter can be found [here](#).

Sustainable Development Goals, Good Governance: Role of Women – Bangladesh



On 6 March, 2017, Transparency International Bangladesh (TIB) arranged a workshop titled 'Sustainable development goals, good governance and women' to discuss about the status and role of women in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and ensuring good governance. Eight female Upazila Nirbahi Officers (UNO) of eight upazila from all the administrative divisions of the country participated in

the event. The main purpose of the workshop was to inform and encourage the female government officials to play effective role in implementing the gender related goal 5 and good governance related goal 16 of SDGs.

#Case4Space: Youth at the Heart of the 2030 Agenda roundtable:



UNDP along with other UN agencies and civil society organisations co-organised a roundtable gathering 200+ young leaders from 15 countries across Asia and the Pacific titled: #Case4Space: Youth at the Heart of the SDGs, in Bangkok from 30 November – 2 December 2016. This event saw vibrant discussions on the trend of shrinking "civic space" both online and offline in the region, poor rates of parliamentary representation for youth, and the lack of voice in society that undermines the commonly voiced notion of young people as the "leaders

of tomorrow." Youth participants released a joint [Youth Statement & Call to Action](#) at the end of the three-day forum, calling on governments to safeguard and promote free and safe spaces for civic engagement in the region. Approximately 60 youth-based and civil society organisations, embassies, private sector companies, 6 UN agencies, and 6 UNDP country offices, attended. For more information, please visit www.case4space.org

Call for International Consultant: Technical Adviser to Support the PRAIA Group on Governance Statistics: Deadline for application: 28 July, 2017

The Technical Adviser will provide facilitation support to the Secretariat of the Praia Group on Governance Statistics, with the following main tasks: Facilitate communication and co-ordination across the membership of the Praia Group and liaise with members and other stakeholders; Support the facilitation and preparation of meeting/conference documents and other documentation as required; Provide support to the implementation of

the activities agreed in the roadmap; and Provide support to the development of the handbook on governance statistics to be presented to the Statistical Commission in [2019]. For more information click [here](#).

UNDP contributing to SDG 16 – target 16.2 on ending human trafficking



Identifying victims of trafficking can be challenging because there are significant disparities in relevant definitions and diverse criminal patterns apart from language barriers between the first responders and those who are trafficked across-borders. With this in mind, United Nations Action for Cooperation against Trafficking in Persons ([UN-ACT](#)), a regional UNDP project, has worked across country borders, and coordinated with the private sector and civil society organisations to develop a mobile phone app that helps first responders overcome language barriers and identify victims of trafficking in China. The app provides links to Chinese interpreters who speak the relevant language, so that users can directly contact them if in-depth interview with the potential victims is needed. In addition, relevant international and domestic laws and policies regarding the protection of victims of trafficking can also be found in the app for quick and easy reference by the first responders.

Sustainable Development and the Role of Audit Institutions



An international seminar on this topic was organised from 14-16 December 2016 in Santiago, Chile by the Comptroller General's Office of Chile, and the Organization of Latin American and Caribbean Supreme Audit Institutions and UNDP Chile. The main take away message was that the audit institutions could play an important role to enhance the implementation and coordination mechanism by bringing together various government agencies, conducting coordinated audits on SDGs at the regional level, and conducting three levels of audits on the SDGs at the national and local level (audits on preparedness, on performance; and on results). About 200 participants/representatives from the supreme audit institutions in Latin America and the Caribbean, various government departments of Chile, international organizations, civil society and media participated in the seminar.

Non-official data on SDG Indicators and V-Dem as a key resource



Varieties of Democracy Institute (V-Dem) was identified as a key source for non-official data on SDG indicators related to accountability and democracy. This happened during a side event on 10th March titled "Expanding the Data Ecosystem: The role of Non-Official data for SDG Monitoring and Review" which provided an opportunity for experts to examine of the role of non-official data in complementing official sources of data for the 2030 Agenda, highlight ways in which these data providers are

already contributing to SDG monitoring and review efforts, and demonstrate how NSOs have worked with these non-official actors around data collection and usage. V-Dem has been involved in the process of identifying suitable indicators to measures SDG 16 as part of the virtual network of stakeholders and experts convened by the United Nations Statistics Division and the SDG16 Data Initiative. To access the V-Dem website click [here](#).

RESOURCES – publications, tools, blogs:

UNDP supported SDG16 Portal:

UNDP is leading efforts in developing an SDG16 knowledge portal, intended to be a one stop platform to facilitate the capture, analysis and deployment of relevant knowledge and information about the progress of implementation on peaceful and inclusive societies. This platform will have many innovative features such as: promoting interaction, knowledge sharing and learning to enable deployment from one context to another through a community-based interaction model; encouraging a partnership approach where representatives of governments, civil society, international organizations, youth representatives and policymakers will be able to learn from each other and draw lessons from the experiences of different countries and sectors; provide a repository of resources and guidance along with a list of subject matter experts on this Goal. The main domain areas of the portal are planned to be implementation, monitoring and reporting on SDG16, including best fit solutions from the national level, voices from the ground, information about governance statistics (e.g. indicators literature; links to governance databases/indices). The intended audience for this portal is covering UN as well as external partners, representatives from Member States, civil society, academia, researchers, donors, media, private sector and the public at large. It will link with other related online platforms/initiatives, avoiding duplication while ensuring coverage of the extensive knowledge of all stakeholders working on the implementation, measurement and reporting on SDG 16. For more information contact: [Aseem Andrews](#)

HuffPost Blog: [Sustainable development and sustaining peace: two sides of the same coin](#)

By: Magdy Martínez-Solimán, UN Assistant Secretary-General, UNDP and Oscar Fernández-Taranco, UN Assistant Secretary-General for Peacebuilding Support



A most recent blog that focusses on the interlinkages between the SDGs and Sustaining Peace. To read the full blog click [here](#).

Blog: [Forging Coherence on Two Vital Agendas: Agenda 2030 and Sustaining Peace](#)

By: Erin McCandless



An interesting blog on building sustainable peace for all through synergies between the 2030 Agenda and Sustaining Peace. To read the full blog click [here](#).

Erin McCandless teaches in the Graduate Program of International Affairs at The New School in New York, and on behalf of the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding, serves as the civil society co-chair of the New Deal Implementation Working Group.

Blog: [Monitoring the implementation of SDG 16 for peaceful, just and inclusive societies](#)

by Jairo Acuña-Alfaro



This blog shares an interesting perspective related to the monitoring and implementation of SDG16 on the basis that while the former may be a relatively new area of engagement it offers an unprecedented opportunity to drive improvements in governance issues that underpin peaceful, just, and inclusive societies and attainment of the entire 2030 agenda. Integrating SDG16 monitoring into ongoing national, regional and global efforts is vital to streamline the various

processes and mechanisms ongoing in each country and their upcoming [National Voluntary Reviews to the United Nations](#). To read the blog click [here](#).

Jairo is the Policy Advisor, Responsive and Accountable Institutions Team, Governance and Peacebuilding, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP.

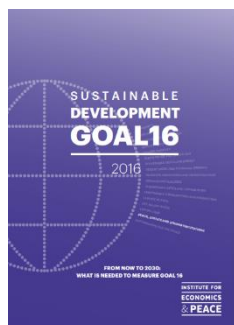
International IDEA SDG16 resources:



International IDEA has published policy briefs on Democratic Accountability in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, arguing that accountability to citizens, in particular through democratic political processes, is a crucial enabler of the SDGs.

In order for the SDG monitoring process to be accountable, it is essential that the SDG indicators include peoples' own experiences of the availability, accessibility and quality of services. These policy briefs concern South Asia, available [here](#); Africa, available [here](#), and ASEAN, available [here](#)

[SDG16: From Now to 2030: What is Needed to Measure Goal 16](#)



This report by the Institute for Economics and Peace (IEP) focuses on how to practically measure SDG 16, which is widely considered as practically challenging to measure and implement. The main highlights of this report are: Goal 16 can currently be measured with enough accuracy to determine progress, although with many limitations relating to data availability, reliability, timeliness and objectivity; Fifteen of the 23 indicators in Goal 16 can be measured by currently existing sources; the remaining eight indicators can be measured by proxy indicators; numerous National Statistical Offices (NSOs) will need significant time and investment to develop the necessary statistical capacity to measure Goal 16. This highlights the need for third party initiatives to fill the data gaps and act as a source of independent verification while NSOs build their capabilities; the targets in Goal

16 are relevant to many of IEP's Positive Peace factors. To read the report click [here](#).

Saferworld SDG16 resources:

News and analysis on SDG16 and in general on the 2030 Agenda can be found in the following link: <https://www.saferworld.org.uk/global-action-against-conflict/2030-agenda>. Read the Saferworld blog: [The 2030 Agenda's commitment to peaceful, just and inclusive societies – making it count](#)

With a central focus on people, Saferworld promotes peace and works to improve the impact of international policies and actions on conflict-affected societies by collaborating with UN agencies, civil society and governments to ensure that international commitments to the SDGs – especially to Goal 16 on just, peaceful and inclusive societies and Goal 5 on gender equality – are turned into action at a national and local level. The focus is on raising awareness around the SDGs, providing advice to governments on implementation; ensuring systems to monitor progress are robust; and encouraging governments to adopt approaches that are conducive to peace.

Sir James Mancham International Centre for Peace Studies and Diplomacies:



The centre has developed and recently gone live with its website. Please visit: www.manchampeacecentre.com for more information on SDG16.

Media and Political Participation: Fostering Inclusive Governance: BBC Media Action

Media and political participation: fostering inclusive governance



political participation, even among traditionally marginalised groups such as young people and those with little interest in politics. The parallel practice briefing examines the lessons for media in inspiring political participation. For more information click [here](#).

This research report, explores the links between BBC Media Action's governance (debate and discussion) programmes and political participation. The findings are clear and consistent: BBC Media Action's audiences participate more than people who do not listen to and/or watch its programmes, even when taking other influencing factors – such as age, income and interest in politics – into account. Using data from seven countries in the developing world, it is found that that inclusive discussion programmes – where a diverse audience is engaged in fair and balanced debate – can increase

BBC Media Action's governance programmes use media and communication to support the development of more accountable, inclusive and peaceful states and societies and speaks directly to SDG16 by ensuring continuous inclusion of citizens in decision-making processes and help shift the status of citizens from passive beneficiaries of development to its legitimate claimants.

1st Africa Data Revolution Report: published in May, 2017



This [first edition of the biennial Africa Data Revolution Report](#) aims to address issues on the process of transforming data ecosystems, from the status quo to an aspirational state where data from both conventional and new sources are being harnessed to better inform decision-making and enable sustainable development with contributions from diverse data communities.

The report is envisioned to assist countries on the continent in charting their way towards strengthened national data ecosystems by identifying common problems, sharing home-grown examples and lessons learned and coming up with actionable recommendations applicable in the regional, national and local contexts. Further, it reviews the current state of data ecosystems in Africa in terms of the diversity of data actors and their capacity needs, legislative and policy frameworks, technological infrastructure, tools and platforms, and the dynamic interactions between them.

World Bank launch of the World Development Report 2017: Governance and the Law



The [WDR 2017](#) attempts to address fundamental questions which are at the heart of development such as: Why are carefully designed, sensible policies too often not adopted or implemented? When they are, why do they often fail to generate development outcomes such as security, growth, and equity? And why do some bad policies endure? It also focusses on the fact that policy making and policy implementation do not occur in a vacuum; rather, they take place in complex political and social settings, in which individuals and groups with unequal power interact within changing rules as they pursue conflicting interests.

The process of these interactions is what this Report calls governance, and the space in which these interactions take place, the policy arena. The capacity of actors to commit and their willingness to cooperate and coordinate to achieve socially desirable goals are what matter for effectiveness.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

2nd Global Workshop of the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies – for the ECIS region, to be held in Oslo. 7-8 September, 2017

This workshop hosted by the Royal Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs will bring together senior technical representatives of Member States, civil society, the private sector, and international organisations supporting national planning, monitoring and reporting on the SDGs. Participants will gain insight into the various processes and tools available for reporting progress on SDG 16 at the global, regional, national and local levels. Participants will learn from peer-to-peer exchanges, benefit from exposure to existing standard methodologies and quality standards, as well as innovative approaches and lessons from the first and second rounds of reporting (2016 and 2017). Sessions will support countries to identify how lessons emerging from these different experiences can be applied to their own country contexts, and to develop draft methodologies that will seek to ensure more robust reporting on peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

This Info Digest is produced by the Oslo Governance Centre within the Governance and Peacebuilding Cluster, Bureau for Policy and Programme Support, UNDP. It provides an overview of the work being done by the UN and specifically UNDP on SDG 16, apart from some interesting external inputs and includes updates on ongoing and new initiatives, resources and related announcements. The content appearing in this Info Digest does not necessarily reflect the views of the UN, UNDP or its Member States. To unsubscribe to this newsletter, please write to: [Aseem Andrews](#).

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