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Info Digest – Edition 6

Welcome to the SDG 16 info digest – edition 6!

This sixth 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 recent Global Alliance Meeting, SDG indicator 16.6.2 measurement methodology, other updates from South East Asia and 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:

Review of National Statistics Offices' Practices in Measuring Citizen Satisfaction with Public Services: Inputs for SDG Indicator 16.6.2 Measurement Methodology

UNDP, through its Oslo Governance Centre (OGC), has commenced the review of the surveying practices of selected National Statistics Offices (NSOs) - including South Africa, Latvia, Mexico, Cameroon, Norway, Philippines, Indonesia, Vietnam, Kenya, Germany, Tunisia - to inform methodological considerations in development of the SDG 16.6.2 indicator on citizen satisfaction with public service provision. The findings of this mapping will be captured in a report that documents the NSO approaches and will be presented at the 2nd Expert Group Meeting (tentatively scheduled for December 2017) with specific recommendations on an overall approach. For further information regarding the review, contact [Alexandra Wilde](#) and [Do Thanh Huyen](#).

SDG 16 Campaign Weeks 25 August – 17 September



The Governance and Peacebuilding Team led efforts at the Istanbul regional Hub for the online SDG campaign with a three-week focus on SDG 16. The campaign began with a UNDP photo story from Bosnia and Herzegovina in [the Guardian](#) to commemorate the International Day of the Victims of Enforced Disappearances. From Albania, the campaign featured the [poignant story of Mimoza](#), whose grandfather disappeared at the hands of the secret police. UNDP is working with national prosecutors and others across the Western Balkans to accelerate the search for missing people and

ensure justice for their relatives. Other featured stories include a blog on [anti-corruption work in Georgia](#). The campaign was visible on the [Eurasia website](#) as well as [Twitter](#) and [Facebook](#).

Webinar “Producing official statistics on governance, peace & security - Innovations from Africa for SDG 16 monitoring”. 13 September 2017



Hosted by the UNDP's Oslo Governance Centre (OGC), the webinar “Producing official statistics on governance, peace & security - Innovations from Africa for SDG 16 monitoring” provided an opportunity to hear first-hand from African statisticians on lessons learned and good practices at producing harmonized statistics on Governance, Peace and Security (GPS) across Africa.

National statisticians from Kenya, Tunisia and Uganda explained what led their office to embark on this new stream of data collection, and the strategies they used to muster political commitment and to cultivate broad-based demand for GPS statistics throughout the process. Recommendations were offered to overcome some of the challenges encountered along the way. For a recording of the session and other details please contact [Aseem Andrews](#).

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



This Global Alliance meeting opened in Oslo with over 100 representatives from government, civil society and the private sector in the ECIS region and other countries globally to share experiences on monitoring and reporting progress on peaceful, just, and inclusive societies, as reflected in SDG16 and across other goals. The meeting was opened by the Norwegian State Secretary for Foreign Affairs, Tone Skogen who spoke about the importance of SDG16 as the cornerstone of the 2030 Agenda and the need for reliable networks of expertise to effectively monitor and report on this important

enabling goal. Opening remarks were also made by Frank La Rue, Assistant Director-General for Communication and Information, UNESCO who stressed the importance of having well informed societies and freedom for citizens to freely express opinions. This meeting was hosted by the Norwegian Government with the support of UNDP and its Oslo Governance Centre. This event enabled participants to exchange experiences, approaches and tools on country specific methodologies for monitoring and reporting most relevant to their contexts and as part of the overall approach to SDG implementation. For more information please see [here](#).

Civil Society Meeting “Monitoring and Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies Initiative of the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies”. Oslo, 6th September 2017.



On September 6th, OGC hosted the "Civil Society Meeting: Monitoring and Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies Initiative of the Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just, and Inclusive Societies". The meeting took place in advance to the Global Alliance workshop in Oslo (7-8 September, 2017). Structured as an informal networking event, it brought together civil society representatives who are participating in the Global Alliance workshop, and it gave an opportunity for them to

get to know other participants, as well as their area of expertise.

This gathering also aimed at generating a better understanding of the purpose of the Global Alliance workshop and of the importance of the civil society role in it, in addition to enabling CSOs to inform the Global Alliance on their ideas and concerns prior to the workshop. Finally, the meeting helped in identifying shared priorities, main messages to convey during the workshop, and in coordinating strategies to advance in the various panel discussions, thematic working groups, as well as country working groups.

Gender Equality in Public Administration



Photo Credit 1: Ford Institute for Human Security, University of Pittsburgh

Since 2015, UNDP's Gender Equality in Public Administration (GEPA) Initiative has been working to close the enormous data gap on women in public service. Through an innovative partnership with the University of Pittsburgh, UNDP has been able to make enormous strides in assessing the availability and quality of public servant data around the world. In the presence of gender equality partners and data experts, at UNHQ in May 2017, a cohort of the 20 person Working Group presented their year's work towards the monitoring of SDG 16.7.1 – proportional representation in public institutions.

The results of this partnership have allowed UNDP to begin using data on women in public administration to feed into global initiatives and ground-breaking research. In October, UNDP will launch the Global Women's Leadership Index with the Woodrow Wilson Center – measuring gender parity in the public sector across three pillars: women's access to the public sector, where they sit in government and the influence they hold in their positions. UNDP and McKinsey will also be launching a study on Gender Diversity in the State as a Development Accelerator.

Meeting on the role of the private sector in promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Oslo, 30th August 2017.



The Oslo Governance Centre (OGC) hosted a meeting with representatives from some of the biggest and most well respected Norwegian private sector companies (Telenor, Yara, Statoil, Veidekke and Pure Consulting) to begin a dialogue on the private sector's contribution to the SDGs, in particular [SDG 16](#).

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the role of the private sector in promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Coming ahead of the upcoming Global Alliance meeting in Oslo (7-8 September, 2017), it was organised to begin a dialogue with the private sector on their role and contribution to the SDG implementation and in particular on SDG 16, which is considered an enabler for the entire agenda.

Round table "SDG 16 and New Approaches to Address Inequalities". Bergen, 23rd August 2017.



A round table on "SDG 16 and New Approaches to Address Inequalities" took place on August 23rd, 2017, during the EADI Nordic Conference, Bergen. The round table examined the opportunities and challenges presented by SDG 16 to address inequalities in a globalized world.

For more information, click [HERE](#).

International Seminar on Mixed Migration in Southeast and East Asia. Bangkok, 21-22 June 2017



On 21-22 June 2017, the United Nations Action for Cooperation Against Trafficking in Persons (UN-ACT), a UNDP regional project, co-hosted the 'International Seminar on Mixed Migration in Southeast and East Asia' with the Mahidol University. In this event, leading academics, UN, civil society and governments from around the world discussed seven thematic topics addressing migration-related SDGs.

In a world unsettled by political instability, human rights violations, economic inequalities, and climate change, complex patterns of mixed migration, including displacement and human trafficking, have emerged, for which our current tool boxes are ill-equipped to deal with. The seminar created an open dialogue around the latest research on the intersections of the complex phenomena of mixed migration, and facilitated partnerships across different stakeholders for joint interventions and policy development. Follow-up joint activities are being pursued between the stakeholders and a dedicated publication based on the discussions at the Seminar is expected in 2018. For videos of the event, please click [here](#) and for the papers presented at the event [here](#).

Workshop “Open Government for Improving Public Services in Asia”. Manila, 7-8 August 2017



On 7-8 August 2017, UNDP Bangkok Regional Hub organized the workshop “Open Government for Improving Public Services in Asia”, in cooperation with the Open Government Partnership (OGP) Support Unit and the Asia Development Bank (ADB). The workshop was organized in Manila, Philippines.

This event gathered representatives who are either developing their OGP Action Plans or already have on-going open government initiatives to explore ways to improve service delivery. It provided entry points for accelerating the SDG agenda by joining governments and civil society forces. Beyond SDG 16, open government also brings opportunities for improved public service delivery across all sectors, thus contributing to the achievement of many other SDGs. The workshop also served as a platform for “deconstructing” initiatives to see how strengths of selected models can be adapted to other contexts. [Click here](#) for more on the workshop and the initiatives featured. A blog series with video interviews with key speakers is also on the way.

Regional conference on Business and Human Rights. Bangkok, 1-2 June 2017



The regional conference on Business and Human Rights was held as part of the regional project ‘Supporting Regional and National Partnership for the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) in Asia-Pacific’. A growing community of supporters of the UNGPs in the region gathered to reaffirm the importance of sustainable well-being and prosperity from human rights perspective. A wide range of participants, including representatives from the public, private sector and civil

societies from ASEAN member states participated to combine efforts in ensuring international human rights commitments in prevalent business practices. The regional conference contributed into embedding human rights in business activities in the region and specifically strengthening access to justice for human rights victims due to business operations, with a particular focus on the roles, duties and responsibilities of governments and private sector actors. For further information about the project contact [Livio Sarandrea](#).

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](#).

UNDP-OGC launched the publication Voices from the Field: African Experiences in Producing Governance, Peace and Security Statistics



This lessons-learned brief captures and synthesizes the experiences of African national statistical offices in producing governance-related statistics and is relevant for anyone interested in the new statistical domain of governance, peace and security to monitor SDG 16 or for any other purpose.

No sustainable development without tackling corruption: the importance of tracking SDG 16: Transparency International, published in 17 July 2017



This publication explains how corruption represents a major obstacle to the progress towards the SDGs.

Western Balkan Countries launched the Regional Report on Arms Exports in 2014



A history of arms exports from the Western Balkans makes the establishment of strong, transparent mechanisms for arms transfers crucial to international peace and security. Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia, and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia all provided detailed data on their arms export activities to produce the recently published 2014 Regional Report on Arms Exports. The report uses a single, unified methodology for all the countries, presenting relevant information about every import, export and transit shipment of arms during the reporting year. Besides the data, it includes infographics to make the main trends and activities in the field of arms exports easily identifiable. The report closely follows the example set by the European Union, which publishes the only other regional report on arms exports, and is therefore another demonstration of the firm commitment of the region to upholding good practices.

The publication of regional reports helps to ensure that every arms transfer is reported, thus contributing to the target of SDG16.4 by significantly reducing illicit flows of arms. The South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) has been assisting the countries of the region in publishing their National and Regional reports since 2006. All reports are available on [SEESAC's website](#).

The International Institute for Applied Systems Analysis (IIASA), the Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN), and the Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC) launched The World in 2050 (TWI2050)



The World in 2050 (TWI2050) is a global research initiative in support of a successful implementation of the United Nations' 2030 Agenda. It brings together a network of policymakers, analysts, modeling and analytical teams to collaborate in developing pathways toward sustainable futures and policy frameworks for achieving the needed transformational change. The goal is to provide the fact-based knowledge to support the policy process and implementation of the SDGs. TWI2050 aims to address the full spectrum of

transformational challenges related to achieving the 17 SDGs in an integrated manner so as to minimize potential conflicts among them and reap the benefits of potential synergies of achieving them in unison.

The Istanbul Regional Hub of UNDP launched the [Towards SDG 16 Platform in UNDP Europe and Central Asia](#)



The Istanbul Regional Hub recently launched the “Towards SDG 16 Platform”, that showcases UNDP work in Europe and Central Asia region, and how UNDP works with partners to strengthen inclusive and effective governance and sustain peace.

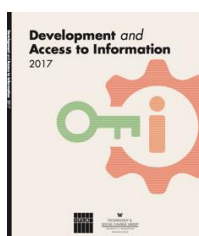
The platform covers results in the thematic areas of conflict prevention and peacebuilding, responsive and accountable institutions, inclusive political processes, and rule of law, justice, security and human rights, with a particular focus on targets under SDG 16 and SDG 5. As the region is facing continuing challenges in realizing inclusive governance, open societies and sustaining peace, this platform will provide an important benchmark for UNDP governance and peacebuilding work going forward, allowing progress to be communicated to partners and the public about UNDP’s work across the region.

Business for 2030: [Goal 16. Promote Justice](#)



This publication explains how certain companies have contributed to the attainment of the specific targets and the means of implementation of SDG 16.

IFLA and the Technology and Social Change Group at the University of Washington launched the [2017 Report on Development and Access to Information](#):



Each year, the International Federation of Library Associations and Institutions (IFLA), in partnership with the Technology and Social Change Group at the University of Washington, launches a report that monitors the progress made by countries towards fulfilling their commitment to promote meaningful access to information. This commitment is a specific target under SDG16.

Transparency International chapters and partners launched the [Regional Report on the Implementation of SDG 16 in the Americas](#)



This report is a summary of the most relevant findings and conclusions reports made by Transparency International, together with seven of its national chapters (namely, Argentina, Brazil, Chile, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Peru). It contains the most relevant findings and conclusions” for these countries on targets 16.4, 16.5 and 16.10 of SDG16.



SDG16 Data Initiative launched the [2017 Global Report](#)

This report assesses measurable global progress towards realizing SDG16. It is intended to be the first in an annual series. Its aim is “to provide governments, UN officials, and civil society stakeholders with a resource that will help them track progress on SDG16 targets, and provide an evidence base to help policymakers identify gaps and shortcomings in both implementing and monitoring SDG16”.

Blog: [20 years of peace and justice in Eurasia: Four key trends](#)



An interesting blog on how the past 20 years has seen the Europe and Central Asia region undergo tremendous changes, discussing recent developments of conflicts, upward trend of women in power, use of technology in public services and the threat that open civic spaces face.

Shelley Inglis works as a Regional Team Leader for Governance and Peacebuilding Programmes at UNDP Europe and Central Asia.

[Six ways business can help deliver the sustainable development goals](#): Transparency International, published in 1 August 2017



Transparency International explains that reduction of corruption is not only a specific target of SDG 16, but it is also essential to the success of all of the other goals. This publication proposes six ways through which business can help deliver the SDGs.

[Keeping the SDGs on track: did the 2017 UN High-Level Political Forum do its job?](#): by Jordan Street, published in Saferworld, in 28 July 2017



Saferworld's delegation attended the United Nations High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) after which Jordan Streets wrote this article, in which he addresses the following question: "is the process for reviewing progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on the right track?". In Street's view, the Forum fell short of his expectations. Street explains what he sees as shortcomings of the HLPF and presents recommendations for the Forum.

Jordan Street is Saferworld's Policy Coordinator. He works on global peacebuilding issues with a focus on the UN and Sustainable Development Goal 16.

[Freeing space for sustainable development: Mine action and the 2030 Agenda](#): by Olaf Juergensen, in 26 July 2017



Olaf Juergensen notes that millions of landmines and explosive remnants remain "spread across millions of square metres of territory, rendering them dangerous and unusable". He also mentions about the UNDP's Development and Mine Action Support Framework which focusses on ensuring mine action links to the specific issues of poverty, inequality and exclusion by aligning with the SDGs and on the findings of a joint study with the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining entitled [Leaving no one behind: Linking Mine Action and the Sustainable Development Goals](#).

According to this study, releasing land directly impacts on reducing violence and fear (Goal 16) and constitutes an accelerator of several other SDGs, "including SDG 1 (Poverty), SDG 2 (Hunger), SDG 3 (Healthy lives), SDG 8 (Inclusive growth), SDG 9 (Infrastructure), SDG 11 (Human settlements), and SDG 15 (Ecosystems)".

Olaf Juergensen is a Development and Mine Action Specialist with UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub.

UPCOMING EVENTS:

Side-event at the 72nd United National General Assembly: “Business for a Better World: How companies create a better world”. New York, 18 September 2017



Concept note
The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies:
Business for a Better World: How companies promote peace, justice, and inclusion
Side-event at the 72nd United Nations General Assembly, September 18th, at 4 pm in the offices of
White & Case LLP, 1221 Avenue of the Americas, New York

The Global Alliance for Reporting on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies is organizing a side-event on September 18th to promote the key role of the private sector on promoting peaceful, just and inclusive societies and on reporting thereon; and discuss the different ways in which businesses can involve effectively in this process. The Panel will feature high-level panelists

from the banking, legal, accounting and high-tech sector, high-level officials from Member States and representatives from the civil society.

This panel will showcase the existing contribution by the business sector on reporting on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies and strengthen a constituency of powerful business leaders which is committed to promoting peace, justice, and inclusion, and interact with civil society in order to help governments to report there on. Likewise, this event will increase awareness of Governments, on how businesses can help them realize their commitments to Goal 16. For more information, click [HERE](#).

High-level event at the 72nd United National General Assembly: “The SDGs in Action: Country-led, Country-Owned”. New York, 21 September, 2017



The event “The SDGs in Action: Country-led, Country Owned” will take place on the 21st of September at the United Nations Headquarters. It is organized by the United Nations Development Group (UNDG) and its Results Group on Sustainable Development and Sustaining Peace. The event will highlight initiatives and lessons learned to accelerate progress on the SDGs in different countries, including in vulnerable and conflict affected situations. Please RSVP by Sunday, 17 September, [HERE](#).

High-level event at the 72nd United National General Assembly: Launch of the Roadmap for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies. New York, 21 September, 2017



The Launch of the Roadmap for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies will take place on the 21st of September, at the United Nations Headquarters. The event is hosted by the co-conveners of the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies: the governments of Brazil, Sierra Leone, and Switzerland. Please RSVP to [Melanie Leuenberger](#) and [Soomin Lee](#) by Thursday, 14 September 2017, to indicate you will participate (please include your full name, job title, and affiliation).

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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