



# SDG 16+ CIVIL SOCIETY TOOLKIT

A practical resource guide for planning, implementation and accountability to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies

[www.sdg16toolkit.org](http://www.sdg16toolkit.org)



**5** GENDER EQUALITY



**6** CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION



**7** AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



**8** DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



**1** NO POVERTY



**2** ZERO HUNGER



**3** GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING




**4** QUALITY EDUCATION



**16** PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS



**9** INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



**10** REDUCED INEQUALITIES



**11** SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



**12** RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



**13** CLIMATE ACTION



**15** LIFE ON LAND



**14** LIFE BELOW WATER



**17** PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS



**SDG 16** 

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# About the TAP Network

The Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network is a broad network of civil society organizations (CSOs) that works to ensure that open, inclusive, accountable, effective governance and peaceful societies are at the heart of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and that civil society actors are recognized and mobilized as indispensable partners in the design, implementation of and accountability for sustainable development policies, at all levels.

The TAP Network engages some of the foremost expert organizations on the issues around Goal 16 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs): ‘to promote peaceful, inclusive societies for sustainable development, to provide access to justice for all and to build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.’ TAP benefits from the invaluable expertise, experiences and unique perspectives of its members, all of whom come together to collaborate under the TAP Network umbrella. This work is underpinned by the recognition that we maximize reach and influence when many stakeholders speak with a unified voice.

## Vision

TAP’s vision for the 2030 Agenda is framed by notions of rule of law and the TAP principles of transparency, accountability and citizen participation, as well as respect for human rights. Effective governance and sustained peace in a post-2015 world require transparent, participatory and inclusive institutions that are accountable to the very people that the 2030 Agenda has committed to engage.

The TAP Network is united in the belief that open, inclusive, accountable and effective governance and peaceful societies are both outcomes and enablers of sustainable and equitable development. The 2030 Agenda must promote openness, accountability and effective public institutions, build trust between States and their citizens, lay the foundation for peaceful and just societies and empower civil society to engage in the design, implementation and accountability of public policies at all levels.

TAP’s work also reflects the will and impetus of the millions of citizens from around the world who voted for ‘an honest and responsive government’ as one of their top priorities in the MY World survey – a theme echoed in consultations around the world throughout the 2030 Agenda negotiation process.

For more information on the TAP Network, visit our website at [www.tapnetwork2030.org](http://www.tapnetwork2030.org)

Join the TAP Network at [www.tapnetwork2030.org/join](http://www.tapnetwork2030.org/join)

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- Together 2030
- 36 Policy Forum
- Integrity Action
- Transparency International
- Centre for Law and Democracy
- CSPPS
- Dag Hammarskjöld Foundation

*Finally, the drafting of this Toolkit was also supported by extensive consultations with Members and Partners of the TAP Network. We are also grateful for the inputs and insights from TAP's membership, and all others who provided their insights throughout the drafting process from 2020 to 2021.*

# Foreword from the TAP Network Steering Committee

On behalf of the Transparency, Accountability & Participation (TAP) Network, we are thrilled to present the SDG16+ Civil Society Toolkit: A practical resource guide for planning, implementation and accountability to build more peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

Since the universal adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development [and Sustainable Development Goals], the world has changed tremendously. Progress towards SDG16+ has been slow and uneven – and in many cases backsliding. On top of this, global trends and forces continue to work against peaceful, just and inclusive societies. The COVID-19 pandemic has placed unique pressures on the world’s governing institutions, presenting once-in-a-generation challenges for all, while exacerbating existing global, existential challenges.

SDG16+ serves as our best hope for tackling the wide-ranging issues that the world faces today. We have seen a rise in local, national and global protest movements in recent years in response to government inaction and exclusionary behavior, showing that people power is stronger than ever. These movements bring demands

for improving justice, accountability, inclusion and peace throughout our societies. Civil society has also played a key role in the response and recovery to the

COVID-19 pandemic, and will be even more critical in building resilient societies from future crises going forward. We must collectively double down on our efforts to ensure that SDG16+ is delivered by 2030, and that no one is left behind.

As we enter the Decade of Action for the SDGs, we have collectively learned a lot from the first five years of SDG16+ implementation, which has been harvested into this updated SDG16+ Toolkit. This resource provides invaluable insights into the various approaches that civil society can take to advance SDG16+ at the national, regional and global levels, and we hope that it will also serve as a platform for additional sharing and learning amongst partners.

We are convinced that delivering on SDG16+ is a prerequisite to implementing all of the SDGs, and that meaningful progress on SDG16+ will lay the foundation to deliver on all promises made in the 2030 Agenda - including to leave no one behind. Looking ahead towards 2030, the TAP Network and its partners will continue its work to advance SDG16+ and help to empower civil society at the national and local levels around SDG16+. We hope that this Toolkit will help civil society organizations and other partners around the world in advancing SDG16+ within your own contexts, and we look forward to continuing to learn with all of you through these efforts.



# Acronyms and Abbreviations

2030 Agenda	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
AAAA	Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development
CBO	Community-Based Organization
CEDAW	UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women
CRC	UN Convention on the Rights of the Child
CSO	Civil Society Organization
CSPPS	Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding
ECOSOC	Economic and Social Council
GANHRI	Global Alliance for National Human Rights Institutions
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Global Alliance	Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies
GPPAC	The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict
GRM	Grievance Redress Mechanism
HLPF	High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development
HRBAD	Human Rights-Based Approach to Data
IAEG-SDGs	Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators
IMF	International Monetary Fund
INTOSAI	International Organisation of Supreme Audit Institutions
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MP	Member of Parliament
NGO	Non-Governmental Organization
NHRI	National Human Rights Institution
NMRF	National Mechanism for Reporting and Follow-up
NSO	National Statistical Office
OHCHR	Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights
SAI	Supreme Audit Institution
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
UN	United Nations
UN DESA	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
UNCAC	UN Convention against Corruption
UNDG	United Nations Development Group
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNTOC	United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime
UPR	Universal Periodic Review
VLR	Voluntary Local Review
VNR	Voluntary National Review
VSR	Voluntary State Review



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# About the Toolkit and Resource Guide

## Background to the Toolkit and Resource Guide

In 2016, the TAP Network produced the “Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit: A practical guide for stakeholders for national-level advocacy around Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies” to support the implementation of and accountability for SDG 16. Building upon the experiences and lessons learned during the first five years of implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, this new resource provides up-to-date information on the approaches, practical steps and key resources that are essential to advance peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

## Purpose of the Toolkit and Resource Guide

Recognizing the importance of peace, justice and inclusion to achieving the 2030 Agenda, this toolkit and resource guide seeks to support and build the capacity of civil society actors and other non-governmental stakeholders to engage in SDG16+ planning, implementation and accountability processes. It provides a range of information, guidance, tips and resources to understand and engage with SDG16+, as well as illustrative case studies from civil society organizations from around the world. Importantly, it aims to build on other resources on SDG16+ – including from the TAP Network and its member organizations – and to connect stakeholders with existing SDG16+ initiatives, partnerships and key resources.

It is not intended to be an exhaustive or prescriptive resource on SDG16+. Rather, it seeks to provide general guidance on SDG16+, identify initial ideas and entry points for civil society action to advance SDG16+ and highlight additional resources that can be explored in order to pursue further action to build peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

## Who the Toolkit and Resource Guide is for

This toolkit and resource guide is intended for use primarily by civil society stakeholders, although it may also be useful for other actors – both governmental and non-governmental – who are working to advance peace, justice and inclusion in the context of the SDGs. Although it is mainly targeted at stakeholders operating at national and sub-national levels, it also identifies important opportunities for SDG16+ engagement at regional and international levels.

## How the Toolkit and Resource Guide is structured

This resource provides a general introduction to the SDGs and SDG16+ followed by a range of approaches to engaging in SDG16+ planning, implementation and accountability. Each chapter or approach is structured in the same way and includes an overview of the approach, guidance to put the approach into practice, relevant tools or case studies and annotated references to key resources from both the TAP Network and others. There is also information on regional and global mechanisms and opportunities to advance SDG16+. Finally, there are a number of annexes to this report with useful information on SDG16+ indicators, key partners for SDG16+ engagement and additional key resources on the SDGs, SDG16+ and specific SDG 16 targets.

# SDG 16





# I. INTRODUCTION

# Background

In September 2015, following a historic and extensive negotiation and consultation process, the 193 Member States of the United Nations (UN) adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (the 2030 Agenda)<sup>1</sup> to guide development efforts around the world. A global 15-year plan of action to end poverty, protect the planet and ensure prosperity for all, while strengthening universal peace, the 2030 Agenda includes an ambitious set of 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets. It also contains the central and transformative pledge that “no one will be left behind” and the “endeavor to reach the furthest behind first.”<sup>2</sup> Focused on the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development, the 2030 Agenda is universal in its nature, with the SDGs applicable to all countries – developed and developing alike – regardless of their level of development.

Building upon its predecessor, the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), the SDGs address a number of important issues not previously covered by the MDGs.

Most notably, the inclusion of a stand-alone goal focused on fostering peaceful, just and inclusive societies is considered by many to be a groundbreaking achievement within the new development framework. The existence of SDG 16, which seeks to “promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”<sup>3</sup> was the result of hard-fought efforts by Member States, civil society and other key stakeholders for formal recognition of the importance of democratic governance, peace and security, and the rule of law – including the protection of human rights – to sustainable development.<sup>4</sup>

The 2030 Agenda and its commitment to peaceful, just and inclusive societies is complemented by several other global development agreements including the Paris Agreement on Climate Change<sup>5</sup>, the Sendai Framework on Disaster Risk Reduction<sup>6</sup>, the New Urban Agenda<sup>7</sup> and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda<sup>8</sup>, the latter which provides a global framework for financing sustainable development.



1 United Nations (2015). *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. General Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/1. Available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>  
 2 United Nations (2015). *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. General Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/1, para. 4. Available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>  
 3 United Nations (2015). *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. General Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/1. Available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>  
 4 The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (2019). *Enabling the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through SDG 16+ : Anchoring peace, justice and inclusion*, p. 20. Available at: <https://www.un-globalalliance.org/sdg16-report>  
 5 United Nations (2015). *The Paris Agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change*. Available at: <https://unfccc.int/process-and-meetings/the-paris-agreement/the-paris-agreement>  
 6 United Nations (2015). *The Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030*. Available at: <https://www.undrr.org/publication/sendai-framework-disaster-risk-reduction-2015-2030>  
 7 United Nations (2016). *The New Urban Agenda*. Available at: <http://habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda/>  
 8 United Nations (2015). *The Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development*. Available at: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2051AAAA\\_Outcome.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2051AAAA_Outcome.pdf)

# What are SDG 16 and SDG16+?

As part of the 2030 Agenda, SDG 16 aims to “promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels.”<sup>9</sup> It encompasses 12 targets<sup>10</sup> and 24 global indicators covering a range of issues related to peaceful, just and inclusive societies, including violence, violence against children, the rule of law, access to justice, illicit financial and arms flows, stolen assets, organized crime, corruption and bribery, effective, accountable and transparent institutions, responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making, global governance, legal identity, access to information, fundamental freedoms, institutional capacity-building and non-discriminatory laws and policies.<sup>11</sup>

While SDG 16 is the main Goal for fostering “peaceful, just and inclusive societies which are free from fear and violence,”<sup>12</sup> the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies<sup>13</sup> have identified 24 targets from seven other Goals – including SDGs 1, 4, 5, 8, 10, 11 and 17 – that directly measure an aspect of peace, inclusion or access to justice. These additional 24 targets together with the 12 targets from SDG 16 are collectively known as ‘SDG16+’.<sup>14</sup> Accordingly, SDG16+ encompasses a total of 36 targets from across the SDGs that directly contribute to building more peaceful, just and inclusive societies. As a framework, the SDG16+ targets provide a more comprehensive picture of the actions that are needed to realize peace, inclusion and justice for all, especially for those furthest behind.

	<b>TARGET 16-1</b>  REDUCE VIOLENCE EVERYWHERE	<b>TARGET 16-2</b>  PROTECT CHILDREN FROM ABUSE, EXPLOITATION, TRAFFICKING AND VIOLENCE	<b>TARGET 16-3</b>  PROMOTE THE RULE OF LAW AND ENSURE EQUAL ACCESS TO JUSTICE	<b>TARGET 16-4</b>  COMBAT ORGANIZED CRIME AND ILLICIT FINANCIAL AND ARMS FLOWS	<b>TARGET 16-5</b>  SUBSTANTIALLY REDUCE CORRUPTION AND BRIBERY	<b>TARGET 16-6</b>  DEVELOP EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND TRANSPARENT INSTITUTIONS
	<b>TARGET 16-B</b>  PROMOTE AND ENFORCE NON-DISCRIMINATORY LAWS AND POLICIES	<b>TARGET 16-A</b>  STRENGTHEN NATIONAL INSTITUTIONS TO PREVENT VIOLENCE AND COMBAT TERRORISM AND CRIME	<b>TARGET 16-7</b>  ENSURE RESPONSIVE, INCLUSIVE AND REPRESENTATIVE DECISION-MAKING	<b>TARGET 16-8</b>  STRENGTHEN THE PARTICIPATION IN GLOBAL GOVERNANCE	<b>TARGET 16-9</b>  PROVIDE UNIVERSAL LEGAL IDENTITY	<b>TARGET 16-10</b>  ENSURE PUBLIC ACCESS TO INFORMATION AND PROTECT FUNDAMENTAL FREEDOMS

To find out more about SDG16 and all of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals visit <https://sdgs.un.org/>

<sup>9</sup> United Nations (2015). *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. General Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/1. Available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>  
<sup>10</sup> Ten of the targets in SDG 16 are substantive in nature, while two targets – 16.a and 16.b – relate to the means of implementation. The means of implementation targets are key to realizing the 2030 Agenda and are considered of equal importance with the other SDGs and targets. See: United Nations (2015). *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. General Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/1, para. 61. Available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>  
<sup>11</sup> For a full description of the targets and indicators, see Annex 1.  
<sup>12</sup> United Nations (2015). *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. General Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/1, Preamble. Available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>  
<sup>13</sup> The Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies are a group of UN member states, international organizations, global partnerships, civil society and the private sector working to accelerate action to implement the SDG targets for peace, justice and inclusion (SDG16+). For more information, see: <https://www.sdg16.plus/>  
<sup>14</sup> The Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (2019). *The Roadmap for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies: A Call to Action to Change our World*. Available at: <https://www.sdg16.plus/roadmap>

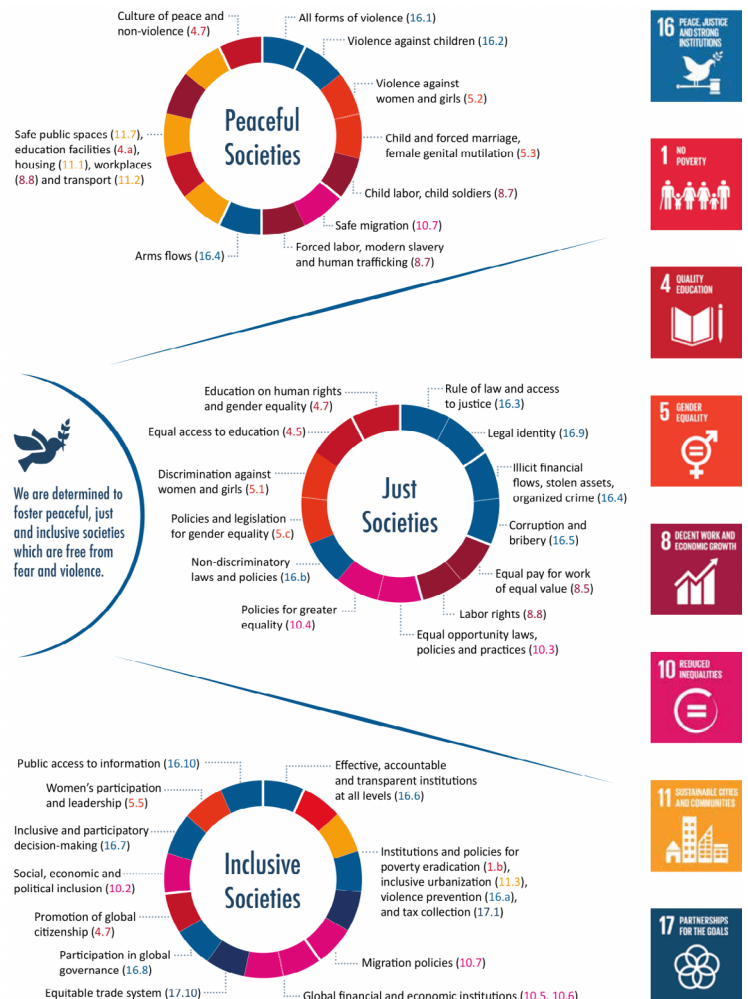
# The importance of SDG16+: An outcome and enabler of sustainable development

The 2030 Agenda recognizes that “there can be no sustainable development without peace and no peace without sustainable development.”<sup>15</sup> Peaceful, just and inclusive societies are accordingly considered both outcomes and enablers of sustainable development.

In relation to outcomes, SDG16+ targets address critically important issues – such as violence, insecurity, conflict, injustice, exclusion, inequality, discrimination, weak institutions and poor governance – that negatively affect the daily lives of people around the world and undermine their ability to achieve sustainable development. SDG16+ provides a human rights-based framework to address issues that are relevant and matter to all citizens and people in all countries. Notably, it addresses “patterns of exclusion, structural and institutional constraints and unequal power relations that produce and reproduce patterns of exclusion, marginalization, inequality and suffering over generations.”<sup>16</sup> In short, SDG16+ targets are important objectives to achieve in and of themselves, especially for the most vulnerable and marginalized groups.

As an enabler, SDG16+ provides the foundations needed for the achievement of all other SDGs. Sustained peace and non-violence, access to justice, rule of law, effective and accountable institutions, inclusive governance, participatory decision-making and respect for human rights are all needed in order to be able to make progress in other areas of sustainable development.

Without such an enabling environment, it will be difficult or near impossible to realize the ambitious vision of the 2030 Agenda to end poverty, achieve gender equality, promote economic growth and combat climate change. In other words, without a focus on the SDG16+ targets for peace, justice and inclusion, none of the SDGs will be able to be delivered in full.<sup>17</sup>



For full graphic of SDG16+ defined by the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, visit [www.sdg16.plus/roadmap](http://www.sdg16.plus/roadmap)

15 United Nations (2015). *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. General Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/1, Preamble. Available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

16 The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (2019). *Enabling the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through SDG 16+: Anchoring peace, justice and inclusion*, p. 22. Available at: <https://www.un-globalalliance.org/sdg16-report>

17 The Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (2019). *The Roadmap for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies: A Call to Action to Change our World*, p. 14. Available at: <https://www.sdg16.plus/roadmap>

# Interlinkages with other SDGs and international agreements

The preamble of the 2030 Agenda affirms that “the interlinkages and integrated nature of the Sustainable Development Goals are of crucial importance in ensuring that the purpose of the new Agenda is realized.” In other words, all 17 SDGs depend on one another, and no single goal can be realized fully alone.

Because the 2030 Agenda was designed to be integrative and universally applicable, the Goals are multidimensional, intertwining elements of the three main dimensions of the Agenda: society, the environment, and the economy. While most of the 17 Goals have a clear

starting point in one of the three pillars, most Goals actually embed all three dimensions within their targets. SDG interlinkages can “refer to those between goals, between a goal and relevant targets, or between targets.” For the purposes of this toolkit, interlinkages “include direct relations between two targets or indirect relations that connect two targets via a third target or more intermediate ones.” Analyzing interlinkages among the Goals and targets is critical for maximizing SDG integration and policy coherence.

As part of the integrated and indivisible nature of the SDGs, SDG16+ targets are closely interconnected, both with each other, as well as with all other SDGs. SDG 16+ is frequently referred to as an enabling Goal for the achievement of all other SDGs and for the 2030 Agenda broadly, highlighting that progress towards SDG16+ can have significant impacts on the implementation of other SDGs and targets. Consequently, the concept of interlinkages as they relate to SDG16+ hinges on the principle that **“there can be no sustainable development without peace, and no peace without sustainable development.”** Progress on targets for peace, justice and



inclusion directly affects outcomes in other SDGs, while social, economic and environmental progress plays an equally important role in creating the conditions necessary for peace, justice and inclusion.

Furthermore, the implementation of the SDGs, across all contexts, is meant to be guided by a “human-rights based approach to development” founded on the principles of inclusivity, participation, rule of law, accountability and respect for human rights – all key elements of SDG 16+ that ensure the foundational objectives of “leaving no one behind” and “reaching the furthest behind first” are upheld. Ultimately, **progress on peace, justice and inclusion targets affects outcomes in other SDGs**, as well as the overall ability to achieve the 2030 Agenda. Without peace, justice and inclusion, none of the SDGs can be delivered in full.

### From SDG 16 to SDG16+

SDG 16 cannot be understood in isolation. It has strong links with all the other Goals. Of the SDG framework’s 169 targets, 36 directly measure an aspect of peace, inclusion, or access to justice. Only a third of these are found in SDG 16; the broader set of 36 can be understood as SDG16+ targets. Even beyond those, additional Goals and their targets indirectly hinge on aspects of peace, justice and inclusion. (See the *SDG 16+ Target Guide* in the Annex.)

In addition to the interlinkages between SDGs, the SDG16+ agenda has strong linkages with a large number of international agreements, including those that address international human rights and labor standards. Many of the SDG16+ targets are aligned with or directly support international human rights principles and obligations. Accordingly, international agreements are relevant both to understanding many of the SDG16+ targets, as well as to guiding overall SDG16+ implementation.

Thus, the plus (+) in SDG16+ refers to the interlinkages within the 2030 Agenda, as well as with other key international agreements and treaties.



SDG 16 

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## Measuring SDG16+

National governments and specialized international agencies bear the responsibility for monitoring and collecting data for the official indicators designated for each SDG. However, supplementary data and non-official data from non-governmental sources, such as civil society organizations and academic institutions, play a key role in providing a more comprehensive understanding of progress on the SDGs.

Measuring progress for SDG16+ is particularly difficult given its political nature and overarching aims of reducing conflict, protecting human rights and improving governance “on all levels” – local, national and global. Consequently, the role of civil society in measuring SDG16+ is particularly important to complement official sources in collecting, monitoring and reporting on data for SDG 16. Non-official data can fill “methodological and conceptual data gaps,” while also reducing strain and bureaucratic delay from national statistical offices through strategic partnerships with official data collectors. CSOs are also more equipped to reach marginalized and vulnerable populations, particularly in fragile and conflict-affected contexts. Finally, civil society collected data is less likely to “face internal resistance” on politically sensitive issues. Non-official data from CSOs can take the form of civil society reports or spotlight reports (see chapter on spotlight reporting) and complementary indicators that provide a more comprehensive and nuanced picture of the state of SDG16+, in turn yielding more reflective and people-centered policies and approaches.





# TAP Network SDG16+ Targets & Interlinkages Guide

As this toolkit demonstrates, SDG 16 is a critical enabler to achieve any other SDGs, as they are impossible without a foundation of peace, justice and inclusion. Understanding the interlinkages between SDG 16 and other SDGs and international treaties is critical to accelerating progress on the 2030 Agenda.

Please refer to the Annex of this toolkit for a comprehensive guide to SDG16+ targets and interlinkages, which presents a framework to systematically identify and outline the embedded interlinkages between SDG 16 and the other Goals in order to facilitate a better understanding to support policy coherence and forge a more integrated and strategic approach to the implementation of the SDGs.



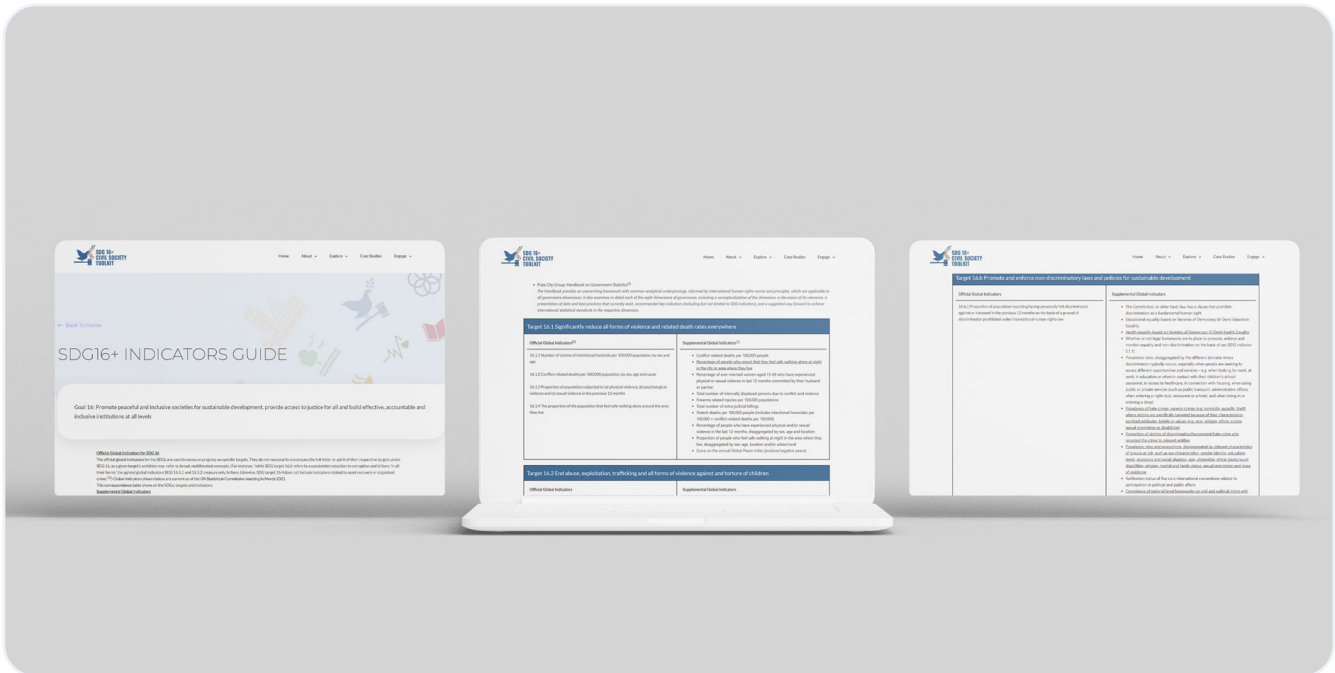
Find out more about SDG16 targets and interlinkages in our online SDG16+ Targets Guide on the SDG16 Toolkit Web Platform:

[www.sdg16toolkit.org/guides](http://www.sdg16toolkit.org/guides)

# TAP Network SDG16+ Indicators Guide

Please refer to the Annex of this toolkit for a comprehensive SDG16+ indicators guide, which presents the official indicators and a set of supplemental indicators proposed by varying sources. The [official global indicators](#) for the SDGs are used to measure progress on specific targets. They are not necessarily reflective of or fully encompass the letter or spirit of all SDG16+ targets. Given that the official global indicators are not fully reflective of the entirety of each Goal, this indicator guide lists supplemental alternative indicators that can also be used to measure each target/Goal to provide a more comprehensive understanding.

\*\*\*The listed supplemental indicators are indicative and non-exhaustive and are meant to provide alternative options for civil society partners to use to track progress towards SDG 16 in their own contexts.\*\*\*



Browse our full compendium of “official” and “complementary” indicators to track SDG16 in our online SDG16+Indicators Guide on the SDG16 Toolkit Web Platform:

[www.sdg16toolkit.org/guides](http://www.sdg16toolkit.org/guides)

# Challenges from the first five years of implementation

While some progress has been made towards more peaceful, just and inclusive societies since the start of the 2030 Agenda, overall global progress on the indicators of SDG 16 is uneven.<sup>18</sup> Furthermore, according to the 2019 Sustainable Development Goals Report, “no substantial advances have been made toward ending violence, promoting the rule of law, strengthening institutions at all levels, or increasing access to justice.”<sup>19</sup> Numerous challenges and structural barriers are hindering the realization of the SDG16+ framework,<sup>20</sup> with some of these challenges highlighted below.

First and foremost, in many countries, **the lack of political will and concrete commitments** to accelerate action on SDG 16 represents one of the primary barriers to implementing and monitoring the Goal.<sup>21</sup> In some cases, governments are “continuing with business as usual, exploring how existing plans can be shown to achieve SDG targets rather than taking the SDG framework as a template for a more comprehensive and holistic approach to development.”<sup>22</sup>

Second, **shrinking civic space across the globe** is limiting many civil society actors from meaningfully engaging in SDG16+ implementation and accountability processes – both on- and off-line. Restrictive legal and regulatory frameworks for CSOs, barriers to freedom of assembly, association and expression, and inadequate access to financial and other resources are negatively affecting the realization of the SDGs, particularly SDG16+.<sup>23</sup>



18 The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (2020). *A Guide to Report on SDG 16 in a Voluntary National Review*, p. 7. Available at: [https://www.sdg16hub.org/system/files/2020-07/A%20Guide%20to%20Report%20on%20SDG16%20in%20Voluntary%20National%20Reviews\\_Final2020.pdf](https://www.sdg16hub.org/system/files/2020-07/A%20Guide%20to%20Report%20on%20SDG16%20in%20Voluntary%20National%20Reviews_Final2020.pdf)

19 United Nations (2019). *The Sustainable Development Goals Report 2019*, p. 54. Available at: <https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2019/The-Sustainable-Development-Goals-Report-2019.pdf>

20 Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2020). “Amplified Commitments and Partnerships for Accelerated Action: Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+”, para. 1. Available at: <https://tapnetwork2030.org/romedeclaration/>

21 Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network, FORUS, Asia Development Alliance et al. (2019). *Empowering Civil Society for National Reporting and Action on SDG16*, p. 35. Available at: <https://tapnetwork2030.org/empowermentreport/>

22 Saferworld (2019). “Time to invest: how to support action on SDG 16+”, p. 4. Available at: <https://www.saferworld.org.uk/resources/publications/1224-time-to-invest-how-to-support-action-on-sdg16>

23 The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (2019). *Enabling the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through SDG 16+; Anchoring peace, justice and inclusion*, pp. 34, 43, 67, 77 and 117. Available at: <https://www.un-globalalliance.org/sdg16-report>

In extreme cases, human rights activists and defenders, journalists and others have been threatened, attacked or killed.<sup>24</sup> These adverse conditions are limiting civil society and others from contributing to SDG16+ progress, as well as severely undermining the achievement of targets focused on non-violence, inclusion, participation, access to information and other fundamental freedoms.

Third, **a lack of high-quality, accessible, timely and reliable disaggregated data** to measure, monitor and assess progress on SDG16+ poses a significant challenge. Insufficient methodologies, lack of funding, weak statistical capacities of National Statistical Offices (NSOs) and a low priority for disaggregated data, all contribute to a dearth of data on SDG16+ targets, especially in countries affected by conflict or fragility.<sup>25</sup> In addition, the politically sensitive nature of many SDG16+ targets may play a role in impeding the production and use of official data and statistics on matters related to peace, justice and inclusion.

Fourth, **financial support for SDG16+ is severely lacking**, leading to a gross underfunding and under-resourcing of its related work.<sup>26</sup> Challenges include declining and poorly aligned ODA, decreased funding for justice, an increasing move to accredit military-security spending as a 'progressive' contribution to SDG16+, illicit financial flows and a significant loss of ODA to corruption.<sup>27</sup> Failure to invest in SDG16+ is risking "worsening violence, injustice and exclusion, reversing development gains across all SDGs, including education, health and climate action."<sup>28</sup>

Finally, **the negative impact of the COVID-19 pandemic** on SDG16+ progress has been immense. The pandemic's disproportionate effects on the poorest and most vulnerable people and countries are undermining the SDGs, including SDG16+, deepening inequalities, increasing violence against women and children and potentially leading to increased social unrest and violence.<sup>29</sup> It is also exacerbating the challenges identified above, directing political will and financial resources to the pandemic response and limiting stakeholder engagement and data collection, resulting in both justified and unjustified restrictions on civil society space.<sup>30</sup>



- 24 The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (2019). *Enabling the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through SDG 16+: Anchoring peace, justice and inclusion*, pp. 34 and 115. Available at: <https://www.un-globalalliance.org/sdg16-report>; United Nations (2019). *Report of the Secretary-General on SDG Progress 2019: Special Edition*, p. 27. Available at: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24978Report\\_of\\_the\\_SG\\_on\\_SDG\\_Progress\\_2019.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24978Report_of_the_SG_on_SDG_Progress_2019.pdf)
- 25 Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2020). *SDG16 in VNRs and Spotlight Reports: Reporting on Progress, Reflecting on Inclusive Accountability Measures and Recommendations for going ahead*, p. 37. Available at: [https://tapnetwork2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/GIZ\\_TAP\\_2020\\_SDG-16-in-VNRs-and-Spotlight-Reports\\_Final-Version.pdf](https://tapnetwork2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/GIZ_TAP_2020_SDG-16-in-VNRs-and-Spotlight-Reports_Final-Version.pdf). See also: The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (2019). *Enabling the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through SDG 16+: Anchoring peace, justice and inclusion*, pp. 52-53 and 73. Available at: <https://www.un-globalalliance.org/sdg16-report>
- 26 Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2020). "Amplified Commitments and Partnerships for Accelerated Action: Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+", para. 16. Available at: <https://tapnetwork2030.org/romedeclaration/>
- 27 Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2020). "Amplified Commitments and Partnerships for Accelerated Action: Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+", paras. 4-5. Available at: <https://tapnetwork2030.org/romedeclaration/>; The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies and Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2020). *Mainstreaming SDG 16: Using the Voluntary National Review to Advance More Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*, pp. 84-85 and 92. Available at: <https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive>
- 28 The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (2019). *Enabling the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through SDG 16+: Anchoring peace, justice and inclusion*, p. 31. Available at: <https://www.un-globalalliance.org/sdg16-report>
- 29 United Nations (2020). *Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Report of the Secretary General*. Economic and Social Council, paras. 4 and 24. Available at: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26158Final\\_SG\\_SDG\\_Progress\\_Report\\_14052020.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26158Final_SG_SDG_Progress_Report_14052020.pdf); The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (2020). *A Guide to Report on SDG 16 in a Voluntary National Review*, pp. 7-8. Available at: [https://www.sdg16hub.org/system/files/2020-07/A%20Guide%20to%20Report%20on%20SDG16%20in%20Voluntary%20National%20Reviews\\_Final2020.pdf](https://www.sdg16hub.org/system/files/2020-07/A%20Guide%20to%20Report%20on%20SDG16%20in%20Voluntary%20National%20Reviews_Final2020.pdf)
- 30 The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies and Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2020). *Mainstreaming SDG 16: Using the Voluntary National Review to Advance More Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*, pp. 8-9 and 74. Available at: <https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive>

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## Accelerated actions for SDG16+

Looking back over the first five years of the 2030 Agenda, the world's progress towards realizing the SDGs is not encouraging. As highlighted in the [Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+](#), adopted before the COVID-19 pandemic, the international community already found itself well behind on achievement of the 2030 Agenda – with SDG 16 progress in particular stagnating or even backsliding on many fronts and in many countries around the world. Since then, with less than a decade until 2030 and the emergence of a global health crisis, we have witnessed an exponential downward trend around the implementation of the SDGs, as key actors shift their focus to pandemic response and recovery.



## **The 2019 Rome Civil Society Declaration & the 2021 Rome Declaration**

The Rome Declaration, titled **“Amplified Commitments and Partnerships for Accelerated Action: Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+,”** outlines key messages, recommendations, and a broad call to action around SDG16+. The Declaration aimed to mobilize accelerated action on SDG 16 at the 2019 HLPF and SDG Summit.

The Rome Declaration is the product of an online and in-person consultation promoted among the TAP Membership and other civil society networks. The Rome Declaration was adopted and presented by civil society in a statement to UN Member States, international organizations, and other SDG16+ stakeholders at the Rome SDG16+ Conference on 28 May 2019.

Since the adoption of the Rome Declaration over two years ago, the main issues that it brought to the fore have remained valid, while the same structural injustices and inequalities that impacted the lives of vulnerable people before the COVID-19 crisis now determine who suffers most from it.

“The 2021 Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+, titled “A Renewed Call for Strengthening Commitments, Partnerships, and Accelerated Action for SDG16+,” is an addendum to the original 2019 Rome Declaration and serves as a firm and urgent reminder for the global community that peaceful, just and inclusive societies are at the core of not only sustainable development, but also sustainable recovery, especially at a time like this.” In the midst of a protracted global crisis, the 2021 Rome Declaration, presented at the 2021 HLPF, is a renewed call for accelerated action on SDG16+ and the 2030 Agenda.

To read and endorse the Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+ visit

[www.tapnetwork2030.org/romedeclaration](http://www.tapnetwork2030.org/romedeclaration)

*“The world will not recover better from the COVID-19 pandemic unless we are able to empower individuals and ensure a ‘people-centered’ recovery. The Sustainable Development Goals offer a ready-made roadmap to recovery from COVID-19, already agreed to by 193 governments.”*

### **– 2021 Rome Declaration**

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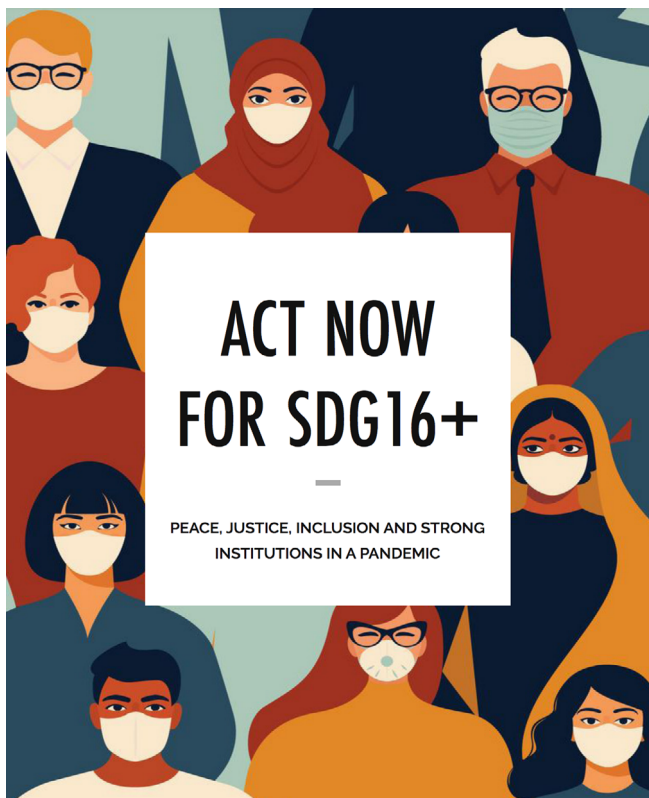
The COVID-19 pandemic has exposed deepening cracks in society, magnifying the deep inequalities that exist on many fronts while highlighting weaknesses in institutions that have been chronically under-funded and under-supported over past years or even decades. What has been clear since the onset of the pandemic is that in order to overcome the crisis and “build back better,” **we must frame our response and recovery through the framework of SDG16+.**

The pandemic has also underscored the critical accountability relationship between a State and its citizens, with government responsiveness to its citizens more important than ever before. It demonstrates the need to accelerate progress on SDG16+ around peaceful, just and inclusive societies, and highlights that progress towards SDG16+ is indeed a prerequisite to advancing against this global pandemic in communities around the world.

During the first-ever virtual HLPF, which convened in July 2020, the SDG16+ Global Community released a joint call to action calling on the urgent need to remain steadfast to realizing the commitments made in the 2030 Agenda and SDG 16 specifically. [The Act Now on SDG16+ statement](#) calls on governments, the international community and leaders to “urgently make SDG16+ the foundation for reset and recovery efforts, and for building more resilient societies and institutions going forward.”

*“Without reduced inequality, violence, injustice and corruption, it will be impossible to make the necessary progress on global agendas such as education, health, gender equality, and climate change. The pandemic may push 60 million people into extreme poverty this year, setting in motion massive unemployment, a global economic crisis, and deepening inequality even further...It is now more clear than ever how crucially important national and local action for peace, justice and inclusion are for our common future. Even as the SDG16+ targets were being negotiated, we knew that their implementation would be demanding and critical to unlocking the 2030 Agenda as a whole.”*

-- **“Act Now on SDG16+”** statement released by the SDG16+ Community (July 2020)



Strong, transparent and accountable governments, a key element to SDG16+, pave the way for a more effective public health response “rooted in trust and social cohesion.” Trust in public institutions also allows for a fair allocation of key resources and crisis relief to the most vulnerable – paramount for an effective response to the pandemic. Fragile states plagued by pervasive conflict, violence, poverty, inequality and poor public services are extremely vulnerable to the widespread and compounding repercussions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

The degree to which governments and public institutions are accountable to their populations, providing an inclusive response undergirded by the commitment of “justice for all,” will determine the outcomes of this crisis. Historical precedent and current events have demonstrated the potential for crises to be exploited for political gain and the suppression of opposition. The propensity for exploitative, anti-democratic forces to take advantage of crises further underscores the need for accountable, inclusive and transparent institutions. Consequently, we must be vigilant to “defend and strengthen our institutions” by realizing the targets of SDG16+.

While many citizens have found themselves frustrated with their government’s weak response throughout this crisis, at this turning point there is a critical need for transparency and comprehensive accountability for those in power. Ultimately, leveraging SDG16+ is the key to ensuring an effective, inclusive, and just recovery and rebuilding.

While the challenges of the pandemic have permeated nearly every aspect of our lives, we are also confronted with an opportunity to build back better than before and create the future we want. As UN Secretary-General António Guterres stated, “We must act in solidarity and turn this crisis into an impetus to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.”

Using SDG16+ as a road map, **we can build more resilient societies that are better prepared to confront existential global challenges.** Over a year after a worldwide public health crisis, we must double down on our commitment to SDG16+ and the 2030 Agenda, not only to salvage the Global Goals on the road to 2030 and ensure no one is left behind, but also to forge a more resilient and sustainable world for future generations.

# Key Resources for SDG16+

<p><b>Amplified Commitments and Partnerships for Accelerated Action: Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+</b> (TAP Network et al., 2019, 2021)</p>	<p>The 'Rome Declaration' outlines key messages, recommendations and a call-to-action on SDG16+. Produced via online consultations, as well as deliberations during the Rome Conference Civil Society Day, it was adopted and presented by civil society to UN Member States, international organizations and other stakeholders at the Rome SDG16+ Conference in May 2019. Available in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese. The Rome Declaration was also updated in 2021 with an updated call-to-action, taking into account the COVID-19 pandemic and stagnating process on SDG16+</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://tapnetwork2030.org/romedeclaration/">https://tapnetwork2030.org/romedeclaration/</a></p>
<p><b>Act Now for SDG16+: Peace, Justice, Inclusion and Strong Institutions in a Pandemic</b> (Global SDG16+ Community, 2020)</p>	<p>A joint statement by the Global SDG16+ Community – a group of countries, civil society organizations, international organizations and global partnerships – calling for a response to the COVID-19 pandemic that is rooted in the SDG16+ framework. Launched during the 2020 HLPF, the statement is open for endorsements by organizations or governments.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.sdg16hub.org/system/files/2020-07/statement_14Jul20.pdf">https://www.sdg16hub.org/system/files/2020-07/statement_14Jul20.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</b> (United Nations, 2015)</p>	<p>The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on 25 September 2015 by Resolution A/RES/70/1. Available in the six official UN languages.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda">https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda</a></p>
<p><b>Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform</b> (UN DESA)</p>	<p>The website of UN DESA's Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG), which provides key information on sustainable development. There are links to SDG knowledge, the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), intergovernmental processes, small island developing States (SIDS) and partnerships among others.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sdgs.un.org/">https://sdgs.un.org/</a></p>



<p><b>The Roadmap for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies – A Call to Action to Change our World</b> (The Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, 2019)</p>	<p>The Roadmap provides a shared vision for how to deliver the 2030 Agenda targets for peaceful, just and inclusive societies (SDG16+). It discusses the SDG16+ targets, transformative strategies, catalytic actions and enablers needed to build more peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Examples of the work of pathfinder countries and profiles of some SDG16+ partnerships and platforms are also provided. Available in English, French and Spanish.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.sdg16.plus/roadmap">https://www.sdg16.plus/roadmap</a></p>
<p><b>Enabling the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda Through SDG16+: Anchoring Peace, Justice and Inclusion</b> (The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, 2019)</p>	<p>The Global Alliance’s contribution to the 2019 Thematic Review of SDG 16, this report provides an overview of country-level actions and progress on SDG16+ across different regions and development contexts and highlights key trends and findings on SDG16+ implementation globally. It is informed by a series of regional multi-stakeholder consultations on SDG16+ and 25 country case studies on SDG16+ (included in the report) and draws on evidence from recent research and analysis across SDG16+ targets.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.un-globalalliance.org/sdg16-report">https://www.un-globalalliance.org/sdg16-report</a></p>
<p><b>Decade of Action for the SDGs</b> (United Nations)</p>	<p>The website of the United Nations on the ‘Decade of Action’ with information on the UN Secretary-General’s call to all sectors of society to mobilize for a decade of action on three levels: global action, local action and people action.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/decade-of-action/">https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/decade-of-action/</a></p>
<p><b>Gearing up for a decade of action and delivery for sustainable development: political declaration of the Sustainable Development Goals Summit</b> (United Nations, 2019)</p>	<p>The political declaration of the HLPF convened under the auspices of the UNGA in 2019 – the Sustainable Development Goals Summit – and subsequently adopted by the UNGA on 15 October 2019 in Resolution A/RES/74/4. The declaration calls for accelerated action to fulfill the 2030 Agenda and identifies ten specific commitments to do so.</p> <p><b>Available in the six official UN languages. Available at:</b> <a href="https://undocs.org/A/RES/74/4">https://undocs.org/A/RES/74/4</a></p>



## **II. PLANNING FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH SDG16+**

# Analyzing the SDG16+ landscape: A gap analysis

*A gap analysis on SDG16+ can help you to understand who is doing what, what should be done and what resources are needed to advance peace, justice and inclusion*

## Overview

A ‘gap analysis’ is an examination and assessment of the current landscape – including the key stakeholders, policies, plans, laws, practices and resources – for the purpose of identifying the differences between the current state of affairs and where you would like them to be. In the case of SDG16+, a gap analysis examines a country’s current level of commitment and performance in relation to SDG16+ implementation and accountability. In preparing for engagement with SDG16+, you may find it useful to undertake an initial gap analysis in order to determine who is doing what, what should be done and what resources are needed to advance peace, justice and inclusion.

The process of undertaking a gap analysis can help you to identify the most strategic and effective entry points for engagement in SDG16+ advocacy, implementation and accountability or follow-up and review. It can help you to understand which SDG16+ targets are (or are not) being addressed, whether government and non-government stakeholders are working to address gaps, and what further action and resources may be needed. In addition to being a valuable tool to guide civil society action on SDG16+, a gap analysis can also be a useful resource for governments who may be stretched to capacity in implementing the SDGs. Sharing your gap analysis on SDG16+ with your government, including practical recommendations for action, can be of enormous help to them and can open the door for constructive and positive engagement with government actors going forward.

## Putting it into practice

There are many ways of undertaking a gap analysis on SDG16+ and no particular methodology or reporting format needs to be followed. Depending on the focus of your organization, a gap analysis can focus on all of the SDG16+ targets, a smaller group of targets or a specific SDG16+ target or issue. Similarly, you may wish to undertake a gap analysis on SDG16+ as an individual organization, in collaboration with other non-governmental stakeholders or in partnership with government actors.

In carrying out a gap analysis on SDG16+, you should consider the national reports and recommendations from international review mechanisms that address specific SDG16+ issues. For example, the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the UN Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) all have review processes that provide information on the current state of implementation, gaps, challenges and the actions that are needed to make progress on SDG16+ issues such as violence against children, gender equality, organized crime and corruption.

The following page provides a template for undertaking a gap analysis in relation to SDG16+.



## **Undertaking a gap analysis for peaceful, just and inclusive societies<sup>31</sup>**

### **Step 1: Identify who is responsible for implementation or follow-up and review**

Consider who is responsible for the implementation or follow-up and review of your SDG16+ target(s) or issue(s), as well as how other stakeholders are or could be involved with key activities related to the target(s) in question. Consideration should be given to both national government stakeholders – such as ministries and legislative bodies – as well as non-governmental stakeholders at local, national, regional and international levels that could provide support for SDG16+ implementation or follow-up and review.

### **Step 2: Assess current implementation or follow-up and review in participatory ways**

Assess the current state of SDG16+ implementation or follow-up and review by consulting with stakeholders, including vulnerable and marginalized groups, government actors and non-governmental stakeholders. Identify key gaps and major obstacles to achieving or reviewing the SDG16+ target(s) in question, as well as any existing good practices that can be built upon. Review current government policies, plans and practices – including national development plans, strategies, laws and action plans – and determine whether they are helping or hindering SDG16+ implementation or follow-up and review.

### **Step 3: Identify priority areas for action and make recommendations**

Determine areas for action to achieve or review the SDG16+ target(s) including policy, legal and/or institutional reforms. Consider dividing actions into short-term (0-5 years), medium-term (5-10 years) and long-term (10-15 years) priorities. Summarize the priority actions in short, clear and practical recommendations, along with a brief rationale as to why the action is needed.

### **Step 4: Identify resources needed for implementation or follow-up and review**

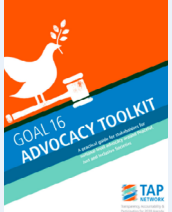
Consider what financial and human resources are needed for the successful implementation or follow-up and review of SDG16+. Assess the capacities of existing institutions, mechanisms, taskforces and stakeholder groups. Identify financial resources – both from national finances and donor resources – for the implementation or follow-up and review of the SDG16+ target(s).

### **Step 5: Share the gap analysis report with Government**

Ideally, government partners will have collaborated on your SDG16+ gap analysis. If this is not the case, present your findings to government actors for discussion and further engagement. Ensure your analysis is concise and focuses on practical and action-based recommendations.

<sup>31</sup> Adapted from: Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2016). *Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit: A practical guide for stakeholders for national-level advocacy around Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*, p. 13. Available at: <https://tapnetwork2030.org/goal-16-advocacy-toolkit/>

## Key TAP Network resource:

<p><b>Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit</b> (TAP Network, 2016)</p>	<p>This toolkit provides civil society and other non-governmental stakeholders with guidance on how to engage with their governments and other local, regional or international stakeholders to support the planning, implementation, follow-up and accountability of SDG 16. It includes a short section on preparing a gap analysis.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://tapnetwork2030.org/goal-16-advocacy-toolkit/">https://tapnetwork2030.org/goal-16-advocacy-toolkit/</a></p>	
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# Identifying SDG16+ targets and partners: A stakeholder analysis

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*A stakeholder analysis can help you to identify targets, champions, opponents and partners for SDG16+ engagement and assess their level of power, influence and interest to make peaceful, just and inclusive societies a reality*

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## Overview

A stakeholder analysis is a mapping exercise where you identify the individuals, organizations and authorities working on SDG16+ and group them according to their level of power and interest (or engagement) in SDG16+ implementation and follow-up and review. It is a useful tool for identifying stakeholder targets for SDG16+ engagement – including champions for your specific cause – as well as potential partners who may be able to support your efforts to achieve peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Mapping and evaluating stakeholders can also help you to prioritize, manage and engage with different stakeholders effectively, ensuring that your resources and efforts will be targeted towards those with the greatest influence and impact.



## Putting it into practice

In carrying out a stakeholder analysis, it is important to consider a diverse range of SDG16+ stakeholders including the following:<sup>32</sup>

- **National government** – including the executive (cabinet, ministers/ministries and interministerial committees), the legislature, and law and justice institutions;
- **Sub-national governments** – including state authorities, district bodies and local councils;
- **Non-governmental actors** – including accountability institutions (Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs), National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs), ombudspersons, etc.); academic institutions and think tanks, civil society (CSOs, NGOs, CBOs, trade unions, vulnerable groups, etc.), the private sector and the media; and
- **International actors** – including UN agencies, funds, programs and country teams, as well as financial actors (the World Bank, IMF and regional development banks).

After identifying relevant stakeholders, you should reflect upon the importance of each one, the power they have to influence SDG16+ implementation and follow-up and review, their capacities, their needs and their current openness to engagement. The ‘Stakeholder Analysis Grid’ on the following page provides a template to help you undertake some of this analysis.

Following your analysis, you should categorize stakeholders into the following groups:

- 1. Targets** – Those stakeholders who are key decision-makers and have the power to impact SDG16+ implementation or follow-up and review, recognizing that targets will include both allies and opponents who will require different approaches for engagement;<sup>33</sup>
- 2. Champions** – Those stakeholders who are willing to help you move the SDG16+ agenda forward, recognizing that some ‘champions’ may also be ‘targets.’ Identifying and investing in individuals who will champion SDG16+ are essential to influencing and motivating others to see the value of the agenda;<sup>34</sup>
- 3. Opponents** – Those stakeholders who oppose the SDG16+ agenda or pose significant challenges or obstacles to achieving SDG16+ objectives. Strategies for dealing with opponents can include trying to persuade them to support your position or encouraging them to adopt a neutral position in relation to the changes you wish to see; and
- 4. Partners** – Those stakeholders with whom you can partner in formal or informal networks, coalitions or alliances in order to advance SDG16+. While working in partnership has many advantages, it can also be challenging at times given that partners may have different priorities, constituents and resources.<sup>35</sup> Ensure that collaboration to achieve SDG16+ enables sustained action on the SDG16+ agenda and doesn’t become an end in itself.<sup>36</sup>

<sup>32</sup> For more detailed descriptions of the following groups, see: Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2016). *Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit: A practical guide for stakeholders for national-level advocacy around Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*, p. 15. Available at: <https://tapnetwork2030.org/goal-16-advocacy-toolkit/>; and Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2015). *Advocacy: Justice and the SDGs: How to Translate International Justice Commitments into National Reform*, p. 46. Available at: [https://tapnetwork2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/TAP\\_Advocacy\\_JusticeandtheSDGs.pdf](https://tapnetwork2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/TAP_Advocacy_JusticeandtheSDGs.pdf)

<sup>33</sup> For guidance on engaging with allies and opponents, see: Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2015). *Advocacy: Justice and the SDGs: How to Translate International Justice Commitments into National Reform*, pp. 29-30. Available at: [https://tapnetwork2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/TAP\\_Advocacy\\_JusticeandtheSDGs.pdf](https://tapnetwork2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/TAP_Advocacy_JusticeandtheSDGs.pdf)

<sup>34</sup> Saferworld (2019). “Time to invest: how to support action on SDG 16+”, p. 7. Available at: <https://www.saferworld.org.uk/resources/publications/1224-time-to-invest-how-to-support-action-on-sdg16>

<sup>35</sup> For tips on increasing the likelihood of a successful partnership, see: Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2016). *Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit: A practical guide for stakeholders for national-level advocacy around Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*, p. 16. Available at: <https://tapnetwork2030.org/goal-16-advocacy-toolkit/>

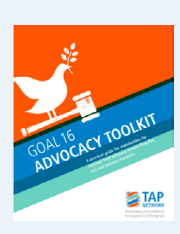
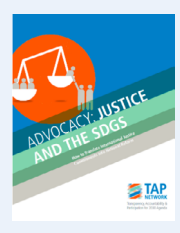
<sup>36</sup> Saferworld (2019). “Time to invest: how to support action on SDG 16+”, p. 7. Available at: <https://www.saferworld.org.uk/resources/publications/1224-time-to-invest-how-to-support-action-on-sdg16>

## A Stakeholder Analysis for peaceful, just and inclusive societies

### STAKEHOLDER ANALYSIS GRID

Power or Influence (low to high)	<b>High power to influence change</b>	<p><b>Keep Satisfied:</b> (Medium priority)</p> <p>Medium-priority stakeholders that you should work with and engage with as SDG16+ opportunities arise</p> <p>Example: Media</p>	<p><b>Influence:</b> (Maximum priority)</p> <p>High-priority stakeholders with the ability to impact and make decisions to support your SDG16+ objectives</p> <p>Example: Local or national government decision-makers</p>
	<b>Low power to influence change</b>	<p><b>Monitor:</b> (Minimum priority)</p> <p>Low-priority stakeholders to involve when resources permit or if there is significant added value to one of your SDG16+ objectives</p> <p>Example: Affected local businesses</p>	<p><b>Inform and Consult:</b> (Medium priority)</p> <p>Medium-priority stakeholders with high interest in the SDG16+ issue or who are most affected by the issue</p> <p>Examples: CSOs, NGOs and local communities experiencing impacts</p>
		<b>Low interest or engagement in SDG16+ objectives</b>	<b>High interest or engagement in SDG16+ objectives</b>
Interest or engagement in SDG16+ (low to high)			

### Key TAP Network resources:

<p><b>Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit</b> (TAP Network, 2016)</p>	<p>This toolkit provides civil society and other non-governmental stakeholders with guidance on how to engage with their governments and other local, regional or international stakeholders to support the planning, implementation, follow-up and accountability of SDG 16. It includes a section on ‘Stakeholder Analysis.’</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://tapnetwork2030.org/goal-16-advocacy-toolkit/">https://tapnetwork2030.org/goal-16-advocacy-toolkit/</a></p>	
<p><b>Advocacy: Justice and the SDGs</b> (TAP Network, 2015)</p>	<p>This toolkit – aimed at civil society, activists and policy practitioners who are working to promote legal empowerment and access to justice – provides a step-by-step guide to creating a national justice plan. It includes sections on ‘conducting a stakeholder analysis’ as well as ‘building allies.’</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://tapnetwork2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/TAP_Advocacy_JusticeandtheSDGs.pdf">https://tapnetwork2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/TAP_Advocacy_JusticeandtheSDGs.pdf</a></p>	



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# Raising awareness of the SDG16+ agenda

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*Raising awareness of SDG16+ is essential in order to promote understanding among stakeholders and mobilize action to advance peaceful, just and inclusive societies*

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## Overview

Creating awareness of SDG16+ – and the rest of the SDGs – is essential for SDG16+ implementation. It will be much more difficult for you to influence people's attitudes, behaviors and beliefs towards peaceful, just and inclusive societies without their knowledge of the existence and importance of the SDG16+ agenda. Awareness of SDG16+ is thus a critical first step in order to mobilize action from individual stakeholders. It is also key in helping to mobilize the power of public opinion, which can, in turn, influence the will of political decision-makers to take action to achieve greater peace, justice and inclusion.

Raising awareness of SDG16+ is also necessary to create an enabling environment for accountability. Citizens cannot hold their governments accountable for their commitments if they do not know that such commitments exist. Creating awareness of SDG16+ and promoting opportunities to engage in SDG accountability processes – especially at the local level – can help to encourage people's participation and inclusion in SDG16+ follow-up and review, especially marginalized and vulnerable groups.

Regrettably, the level of awareness of the SDGs – and SDG 16 in particular – remains low, especially at grassroots and community levels.<sup>37</sup> There is thus a need to step up awareness-raising activities in the next phase of implementation, especially among younger generations.<sup>38</sup>

## Putting it into practice

Multiple strategies, methods and tools can be used to raise awareness of SDG16+. The following is a short summary of some of the key steps you can take to raise awareness:<sup>39</sup>

- 1. Develop an awareness-raising strategy** – Ideally, an SDG16+ awareness-raising strategy should identify the SDG16+ goal or problem, objectives, target stakeholders, key messages, methods, tactics or activities to raise awareness and a monitoring and evaluation plan.
- 2. Work in partnership, networks or coalitions with other CSOs and stakeholders** – Consider building partnerships with other civil society actors and stakeholders, such as National Human Rights Institutions, in conducting awareness-raising campaigns on SDG16+.
- 3. Identify your target audience and their interests, and tailor activities and key messages as appropriate** – Specify the individuals or groups whose awareness of SDG16+ is needed in order to achieve your SDG16+ objective(s).
- 4. Create key messages for your target audience** – Aim to create clear, concise, simple and compelling key messages on SDG16+ that are limited in number. Key messages will ideally include a call to action or request for your target audience.

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<sup>37</sup> United Nations (2019). *Report of the Secretary-General on SDG Progress 2019: Special Edition*, p. 33. Available at: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24978Report\\_of\\_the\\_SG\\_on\\_SDG\\_Progress\\_2019.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24978Report_of_the_SG_on_SDG_Progress_2019.pdf); and Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH and Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2020). *SDG16 in VNRs and Spotlight Reports: Reporting on Progress, Reflecting on Inclusive Accountability Measures and Recommendations for going ahead*, p. 33. Available at: [https://tapnetwork2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/GIZ\\_TAP\\_2020\\_SDG-16-in-VNRs-and-Spotlight-Reports\\_Final-Version.pdf](https://tapnetwork2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/GIZ_TAP_2020_SDG-16-in-VNRs-and-Spotlight-Reports_Final-Version.pdf)

<sup>38</sup> United Nations (2019). *Report of the Secretary-General on SDG Progress 2019: Special Edition*, p. 33. Available at: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24978Report\\_of\\_the\\_SG\\_on\\_SDG\\_Progress\\_2019.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24978Report_of_the_SG_on_SDG_Progress_2019.pdf)

<sup>39</sup> For a more detailed description of the steps that CSOs can take to raise awareness, see: Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2018). *SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society*, pp. 81-83. Available at: <https://sdgaccountability.org/>

## 5. Consider the most effective methods to raise awareness – Activities may include:

- Producing educational resources such as reports, policy papers and pamphlets;
- Creating visual materials such as posters, stickers, t-shirts, bracelets and banners;
- Producing audio-visual material such as television, video, film and documentaries;
- Holding events such as conferences, workshops, roundtables or demonstrations;
- Providing written or oral submissions to parliamentary committees or other groups;
- Working with the media through press releases, briefings and opinion pieces;
- Utilizing radio – including community radio – especially in poorer and rural areas;
- Using social media (Facebook, Twitter etc.) and other online forums and platforms;
- Using wireless communication such as mobile phones and text messaging (SMS);
- Networking (online and offline) to create and maintain contacts; and
- Engaging in the arts including visual art, spoken word, music and street theatre.

## 6. Consider the timing of awareness-raising activities – Try to schedule activities around major events, such as leaders' summits and international days,<sup>40</sup> in order to leverage publicity and increase the reach and impact of your message. Examples of international days related to SDG16+ include:

- February 6 – International Day of Zero Tolerance for Female Genital Mutilation
- February 20 – World Day of Social Justice
- March 1 – Zero Discrimination Day
- March 8 – International Women's Day
- March 21 – International Day for the Elimination of Racial Discrimination
- April 6 – International Day of Sport for Development and Peace
- May 3 – World Press Freedom Day
- May 16 – International Day of Living Together in Peace

- June 4 – International Day of Innocent Children Victims of Aggression
- June 12 – World Day Against Child Labour
- June 19 – International Day for the Elimination of Sexual Violence in Conflict
- June 20 – World Refugee Day
- June 26 – United Nations International Day in Support of Victims of Torture
- July 30 – World Day against Trafficking in Persons
- August 9 – International Day of the World's Indigenous Peoples
- September 9 – International Day to Protect Education from Attack
- September 15 – International Day of Democracy
- September 21 – International Day of Peace
- September 28 – International Day for Universal Access to Information
- October 2 – International Day of Non-Violence
- November 2 – International Day to End Impunity for Crimes against Journalists
- November 20 – World Children's Day
- November 25 – International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women
- December 2 – International Day for the Abolition of Slavery
- December 3 – International Day of Persons with Disabilities
- December 9 – International Anti-Corruption Day
- December 10 – Human Rights Day

<sup>40</sup> For the full calendar of international days and weeks, see: United Nations. 'International Days and Weeks.' Available at: <https://www.un.org/en/observances/international-days-and-weeks>



**CASE STUDY:**

## 100 Days Campaign of Government Accountability

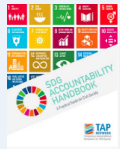
### Palestinian Consultative Staff for Developing NGOs (PCS)

The 100 Days Campaign of Government Accountability was launched by the Palestinian Consultative Staff for Developing NGOs (PCS) in cooperation with the Independent Commission for Human Rights (ICHR), Palestinian NGOs, AMAN Transparency Palestine, Palestinian National Institute for NGOs and with the participation of collation of 84 civil society organizations of all national and grassroots levels in West Bank, Gaza and Jerusalem. The objective was to close the gap between the Palestinian civil society community and the government to encourage active participation and increased partnership in community affairs and the management of public resources. To do this, the campaign focused on coalition-building with civil society partners in Palestine, who then mobilized through working groups and regular correspondence with the Prime Minister's office and other government ministries, as well as other outreach and campaigning methods and engaging with the media. Overall, this campaign helped institutionalize relationships between civil society and government on many fronts.

To read the full-length version of this case study, visit [www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies](http://www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies)



## Key TAP Network Resource:

<p><b>SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society</b> (TAP Network, 2018)</p>	<p>This handbook provides guidance on the different approaches and steps that can be taken by civil society to ensure national government accountability for the SDGs. It includes a chapter on ‘Raising Awareness through Public Outreach Campaigns’.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sdgaccountability.org/">https://sdgaccountability.org/</a></p>	
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## Key Resources:

<p><b>SDGs in Your Municipality: 50 Practical Awareness Raising Examples</b> (The Association of Flemish Cities and Municipalities (VVSG), 2018)</p>	<p>This resource provides 50 practical examples to introduce the SDGs – including SDG 16 – to a wider audience within your municipality. The awareness-raising examples are wide-ranging but provide a low-threshold and often fun approach to introducing people to the SDGs.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sdgtoolkit.org/tool/sdgs-in-your-municipality/">https://sdgtoolkit.org/tool/sdgs-in-your-municipality/</a></p>
<p><b>Preparing for Action “National Briefing Package: The 2030 Agenda and SDGs”</b> (UNITAR and UNDG, 2015)</p>	<p>This integrated toolkit is designed to support national facilitators in planning and delivering briefings on the 2030 Agenda at the country level. It contains a briefing package for use by national governments (and other stakeholders) and can be easily adapted to each national context. Available in English, French, Spanish and Russian.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.unsdglearn.org/courses/preparing-for-action-national-briefing-package-the-2030-agenda-and-sdgs/">https://www.unsdglearn.org/courses/preparing-for-action-national-briefing-package-the-2030-agenda-and-sdgs/</a></p>
<p><b>Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Reference Guide for UN Country Teams</b> (UNDG, 2017)</p>	<p>This guide assists UN country teams to help Member States adapt the global SDGs to national contexts. Specific implementation steps, practical tools and case examples from developed and developing countries are provided. It includes a detailed section on ‘Building Awareness’ as well as a short section on ‘Awareness Raising and Multi-stakeholder Engagement’ for countries in complex situations. Available in English, Spanish and French.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://unsdg.un.org/resources/mainstreaming-2030-agenda-sustainable-development-reference-guide-un-country-teams">https://unsdg.un.org/resources/mainstreaming-2030-agenda-sustainable-development-reference-guide-un-country-teams</a></p>
<p><b>SDG Action Campaign</b> (United Nations)</p>	<p>This campaign provides information and resources – including tools, guides, artwork, designs and mixed media content – that can be used to raise awareness of the SDGs.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.sdgactioncampaign.org/resources/">https://www.sdgactioncampaign.org/resources/</a></p>

# Working with the media and social media to advance SDG16+

*Engaging with both traditional media and social media can be a powerful means to convey your key messages on SDG16+ to a broad public audience*

## Overview

“At its most fundamental, a free, independent and pluralist media sector is a prerequisite to the creation and sustaining of functioning democracies, supporting the creation of peaceful, just and inclusive societies.”<sup>41</sup> The media’s role in supporting public access to information (SDG target 16.10) is thus valuable, in and of itself, to achieving SDG16+. Both traditional forms of media – including print, television (TV) and radio – and social media can support your efforts to advance SDG16+ implementation and accountability in a number of ways.

In relation to SDG16+ implementation, the media can educate and promote awareness of SDG16+ issues among the general public. It can provide information on the status of SDG16+ targets and influence the opinions of key decision-makers and the general public to take action for progress towards peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Importantly, the media can foster participation in SDG16+ implementation by encouraging public involvement in national and sub-national development planning and decision-making processes and by providing a platform for public debate and dialogue, ensuring that the voices of all citizens are heard.

In relation to SDG16+ accountability, the media can monitor and report on government policies and practices to advance peace, justice and inclusion, highlighting progress, challenges and gaps in implementation. It can help hold those in power accountable for SDG16+ commitments by shining a spotlight on what government actors are, or are not, doing. The media can also play a key role in promoting and supporting people’s engagement in SDG16+ follow-up and review processes, especially vulnerable or marginalized groups that may have limited opportunities for engagement due to geography, language or other restriction. It can also bring attention to the findings of national follow-up and review processes such as Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).



41 UNDP and UNESCO (2019). *Entry points for media development to support peaceful just and inclusive societies and Agenda 2030 – a background discussion note*, p. 2. Available at: <https://www.undp.org/content/oslo-governance-centre/en/home/library/entry-points-for-media-development-to-support-peaceful-just-and-.html>

## TIP: Leveraging Social media: Opportunities and challenges to advance peaceful, just and inclusive societies<sup>42</sup>



Social media and other online platforms offer CSOs a powerful means to promote and support SDG16+ implementation and accountability at minimal financial cost. Online platforms such as Facebook, Twitter, Google+, YouTube and Instagram can be a very effective way to share information, raise awareness and mobilize supporters for action on SDG16+ issues, especially younger generations who may not engage as much with traditional forms of media.

However, the use of social media and online platforms is not without its limitations or risks. Many populations continue to be excluded from internet access due to poverty, geography and other barriers. The discussion of potentially sensitive governance-related issues via social media can result in government crackdowns on both users and networks. In some cases, social media may facilitate the distribution of inaccurate, discriminatory and even willfully violent content. These are all real challenges for civil society. Consequently, the use of social media and online platforms for SDG16+ engagement should always be carefully considered and balanced with other forms of engagement that permit the safe offline participation of excluded groups.

## Putting it into practice

There are many ways that you can engage effectively with the media in order to advance the SDG16+ agenda for peaceful, just and inclusive societies, including the following actions:<sup>43</sup>

1. **Develop a strategy for engaging with the media** – Ideally, your SDG16+ media engagement strategy will include the following components:
  - a. **Goals or objectives** – Identify your key objectives such as raising awareness of SDG16+, drawing attention to specific problems or gaps in SDG16+ implementation or sharing opportunities to participate in SDG16+ follow-up and review processes.
  - b. **Target audience** – Identify the audience whom you wish to reach via the media. Your target audience – including their characteristics, interests and media preferences – will affect your choice of message, type of media and media outlet. For example, some policy makers may be more easily reached via traditional media such as newspapers, whereas younger generations may engage more with social media.
  - c. **Key messages** – Develop compelling, short and simple messages that are limited in number and tailored for your target audience. A key message is what you want the audience to understand, remember and/or do. Try to use everyday language, avoid jargon and acronyms, and refer to real-life stories and simple statistics for impact.
  - d. **Type of media** – Consider the type of media (print, television, radio, social media, etc.) to most effectively convey your SDG16+ messages to your target audience. Consider the power of radio to reach people, especially those in poorer and rural areas.
  - e. **Journalists and media outlets** – Identify the journalists and media outlets that are best suited to convey your SDG16+ messages to your target audience. Conduct research to identify journalists who cover stories related to peace, justice and inclusion.

<sup>42</sup> Adapted from: Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2018). *SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society*, p. 76. Available at: <https://sdgaccountability.org/>

<sup>43</sup> Adapted from: Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2018). *SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society*, pp. 76-78. Available at: <https://sdgaccountability.org/>

2. **Be proactive and contact journalists** – Contact journalists directly, express interest in the stories they cover and explain how you may be able to provide new, interesting or relevant information for stories on peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Explain how SDG16+ issues link to the types of stories they or their media outlet already cover. Confirm the best method for contacting journalists in the future and find ways to communicate regularly.
3. **Develop professional working relationships with journalists** – Seek to develop positive professional working relationships with journalists by adhering to the following:
  - a. **Make it easy for the journalist** by providing concise and clear information via press releases, opinion pieces, story pitches and press briefing information packs. Include contact information, background information on the SDG16+ issue(s), facts and statistics, quotations from experts, and photographs or infographics where relevant;
  - b. **Know and adhere to deadlines** and work within the journalist's timeframes;
  - c. **Be credible** by providing accurate, reliable and high-quality information and statistics;
  - d. **Respond promptly and professionally to media enquiries** and commit to get back to a journalist if you don't know the answer to a question. Never lie or make-up facts; and
  - e. **Develop a positive relationship over time** by getting to know what kinds of stories the journalist likes to cover and regularly inviting them to your media-friendly events.

#### CASE STUDY:


### *Teaching Journalism and Communications to Marginalized Youth, Women and the Dalit Community*

#### **Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC)**

From 2013 to 2020, Bangladesh NGOs Network for Radio and Communication (BNNRC) implemented a fellowship program to reduce social discrimination against disadvantaged communities and increase participation of youth from marginalized communities by teaching them skills for journalism and community radio broadcasting. The program empowered youth, women and marginalized people to become actors in their communities and increased the number of young professionals, particularly women, working in community media in Bangladesh. These empowerment efforts helped communities exercise their rights and influence local power structures and share information within their communities.

To read the full-length version of this case study, visit [www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies](http://www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies)

## Key TAP Network resource:

<p><b>SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society</b> (TAP Network, 2018)</p>	<p>This handbook provides guidance on the different approaches and steps that can be taken by civil society to ensure national government accountability for the SDGs. It includes a chapter on 'Engaging with the Media'.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sdgaccountability.org/">https://sdgaccountability.org/</a></p>	
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## Key resources:

<p><b>Engaging with the Media: A Companion to the Advocacy Toolkit for Influencing the Post-2015 Development Agenda</b> (CIVICUS and Stakeholder Forum, 2014)</p>	<p>This guide provides a useful set of tools and tips to help civil society develop effective communications strategies for media engagement. It offers advice on how to target messages for broadcast, press and social media, identify and build relationships with journalists, conduct interviews, write press releases and hold press conferences.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="http://civicus.org/images/stories/Engaging%20with%20the%20Media%20-%20SD2015%20Advocacy%20Toolkit%20companion.pdf">http://civicus.org/images/stories/Engaging%20with%20the%20Media%20-%20SD2015%20Advocacy%20Toolkit%20companion.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>UNDP's Engagement with the Media for Governance, Sustainable Development and Peace</b> (UNDP, Oslo Governance Centre, 2019)</p>	<p>This report features 13 case studies that highlight the range and impact of UNDP's engagement with the media for the purpose of achieving development outcomes. UNDP's approach to media engagement, its thematic scope and strengths, and challenges and opportunities for media engagement are also discussed.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Democratic%20Governance/OGC/UNDP%20Engagement%20with%20the%20Media.pdf">https://www.undp.org/content/dam/undp/library/Democratic%20Governance/OGC/UNDP%20Engagement%20with%20the%20Media.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Entry points for media development to support peaceful just and inclusive societies and Agenda 2030 – a background discussion note</b> (UNDP and UNESCO, 2019)</p>	<p>This short background discussion note suggests that the SDGs, and especially SDG 16, provide a critical entry point through which an independent, professional, diverse and pluralist media, operating in a safe environment, can contribute to the progressive vision articulated in the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.undp.org/content/oslo-governance-centre/en/home/library/entry-points-for-media-development-to-support-peaceful-just-and-.html">https://www.undp.org/content/oslo-governance-centre/en/home/library/entry-points-for-media-development-to-support-peaceful-just-and-.html</a></p>



# Leaving no one behind in SDG16+ engagement

*Civil society can play a key role in leaving no one behind in SDG16+ engagement by focusing on vulnerable groups and supporting their empowerment and participation*

## Overview

The pledge to “leave no one behind” and to “endeavor to reach the furthest behind first” are the heart of the 2030 Agenda.<sup>44</sup> They are also at the heart of many of the SDG16+ targets, especially those that seek to address exclusion and discrimination.<sup>45</sup> Population groups at risk of being left behind by SDG progress include women and girls, children, adolescents and youth, older people, people living in poverty, people in rural areas, Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities, refugees and migrants, internally displaced and stateless persons, and gender and sexual minorities. In many cases, the groups that are the furthest behind experience multiple and intersecting disadvantages.<sup>46</sup>

Civil society actors can play a key role in leaving no one behind in SDG16+ implementation and accountability processes. Leaving no one behind in SDG16+ engagement means:

1. Ensuring a sufficient focus on vulnerable and marginalized groups in all SDG16+ implementation and accountability processes; and
2. Ensuring that the empowerment and meaningful participation of vulnerable and marginalized groups are central to efforts to achieve peaceful, just and inclusive societies.

Efforts to ensure that no one is left behind can advance the overall 2030 Agenda, as well as make a significant contribution to those SDG16+ targets focused on building inclusive societies.



<sup>44</sup> United Nations (2015). *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. General Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/1, para. 4. Available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

<sup>45</sup> The Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies have identified 15 targets across the SDGs that are essential to achieve “inclusive societies”. For more information, see: The Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (2019). *The Roadmap for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies: A Call to Action to Change our World*. Available at: <https://www.sdg16.plus/roadmap>

<sup>46</sup> UNDP (2018). *What does it mean to leave no one behind? A UNDP discussion paper and framework for implementation*, p. 7. Available at: <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/poverty-reduction/what-does-it-mean-to-leave-no-one-behind-.html>

## Putting it into practice

There are a number of practical ways in which you can leave no one behind in your SDG16+ engagement, including the following:

1. **Planning** – Ensure that vulnerable and marginalized groups are both considered and consulted in your SDG16+ planning (e.g. your gap analysis, stakeholder analysis, stakeholder engagement plans, etc.). Consider who is being left behind by SDG16+ progress and why, based on factors such as discrimination, geography, governance, socio-economic status, and shocks and fragility.<sup>47</sup> Consult with vulnerable and marginalized groups about their concerns, priorities and aspirations for peace, justice and inclusion.<sup>48</sup>
2. **Awareness-raising** - Raise awareness of SDG16+ and the SDGs among vulnerable and marginalized groups, taking into account potential barriers to awareness-raising efforts such as language, access to and proficiency in digital technologies, accessibility issues, etc.
3. **Capacity building** – Support vulnerable and marginalized groups to engage in SDG16+ advocacy, implementation and accountability processes by building their capacity and supporting an enabling environment for their participation and empowerment. Ensure that strategies to build capacity are tailored to local contexts and priorities.<sup>49</sup>

4. **Participation** – Support the meaningful, inclusive and safe participation of vulnerable and marginalized groups in SDG16+ implementation and accountability processes by:

- a. Providing information on SDG16+ in local languages and accessible formats;
- b. Developing strategies to overcome the physical, financial, linguistic, logistical, technological, age, gender or other barriers to participation in SDG16+ processes, in consultation with vulnerable and marginalized groups;<sup>50</sup>
- c. Engaging with existing mechanisms, platforms or entities that represent specific vulnerable and marginalized groups (e.g. National Youth Councils);
- d. Establishing new mechanisms or platforms to support the engagement of vulnerable and marginalized groups in SDG16+ processes, in consultation with such groups;
- e. Identifying opportunities for vulnerable and marginalized groups to participate in national and local SDG16+ planning, budgeting and decision-making processes, as well as processes to follow-up and review SDG16+ at local, national and global levels;
- f. Facilitating regular engagement and dialogue between vulnerable and marginalized groups and key decision-makers and government officials;
- g. Using digital technologies and social media to amplify the voices of vulnerable and marginalized groups, taking into account the digital divide;<sup>51</sup>
- h. Conducting consultations and workshops – online and offline – with vulnerable and marginalized groups to assess SDG16+ progress for those furthest behind; and
- i. Advocating for and supporting the participation of vulnerable and marginalized groups in local and national government consultations on the SDGs, including Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).

<sup>47</sup> For detailed information on the key factors that should be assessed to understand who is being left behind and why, see: UNDP (2018). *What does it mean to leave no one behind? A UNDP discussion paper and framework for implementation*, pp. 3-4. Available at: <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/poverty-reduction/what-does-it-mean-to-leave-no-one-behind-.html>

<sup>48</sup> Saferworld (2019). "Time to invest: how to support action on SDG 16+", p. 6. Available at: <https://www.saferworld.org.uk/resources/publications/1224-time-to-invest-how-to-support-action-on-sdg16>

<sup>49</sup> SDG 16+ Tunis Technical Consultation, March 2019, cited in: The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (2019). *Enabling the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through SDG 16+: Anchoring peace, justice and inclusion*, p. 62. Available at: <https://www.un-globalalliance.org/sdg16-report>

<sup>50</sup> Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2018). *SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society*, p 10. Available at: <https://sdgaccountability.org/>

<sup>51</sup> The digital divide refers to the gap between demographics and regions that have access to modern information and communications technology – including telephone, television, personal computers and the Internet – and those that don't or have restricted access.

5. **Focusing on vulnerable and marginalized groups** – Ensure there is a sufficient focus on vulnerable and marginalized groups including in relation to:
- a. **Data** – Support the collection and use of disaggregated data on vulnerable and marginalized groups, including by: producing citizen-generated data that reflects grassroots communities and hidden populations; and monitoring progress on SDG16+ targets for vulnerable and marginalized groups.
  - b. **Programming** – Ensure that civil society programs on achieving peace, justice and inclusion focus on the most vulnerable and marginalized groups.
  - c. **Targets** – Advocate for the identification of national equity ‘stepping stone’ or interim targets for vulnerable and marginalized groups – in consultation with such groups – in order to track SDG16+ progress for those furthest behind.<sup>52</sup>
  - d. **National policies, plans, strategies and budgets** – Advocate for national policies, plans, strategies and budgets for SDG16+ implementation to address the situation, needs and rights of vulnerable and marginalized groups.
  - e. **Reporting on SDG16+ progress** – Work to ensure that both government reports and non-government spotlight or shadow reports on SDG16+ implementation address the progress of vulnerable and marginalized groups.

#### CASE STUDY:

### Empowering Indigenous Women in Mexico to Access Information and Unite Their Communities

#### ARTICLE 19

In 2002, the Government of Mexico created the Freedom of Information Act that enables citizens to demand information from public authorities and obligates the authorities to disclose proactively information of public interest (SDG target 16.10). ARTICLE 19 Mexico (Artículo 19) and the El Colectivo Feminista la Casa de la Mujer Ixim Antsetic applied this citizens’ right to information to start a ground-based project with the women of Indigenous communities in the northern jungle of Chiapas. The project taught the women how to request relevant information about their medical services to improve healthcare in their communities, ultimately empowering them to protect their communities and children and to become more involved in decision-making and participatory processes that historically had only included men.

To read the full-length version of this case study, visit [www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies](http://www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies)

<sup>52</sup> For more information, see: Save the Children (2015). *Leaving No One Behind: Embedding equity in the post-2015 framework through stepping stone targets*. Available at: <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/library/leaving-no-one-behind-embedding-equity-post-2015-framework-through-stepping-stone-targets#:~:text=Stepping%20stone%20targets%20are%20interim,are%20catching%20up%20with%20more>; and UNDP (2018). *What does it mean to leave no one behind? A UNDP discussion paper and framework for implementation*, p. 27. Available at: <https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/poverty-reduction/what-does-it-mean-to-leave-no-one-behind-.html>



**CASE STUDY:**

## Amplifying the Voices of People Living with Disabilities for the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda

### Civil Society Coalition on Sustainable Development (CSCSD)

Between April and June 2020, Civil Society Coalition on Sustainable Development (CSCSD) conducted a grass-roots spotlight interview and focus group discussions with people living with disabilities in Nigeria. This aimed to gauge their opinions on how the SDGs have affected them and to elicit information on their expectations for the Government of Nigeria, to inform policy decision-making that affects people living with disabilities. CSCSD organized two physical workshops, one in Ibadan and one in Lagos, to complete a spotlight report on people with disabilities, despite the challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. A Spotlight Report was produced for the 2020 Voluntary National Review (VNR) of Nigeria and featured during the 2020 United Nations High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

To read the full-length version of this case study, visit [www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies](http://www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies)

### Key resources:

<p><b>What does it mean to leave no one behind? A UNDP discussion paper and framework for implementation</b> (UNDP, 2018)</p>	<p>This paper provides a framework that governments and stakeholders can use to take action to leave no one behind in a way that enables and accelerates progress to achieve the SDGs. It identifies five factors that are key to understanding who is being left behind and why, and discusses how these factors can be applied.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/poverty-reduction/what-does-it-mean-to-leave-no-one-behind.html">https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/poverty-reduction/what-does-it-mean-to-leave-no-one-behind.html</a></p>
<p><b>What is Good Practice? A framework to analyse the Quality of Stakeholder Engagement in implementation and follow-up of the 2030 Agenda</b> (UN DESA and UNDP, 2020)</p>	<p>This resource provides an analytical framework and tool to enable governments and other stakeholders to examine and strengthen the quality of their stakeholder engagement practices. It is based on a matrix of three key principles – inclusiveness (non-discrimination and accessibility), participation (access to information and influence in decision-making) and accountability (transparency and responsiveness).</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/what-good-practice-framework-analyse-quality-stakeholder-engagement-implementation-and-follow">https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/what-good-practice-framework-analyse-quality-stakeholder-engagement-implementation-and-follow</a></p>
<p><b>Stakeholder Engagement and the 2030 Agenda: A Practical Guide</b> (UN DESA and UNITAR, 2020)</p>	<p>This publication adapts the content of an e-learning course developed by UN DESA and UNITAR and is designed for government officials and stakeholders interested in enhancing participation and inclusion in the implementation and follow up of the 2030 Agenda at all levels. It contains key information about participatory approaches in SDG implementation and provides concrete tools and methods.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/StakeholdersGuide">https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/StakeholdersGuide</a></p>
<p><b>Rome Youth Call-to-Action: Promoting and supporting youth-inclusive and youth-led SDG16 implementation, monitoring and accountability</b> (UNDP 16x16 Initiative, 2019)</p>	<p>This call to action, developed by young people and presented at the Rome Conference on SDG 16 in preparation for the 2019 HLPF, provides key recommendations in five priority areas: i) peaceful societies; ii) just societies; iii) inclusive societies; iv) youth meaningful participation in SDG 16 monitoring, review, follow-up and accountability; and v) equal partnerships and financing (linkages with SDG17). It urges all stakeholders to take bold and strong action on SDG 16 and empower young people.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.youth4peace.info/basic-page/rome-youth-call-action-sdg16">https://www.youth4peace.info/basic-page/rome-youth-call-action-sdg16</a></p>

A teal background featuring a white dove in flight, facing right, with a laurel wreath above its head. The wreath consists of several leaves in various shades of teal and green. Below the dove is a faint, stylized white gavel.

# **III. IMPLEMENTATION OF SDG16+**

# Identifying and engaging with SDG coordination bodies

*SDG coordination bodies play a central role in SDG16+ implementation and thus are critical to engage in order to advance more peaceful, just and inclusive societies*

## Overview

In seeking to support the implementation of SDG16+, your first point of departure will be to identify the main government bodies, entities or coordination mechanisms responsible for SDG implementation. Institutional arrangements for SDG implementation will vary by country in terms of their establishment, form, leadership approach, membership and/or organization.

For example, there may be new bodies created for SDG implementation or pre-existing bodies with an updated mandate to implement the SDGs. In terms of form, there may be an inter-ministerial committee or commission designed to oversee SDG implementation and break down silos across sectors,<sup>53</sup> a Head of State or Government office, or a specific ministry designated to spearhead SDG implementation.<sup>54</sup> Leadership may also vary, with implementation directed by the Office of the Prime Minister or Presidency, a specific ministry, or some combination of the two. In terms of membership, some bodies may involve only government representatives (e.g. ministers, government department heads, sector focal points, etc.), while others may include both government and non-governmental representatives, including from sub-national levels.<sup>55</sup>

In some cases, SDG coordination bodies may provide for non-governmental stakeholder participation – including from civil society – through national or technical committees or working groups.<sup>56</sup>

While they may differ in characteristics, SDG coordination bodies tend to share a similar overarching function, namely to coordinate and oversee the implementation of the SDGs across government ministries, departments and organizations. Given the central role these bodies play in SDG implementation,<sup>57</sup> they are critical for civil society to engage with in order to advance the SDG16+ agenda for peaceful, just and inclusive societies.



53 UNDP (2017). *Institutional and Coordination Mechanisms: Guidance Note on Facilitating Integration and Coherence for SDG Implementation*, p. 10. Available at: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2478Institutional\\_Coordination\\_Mechanisms\\_GuidanceNote.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2478Institutional_Coordination_Mechanisms_GuidanceNote.pdf)

54 UN DESA (2020). *Compendium of National Institutional Arrangements for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: The 47 countries that presented voluntary national reviews at the high-level political forum in 2019*, pp. 4-5. Available at: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/25839Compendium\\_of\\_National\\_Institutional\\_Arrangements.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/25839Compendium_of_National_Institutional_Arrangements.pdf)

55 Karina Cázarez-Grageda, Partners for Review (2019). *The whole of government approach: Initial lessons concerning national coordinating structures for the 2030 Agenda and how review can improve their operation*, pp. 6-7. Available at: <https://www.partners-for-review.de/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Whole-of-Government-P4R-Discussion-paper-2019.pdf>

56 Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2018). *SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society*, p 15. Available at: <https://sdgaccountability.org/>

57 For a detailed description on the role of designated SDG bodies, see: Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2018). *SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society*, p. 16. Available at: <https://sdgaccountability.org/>

## Putting it into practice

In order to progress SDG16+ implementation, civil society actors should consider taking the following actions to engage with SDG coordination bodies:

- 1. Identify SDG coordination bodies** – Refer to the key resources in this chapter for assistance in identifying the main body or bodies responsible for overseeing SDG implementation. Where there is a lack of clarity, you should send a formal request to the government – including via a freedom of information request – to identify those responsible for overseeing the implementation of various SDG16+ targets.
- 2. Determine whether existing bodies provide opportunities for civil society participation** – There may be formal mechanisms to ensure civil society participation, informal opportunities or no opportunities at all. Ideally, stakeholder engagement should be institutionalized within formal government structures and at different levels of government.<sup>58</sup> Where formal mechanisms exist, determine whether they are inclusive and support the meaningful participation of vulnerable and marginalized groups. Where mechanisms are inadequate or non-existent, you can advocate to the government to provide meaningful opportunities for civil society participation. You may also wish to create an independent civil society forum or body to act as a focal point for engagement with the government in relation to SDG16+ implementation.

### 3. Engage with SDG coordination bodies and other government actors through:

- a. Formal meetings** – Seek to meet with individual members of SDG coordination bodies or arrange briefings for the entire body in order to share information, ideas and practical recommendations on SDG16+ implementation.<sup>59</sup> Encourage members to adopt SDG16+ language and champion specific SDG16+ causes;<sup>60</sup>
- b. Networking** – Build relationships with government officials by networking with them and their staff at formal and informal events. Once initial contact is established, be proactive and maintain regular communication. Building relationships and trust can open the door to opportunities to positively influence SDG16+ implementation;
- c. Technical Support** – Offer technical support to government bodies in charge of implementing specific SDG16+ targets including research, data and information on SDG16+ implementation in other countries and training for government officials on SDG16+ issues. You may also wish to provide secondment of expert advisors on SDG16+ issues to specific government departments or ministries. Such support may be particularly valued and appreciated in countries where resources for SDG implementation are limited; and
- d. Facilitating Input** – Consult with people, especially vulnerable and marginalized groups, for their views on SDG16+ implementation and share their feedback with government officials. Remember to report back to those consulted on how their inputs were received and how they will be used to advance SDG16+ implementation.

<sup>58</sup> The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (2019). *Enabling the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through SDG 16+: Anchoring peace, justice and inclusion*, p. 66. Available at: <https://www.un-globalalliance.org/sdg16-report>

<sup>59</sup> For guidance on how to structure your meeting effectively, see: Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2018). *SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society*, p. 17. Available at: <https://sdgaccountability.org/>

<sup>60</sup> Saferworld (2019). "Time to invest: how to support action on SDG 16+", p. 10. Available at: <https://www.saferworld.org.uk/resources/publications/1224-time-to-invest-how-to-support-action-on-sdg16>

## TIP: Identifying and engaging with government officials



- Assess the mandate, strategy and working methods of existing SDG coordination bodies in order to identify opportunities for civil society engagement in SDG16+ implementation.
- Remember to engage with multiple bodies, ministries and government departments. Given the breadth of SDG16+ targets, implementation will likely cut across numerous entities.
- Engage with government officials in a constructive rather than adversarial manner. Constructive engagement can help build trust and relationships, allowing you to maximize your influence when opportunities related to SDG16+ implementation present themselves.
- Adhere to deadlines for inputs from government bodies or officials in order to build a reputation of being able to deliver results in a timely and effective manner.
- Be pragmatic. When engaging with government officials, propose clear and practical solutions, initiatives and approaches to further SDG16+ implementation and address related challenges.

### Case Study:

## Identifying National-Level Institutions Implementing the SDGs<sup>61</sup>

### SDGs Kenya Forum


The Ministry of Devolution and Planning in Kenya is mandated to coordinate the implementation and monitoring of the SDGs. The SDGs Coordinating Department has been established within the Ministry, supported by an Inter-Agency Technical Committee (IATC), comprising officers from key government ministries, CSOs and the private sector. For ownership and ease of follow-up, entry points for the private sector, CSOs, subnational governments, youth and persons with disabilities are typically their respective umbrella bodies, such as Kenya Private Sector Alliance (KEPSA), SDG Kenya Forum, the Council of Governors (CoG), National Youth Council and the Association of Persons Living with Disabilities.<sup>62</sup>

To read the full-length version of this case study, visit [www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies](http://www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies)

<sup>61</sup> TAP Network 2030 (2019). SDG Accountability Handbook. "Connecting with Designated Government SDG Bodies and Ministries" - Case Study: Identifying National-Level Institutions Implementing the SDGs p. 18  
<sup>62</sup> TAP Network 2030 (2019). SDG Accountability Handbook. p. 17



## Key TAP Network resource:

<p><b>SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society</b> (TAP Network, 2018)</p>	<p>This handbook provides guidance on the different approaches and steps that can be taken by civil society to ensure national government accountability for the SDGs. It includes a chapter on ‘Connecting with Designated Government SDG Bodies and Ministries.’</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sdgaccountability.org/">https://sdgaccountability.org/</a></p>	
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## Key resources:

<p><b>High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development – ‘Voluntary National Reviews’</b> (UN DESA)</p>	<p>This section of the website for the HLPF provides a list of all countries that have participated in a Voluntary National Review (VNR) with many country reports outlining their governance and institutional arrangements for SDG implementation. Focal points for countries that have presented or will present a VNR are identified under a separate tab.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/">https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/</a></p>
<p><b>Compendium of National Institutional Arrangements for Implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</b> (UN DESA, multiple years)</p>	<p>This series of reports documents national institutional arrangements for implementing the SDGs in countries that presented VNRs from 2016-2019.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b></p> <p><a href="https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/25839Compendium_of_National_Institutional_Arrangements.pdf">https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/25839Compendium_of_National_Institutional_Arrangements.pdf</a> (2019)</p> <p><a href="https://publicadministration.un.org/publications/content/featured_titles/compendium_nia_sdg%202019.html">https://publicadministration.un.org/publications/content/featured_titles/compendium_nia_sdg%202019.html</a> (2018)</p> <p><a href="https://publicadministration.un.org/publications/content/featured_titles/compendium_nia_sdg.html">https://publicadministration.un.org/publications/content/featured_titles/compendium_nia_sdg.html</a> (2016 and 2017)</p>
<p><b>Progressing National SDG Implementation: An Independent Assessment of the Voluntary National Review Reports Submitted to the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development</b> (Cooperation Canada, multiple years)</p>	<p>This annual series of reports, commissioned by civil society and published by Cooperation Canada (formally the Canadian Council for International Co-operation), provides an independent analysis of VNR reports submitted to the HLPF, including outlining the governance and institutional arrangements of countries.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b></p> <p><a href="https://cooperation.ca/2030agenda/">https://cooperation.ca/2030agenda/</a> (2018, 2019 and 2020)</p> <p><a href="https://cooperation.ca/progressing-national-sdgs-impementation/">https://cooperation.ca/progressing-national-sdgs-impementation/</a> (2017)</p>

**The whole of government approach: Initial lessons concerning national coordinating structures for the 2030 Agenda and how review can improve their operation** (Karina Cázares-Grageda, Partners for Review, 2019)

This paper analyzes a range of coordinating structures for implementing the SDGs, including both new and adapted structures. The characteristics of coordinating structures – including their leadership approach, membership, organization and main functions – are discussed. Structural and functional limitations that may hamper the continuous and coherent implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda are also identified.

**Available at:** <https://www.partners-for-review.de/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/Whole-of-Government-P4R-Discussion-paper-2019.pdf>

**Institutional and Coordination Mechanisms: Guidance Note on Facilitating Integration and Coherence for SDG Implementation** (UNDP, 2017)

This guidance note provides information on how countries have adapted their existing institutional and coordination frameworks or established new ones in order to implement the SDGs. It includes information on how responsibility is allocated among various levels of government for coherent implementation and review of the 2030 Agenda. Country case studies are also provided.

**Available at:** [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2478Institutional\\_Coordination\\_Mechanisms\\_GuidanceNote.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2478Institutional_Coordination_Mechanisms_GuidanceNote.pdf)



# Mainstreaming SDG16+ into development plans, policies and strategies

*One of the first steps for SDG16+ implementation is to integrate the targets into national and sub-national development plans, policies, strategies and budgets*

## Overview

Mainstreaming SDG16+ into national and sub-national development plans is one of the first steps to translating the global aspirations of SDG16+ into concrete action. “Mainstreaming” means incorporating or integrating the SDG16+ targets into national, sub-national and local plans, policies and strategies for development, and subsequently into budget allocations.<sup>63</sup>

While many countries have already mainstreamed the SDGs – including SDG 16 – into their planning documents and sustainable development policies,<sup>64</sup> others may be just starting out. In some cases, countries may not have prioritized the implementation of SDG16+ targets during the first five years of SDG implementation due to competing pressing priorities. In other cases, countries may not have adequately incorporated the SDG16+ agenda into all relevant development plans and processes, given the depth and breadth of the SDG16+ targets.

Regardless of the situation, it is important that all countries review how existing national, sub-national and local development plans and sectoral strategies – in content and ambition – align with the SDG16+ agenda for peaceful, just and inclusive societies.<sup>65</sup> Taking stock of how the SDG16+ targets are reflected in development strategies and planning processes is essential in order to identify areas that may need to be adapted for successful implementation. This process can also help to enhance policy coherence and integration among sectoral and other national, sub-national and local strategies that address peace, justice and/or inclusion.<sup>66</sup>



# SDG 16

- <sup>63</sup> United Nations Development Group (UNDG) (2017). *Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Reference Guide for UN Country Teams*, p. 14. Available at: <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/mainstreaming-2030-agenda-sustainable-development-reference-guide-un-country-teams>
- <sup>64</sup> United Nations (2019). *Report of the Secretary-General on SDG Progress 2019: Special Edition*, p. 32. Available at: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24978Report\\_of\\_the\\_SG\\_on\\_SDG\\_Progress\\_2019.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24978Report_of_the_SG_on_SDG_Progress_2019.pdf)
- <sup>65</sup> United Nations Development Group (UNDG) (2017). *Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Reference Guide for UN Country Teams*, p. 43. Available at: <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/mainstreaming-2030-agenda-sustainable-development-reference-guide-un-country-teams>
- <sup>66</sup> United Nations Development Group (UNDG) (2017). *Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Reference Guide for UN Country Teams*, p. 43-44. Available at: <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/mainstreaming-2030-agenda-sustainable-development-reference-guide-un-country-teams>; and United Nations (2019). *Report of the Secretary-General on SDG Progress 2019: Special Edition*, p. 32. Available at: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24978Report\\_of\\_the\\_SG\\_on\\_SDG\\_Progress\\_2019.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24978Report_of_the_SG_on_SDG_Progress_2019.pdf)

## Putting it into practice

While governments are responsible for mainstreaming SDG16+ into existing development plans and processes, civil society and other stakeholders can and should assist government actors in undertaking this process. Since 2016, the UN has been playing a central role in helping countries to integrate the SDGs into their national development processes through its “MAPS” (Mainstreaming, Acceleration and Policy Support) approach.

The following stages of the mainstreaming process – from the UN’s “*Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Reference Guide for UN Country Teams*”<sup>67</sup> – are summarized below, along with recommended actions for civil society actors:

1. **Reviewing existing strategies and plans and identifying gaps** to scan the landscape at the national, sub-national and local levels and compare against the global SDGs and targets, to identify gaps and recommend areas for adjustment.
  - **Civil society action** – If you have undertaken a SDG16+ gap analysis, you can share the information you have collected with government actors. Information such as survey data, statistics and lessons learned from the implementation of previous policies related to peace, justice and inclusion can also be very useful during this stage of the process.<sup>68</sup>
2. **Mapping SDG interconnections** to reveal potential co-benefits and trade-offs that should inform strategies and priorities.
  - **Civil society action** – You can provide expert technical advice to government actors on the interlinkages between SDG16+ and the rest of the SDGs. Many civil society actors will have a deeper understanding of the interlinkages between specific SDG16+ targets and other SDGs or targets, compared to government officials.
3. **Making initial recommendations to national leadership** for addressing SDG gaps in existing strategies and plans whilst recognizing that the SDGs “... are integrated and indivisible and balance the three dimensions of sustainable development: the economic, social and environmental.”
  - **Civil society action** – You can share your recommendations – including from your gap analysis – with government actors on the changes that are needed to address SDG16+ gaps in strategies and plans. Sharing comparative information from other countries on how they have addressed similar gaps may be particularly useful at this stage.
4. **Setting nationally-relevant targets** for nationally-adapted and inclusive SDGs that are achievable yet ambitious.
  - **Civil society action** – You can provide recommendations on the national targets that are needed to advance peaceful, just and inclusive societies. In particular, you can help to identify short-, medium- and long-term targets for vulnerable and marginalized groups in order to track SDG16+ progress for those furthest behind.<sup>69</sup>
5. **Using foresight, scenarios and systems thinking** to incorporate the recommendations and insights from the above steps into strategies and plans, and matching ambition and commitments with resources and capacities.
  - **Civil society action** – You can share innovative ideas with the government on the strategies and plans that are needed to achieve peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Try to propose practical ways for how existing strategies, policies and plans can be improved upon as a first step, and then redeveloped at the end of their current cycle.<sup>70</sup>

<sup>67</sup> United Nations Development Group (UNDG) (2017). *Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Reference Guide for UN Country Teams*, pp. 5-6 and 44. Available at: <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/mainstreaming-2030-agenda-sustainable-development-reference-guide-un-country-teams>

<sup>68</sup> Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2016). *Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit: A practical guide for stakeholders for national-level advocacy around Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*, p. 23. Available at: <https://tapnetwork2030.org/goal-16-advocacy-toolkit/>

<sup>69</sup> For more information, see: Save the Children (2015). *Leaving No One Behind: Embedding equity in the post-2015 framework through stepping stone targets*. Available at: <https://resourcecentre.savethechildren.net/library/leaving-no-one-behind-embedding-equity-post-2015-framework-through-stepping-stone-targets#:~:text=Stepping%20stone%20targets%20are%20interim,are%20catching%20up%20with%20more>

<sup>70</sup> Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2016). *Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit: A practical guide for stakeholders for national-level advocacy around Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*, pp. 23-24. Available at: <https://tapnetwork2030.org/goal-16-advocacy-toolkit/>


## Mainstreaming guidance for countries in complex situations<sup>71</sup>

Countries in complex situations are often inundated with overlapping humanitarian, peacebuilding and development needs.

Mainstreaming the SDGs in such contexts should consider and balance the tensions among:

- a) Striving to attain a deeper understanding of the root causes of violent conflict and fragility;
- b) Enabling a prioritization of development goals that is guided by the imperatives of countries in complex situations; and
- c) Recognizing the political dynamics of complex contexts, especially situations of protracted or continually evolving conflict.

## Key TAP Network resource:

<p><b>Mainstreaming SDG 16: Using the Voluntary National Review to Advance More Peaceful, Just and Inclusive societies</b> (Global Alliance and TAP Network, 2020)</p>	<p>This resource provides policy guidance, case studies and good practices on advancing SDG 16 implementation at national and subnational levels by more effectively leveraging the Voluntary National Review (VNR) and post-VNR processes.</p> <p>Available at: <a href="https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive">https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive</a></p>	
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## Key resources:

<p><b>Rapid Integrated Assessment (RIA): To facilitate mainstreaming of SDGs into national and local plans</b> (UNDP, 2017)</p>	<p>This tool supports countries in mainstreaming the SDGs into national and subnational planning, by helping assess their readiness for SDG implementation. The tool suggests clear steps and templates for policy makers to conduct a rapid integrated assessment (RIA) of the SDGs to determine their relevance to the country context, both at the national and subnational level, and interlinkages across targets.</p> <p>Available at: <a href="https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/sustainable-development-goals/rapid-integrated-assessment---mainstreaming-sdgs-into-national-a.html">https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/sustainable-development-goals/rapid-integrated-assessment---mainstreaming-sdgs-into-national-a.html</a></p>
<p><b>Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Reference Guide for UN Country Teams</b> (UNDG, 2017)</p>	<p>This guide assists UN country teams in helping Member States adapt the global SDGs to national contexts. It presents a comprehensive set of eight practice areas for mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda along with a special section for countries in complex situations. Specific implementation steps, practical tools, and case examples from developed and developing countries are also provided. Available in English, Spanish and French.</p> <p>Available at: <a href="https://unsdg.un.org/resources/mainstreaming-2030-agenda-sustainable-development-reference-guide-un-country-teams">https://unsdg.un.org/resources/mainstreaming-2030-agenda-sustainable-development-reference-guide-un-country-teams</a></p>

<sup>71</sup> United Nations Development Group (UNDG) (2017). *Mainstreaming the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – Reference Guide for UN Country Teams*, p. 7. Available at: <https://unsdg.un.org/resources/mainstreaming-2030-agenda-sustainable-development-reference-guide-un-country-teams>

# Localizing SDG16+: Working with local and regional authorities

*Local and regional authorities are critical for turning the global vision for peaceful, just and inclusive societies into a local reality*

## Overview

“Localizing” SDG16+ refers to the process of adapting, implementing, monitoring and reporting on SDG16+ targets at the local level. Localization relates both to how local and regional governments can support the achievement of the SDGs through action from the bottom up, as well as how the SDGs can provide a framework for local development policy.<sup>72</sup> It is a process that seeks “to empower all local stakeholders, aimed at making development more responsive and therefore, relevant to local needs and aspirations.”<sup>73</sup>

In relation to SDG16+, local and regional authorities comprise those individuals and institutions that are responsible for delivering SDG16+ targets at a local or regional level. While local and regional authorities will vary by context, they generally include a combination of:

- **Elected officials** – e.g. mayors, local councils, committees, boards, etc.;
- **Appointed officials** – e.g. district officers, finance officers, police chiefs, prosecutors, etc.;
- **Civil servants** – e.g. technical experts such as health, education or water officers; and
- **Service providers** – e.g. teachers, doctors, nurses, childcare workers, etc.<sup>74</sup>

# SDG 16

In some contexts, local and regional authorities may also include Indigenous groups and elders, as well as faith-based and religious leaders.

Local and regional authorities, with strong, democratic and accountable institutions, are critical for turning the global vision for peaceful, just and inclusive societies into a local reality.<sup>75</sup> All of the SDGs – including SDG 16 – have targets directly related to the responsibilities of local and regional governments, especially in their role in delivering key public and basic services. Local and regional authorities can also play an important role in representing the interests of local communities at the national level, providing localized data on SDG progress and facilitating the kind of inclusive and participatory public decision-making processes envisioned by SDG16+.<sup>76</sup>

The role of local and regional authorities in implementing SDG16+ will depend, in part, on the extent to which they have the power to make decisions to advance peace, justice and inclusion. Where local and regional actors enjoy substantial autonomy or independence from national governments, or where they are directly supported by national governments to engage in SDG16+ implementation – both politically and financially – their potential contribution to peace, justice and inclusion will be greater.<sup>77</sup> However, where these authorities operate within a highly centralized country or require formal legal authority to work on SDG16+ targets,<sup>78</sup> their ability to contribute to SDG16+ implementation will be more limited.

<sup>72</sup> Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, UNDP and UN-Habitat (2017). *Trainer’s Guide for Localizing the SDGs: Learning Module 1*, p. 18. Available at: <https://www.local2030.org/library/view/348>

<sup>73</sup> Local 2030, cited in: The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies and Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2020). *Mainstreaming SDG 16: Using the Voluntary National Review to Advance More Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*, p. 41. Available at: <https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive>

<sup>74</sup> For a more detailed description of local authorities, see: Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2018). *SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society*, pp. 29-30. Available at: <https://sdgaccountability.org/>

<sup>75</sup> The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies and Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2020). *Mainstreaming SDG 16: Using the Voluntary National Review to Advance More Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*, p. 38. Available at: <https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive>

<sup>76</sup> The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (2019). *Enabling the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through SDG 16+: Anchoring peace, justice and inclusion*, p. 63. Available at: <https://www.un-globalalliance.org/sdg16-report>

<sup>77</sup> For a short discussion on the differences between decentralized and centralized governance approaches, see: Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2018). *SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society*, pp. 29-30. Available at: <https://sdgaccountability.org/>

<sup>78</sup> The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (2019). *Enabling the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through SDG 16+: Anchoring peace, justice and inclusion*, p. 62. Available at: <https://www.un-globalalliance.org/sdg16-report>

## Putting it into practice

While there is no single blueprint for translating SDG16+ into action at the local level,<sup>79</sup> you can help to mobilize and support local and regional authorities to engage in SDG16+ implementation through the following actions:

1. **Analyze the governance arrangements for SDG16+ implementation** – As a first step, you should determine what the governance arrangements are to implement SDG16+ targets at the local level, including which government entity is responsible for what service function, what budget supports these functions and whether that budget has been received or not.<sup>80</sup>
2. **Raise awareness of the 2030 Agenda and SDG16+ among local and regional authorities** – Some authorities may not be aware of SDG16+ or its relationship to the rest of the SDGs. You can provide briefings for local and regional government officials on the 2030 Agenda, the SDGs and SDG16+.<sup>81</sup> You can also offer to help local authorities raise awareness of the SDGs and SDG16+ in order to promote local engagement in SDG16+ implementation.
3. **Urge local and regional authorities to adopt and tailor the SDGs to local contexts** – Some local and regional governments have already integrated the SDGs into their local planning and strategies. For those that haven't, you can urge them to formally adopt the SDGs and align their existing plans with them. You can also offer technical assistance to local and regional authorities to translate SDG16+ commitments into new or existing policies, strategies, plans and initiatives, which are linked to national development plans.
4. **Support local and regional authorities in relation to data on SDG16+** – Localized data on SDG16+ is key to ensuring that no one is left behind. You can assist local and regional authorities in developing localized indicators for SDG16+, collecting disaggregated data on SDG16+ targets and monitoring progress on SDG16+ implementation at sub-national levels.
5. **Help to bridge the gap between national and sub-national governments** – While local approaches to achieve the SDGs should inform national priority-setting,<sup>82</sup> this is not always the case. You can help to bridge the divide that often exists between national and sub-national government officials by bringing local voices, priorities and perspectives on SDG16+ to the attention of national decision-makers.<sup>83</sup> For example, you can advocate for sub-national representation on national SDG bodies. You can also facilitate engagement and discussion between local authorities and national government officials through hosting events, conferences and workshops on SDG16+ implementation.
6. **Encourage local authorities to embrace open government principles and practices** – In line with the Open Government Declaration,<sup>84</sup> you can encourage local authorities to be more transparent, responsive, inclusive and accountable in their engagement with citizens. See the OGP Local Initiative for more information.
7. **Participate and support communities to participate in local and regional processes to advance peaceful, just and inclusive societies** – You can engage with, and facilitate communities to engage with, local and regional authorities by participating in:
  - a. **Formal or “invited” spaces** such as city, village and town council meetings, service-specific meetings (e.g. school management or child protection committees), grievance redress mechanisms (GRMs) and participatory budgeting mechanisms; and
  - b. **Informal or “claimed” spaces** such as citizen-led consultations on SDG16+ implementation and citizen audits of local-level services and programs.<sup>85</sup>

79 Saferworld (2019). “Time to invest: how to support action on SDG 16+”, p. 7. Available at: <https://www.saferworld.org.uk/resources/publications/1224-time-to-invest-how-to-support-action-on-sdg16>

80 Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2018). *SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society*, pp. 29-30. Available at: <https://sdgaccountability.org/>

81 Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2016). *Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit: A practical guide for stakeholders for national-level advocacy around Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*, p. 24. Available at: <https://tapnetwork2030.org/goal-16-advocacy-toolkit/>

82 The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (2019). *Enabling the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through SDG 16+: Anchoring peace, justice and inclusion*, p. 32. Available at: <https://www.un-globalalliance.org/sdg16-report>

83 Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2016). *Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit: A practical guide for stakeholders for national-level advocacy around Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*, p. 24. Available at: <https://tapnetwork2030.org/goal-16-advocacy-toolkit/>

84 Open Government Partnership. *Open Government Declaration*. Available at: <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/process/joining-ogp/open-government-declaration/>

85 For more detailed information on formal or informal spaces for engagement with local authorities, see: Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2018). *SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society*, p. 30. Available at: <https://sdgaccountability.org/>

8. **Encourage local and regional authorities to participate in SDG follow-up and review processes** – This is essential to expand local and regional governments’ involvement in the localization process and to accelerate implementation, including for SDG16+.<sup>86</sup> In particular, you can encourage sub-national governments to participate in a ‘Voluntary Local Review’ (VNR) or ‘Voluntary State Review’ (VSR), which are modeled on the global level Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).<sup>87</sup>



**CASE STUDY:**

**Localization Through a Whole-of-Society and Whole-of-Government Approach Led by Civil Society<sup>88</sup>**

**Somaliland SDG16+ Coalition**

*“Our process was about the locals; it was about ownership; it brought many people together and their involvement was the key. It was about helping new plants grow in the soil that was already there, rather than bringing in new soil.”*  
 – Guleid Jama, Founder and Board Member, Human Rights Centre Somaliland

Through an extensive and consultative process, the Somaliland SDG16+ Coalition – a network of civil society working on SDG16+ in Somaliland – has helped to support and drive SDG16+ localization, generating buy-in across civil society and national and local government, and using its 2019 baseline report to measure progress and maintain focus on reaching SDG16+ targets. While it has endorsed the 2030 Agenda and integrated the SDGs into its NDP, Somaliland has never presented a VNR largely due to its unrecognized status. Civil society actors decided to fill this gap and lead the process themselves, producing the ‘Somaliland SDG16+ Civil Society Progress Report’ in 2019.<sup>89</sup> Over two years (2017-2018), civil society carried out a detailed review of progress made in achieving SDG16+ priority targets and related processes, holding workshops throughout Somaliland with 55 different CSOs representing women’s groups, youth groups, those focusing on minority rights, disability groups and others.

To read the full-length version of this case study, visit [www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies](http://www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies)

**Key TAP Network resources:**

<p><b>Mainstreaming SDG 16: Using the Voluntary National Review to Advance More Peaceful, Just and Inclusive societies</b> (Global Alliance and TAP Network, 2020)</p>	<p>This resource provides policy guidance, case studies and good practices on advancing SDG 16 at national and subnational levels by more effectively leveraging the Voluntary National Review (VNR) and post-VNR processes. It contains a chapter on ‘Localizing VNR Findings through Subnational and Local Governments and Other Stakeholders.’</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive">https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive</a></p>	
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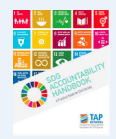
<sup>86</sup> The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies and Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2020). *Mainstreaming SDG 16: Using the Voluntary National Review to Advance More Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*, p. 43. Available at: <https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive>

<sup>87</sup> The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies and Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2020). *Mainstreaming SDG 16: Using the Voluntary National Review to Advance More Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*, p. 44. Available at: <https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive>

<sup>88</sup> This case study draws on interviews with the Somaliland SDG 16+ Coalition. TAP Network 2030 (2019). *SDG Accountability Handbook*. Section: ‘Localizing VNR Findings through Subnational and Local Governments and Other Stakeholders’ pg. 39.

<sup>89</sup> Somaliland Civil Society SDG16+ Coalition (2019). *Somaliland SDG16+ Progress Report*. [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24270Somaliland\\_SDG16\\_Progress\\_Report.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24270Somaliland_SDG16_Progress_Report.pdf)



<p><b>SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society</b> (TAP Network, 2018)</p>	<p>This handbook provides guidance on various approaches and steps that can be taken by civil society to ensure national government accountability for the SDGs. It includes a chapter on ‘Engaging with Local Authorities.’</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sdgaccountability.org/">https://sdgaccountability.org/</a></p>	
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## Key resources:

<p><b>Local 2030: Localizing the SDGs</b></p>	<p>This network and online platform supports the on-the-ground delivery of the SDGs, with a focus on those furthest behind. An extensive range of resources, tools and information to support SDG localization are provided. Available in English, French and Spanish.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.local2030.org/">https://www.local2030.org/</a></p>
<p><b>The Sustainable Development Goals: What Local Governments Need to Know</b> (United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), 2015)</p>	<p>This short publication explains how each of the 17 SDGs relates to the daily work of local and regional governments. It lists the most relevant targets of each Goal to local governments and highlights the relationship between the Goals and other international agendas, such as climate change and Habitat III. Available in English, French and Spanish.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.local2030.org/library/view/40">https://www.local2030.org/library/view/40</a></p>
<p><b>Agenda 2030 in my municipality – A handbook for practitioners for localizing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b> (Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, 2019)</p>	<p>This handbook aims to help practitioners at a municipal level improve their knowledge and understanding of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs, and build their capacity to promote the SDGs and sensitize other stakeholders. It includes chapters on the impact of the SDGs in municipalities, raising awareness on the SDGs, establishing a local SDG agenda and the role of Local Government Associations (LGAs) and the Network of Associations of Local Authorities in South-East Europe (NALAS) in mobilizing municipalities to achieve the SDGs. Tools and examples from various countries are provided.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.giz.de/en/downloads_els/Handbook_Agenda%202030.pdf">https://www.giz.de/en/downloads_els/Handbook_Agenda%202030.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Trainer’s Guide for Localizing the SDGs</b> (Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments, UNDP and UN-Habitat, multiple years)</p>	<p>This guide provides information on the SDGs to local and regional governments – and their organizations or networks – and equips them with a series of strategies, skills and knowledge to localize the Goals. The material is provided in the framework of learning sessions in order to encourage participatory and group work and promote the exchange of ideas and experiences. Available in English, Spanish and/or Portuguese.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="https://www.local2030.org/library/view/348">https://www.local2030.org/library/view/348</a> (Learning Module 1, 2017)</li> <li>● <a href="https://www.local2030.org/library/view/595">https://www.local2030.org/library/view/595</a> (Learning Module 2: Territorial planning to achieve the SDGs, 2019)</li> <li>● <a href="https://www.local2030.org/library/view/712">https://www.local2030.org/library/view/712</a> (Learning Module 3: Reporting to national and local review, 2019)</li> </ul>

<p><b>Towards the Localization of the SDGs</b> (Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), multiple years)</p>	<p>This series of annual reports to the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) reviews the state of localization around the world.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <a href="https://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/report_localization_hlpf_2020.pdf">https://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/report_localization_hlpf_2020.pdf</a> (2020)</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/towards_the_localization_of_the_sdgs_0.pdf">https://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/towards_the_localization_of_the_sdgs_0.pdf</a> (2019)</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Towards_the_Localization_of_the_SDGs.pdf">https://www.gold.uclg.org/sites/default/files/Towards_the_Localization_of_the_SDGs.pdf</a> (2018)</li> <li>• <a href="https://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/localgov_report_localizations-dg_hlpf.pdf">https://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/localgov_report_localizations-dg_hlpf.pdf</a> (2017)</li> </ul>
<p><b>The OGP Local initiative</b> (Open Government Partnership)</p>	<p>This initiative provides a platform for local governments and civil society partners across the world to come together to make their governments more open, inclusive and responsive, modeling the values and principles of the Open Government Declaration and processes.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.opengovpartnership.org/ogp-local/">https://www.opengovpartnership.org/ogp-local/</a></p>
<p><b>Online Voluntary Local Review (VLR) Lab</b> (Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES))</p>	<p>This online platform provides a range of information on cities and regions taking a lead on Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs).</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.iges.or.jp/en/projects/vlr">https://www.iges.or.jp/en/projects/vlr</a></p>
<p><b>Free, Prior and Informed Consent (FPIC). An Indigenous peoples' right and a good practice for local communities</b> (FAO, 2019)</p>	<p>This e-learning course focuses on how to practically operationalize Indigenous peoples' right to free, prior and informed consent throughout all stages of a project cycle. It is primarily intended for professionals directly engaged in the development and implementation of projects involving Indigenous peoples. Available in English, French and Spanish.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=500">https://elearning.fao.org/course/view.php?id=500</a></p>



# Participating in law reform for SDG16+ implementation

*Law reform is essential in order to achieve some of the SDG16+ targets and to create an enabling environment that supports overall SDG16+ implementation*

## Overview

Law reform (or legal reform) is the process of analyzing current laws and advocating for and carrying out changes to them, usually with the aim of enhancing justice or efficiency. There are four main methods of reforming the law: (a) repeal (removal or reversal of a law); (b) creation of new law; (c) consolidation (combination of several laws into one); and (d) codification (collection and systematic arrangement, usually by subject, of the laws of a state or country).

Law reform is essential in order to achieve specific SDG16+ targets such as targets 10.3 and 16.b, which explicitly call for law reform.<sup>90</sup> Depending on the country, law reform may also be needed to repeal discriminatory laws against women and girls (SDG target 5.1), prosecute human and child trafficking (SDG targets 8.7 and 16.2), protect labour rights (SDG target 8.8), prosecute bribery and corruption (SDG target 16.5) and ensure freedom of information (SDG target 16.10). Law reform is also essential to create an enabling legal framework and environment to support overall SDG16+ implementation. For example, law reform can be used to ensure that non-governmental stakeholders can provide input into public policies and laws related to peace, justice and inclusion. It can also be used to ensure that there is transparency in government decision-making processes and budget allocations related to SDG16+ implementation.

The process for law reform will vary from country to country. In some cases, law reform will be led by the executive branch of government. In other cases, members of the parliament or legislature will have the power to propose laws, either due to the legislature's own law-making powers or through a private members' bill. In most countries, once a draft law is tabled for consideration by the legislature, it will be referred to a specific legislative committee for review.<sup>91</sup> As part of its review process, a legislative committee may organize public hearings or consultations to allow civil society and other stakeholders to provide feedback on the draft law before it is revised and presented in the legislature for final approval and adoption.



<sup>90</sup> Target 10.3 states "Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard", while target 16.b states "Promote and enforce non-discriminatory laws and policies for sustainable development". United Nations (2015). *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. General Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/1. Available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

<sup>91</sup> For example, a law on organized crime may be referred to the law and justice committee.

## Putting it into practice

Civil society actors wishing to engage in law reform as a means to advance peaceful, just and inclusive societies should consider taking the following actions:

1. **Compare SDG16+ targets with existing laws to identify inconsistencies and gaps** – Do existing laws support or impede the achievement of certain SDG16+ targets? Do all people benefit from the protection of existing laws, or are certain groups excluded based on characteristics such as gender, age, race, ethnicity, migratory status or disability? Are there gaps in existing laws such that new laws are needed to achieve greater peace, justice or inclusion? Your SDG16+ gap analysis should help you to identify potential areas for law reform and prioritize them.

### TIP:



Anti-discrimination acts, bills of rights and constitutional protections for certain groups can often be used as a basis to challenge and reform discriminatory laws.

2. **Raise awareness of existing laws in relation to SDG16+** – You should raise awareness of existing laws and rights among citizens, including how they positively or negatively impact the advancement of peaceful, just and inclusive societies. By raising awareness, you are more likely to be successful in gathering support for your proposals for law reform. Awareness-raising efforts can target general members of the population as well as those in positions of power, such as members of the government, legislature and judiciary.



3. **Engage with relevant ministries and legislators** –

The most common avenue for pursuing law reform is by working with the relevant ministries within the executive branch of government, which are responsible for law reform. It may also be possible to work with individual legislators with the power to change laws. To engage, you should:

- a. Determine how the law-making process works and which body within the government or legislature is responsible for actually drafting laws. Often, one ministry will be responsible for a particular SDG16+ issue, while another ministry will be responsible for legislative drafting; in such cases, it is important to work with both ministries;
- b. Educate and lobby key ministers, legislators and other government officials on why law reform is needed in relation to your SDG16+ issue;
- c. Offer technical advice or support to the ministry, legislator or office responsible for legislative drafting to develop a proposal for law reform. Support may include providing research and analysis of proposed laws, or providing a draft law or model laws from other jurisdictions, which can be adapted to your local context;
- d. Offer practical support to the ministry, legislator or office responsible for legislative drafting to undertake or facilitate public consultations to inform the draft law; and
- e. Once a draft law is tabled in the legislature for consideration, participate in any public hearings or consultations on the law by making oral or written submissions to the relevant legislative committee.

## Engaging in law reform to advance peaceful, just and inclusive societies



- Consider seeking free or *pro bono* legal assistance from volunteers (e.g. law students or professors), private law firms or international NGOs that have expertise in law reform in relation to your SDG16+ issue.
- Try to engage the ministry or legislator responsible for legislative drafting early in the process so that they will prioritize the draft law and alert you of any opportunities to provide input.
- Consider template laws developed by intergovernmental bodies or NGOs for inspiration for your SDG16+ law reform. For example, ARTICLE 19 provides a model freedom of information bill,<sup>92</sup> while the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) has developed numerous legislative guides on anti-corruption and transnational and organized crime.<sup>93</sup>
- Ensure there are opportunities and support for citizens and other people to participate in law reform, especially vulnerable and marginalized groups affected by your SDG16+ issue.

## Legal empowerment

Legal empowerment enables people to know, use and shape the law in order to secure justice. It is about strengthening the capacity of all people to exercise their rights – either as individuals or as members of a community – and ensuring that the law is available and meaningful to citizens. Legal empowerment places the power of the law in the hands of the people.<sup>94</sup>

Approaches to legal empowerment include legal education, information, advocacy, organizing and mediation. It is often promoted by a frontline community of paralegals who are trained to assist citizens in finding concrete solutions to their justice-related problems. These approaches engage the grassroots level, which is especially important for SDG16+ implementation. They focus not only on achieving a just outcome, but also, crucially, on enabling people to engage in law-related processes. Legal empowerment practitioners do not say, “I will solve this problem for you,” but rather, “I will work with you to solve this problem and give you the knowledge and tools you need to address such problems in the future.”<sup>95</sup>



### CASE STUDY:

## Accelerating Action to Strengthen Afghanistan’s Legal Aid System

### International Legal Foundation

In partnership with the International Legal Foundation (ILF), the government of Afghanistan is seeking to build a more effective and sustainable legal aid system. The partnership will center on implementing Afghanistan’s 2019 Legal Aid Regulation, which provides a roadmap for transforming the current system by increasing its independence, capacity to monitor and evaluate the quality of legal aid services, and ability to expand services nationwide. To date, ILF has implemented a wide range of programs in the country to expand access to legal aid, including working with local police departments to ensure adequate legal representation for detainees, training defense lawyers, and providing quality representation for thousands of Afghans.

To read the full-length version of this case study, visit [www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies](http://www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies)

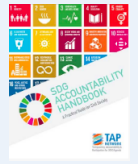
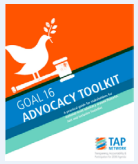
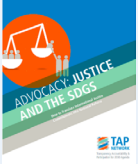
<sup>92</sup> Article 19 (2006). Model freedom of information law. Available at: <https://www.article19.org/resources/model-freedom-of-information-law/>

<sup>93</sup> For more information, see: Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2016). *Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit: A practical guide for stakeholders for national-level advocacy around Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*, p. 29. Available at: <https://tapnetwork2030.org/goal-16-advocacy-toolkit/>

<sup>94</sup> Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2015). *Advocacy: Justice and the SDGs: How to Translate International Justice Commitments into National Reform*, p. 6. Available at: [https://tapnetwork2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/TAP\\_Advocacy\\_JusticeandtheSDGs.pdf](https://tapnetwork2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/TAP_Advocacy_JusticeandtheSDGs.pdf)

<sup>95</sup> Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2015). *Advocacy: Justice and the SDGs: How to Translate International Justice Commitments into National Reform*, p. 7. Available at: [https://tapnetwork2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/TAP\\_Advocacy\\_JusticeandtheSDGs.pdf](https://tapnetwork2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/TAP_Advocacy_JusticeandtheSDGs.pdf)

## Key TAP Network resources:

<p><b>SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society</b> (TAP Network, 2018)</p>	<p>This handbook provides guidance on the different approaches and steps that can be taken by civil society to ensure national government accountability for the SDGs. It includes a chapter on ‘Pursuing Law Reforms, Strategic Litigation and Legal Empowerment.’</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sdgaccountability.org/">https://sdgaccountability.org/</a></p>	
<p><b>Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit</b>(TAP Network, 2016)</p>	<p>This toolkit provides civil society and other non-governmental stakeholders with guidance on how to engage with their governments and other local, regional or international stakeholders to support the planning, implementation, follow-up and accountability of SDG 16. It includes a section on ‘Participating in Law Reform.’</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://tapnetwork2030.org/goal-16-advocacy-toolkit/">https://tapnetwork2030.org/goal-16-advocacy-toolkit/</a></p>	
<p><b>Advocacy: Justice and the SDGs, How to Translate International Justice Commitments into National Reform</b> (TAP Network, 2015)</p>	<p>This toolkit – aimed at civil society, activists and policy practitioners who are working to promote legal empowerment and access to justice – provides a step-by-step guide on how to create a national justice plan.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://tapnetwork2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/TAP_Advocacy_JusticeandtheSDGs.pdf">https://tapnetwork2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/TAP_Advocacy_JusticeandtheSDGs.pdf</a></p>	

## Key resources:

<p><b>The SDG-enabling Law Reform Drive</b> (Legal &amp; Economic Empowerment Global Network (LEEG-net)</p>	<p>This global initiative – launched by a consortium of international law firms – seeks to help developing countries undertake law reforms aimed at enabling effective implementation of the SDGs through their national action plans.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.leeg-net.org/sdgs-enabling-law-reform-drive">https://www.leeg-net.org/sdgs-enabling-law-reform-drive</a></p>
<p><b>Legal Empowerment Network</b> (Namati)</p>	<p>Convened by Namati, the Legal Empowerment Network is the largest community of grassroots justice defenders in the world. It brings together more than 2,400 organizations and 9,000 individuals from over 160 countries, all working to advance justice for all. Membership is open to those who help others to know, use or shape the law.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://namati.org/network/">https://namati.org/network/</a></p>

# Using strategic litigation to advance SDG16+ implementation

*Strategic litigation can be used as a tactic to push governments to implement SDG16+ targets that align with existing national laws or international obligations*

## Overview

‘Strategic litigation’ refers to public interest litigation that seeks to bring about a change in the law – e.g. clarifying, amending or overturning a law – by taking an individual case to court. The plaintiffs involved in strategic litigation cases are typically the victims of human rights or other violations, which are also experienced by other people. Thus, strategic litigation focuses on an individual case in order to bring about systemic change for a larger group of people.

Strategic litigation can be used to review the soundness, legality and constitutionality of public policies, laws and government conduct as it relates to SDG16+ implementation. Successful strategic litigation can result in a ruling by a court of justice that requires the government to take action in favour of more peaceful, just or inclusive societies. This ruling will remain the law of the land unless it is overruled by a higher court or struck down by the legislature. Strategic litigation has resulted in support for the constitutional right to freedom of information (SDG target 16.10). Similarly, anti-corruption advocates have taken cases to court to crack down on campaign financing by private sector donors (SDG target 16.5).<sup>96</sup>



While strategic litigation can be used as a means to advance SDG16+ implementation, it should generally be considered an option of last resort given its high costs, lengthy duration and need for legal expertise. There is also a risk of being unsuccessful or receiving an unfavourable ruling, which could actually impede SDG16+ progress. This risk is more likely to come to fruition in areas of law that are considered controversial – e.g. anti-corruption obligations – or where a case is being heard by a conservative court or one that lacks judicial independence.



<sup>96</sup> Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2016). *Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit: A practical guide for stakeholders for national-level advocacy around Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*, pp. 31-32. Available at: <https://tapnetwork2030.org/goal-16-advocacy-toolkit/>

## Putting it into practice

Strategic litigation can be used as a tactic to push your government to fulfill its commitment to implement SDG16+, where there is an overlap between a SDG16+ target and the national or international law that applies in your country.

For example, the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC) – which has been ratified by nearly every country – can be used to uphold a government’s commitment to end violence against children (SDG target 16.2) given the significant overlap between the provisions of the CRC and SDG target 16.2. Where a government is slow in dedicating resources to end violence against children or where its actions undermine ending violence against children, litigation may be pursued to press the government to fulfill its legal obligations, thus furthering the implementation of target 16.2.

Civil society actors wishing to use strategic litigation as a means to progress SDG16+ implementation should consider taking the following actions:

- 1. Assess whether a specific SDG16+ target is covered by your country’s constitutional, human rights, labour or other laws** – As noted above, it is possible to pursue litigation where SDG16+ commitments overlap with your country’s existing national laws including the constitution. Similarly, it is possible to pursue litigation where your country has ratified an international agreement that overlaps with the provisions of a SDG16+ target.

### TIP:



For assistance in identifying international agreements that overlap with specific SDG16+ targets, you can use the ‘Human Rights Guide to the SDGs’, the ‘SDG – Human Rights Data Explorer’ or the ‘Universal Human Rights Index’ (see the key resources section at the end of this chapter). These online resources allow you to identify links between your government’s human rights and labour standards obligations, and SDG16+ targets.

- 2. Determine whether your government’s actions or failure to act constitute a violation of the law** – You should assess whether your government’s actions have violated an existing law or right that is covered

by SDG16+. In some cases, litigation may be pursued where a law is not being properly implemented or where the government is slow to dedicate resources to implementation. In many cases, it will be open to interpretation as to whether the government is violating the law. Through litigation, the courts will provide clarification and guidance as to how the law should be interpreted.

- 3. Establish whether you have the right to pursue litigation against the government** – In many cases, CSOs, individuals or groups may not have “standing” or the right to pursue litigation against the government unless they can demonstrate direct harm, harm to others who are unable to pursue litigation or they have been granted “standing” under the law.
- 4. Seek professional legal assistance and support** – As noted above, strategic litigation is expensive, time-consuming and often requires the assistance of legal professionals who are trained to conduct litigation. Consequently, if you are interested in pursuing strategic litigation to advance SDG16+ implementation, you should try to identify sources of pro bono or free legal advice.

### TIP:



There are groups who may be willing to provide free advice, such as the American Bar Association (ABA) or the International Development and Law Organisation (IDLO).





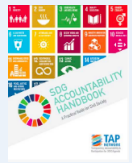
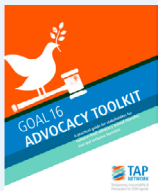
## Challenges to the judicial enforcement of SDG16+<sup>97</sup>

While the judicial enforcement of human rights or labour standards covered by SDG16+ can result in furthering peace, justice or inclusion, pursuing litigation is not without its challenges. Cases may not be able to be taken to court because certain rights are not legally recognized, or because courts lack the power or capacity to resolve certain issues. In many cases, it may be too costly for the people most affected by a given SDG16+ issue – especially those living in poverty – to pursue litigation to advance peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Moreover, in countries where the legal system is corrupt, subject to government influence, or virtually non-existent, litigation may just not be a realistic or viable option for those seeking to further SDG16+ implementation. In summary, although litigation can be a powerful means to achieve greater peace, justice and inclusion, it is paradoxically much more challenging to pursue in countries and contexts where peace, justice and inclusion are lacking.



<sup>97</sup> Adapted from: Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2018). *SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society*, p. 51. Available at: <https://sdgaccountability.org/>

## Key TAP Network resources:

<p><b>SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society</b> (TAP Network, 2018)</p>	<p>This handbook provides guidance on the different approaches and steps that can be taken by civil society to ensure national government accountability for the SDGs. It includes a chapter on ‘Pursuing Law Reforms, Strategic Litigation and Legal Empowerment.’</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sdgaccountability.org/">https://sdgaccountability.org/</a></p>	
<p><b>Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit</b>(TAP Network, 2016)</p>	<p>This toolkit provides civil society and other non-governmental stakeholders with guidance on how to engage with their governments and other local, regional or international stakeholders to support the planning, implementation, follow-up and accountability of SDG 16. It includes a short section on ‘Undertaking Strategic Litigation.’</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://tapnetwork2030.org/goal-16-advocacy-toolkit/">https://tapnetwork2030.org/goal-16-advocacy-toolkit/</a></p>	

## Key resources:

<p><b>The Human Rights Guide to the SDGs</b> (The Danish Institute for Human Rights)</p>	<p>This online database allows users to identify the links between the SDGs or SDG targets and international and regional human rights instruments, labour standards and key environmental instruments (some of which have human rights dimensions).</p> <p><b>Available in seven languages. Available at:</b> <a href="http://sdg.humanrights.dk">http://sdg.humanrights.dk</a></p>
<p><b>The SDG – Human Rights Data Explorer</b> (The Danish Institute for Human Rights)</p>	<p>This online database links recommendations and observations issued by international human rights monitoring mechanisms with the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. Users can search for data by country, human rights mechanism, SDG or SDG target, and specific rights-holder groups. Available in the six official UN languages.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sdgdata.humanrights.dk/en/">https://sdgdata.humanrights.dk/en/</a></p>
<p><b>Universal Human Rights Index (UHRI)</b> (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR))</p>	<p>This online database allows users to search the observations and recommendations of the UN treaty bodies, Special Procedures and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) by country, region, mechanism, human rights theme, concerned persons/groups and SDG target. Available in the six official UN languages.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="http://uhri.ohchr.org/en">http://uhri.ohchr.org/en</a></p>

# Working with parliamentarians

*Parliament’s core functions – lawmaking, budgeting, oversight and representation – can play a key role in advancing the SDG16+ agenda for peaceful, just and inclusive societies*

## Overview

Parliaments can play a key role in supporting SDG16+ implementation, as well as ensuring accountability for commitments to create more peaceful, just and inclusive societies. The 2030 Agenda recognizes “the essential role of national parliaments through their enactment of legislation and adoption of budgets and their role in ensuring accountability for the effective implementation” of commitments.<sup>98</sup> Composed of representatives from different geographical areas or constituencies, national parliaments – or legislatures – generally have the following core functions and responsibilities:

- **Lawmaking** including introducing, amending, repealing and adopting legislation;
- **Budgeting** including debating and passing the national budget;
- **Oversight** of government policies and bodies (especially the executive branch of government) by scrutinizing the conduct and actions of ministers, civil servants and other government actors through questions, inquiries and hearings; and
- **Representing** the interests of citizens and acting as an interface between people and state institutions.<sup>99</sup>

All of these functions can contribute to building peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Most countries require parliamentary approval in order to pass legislation that supports SDG16+ implementation. Notably, several SDG16+ targets or indicators – namely indicator 5.1.1, target 5.c, target 10.3 and target 16.b – explicitly require legislation for their successful implementation. Parliament’s role in analyzing and approving budgets is also crucial in order to ensure adequate allocation of financial resources for SDG16+ implementation. By ensuring transparency and the effective use of financial resources by governments, parliaments also play an important role in combatting corruption in the public sector (SDG target 16.5).

By providing oversight of government implementation of the SDGs, parliaments directly support SDG target 16.6 (effective, accountable and transparent institutions). Their oversight function is also critical for monitoring SDG16+ progress and ensuring overall accountability for SDG commitments. Importantly, parliament’s role in representing the interests and views of citizens – including vulnerable and marginalized groups – is at the heart of SDG target 16.7 (responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making). The gender composition of national parliaments is also one of the key indicators for gender equality (SDG target 5.5).



<sup>98</sup> United Nations (2015). *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. General Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/1, para. 45. Available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

<sup>99</sup> UNDP, Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption and Islamic Development Bank (2017). *Parliament’s Role in Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals: A Parliamentary Handbook*, p. 7. Available at: [https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/democratic-governance/parliamentary\\_development/parliament-s-role-in-implementing-the-sustainable-development-go.html](https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/democratic-governance/parliamentary_development/parliament-s-role-in-implementing-the-sustainable-development-go.html)

## Putting it into practice<sup>100</sup>

There are a number of ways that you can engage with parliaments and parliamentarians to advance the SDG16+ agenda, including the following actions:

- 1. Engage with individual Members of Parliaments (MPs)** – You can seek to meet and build relationships with MPs in order to advance SDG16+. In particular, you can:
  - a. Educate MPs on the SDG16+ agenda and the role they can play to support SDG16+ implementation and accountability** – In addition to meeting with individual parliamentarians to discuss the SDG16+ agenda, you can organize awareness-raising sessions, workshops or roundtables on SDG16+ for groups of parliamentarians;
  - b. Encourage MPs to legislate to support SDG16+ implementation** – For example, you can urge MPs to ensure that current laws are consistent with the aims of SDG16+, as well as to propose or support new legislation that advances specific SDG16+ targets;
  - c. Encourage MPs to review budgets through an SDG16+ lens** – In particular, you can urge MPs to ensure that your country’s annual national budget provides for a sufficient and effective allocation of resources for SDG16+ implementation;
  - d. Encourage MPs to monitor, review and report on progress on SDG16+** – You can encourage MPs to provide regular reports on SDG progress to parliament. You can also urge MPs to use existing parliamentary processes – such as open debates, ‘question time’ or ‘interpellations’<sup>101</sup> – to question government ministers on the implementation of the SDGs and to draw attention to particular SDG16+ issues; and
  - e. Urge MPs to take into account the interests, needs and views of vulnerable and marginalized groups** – You can urge MPs to ensure that the views and situations of those furthest behind are considered in carrying out legislative, budgetary, oversight and representation functions.

### TIP: Engaging with individual Members of Parliament (MPs):



- Seek to engage with MPs on SDG16+ as early as possible in their term – ideally within their first year of office – in order to maximize impact in the long-term.
- Build positive relationships with the staff of MPs, who play a key role in organizing their day-to-day calendars and may influence their policy and legislative priorities.
- Seek to engage with MPs from all political parties. Governments change and MPs in opposition can often become influential ministers within only a few years.
- Ensure that MPs have the power to put your SDG16+ recommendations into action.
- Create champion MPs for SDG16+ who will be influential in advancing the agenda.

<sup>100</sup> Adapted from: Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2018). *SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society*, pp. 24-27. Available at: <https://sdgaccountability.org/>

<sup>101</sup> In many countries, the national legislature will have a process that enables any legislator to ask a question of a minister on any issue they choose. In parliamentary systems, this is known as “Question Time,” whereas in other systems the process involves what are called “interpellations.” See: Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2016). *Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit: A practical guide for stakeholders for national-level advocacy around Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*, p. 26. Available at: <https://tapnetwork2030.org/goal-16-advocacy-toolkit/>

**2. Engage with parliamentary committees and working groups** – You can seek to engage with parliamentary committees – both permanent standing and ad hoc committees – that address SDG16+ issues. As a starting point, you should determine whether there is a dedicated committee or working group on the SDGs, as well as which committees address particular SDG16+ issues as part of their formal mandates.<sup>102</sup> To engage, you can:

- a. Educate committees on SDG16+ through information sessions and workshops;
- b. Encourage influential parliamentary committees to focus on SDG16+ issues;
- c. Provide briefings, feedback and/or oral or written submissions to parliamentary committees overseeing or reviewing SDG16+ implementation; and
- d. Offer technical advice and expertise on SDG16+ issues.

**TIP:**



You can also support the creation of informal cross-party mechanisms – such as parliamentary friendship groups – to focus on specific SDG16+ issues or targets.<sup>103</sup>

**3. Participate in parliamentary hearings and inquiries** – You can provide oral or written submissions to public hearings and inquiries on SDG16+ implementation, follow-up and review.<sup>104</sup> Parliamentary committees often have the power to call public hearings to gather citizens' views on implementation, as well as to call on government officials to provide information on the impact of their policies.<sup>105</sup> Public hearings can also offer a mechanism for parliaments to receive citizens' input on draft or existing legislation in relation to a particular SDG16+ issue, especially from vulnerable and marginalized groups.<sup>106</sup>

**4. Connect citizens and parliamentarians** – Given that 'inclusion' is at the heart of SDG16+, you can also assist in bridging the gap between parliamentarians and citizens. Facilitating regular dialogue between citizens and parliamentarians can help to advance SDG16+ by providing local insights on implementation, which can help identify gaps and weaknesses that may not be apparent in general government reports or national statistics.<sup>107</sup> Efforts to connect citizens and parliamentarians can include organizing lobbying campaigns (including letter-writing campaigns), arranging constituent visits in parliamentarians' electorates or districts, supporting citizen participation in parliamentary hearings and inquiries, and hosting local forums where citizens and parliamentarians can discuss SDG16+ issues.

**TIP: Innovative ways to engage parliaments: Using technology to put SDG16+ into practice**



There are innovative ways to engage with parliamentarians in order to advance SDG16+, including through the use of digital platforms such as social media and mobile and SMS technology. Many parliaments are adopting the use of digital technologies as a low-cost way to reach citizens in certain geographic locations or who lack the means to participate in parliamentary processes in-person.<sup>108</sup> The use of these technologies is increasingly common as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. Digital technologies can be effectively used by CSOs and citizens alike to offer direct feedback to parliamentarians on SDG16+ implementation and review, provide comments on draft legislation, and submit letters or questions to elected representatives in a public forum.

<sup>102</sup> Many parliaments will already have established committees that oversee SDG16+ issues, such as law and justice committees, and committees that address specific vulnerable and marginalized groups such as women, children, indigenous peoples etc.

<sup>103</sup> In many countries, issues-based legislative "friendship groups" exist within legislatures, bringing cross-party groups of legislators together around a particular cause. See: Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2016). *Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit: A practical guide for stakeholders for national-level advocacy around Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*, p. 31. Available at: <https://tapnetwork2030.org/goal-16-advocacy-toolkit/>

<sup>104</sup> In relation to follow-up and review, the 2030 Agenda recognizes the role of national parliaments in supporting processes for regular and inclusive reviews of progress at the national and subnational levels. See: United Nations (2015). *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. General Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/1, para. 79. Available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

<sup>105</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) (2016). *Parliaments and the Sustainable Development Goals: A self-assessment toolkit*, p. 12. <https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/handbooks/2017-01/parliaments-and-sustainable-development-goals-self-assessment-toolkit>

<sup>106</sup> For example, the South African 'Children in Action' project enables children's participation in parliamentary hearings and public debates. See: UNDP (2017). *Institutional and Coordination Mechanisms: Guidance Note on Facilitating Integration and Coherence for SDG Implementation*, p. 11. Available at: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2478Institutional\\_Coordination\\_Mechanisms\\_GuidanceNote.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/2478Institutional_Coordination_Mechanisms_GuidanceNote.pdf)

<sup>107</sup> Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) and United Nations Development Program (UNDP) (2016). *Parliaments and the Sustainable Development Goals: A self-assessment toolkit*, p. 12. <https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/handbooks/2017-01/parliaments-and-sustainable-development-goals-self-assessment-toolkit>

<sup>108</sup> The Open Government Partnership (2015). *Open Government Guide*, p. 233. Available at: <https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/>



**CASE STUDY:**

## Ensuring Institutional Memory of SDG Work through Relationship-Building Efforts with National Parliamentarians

### SDG Accountability Handbook

In June 2017, Sierra Leone Coalition 2030, a civil society alliance for the SDGs, held a capacity-building retreat with 25 MPs. The training targeted the most strategic figures in parliamentary work on the SDGs: members of the informal Parliamentary Action Group on the SDGs and parliamentary leadership, including the Deputy Speaker and the Majority Leader. In order to maintain institutional memory beyond the electoral term, the training also engaged parliamentary clerks. The participants expressed the need to gain more knowledge on the SDGs in order to better carry out their representation, oversight and monitoring functions. In addition to providing technical capacity, the training was used as an opportunity to develop a memorandum of understanding for continuous engagement between the civil society alliance and members of the Parliamentary Action Group on the SDGs.<sup>109</sup>

To read the full-length version of this case study, visit [www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies](http://www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies)



## Key TAP Network resources:

<p><b>Mainstreaming SDG 16: Using the Voluntary National Review to Advance More Peaceful, Just and Inclusive societies</b> (Global Alliance and TAP Network, 2020)</p>	<p>This resource provides policy guidance, case studies and good practices on advancing SDG 16 implementation at national and subnational levels by more effectively leveraging the Voluntary National Review (VNR) and post-VNR processes. It contains a chapter on ‘The Role of Parliament and Parliamentary Committees.’</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive">https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive</a></p>	
<p><b>SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society</b> (TAP Network, 2018)</p>	<p>This handbook provides guidance on the different approaches and steps that can be taken by civil society to ensure national government accountability for the SDGs. It includes a chapter on ‘Mobilizing Parliamentarians.’</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sdgaccountability.org/">https://sdgaccountability.org/</a></p>	

<sup>109</sup> open-gov-guide\_summary\_all-topics1.pdf Together 2030. Engaging Parliaments, p. 34. <https://www.together2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Engaging-parliaments-on-the-2030-Agenda-and-the-SDGs.pdf>

## Key resources:

<p><b>Engaging parliaments on the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs: representation, accountability and implementation – a handbook for civil society</b> (Together 2030 et al., 2018)</p>	<p>This handbook aims to provide guidance to civil society organizations on how to engage with parliaments and parliamentarians to promote, support and track the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. The full version is available in English. Abbreviated versions are available in English, French and Spanish.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.together2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Engaging-parliaments-on-the-2030-Agenda-and-the-SDGs.pdf">https://www.together2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/Engaging-parliaments-on-the-2030-Agenda-and-the-SDGs.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Parliaments and the Sustainable Development Goals: A self-assessment toolkit</b> (Inter-Parliamentary Union and UNDP, 2016)</p>	<p>This self-assessment toolkit provides parliaments with the framework to evaluate their readiness to engage on the SDGs. It seeks to help parliamentarians identify good practices, opportunities and lessons learned on how to institutionalize and mainstream the SDGs into the legislative process. Available in 13 languages.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/toolkits/2017-01/parliaments-and-sustainable-development-goals-self-assessment-toolkit">https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/toolkits/2017-01/parliaments-and-sustainable-development-goals-self-assessment-toolkit</a></p>
<p><b>Parliament's Role in Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals: A Parliamentary Handbook</b> (UNDP, Global Organization of Parliamentarians Against Corruption and Islamic Development Bank, 2017)</p>	<p>This handbook is designed to be an easy-to-use resource to help parliamentarians and parliamentary staff members play an effective role in implementing the SDGs. It introduces the 2030 Agenda and lists good practices and tools from around the world that can be adapted to different national contexts. Available in English, Arabic and Russian.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/democratic-governance/parliamentary_development/parliament-s-role-in-implementing-the-sustainable-development-go.html">https://www.undp.org/content/undp/en/home/librarypage/democratic-governance/parliamentary_development/parliament-s-role-in-implementing-the-sustainable-development-go.html</a></p>
<p><b>Institutionalization of the SDGs in the Work of Parliaments</b> (Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), 2019)</p>	<p>This short brief – based on responses from 89 parliaments to a global survey sent by the IPU in 2018 – outlines how parliaments are engaging with and institutionalizing the SDGs.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.ipu.org/sites/default/files/documents/final_-_survey_analysis_updated_feb_14_2019_edited-e.pdf">https://www.ipu.org/sites/default/files/documents/final_-_survey_analysis_updated_feb_14_2019_edited-e.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Global Parliamentary Report 2017 – Parliamentary oversight: Parliament's power to hold government to account</b> (Inter-Parliamentary Union and UNDP, 2017)</p>	<p>This report – based on contributions from over 150 parliaments – offers in-depth research and analysis on the current state of parliamentary oversight and ways to strengthen it. It provides examples of how parliaments and MPs carry out oversight in their countries, tips for MPs and recommendations on strengthening parliamentary oversight. Available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Serbian.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/reports/2017-10/global-parliamentary-report-2017-parliamentary-oversight-parliaments-power-hold-government-account">https://www.ipu.org/resources/publications/reports/2017-10/global-parliamentary-report-2017-parliamentary-oversight-parliaments-power-hold-government-account</a></p>

# Working with national budget processes

*National budgets are a government's most powerful economic tool to meet the needs of its people and essential to both SDG16+ implementation and accountability*

## Overview

The national budget is a financial statement presenting the government's proposed revenues and spending for a specific period of time – usually a year – which is often passed by the legislature, approved by the head of government and presented by the finance minister to the nation. National budgets are a government's most powerful economic tool to meet the needs of its people, especially those most at risk of being left behind. As a political expression of the decisions of the executive government to raise revenues and allocate public resources, it is an integral part of national development strategies, with wide-reaching impacts across both the economy and society.<sup>110</sup> In most countries, the budget process occurs in the following four stages: budget formulation; budget approval; budget execution; and budget oversight.

National budgets are fundamental to advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies. The most well-intentioned public policies and plans for SDG16+ implementation will have little impact unless they are matched with sufficient public resources for effective implementation. Budget systems that are transparent, inclusive and monitored through strong independent oversight institutions are at the heart of SDG target 16.6 (effective, accountable and transparent institutions)<sup>111</sup> and the best way to manage public funds efficiently and equitably. Conversely, a lack of transparency and limited public participation and oversight in budgeting processes undermine fiscal

discipline, reduce the efficiency of public services and create opportunities for corruption (undermining SDG target 16.5) and other leakages.

Budgets are also critical to translate SDG16+ commitments on inclusion and non-discrimination into concrete action. For example, gender-responsive budgeting tools can be used to ensure that women and girls receive an equitable proportion of the national budget to meet their needs and rights. Budget-based approaches to tackle discrimination include conducting targeted interventions, mainstreaming public services, and monitoring the impact of budget programs on specific groups of the population who are at risk of being left behind.<sup>112</sup>

Ideally, all countries should link or align their national budgets to the SDGs – including SDG16+ – in order to ensure that public spending reflects sustainable development priorities.<sup>113</sup> While some countries are in the process of incorporating SDG programs into their budget planning processes and aligning their budgets with the SDGs,<sup>114</sup> national efforts to link budget processes with the SDGs have, thus far, been limited in both developed and developing countries.<sup>115</sup>

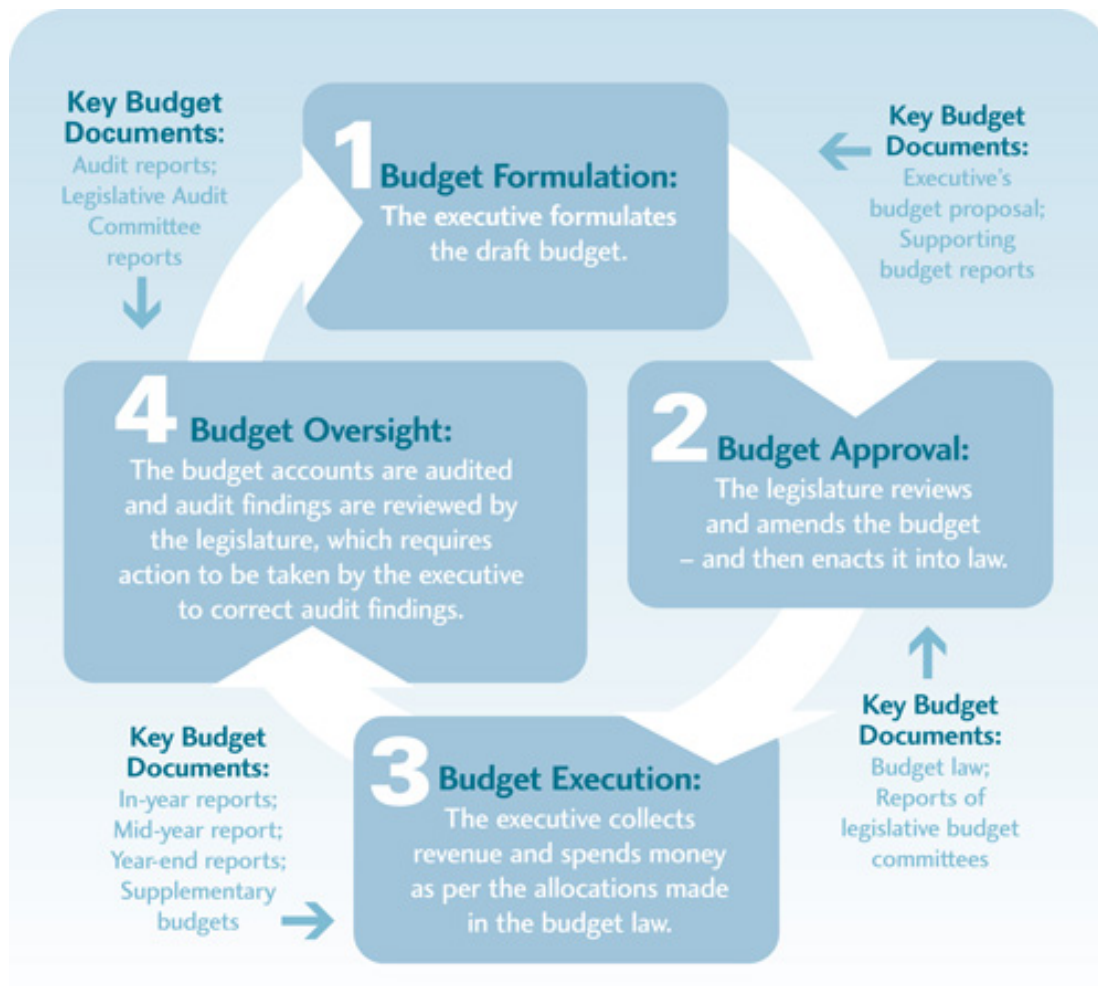


110 OECD (2019). *Governance as an SDG Accelerator: Country Experiences and Tools*, p. 40. Available at: <https://www.sdg16hub.org/system/files/2020-08/ocde%20sdg%20accelerators.pdf>  
 111 Notably, one of the official global indicators for SDG target 16.6 focuses on the degree to which governments implement their budgets as planned. Specifically, global indicator 16.6.1 focuses on "primary government expenditures as a proportion of original approved budget, by sector (or by budget codes or similar)".  
 112 UN DESA (2019). *Sustainable Development Goal 16: Focus on public institutions, World Public Sector Report 2019*, p. xvii. Available at: <https://publicadministration.un.org/en/Research/World-Public-Sector-Reports>  
 113 United Nations (2019). *Report of the Secretary-General on SDG Progress 2019: Special Edition*, p. 35. Available at: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24978Report\\_of\\_the\\_SG\\_on\\_SDG\\_Progress\\_2019.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24978Report_of_the_SG_on_SDG_Progress_2019.pdf)  
 114 UN DESA (2019). *Compendium of National Institutional Arrangements for implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, p. 9. Available at: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/25839Compendium\\_of\\_National\\_Institutional\\_Arrangements.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/25839Compendium_of_National_Institutional_Arrangements.pdf)  
 115 United Nations (2019). *Report of the Secretary-General on SDG Progress 2019: Special Edition*, p. 32. Available at: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24978Report\\_of\\_the\\_SG\\_on\\_SDG\\_Progress\\_2019.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24978Report_of_the_SG_on_SDG_Progress_2019.pdf)



## Participatory budgeting to support SDG16+ implementation<sup>116</sup>

Participatory budgeting is a decision-making process in which citizens and community members work closely with their government to determine how part of the public budget is spent. It is a reflection of both SDG targets 16.6 (effective, accountable and transparent institutions) and 16.7 (responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making). Through participatory budgeting, citizens can prioritize spending on public resources and influence local or national policy, making it an innovative and powerful tool for inclusive, participatory and accountable governance. Starting in Brazil in 1989, more than 1,500 participatory budgets have been implemented globally. In Indonesia, for example, where the SDGs are integrated into national and subnational development planning, the “Village Law,” enacted in 2014 has opened up the possibility for participatory budgeting in the country’s 74,000+ villages. This law mandates the central government to provide a specific amount of funding to villages to finance their own development based on local need and priorities.



<sup>116</sup> Adapted from: The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies and Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2020). *Mainstreaming SDG 16: Using the Voluntary National Review to Advance More Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*, p. 42. Available at: <https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive>

## Putting it into practice

CSOs can play a critical role in government budget processes for SDG16+ implementation and accountability. They can inform the decision-making process to ensure that public resources for SDG16+ implementation are sufficient and being used effectively, and they can monitor the actual execution of budget policies and programs to hold governments accountable.<sup>117</sup> In seeking to engage in the budget process, you should consider taking the following actions:

- 1. Encourage your government to align its national budget with the SDGs** – Linking national budgets with the SDGs – including SDG16+ – is important in order for civil society and other stakeholders to be able to assess and monitor public spending on SDG16+ implementation.
- 2. Advocate for budget information to be open, transparent, accessible and disaggregated** – You can use the Open Budget Survey to assess your government's level of budget transparency.<sup>118</sup> Depending on its status, you can urge your government to make publicly available those documents that they already produce for internal use.<sup>119</sup> You can also urge your government to provide disaggregated budget and expenditure data – including by sex – in order to improve the tracking of spending in relation to the SDGs, including SDG16+.<sup>120</sup>
- 3. Urge your government to support public participation in the budget process** – You can also use the Open Budget Survey to assess your government's support for public participation in the budget process. Inclusive public participation is crucial for realizing the positive outcomes associated with greater budget transparency.<sup>121</sup> You can urge your government to provide formal opportunities for citizens and civil society to meaningfully participate in the different stages of the budget process.

- 4. Build the capacity of citizens and civil society to participate in the budget process** – Depending on your level of expertise, you can help to strengthen citizens' and civil society's capacity to engage with budgets by fostering budget literacy.<sup>122</sup> When people have access to budget information, coupled with the skills and opportunities to participate in the budget process, the resulting engagement between government and citizens can lead to substantive improvements in both governance and service delivery.



117 International Budget Partnership (2011). *Guide to Transparency in Government Budget Reports: How Civil Society Can Use Budget Reports for Research and Advocacy*. Available at: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/guide-to-transparency-in-government-budget-reports-how-civil-society-can-use-budget-reports-for-research-and-advocacy/>

118 The Open Budget Survey is the world's only independent, comparative and fact-based research instrument that uses internationally accepted criteria to assess public access to central government budget information; formal opportunities for the public to participate in the national budget process; and the role of budget oversight institutions such as the legislature and auditor in the budget process. For more information, see: International Budget Partnership. *Open Budget Survey*. Available at: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/open-budget-survey>

119 Claire Schouten and John Hendra (2017). *Open the Books: Why We Need to Open Budgets and Doors to Budgetary Engagement to Achieve the Sustainable Development Goals*. Available at: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/2017/09/open-budgets-to-achieve-sustainable-development-goals/>

120 The 2017 session of the ECOSOC's Forum on Financing for Sustainable Development (FFD) Follow-up recognized "the importance of better disaggregation of budget and expenditure data at the national and subnational levels, including by sex, to improve tracking of spending related to the Sustainable Development Goals and efforts to improve gender equality, accountability and transparency." Cited in: Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2018). *SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society*, p. 20. Available at: <https://sdgaccountability.org/>

121 International Budget Partnership. *Open Budget Survey*. Available at: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/open-budget-survey>

122 Budget literacy is 'the ability to read, decipher, and understand public budgets to enable and enhance meaningful citizen participation in the budget process'. "Masud, Harika et al. (2017). *International Practices to Promote Budget Literacy: Key Findings and Lessons Learned*. World Bank. Available at: <https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/26956>

## 5. Participate in each phase of the budget process through the following actions:

### a. Budget formulation stage:<sup>123</sup>

- i. Analyze pre-budget statements or reports and publicize recommendations to try to influence the budget before any final decisions are made. If you do not have access to these documents, you can draw on evidence generated from analyses of previous budgets to advocate for your SDG16+ budget proposals;
- ii. Gather information on the public's budget needs and priorities for SDG16+ implementation and use this information, along with your own budget analysis and monitoring, to communicate SDG16+ priorities to the executive government; and
- iii. Seek to influence the Executive's Budget Proposal<sup>124</sup> including by engaging with advisory committees and participating in any public hearings or consultations.

### b. Budget approval stage:<sup>125</sup>

- i. Advocate for your SDG16+ issue(s) – especially in the media given that attention is often the greatest at this stage – by providing independent analyses of the Executive's Budget Proposal;
- ii. Participate in any legislative deliberations on the proposed budget, such as hearings, inquiries and legislative debates, in order to influence the budget; and
- iii. Analyze the revenue and expenditure policies being proposed from an SDG16+ perspective and provide this analysis to legislators to help them more clearly understand the SDG16+ issues related to the budget and make better decisions.<sup>126</sup>

### c. Budget execution stage:<sup>127</sup>

- i. Advocate to the government to issue regular public reports on the status of revenues and expenditures during the year, so you can monitor the flow of funds;
- ii. Analyze whether the government is executing the budget as planned, in line with SDG indicator 16.6.1. You can draw on national budget documents, as well as Public Expenditure and Financial Accountability data and the World Bank's BOOST data to check if your government is executing the budget as planned;
- iii. Use in-year reports and mid-year reviews, which convey actual spending figures versus budget allocations, to monitor whether funds allocated to specific SDG16+ projects have actually been used for the intended purpose; and
- iv. Assess the quality of spending by using budget information and verifying the end result of a project to see if the SDG16+ policy goals associated with the budget allocation are being met, and if government funds are being used effectively.

<sup>123</sup> International Budget Partnership (2017). *Making the Most of the Budget Cycle: The Budget Formulation Stage*. Available at: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/2017/02/making-budget-cycle-budget-formulation-stage/>

<sup>124</sup> The Executive's Budget Proposal is the government's major statement on fiscal issues for the coming budget year.

<sup>125</sup> International Budget Partnership (2017). *Making the Most of the Budget Cycle: The Budget Approval Phase*. Available at: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/2017/06/making-budget-cycle-budget-approval-phase/>

<sup>126</sup> CSOs' expert analyses and testimony can influence the budget debate, highlight important issues about the impact of budget proposals related to SDG16+ implementation on poor or marginalized communities, and even build the capacity of legislatures to analyze budgets and improve the quality of budget hearings and reports.

<sup>127</sup> International Budget Partnership (2017). *Making the Most of the Budget Cycle: The Budget Execution Stage*. Available at: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/2017/08/making-budget-cycle-budget-execution-stage/>

**d. Budget oversight.**<sup>128</sup>

- iii. Use audit reports to assess how well or poorly the budget has been implemented, and to potentially uncover fraud, unauthorized or unsubstantiated expenditures, or systemic weaknesses in financial management practices;
- iv. Engage with oversight bodies to report on issues of public concern related to SDG16+ implementation and to help identify potential areas for audits;
- v. Engage in participatory audits to collect, collate and distribute information on SDG16+ implementation, hold a public hearing or discussion on audit findings and recommendations, and follow up with responsible agencies or actors; and
- vi. Engage the media and other accountability actors to report on audit findings and recommendations related to SDG16+ implementation.

**CASE STUDY:**

***Aligning Strategic Frameworks and Engaging Budget Officials***<sup>129</sup>


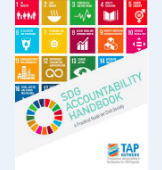
**SDG Accountability Handbook**

The implementation of the SDGs in Tanzania falls under the Five-Year Development Plan II (FYDP II) framework, requiring local authorities to integrate the Goals in their strategic plans. To ensure local authorities were familiar with the SDGs and aligned the FYDP II with their strategies, the Local Governance Working Group of Policy Forum, an NGO Network, developed a policy brief and engaged with the Parliamentary Committee for Administration and Local Government. The brief focused on the Ministry of Regional Administration and Local Government (PO-RALG), analyzing budget allocation trends in relation to the implementation progress of SDGs, particularly Goal 3 (good health and wellbeing) and Goal 4 (quality education). Through their engagement, the Policy Forum was able to identify champions to promote the SDG agenda during parliamentary discussions and also organize a strategic session with PO-RALG management to advance better SDG and FYDP II alignment.<sup>130</sup>

To read the full-length version of this case study, visit [www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies](http://www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies)



**Key TAP Network resources:**

<p><b>Mainstreaming SDG 16: Using the Voluntary National Review to Advance More Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies</b> (Global Alliance and TAP Network, 2020)</p>	<p>This resource provides policy guidance, case studies and good practices on advancing SDG 16 implementation at national and subnational levels by more effectively leveraging the Voluntary National Review (VNR) and post-VNR processes. It discusses national budgets, including how they can be aligned with the SDGs.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive">https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive</a></p>	
<p><b>SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society</b> (TAP Network, 2018)</p>	<p>This handbook provides guidance on the different approaches and steps that can be taken by civil society to ensure national government accountability for the SDGs. It includes a chapter on ‘Utilizing National Budgets or National Public Finance Systems.’</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sdgaccountability.org/">https://sdgaccountability.org/</a></p>	

<sup>128</sup> International Budget Partnership (2017). *Making the Most of the Budget Cycle: The Budget Oversight Stage*. Available at: <https://www.internationalbudget.org/2018/04/making-budget-cycle-budget-oversight-stage/>

<sup>129</sup> TAP Network 2030 (2019). *SDG Accountability Handbook*. Section: “Connecting with Designated Government SDG Bodies and Ministries” pg. 23.

<sup>130</sup> Policy Forum, case study (2018).

## Key resources:

<p><b>'Guides and Toolkits'</b> (International Budget Partnership)</p>	<p>These guides and toolkits aim to provide accessible, practical guidance for understanding and applying skills, tools and methodologies for budget analysis, monitoring and advocacy.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.internationalbudget.org/capacity-building/guides-toolkits/">https://www.internationalbudget.org/capacity-building/guides-toolkits/</a></p>
<p><b>'Publications and Resources'</b> (International Budget Partnership)</p>	<p>This section of the website of the International Budget Partnership allows users to search for budget-related publications by keyword, country and subject.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.internationalbudget.org/library/publications/">https://www.internationalbudget.org/library/publications/</a></p>
<p><b>The Open Budget Index</b> (International Budget Partnership)</p>	<p>This index is the world's only independent, comparative measure of central government budget transparency. It is based on the Open Budget Survey, which assesses the amount and timeliness of budget information that governments make publicly available in eight key budget documents in accordance with international good practice standards.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.sdg16hub.org/node/1035">https://www.sdg16hub.org/node/1035</a></p>
<p><b>Our Money, Our Responsibility: A Citizens' Guide to Monitoring Government Expenditures</b> (International Budget Project, 2008)</p>	<p>This guide offers an overview of government budget implementation processes and provides practical, tested tools that can be used by civil society organizations interested in monitoring government expenditures. Available in English, French, Spanish, Russian, Chinese and Bahasa Indonesian.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/our-money-our-responsibility-a-citizens-guide-to-monitoring-government-expenditures/">https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/our-money-our-responsibility-a-citizens-guide-to-monitoring-government-expenditures/</a></p>
<p><b>A Guide to Budget Work for NGOs</b> (International Budget Partnership, 2001)</p>	<p>This guide provides a comprehensive description of the basic principles of applied budget work, examples of useful resources and best practices. It provides a systematic overview of the different aspects of effective budget analysis, with an emphasis on the activities and approaches a NGO might want to undertake in its initial years of budget work. Available in English, French, Spanish, Arabic and Russian.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/a-guide-to-budget-work-for-ngos/">https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/a-guide-to-budget-work-for-ngos/</a></p>
<p><b>Guide to Transparency in Government Budget Reports: How Civil Society Can Use Budget Reports for Research and Advocacy</b> (International Budget Partnership, 2011)</p>	<p>This guide provides essential information on how civil society organizations can use, and have used, the eight key budget reports that their government should be making available throughout the budget process for research and advocacy purposes. Available in English, French, Spanish, Portuguese and Arabic.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/guide-to-transparency-in-government-budget-reports-how-civil-society-can-use-budget-reports-for-research-and-advocacy/">https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/guide-to-transparency-in-government-budget-reports-how-civil-society-can-use-budget-reports-for-research-and-advocacy/</a></p>

<p><b>Sustainable Development Goal 16: Focus on public institutions: World Public Sector Report 2019</b> (UN DESA, 2019)</p>	<p>This report examines national-level developments in relation to several concepts of SDG 16, including access to information, transparency, accountability, anti-corruption, inclusiveness of decision-making processes and non-discrimination. It includes a detailed chapter on how budget processes can be harnessed to better support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://publicadministration.un.org/en/Research/World-Public-Sector-Reports">https://publicadministration.un.org/en/Research/World-Public-Sector-Reports</a></p>
<p><b>Tracking Spending on the Sustainable Development Goals: What Have We Learned from the Millennium Development Goals?</b> (International Budget Partnership, 2017)</p>	<p>This brief explores good practices and lessons learned from monitoring government budgets and expenditure on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) that can assist with monitoring, reporting, and accountability in respect of the SDGs. It features summaries of case studies from 11 countries.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/tracking-spending-sustainable-development-goals/">https://www.internationalbudget.org/publications/tracking-spending-sustainable-development-goals/</a></p>
<p><b>The Contribution of Participatory Budgeting to the Achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals: Lessons for policy in Commonwealth countries</b> (Yves Cabannes, 2019)</p>	<p>This paper explores the potential of participatory budgeting for contributing to the achievement of the SDGs. It looks at how participatory budgeting is contributing to the achievement of SDG 16 and provides specific recommendations for action, based on innovative practice examples from around the world, highlighting how practice across diverse local authorities could be used to monitor SDG target 16.7.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.researchgate.net/publication/335948749_The_contribution_of_participatory_budgeting_to_the_achievement_of_the_Sustainable_Development_Goals_lessons_for_policy_in_Commonwealth_countries">https://www.researchgate.net/publication/335948749_The_contribution_of_participatory_budgeting_to_the_achievement_of_the_Sustainable_Development_Goals_lessons_for_policy_in_Commonwealth_countries</a></p>
<p><b>'Participatory Budgeting'</b> (The Engine Room, 2017)</p>	<p>This resource introduces the concept of participatory budgeting and provides an overview of the opportunities and challenges that the implementation of such a model can bring. It presents examples of governments that have conducted participatory budgeting processes successfully and includes examples of tools and platforms that they have used. Available in English, Spanish and Portuguese.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://library.theengineroom.org/participatory-budgeting/">https://library.theengineroom.org/participatory-budgeting/</a></p>
<p><b>Participatory Budgeting</b> (World Bank, 2007)</p>	<p>This book provides an overview of the principles underlying participatory budgeting. It analyzes the merits and demerits of participatory budgeting practices around the world with a view to guiding policy makers and practitioners on improving such practices in the interest of inclusive governance. It includes five regional surveys and seven country case studies. Available in English and Chinese.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/635011468330986995/participatory-budgeting">https://documents.worldbank.org/en/publication/documents-reports/documentdetail/635011468330986995/participatory-budgeting</a></p>



**IV. ACCOUNTABILITY  
FOR SDG 16+**

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## Social audits, community score cards and citizen report cards

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*By localizing SDG 16 oversight mechanisms and creating pathways for citizens to monitor progress towards the SDGs from local to global levels, stakeholders can obtain more reflective data to measure progress in reaching marginalized communities while fostering ownership and promoting local delivery of the SDGs in the process*

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### Overview

In order to realize peaceful, just and inclusive societies and ensure that no one is left behind, it is crucial that all SDG16+ processes, particularly effective accountability processes, are inclusive, developing from the ground up. In other words, accountability for SDG16+ must be “localized” at the subnational and local level for a meaningful and inclusive realization of the 2030 Agenda.<sup>131</sup> By localizing SDG 16 oversight mechanisms and creating pathways for citizens to monitor progress towards the SDGs from local to global levels, stakeholders can obtain more reflective data to measure progress in reaching marginalized communities while fostering ownership and promoting local delivery of the SDGs in the process.<sup>132</sup>

CSOs should engage with communities and facilitate their direct connection to local authorities to ensure that the SDGs actually deliver for communities. Informal or “claimed” spaces are opportunities for dialogue that are brokered by civil society or communities rather than government. There are several powerful tools for social accountability that CSOs and other actors can initiate at the grassroots level. These approaches typically serve to gather crucial evidence about local-level service delivery and mobilize the political power of local communities to press local authorities for improvements.<sup>133</sup>



<sup>131</sup> Localization in this context refers to the “process of taking into account subnational contexts in the achievement of the 2030 Agenda, from the setting of goals and targets, to determining the means of implementation and using dictators to measure and monitor progress.”

Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (2016): Roadmap for Localizing the SDGs: Implementation and Monitoring at the Subnational Level. p. 6.

<sup>132</sup> World Vision (2015). Policy Report, Grassroots to Global: Seven Steps to Citizen-Driven Accountability for the Sustainable Development Goals. [https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/Grassroots%20to%20Global\\_Report\\_FINAL.pdf](https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/Grassroots%20to%20Global_Report_FINAL.pdf)

<sup>133</sup> TAP Network (2019), SDG Accountability Handbook p. 30-31



## Putting it into practice

These tools and mechanisms include:

- **Conduct social audits – This is a means by which communities and CSOs measure the degree to which services and local development projects have the staff and inputs required under local law.**<sup>134</sup> Public or social audits help measure the effectiveness of local development projects and their degree of inclusive participation.<sup>135</sup> Given the politicized nature of SDG 16 targets, social audits are particularly effective for SDG 16 initiatives and help increase accountability for actors in promoting transparency and developing a culture of a right to information. They also can contain potential corruption and encourage local CSOs to present their grievances.<sup>136</sup>
- **Facilitate community score cards – This is a mechanism through which citizens monitor the quality of community-based public services through focus groups – particularly marginalized groups**–to measure the degree to which services are meeting the criteria defined by communities themselves.<sup>137</sup> Communities and CSOs might measure their satisfaction or investigate how a service is performing for a particularly marginalized group. These results correspond directly to SDG indicator 16.6.2 (Proportion of population satisfied with their last experience of public services).<sup>138</sup> A community score card aims to advance the quality, efficiency and accountability of services at the micro and local levels through mutual dialogue that engages both service users and service providers.<sup>139</sup> It helps “both sides to come together, identify the reasons for feeble services and find out solutions for the problems identified.”<sup>140</sup>
- **Conduct citizen report cards – These participatory local-level surveys are designed to help clarify community opinions about certain types of service delivery.** A citizen report card provides a channel to provide feedback to

government offices after evaluating citizens’ direct experiences, observations, and feelings through a participatory survey method.<sup>141</sup> Citizen report cards play a critical role in making sure that information is received about the services being delivered and are citizen- and result-oriented. Policy makers can listen to citizens’ demands to influence policy and budgets, transforming personal grievances and problems into collective action.

When deployed strategically, social accountability approaches to evaluate initiatives for peaceful, just and inclusive societies can lead to important impacts on development outcomes at the local level.<sup>142</sup> Social accountability evidence facilitates constructive and evidence-based dialogue about citizens’ experience. CSOs can work within their community and with other organizations to monitor services across whole regions, aggregate evidence, and press for more systemic change. This type of “vertical integration” is particularly important for creating the kind of grassroots-to-global accountability needed in the context of the SDGs.<sup>143</sup>

Rather than replacing official sources, these approaches complement them and reveal patterns in public service and project delivery that official statistics might hide, particularly the perspective of marginalized communities.<sup>144</sup> Given the complementary character of this type of data, the capacity of census bureaus should be strengthened to include it in official reports so that civil society can contribute critical evidence that helps improve decision making and accelerates SDG progress.<sup>145</sup> This requires greater investment from actors at all levels, particularly donors, implementation actors, and public officials, for greater investment at the subnational and grassroots levels to empower communities to support SDG accountability.<sup>146</sup>

<sup>134</sup> TAP Network (2019), SDG Accountability Handbook p, 30-31

<sup>135</sup> World Vision (2015), Policy Report, Grassroots to Global: Seven Steps to Citizen-Driven Accountability for the Sustainable Development Goals.

<sup>136</sup> World Bank (2018): World Bank Sourcebook: 21 Social Accountability Tools <http://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/en/513571468059674130/pdf/718040WP00PUBL0ebook0English0Final0.pdf>

<sup>137</sup> World Bank (2018): World Bank Sourcebook: 21 Social Accountability Tools

<sup>138</sup> TAP Network (2019), SDG Accountability Handbook p, 30-31

<sup>139</sup> Care Community scorecards [https://www.care.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/FP-2013-CARE\\_CommunityScoreCardToolkit.pdf](https://www.care.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/FP-2013-CARE_CommunityScoreCardToolkit.pdf)

<sup>140</sup> World Bank (2018): World Bank Sourcebook: 21 Social Accountability Tools

<sup>141</sup> World Bank (2018): World Bank Sourcebook: 21 Social Accountability Tools

<sup>142</sup> TAP Network (2019), SDG Accountability Handbook p, 30-31

<sup>143</sup> TAP Network (2019), SDG Accountability Handbook p, 30-31

<sup>144</sup> World Vision (2015), Policy Report, Grassroots to Global: Seven Steps to Citizen-Driven Accountability for the Sustainable Development Goals.

<sup>145</sup> World Vision (2015), Policy Report, Grassroots to Global: Seven Steps to Citizen-Driven Accountability for the Sustainable Development Goals.

<sup>146</sup> World Vision (2015), Policy Report, Grassroots to Global: Seven Steps to Citizen-Driven Accountability for the Sustainable Development Goals.



**CASE STUDY:**

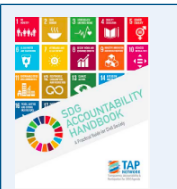
***Training Citizen Monitors to Safeguard Community Development***

**Integrity Action**

Integrity Action worked with partner organization Kwale Youth and Governance Consortium to implement their citizen monitoring approach in Kwale, Kenya. Citizens from the community were selected with the approval of the whole community and trained using Integrity Action’s resources and approach. Trained monitors were able to gain the tools to oversee the delivery of local projects and services, compare what was promised with what was delivered, report it publicly on Integrity Action’s app DevelopmentCheck and then work with those responsible to get the issues addressed for the benefit of the community. The training and skills have allowed the monitors to feel more confident, benefit their community and be proactive to ensure that services and projects are delivered as promised.

To read the full-length version of this case study, visit [www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies](http://www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies)

**Key TAP Network resource:**

<p><b>SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society</b> (TAP Network, 2018)</p>	<p>This handbook provides guidance on the different approaches and steps that can be taken by civil society to ensure accountability for the SDGs. For more on localized accountability measures, see the chapter: ‘Engaging Local Authorities.’</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sdgaccountability.org/">https://sdgaccountability.org/</a></p>	
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**Key resources**

<p><b>Grassroots to Global: Seven Steps to Citizen-Driven Accountability for the Sustainable Development Goals, Policy Report</b> (World Vision, 2015)</p>	<p>This publication provides detailed implementation instructions for the use of social accountability tools to engage local authorities.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/513571468059674130/pdf/718040WP00PUBL0ebook0English0Final0.pdf">http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/513571468059674130/pdf/718040WP00PUBL0ebook0English0Final0.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Citizen Voice and Action: World Vision’s Approach to Social Accountability</b></p>	<p>Produced by World Vision, this publication contextualizes and applies its social accountability approach in more than 40 countries with positive results.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/CVA_Field_Guide_0.pdf">https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/CVA_Field_Guide_0.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>World Bank Sourcebook: 21 Social Accountability Tools</b></p>	<p>The sourcebook provides detailed implementation instructions for the use of social accountability tools to engage local authorities.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/513571468059674130/pdf/718040WP00PUBL0ebook0English0Final0.pdf">http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/513571468059674130/pdf/718040WP00PUBL0ebook0English0Final0.pdf</a></p>

<p><b>CARE Community Score Card</b></p>	<p>The CARE Community Score Card serves as the basis of much of the social accountability work of the past two decades.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.care.org/sites/default/files/documents/FP-2013-CARE_CommunityScoreCardToolkit.pdf">https://www.care.org/sites/default/files/documents/FP-2013-CARE_CommunityScoreCardToolkit.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Open Knowledge Repository</b></p>	<p>The World Bank’s Open Knowledge Repository provides more information about grievance redress mechanisms.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/20117">https://openknowledge.worldbank.org/handle/10986/20117</a></p>
<p><b>Social Audits: A Toolkit – A Guide for Performance Improvement and Outcome Measurement</b> (Centre for Good Governance)</p>	<p>Learn more about social audits in the Centre for Good Governance’s report, Social Audits: A Toolkit – A Guide for Performance Improvement and Outcome Measurement.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/cgg/unpan023752.pdf">http://unpan1.un.org/intradoc/groups/public/documents/cgg/unpan023752.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Rapid Feedback: The Role of Community Scorecards in Improving Service Delivery</b> (GAC)</p>	<p>Learn more about how to develop effective community scorecards in Rapid Feedback: The Role of Community Scorecards in Improving Service Delivery.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/462221468333561977/pdf/884970WP0Rapid00Box385225B00PUBLIC0.pdf">http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/462221468333561977/pdf/884970WP0Rapid00Box385225B00PUBLIC0.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Making citizen-centered accountability last: time, money, partners, motivation; Integrity Action research report.</b> (McDevitt, A. and Zinnbauer, D., 2021)</p>	<p>This report outlines learning on how different kinds of citizen-centered accountability (CCA) systems – including citizen monitoring, social audits, mobile-based feedback systems and procurement monitoring – can be designed so that they have the greatest chance of being sustained.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://integrityaction.org/media/16126/making-citizen-centred-accountability-last-integrity-action-research-report.pdf">https://integrityaction.org/media/16126/making-citizen-centred-accountability-last-integrity-action-research-report.pdf</a></p>



# Producing and supporting citizen-generated data

*Citizen-generated data can offer a more complete and accurate picture of progress (or lack thereof) towards peaceful, just and inclusive societies*

## Overview

Citizen-generated data are “data that people or their organisations produce to directly monitor, demand or drive change on issues that affect them.”<sup>147</sup> A form of non-official data,<sup>148</sup> citizen-generated data may be quantitative or qualitative and may be produced through a range of means including research, social audits, crowd-sourcing online platforms, mobile phone and SMS surveys, social media, storytelling and community radio. Citizen-generated data include both data produced directly by citizens or CSOs – such as Transparency International’s Global Corruption Barometer<sup>149</sup> – and data translated by citizens or CSOs from publicly available (open) data sets – such as Publish What You Fund’s Aid Transparency Index.<sup>150</sup>

Data generated by citizens and CSOs – especially survey-based perception and experiential data – are important for SDG16+ accountability as they can offer a more complete and accurate picture of progress towards peaceful, just and inclusive societies. They can complement official sources of data, fill gaps in existing data and/or supplement official reporting when the quality, availability or impartiality of official data on SDG16+ is insufficient or questionable. Importantly, citizen-generated data can help to leave no one behind by ensuring that people’s perspectives and experiences – especially marginalized

communities and population groups often overlooked by official data collection processes<sup>151</sup> – are documented and taken into account in monitoring progress on peace, justice and inclusion.

Despite being more than five years into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, significant gaps remain in official data on SDG 16 due to methodological issues, limited resources and the limited capacity of national statistical offices (NSOs) to collect data.<sup>152</sup> The politically sensitive nature of certain SDG16+ targets may also play a role in dissuading some governments from prioritizing the production of SDG16+ data.<sup>153</sup> In light of these and other challenges, citizen-generated data can make a valuable contribution to tracking progress towards peaceful, just and inclusive societies. As long as the methodologies to produce citizen-generated data are as robust and open to public scrutiny as those used to produce official data, citizen-generated data should be considered as valid and credible as official data.



<sup>147</sup> CIVICUS. DataShift. Available at: <http://civicus.org/thedatashift/>

<sup>148</sup> Non-official data are data produced by non-governmental actors such as research institutions, academia, the private sector, CSOs or citizens themselves.

<sup>149</sup> Transparency International. ‘Global Corruption Barometer’. Available at: <https://www.transparency.org/en/gcb>

<sup>150</sup> Publish What You Fund. ‘The Aid Transparency Index’. Available at: <https://www.publishwhatyoufund.org/the-index/>

<sup>151</sup> For example, many SDG16+ methodologies are State and citizen-centered, and thus leave out people without citizen status, including the estimated 3.1 million asylum seekers, 25.4 million refugees, and 3.8 million plus stateless people worldwide. The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (2019). *Enabling the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through SDG 16+: Anchoring peace, justice and inclusion*, p. 35. Available at: <https://www.un-globalalliance.org/sdg16-report>

<sup>152</sup> SDG16 Data Initiative (2019). *SDG16 Data Initiative 2019 Global Report*, p. 4. Available at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FuVb6Bd1mUdBnjWK18ytmDnyu3H8vgcB/view>

<sup>153</sup> The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies and Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2020).

*Mainstreaming SDG 16: Using the Voluntary National Review to Advance More Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*, p. 73. Available at: <https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive>

## Putting it into practice

There are a number of ways that you can promote, support and/or produce citizen-generated data on SDG16+ including the following:

1. **Advocate to Member States, NSOs and UN custodian agencies<sup>154</sup> to officially recognize and accept citizen-generated data as a valid source of data to monitor SDG progress<sup>155</sup>** – For example, you can urge these stakeholders to include citizen-generated data alongside official data in global, national and local monitoring of and reporting on SDG16+ implementation.
2. **Engage in partnerships with official and non-official data actors** – You can seek to establish strategic partnerships in relation to data collection on SDG16+, both with NSOs as well as other key actors such as NHRIs, academia or the private sector. For example, data generated by civil society can be validated and used by NSOs<sup>156</sup>, while NSOs may be able to provide resources and tools that can assist civil society actors to collect data and improve the quality, comparability and usefulness of those data. Greater collaboration among data actors – both official and non-official – can help to address critical gaps in SDG16+ data.
3. **Promote and support basic data literacy** – SDG16+ data in itself may not be meaningful without skilled data users who can understand and translate complex information into simple messages for a broader set of actors engaged in SDG16+ implementation and/or accountability. You can promote and support basic data literacy for information intermediaries ('info-mediaries') such as the media, social media users, civil society groups and citizens. Data literacy skills include digging, collecting, cleaning, analyzing, visualizing and communicating data to the public and decision-makers.

## 4. Produce and support the production of citizen-generated data on SDG16+ – You can generate data or support others to do so by:

- a. Providing financial support and other resources to build the capacity of civil society actors and citizens to collect, process and analyze data on SDG16+, including disaggregated data;
- b. Working with vulnerable and marginalized groups – especially women, youth, children, Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, ethnic, linguistic and religious minorities, refugees and migrants, and internally displaced and stateless persons – to engage in SDG16+ data collection and analysis;
- c. Documenting and sharing tools, protocols, and other strategies to generate data on SDG16+ with other civil society initiatives;<sup>157</sup>
- d. Adopting a human rights-based approach to SDG16+ data collection (see Box X); and
- e. Taking the following factors into consideration in seeking to produce data on SDG16+:
  - i. **Data-gathering methodology** – Is the methodology clear and consistent, and does it conform with the basic principles of a human rights-based approach to data?
  - ii. **Types of measurement** – What are the types of measurement used and how can they be aligned with SDG data-gathering efforts?
  - iii. **Verification of data** – Can the data be adequately verified in accordance with key principles of data validation and verification?
  - iv. **Digital divide** – Is there a risk of creating a 'digital divide' if the data are generated through internet-based or Information and Communication Technology (ICT) applications?
  - v. **Capacity building** – Are there measures in place to ensure adequate data and methodological literacy of those collecting the data?<sup>158</sup>

154 Custodian agencies are the United Nations bodies (and in some cases, other international organizations) responsible for compiling and verifying country data and metadata, and for submitting the data, along with regional and global aggregates, to the United Nations Statistics Division (UNSD). For more information, see: United Nations. 'Roles and responsibilities of SDG monitoring and reporting'. Available at: <https://www.sdgmonitoring.org/activities/roles-and-responsibilities/>

155 The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies and Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2020). *Mainstreaming SDG 16: Using the Voluntary National Review to Advance More Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*, p. 73. Available at: <https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive>

156 The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies and Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2020). *Mainstreaming SDG 16: Using the Voluntary National Review to Advance More Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*, pp. ix-x. Available at: <https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive>

157 Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, Open Knowledge International and Public Data Lab (2018). *Advancing Sustainability Together? Citizen-generated data and the Sustainable Development Goals*, p. 5. Available at: <https://www.data4sdgs.org/resources/advancing-sustainability-together-citizen-generated-data-and-sustainable-development>

158 Danish Institute for Human Rights (2017). *Human Rights and Data*, pp. 39-40. Available at: <https://www.humanrights.dk/publications/human-rights-data>

## *A human rights-based approach to data*<sup>159</sup>

In general, all data collection on the SDGs – including SDG16+ – should be guided by the Human Rights-Based Approach to Data (HRBAD) developed by the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

The HRBAD guidance highlights the following principles:

- **Participation** – Data collection processes should ensure the free, active and meaningful participation of relevant stakeholders, including vulnerable and marginalized groups.
- **Data Disaggregation** – Data should be disaggregated by key characteristics identified in international human rights law in order to compare population groups and understand the situation of specific groups.
- **Self-identification** – Population groups should be self-defining, and individuals should have the option to disclose, or withhold, information about their personal characteristics. Data collection should not create or reinforce discrimination, bias or stereotypes.
- **Transparency** – Those collecting data should provide clear, openly accessible information about the process. Data collected by the State should be openly accessible to the public.
- **Privacy** – Data disclosed by individuals should be protected and kept private, and the confidentiality of individuals' responses and personal information should be maintained.
- **Accountability** – Those collecting data are accountable for upholding human rights in their processes. Data should be used to hold States and other actors accountable for human rights.

### **CASE STUDY:**

## *Focusing on Corruption in Rwanda to Assist in Achieving the SDGs*


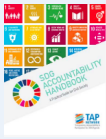

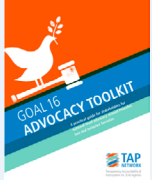
### **Transparency International**

Starting in 2018, Transparency International (TI) Rwanda supported national efforts to produce the country's 2019 VNR. From the beginning, TI Rwanda was keen to emphasize the linkages between corruption and the SDGs, and so it produced a scoping study on the effect of corruption on national efforts to meet SDGs 1, 3, 4, 5, 8 and 13. While corruption was relatively high on the national agenda, key SDG implementers in line ministries were not sufficiently sensitized to the risks that corruption posed to the country's targets under the 2030 Agenda. To address this issue, TI developed a comprehensive approach intended to (1) produce evidence that corruption hinders progress towards national development goals; (2) identify innovative mechanisms to mitigate corruption risks in SDG implementation; and (3) track the effectiveness of these measures over time jointly with SDG implementers.

To read the full-length version of this case study, visit [www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies](http://www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies)

<sup>159</sup> Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) (2018). *A Human Rights-Based Approach to Data: Leaving No One Behind in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/GuidanceNoteonApproachtoData.pdf>

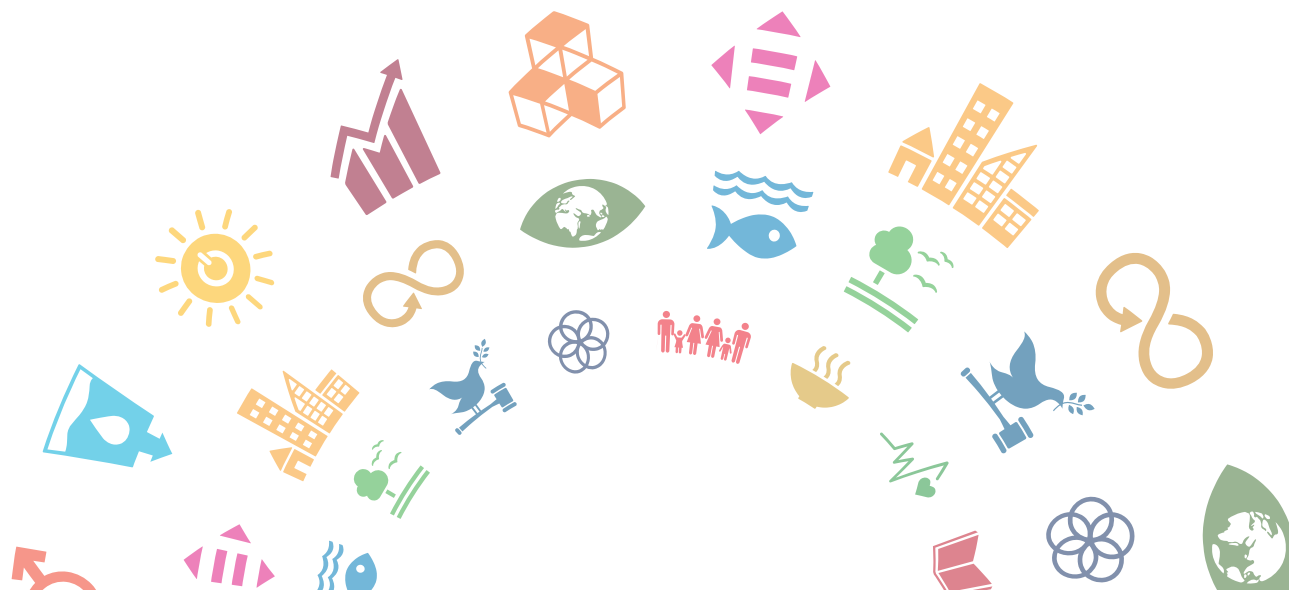
## Key TAP Network resources:

<p><b>Mainstreaming SDG 16: Using the Voluntary National Review to Advance More Peaceful, Just and Inclusive societies</b> (Global Alliance and TAP Network, 2020)</p>	<p>This resource provides policy guidance, case studies and good practices on advancing SDG 16 implementation at national and subnational levels by more effectively leveraging the Voluntary National Review (VNR) and post-VNR processes. It contains a chapter on 'Data and Statistics through Official and Unofficial Sources.'</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive">https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive</a></p>	
<p><b>SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society</b> (TAP Network, 2018)</p>	<p>This handbook provides guidance on the different approaches and steps that can be taken by civil society to ensure national government accountability for the SDGs. It includes a chapter on 'Using and Improving Data.'</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sdgaccountability.org/">https://sdgaccountability.org/</a></p>	
<p><b>Expanding the Data Ecosystem: The role of "Non-Official" Data for SDG Monitoring and Review</b> (TAP Network, 2017)</p>	<p>This advocacy paper discusses the role of "non-official" data providers in SDG monitoring and review. It presents challenges to overcome between national statistical offices and civil society, and recommendations for doing so.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://tapnetwork2030.org/sdg-goal-16-indicators/">https://tapnetwork2030.org/sdg-goal-16-indicators/</a></p>	
<p><b>Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit</b> (TAP Network, 2016)</p>	<p>This toolkit provides civil society and other non-governmental stakeholders with guidance on how to engage with their governments and other local, regional or international stakeholders to support the planning, implementation, follow-up and accountability of SDG 16. It includes a section on 'Collecting and Using Citizen-Generated Data.'</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://tapnetwork2030.org/goal-16-advocacy-toolkit/">https://tapnetwork2030.org/goal-16-advocacy-toolkit/</a></p>	

# SDG 16

## Key resources:

<p><b>The DataShift initiative</b> (CIVICUS)</p>	<p>An initiative of CIVICUS – in collaboration with numerous partners – to build the capacity and confidence of CSOs to produce and use citizen-generated data to monitor sustainable development progress, demand accountability and campaign for transformative change. Research, analysis and other resources on citizen-generated data are provided.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.civicus.org/thedatashift/">https://www.civicus.org/thedatashift/</a></p>
<p><b>Making Use of Citizen-Generated Data</b> (DataShift Initiative, CIVICUS, 2017)</p>	<p>This resource explores how citizen-generated data can be leveraged to support the tracking of progress on the SDGs. It draws upon existing research and case studies to explain what citizen-generated data are, their importance and how they are impacting practice on SDG-related issues. Practical ways to leverage citizen-generated data for SDG monitoring and accountability are also outlined.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.data4sdgs.org/resources/making-use-citizen-generated-data">https://www.data4sdgs.org/resources/making-use-citizen-generated-data</a></p>
<p><b>Choosing and engaging with citizen-generated data: A guide</b> (Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data, Open Knowledge International and Public Data Lab, 2018)</p>	<p>This guide – aimed at stakeholders interested in developing, engaging with and supporting citizen-generated data (CGD) initiatives – seeks to help you understand if CRD is suitable for your proposed project, as well as what type of data is needed. It presents a list of distinction criteria between CGD methods, highlights the benefits and pitfalls of CGD, and provides a basis for strategic engagement with CGD. Available in English and Spanish.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.data4sdgs.org/resources/choosing-and-engaging-citizen-generated-data-guide">https://www.data4sdgs.org/resources/choosing-and-engaging-citizen-generated-data-guide</a></p>
<p><b>A Human Rights-Based Approach to Data: Leaving No One Behind in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</b> (OHCHR, 2018)</p>	<p>This note provides guidance on a human rights-based approach to data, with a focus on data collection and data disaggregation. A set of principles, recommendations and good practices are outlined in relation to a number of data-related issues.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/GuidanceNoteonApproachtoData.pdf">https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/GuidanceNoteonApproachtoData.pdf</a></p>





# Working with official data on SDG16+

*High-quality, accessible, timely, disaggregated and open data and statistics are essential in order to measure and monitor progress towards peaceful, just and inclusive societies*

## Overview

Unlike citizen-generated data, official data on the SDGs – including SDG16+ – are produced by national statistical offices (NSOs) and other institutions and administrations responsible for producing official statistics. Official data are normally gathered from formal government processes such as censuses, surveys (including household and population surveys), administrative records and expert assessments. In some cases, they may be gathered from ‘big data,’ using multiple sources of complex data sets. Ideally, all official data should be ‘open data,’ meaning that they are freely available for everyone to access, use and republish as they wish, without restrictions from copyright, patents or other mechanisms of control.<sup>160</sup> In addition to supporting overall accountability for the SDGs, ensuring that all official data are ‘open’ directly supports SDG target 16.10 on public access to information.

High-quality, accessible, timely, disaggregated and open official data and statistics are essential in order to measure progress on the SDGs, including SDG16+. While governments need data to make informed decisions related to SDG16+ implementation, both government and non-governmental stakeholders – including civil society actors – need data to monitor progress towards peaceful, just and inclusive societies, especially for the groups that are the furthest behind. Evidence shows that monitoring

and reporting are critical to driving action.<sup>161</sup> When countries invest in measuring progress on SDG16+, greater effort is made to ensure actual progress towards peace, justice and inclusion.<sup>162</sup>

## Putting it into practice

There are a number of ways that you can work with official data to support and promote accountability for SDG16+ commitments, including the following:

1. **Advocate for official data on the SDGs to be open and publicly accessible** – Depending upon the context, you can urge your government to do one or all of the following:<sup>163</sup>
  - a. Make a strong public commitment to open data on the SDGs;
  - b. Identify and begin to publish some public information on SDG16+ as open data;
  - c. Develop a government-wide policy on open data, through an inclusive process, that sets standards for how the government will manage and release information on the SDGs, including SDG16+;
  - d. Create public listings of all government data related to SDG16+ targets;
  - e. Establish new legal rights for the public to access government data on the SDGs;
  - f. Proactively engage with and support data users to access data on SDG16+; and
  - g. Require that open data commitments apply to all organizations handling public data.



<sup>160</sup> Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2018). *SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society*, p. 62. Available at: <https://sdgaccountability.org/>

<sup>161</sup> The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies and Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2020).

*Mainstreaming SDG 16: Using the Voluntary National Review to Advance More Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*, p. 74. Available at: <https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive>

<sup>162</sup> Oslo Governance Centre (2020). *Oslo Governance Centre 2019 Annual Report*, p. 9. Available at: <https://www.undp.org/content/oslo-governance-centre/en/home/library/2019-Oslo-Governance-Centre-Annual-Report.html>

<sup>163</sup> Adapted from: The Open Government Partnership (2015). *Open Government Guide*, pp. 200-215. Available at: [https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/open-gov-guide\\_summary\\_all-topics1.pdf](https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/open-gov-guide_summary_all-topics1.pdf)

Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2018). *SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society*, p. 63. Available at: <https://sdgaccountability.org/>

2. **Advocate for greater investment in NSOs to produce data to measure SDG16+** – Given the significant gaps in official data on SDG 16,<sup>164</sup> you can urge national and international stakeholders to invest more – both financially and in terms of capacity building – in NSOs to produce official data and statistics to measure peace, justice and inclusion.
3. **Encourage the use of experiential or perception-based surveys to measure SDG16+ progress in official data collection** – Data that measures the perceptions and experiences of citizens is essential to assess progress on SDG16+, since many issues related to governance, peace, security and human rights require asking people what they think or what they have experienced.<sup>165</sup> You can encourage your government to add additional questions to existing national household or other surveys as a cost-effective and efficient method for gathering data on a range of SDG16+ issues.<sup>166</sup>
4. **Use existing publicly available data to monitor SDG16+ progress** – There are numerous resources and publications that you can use that provide official statistics and data on SDG16+ progress (see the key resources in this section for more information). For example, the SDG16 Data Initiative produces an annual report evaluating global progress towards realizing peaceful, just and inclusive societies based on both official and non-official data.<sup>167</sup>
5. **Engage in the development of national indicators to measure SDG16+ progress** – The selection of indicators – at both global and national levels – is critical in determining how SDG16+ progress will be measured and what issues will be prioritized for action. National indicators for SDG16+ targets should be developed to reflect what *should* be measured, rather than just relying on existing data.<sup>168</sup> Ideally, there will be a process for national indicator development that provides for input from civil society actors. Where this is not the case, you can seek to engage with your NSO to ensure that national indicators accurately reflect the full scope of SDG16+ targets within your country’s context.

**TIP:**



In engaging with your NSO on the development of indicators for SDG16+, you can highlight examples from other countries where SDG16+ targets are being effectively measured and the indicators and methodologies developed to do so.<sup>169</sup>



164 SDG16 Data Initiative (2019). *SDG16 Data Initiative 2019 Global Report*, p. 4. Available at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1FuVB6Bd1mUdBnjWK18ytmdnyu3H8vgc8/view>  
 165 The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (2019). *Enabling the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through SDG 16+: Anchoring peace, justice and inclusion*, p. 56. Available at: <https://www.un-globalalliance.org/sdg16-report>  
 166 The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (2019). *Enabling the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through SDG 16+: Anchoring peace, justice and inclusion*, p. 56. Available at: <https://www.un-globalalliance.org/sdg16-report>  
 167 SDG16 Data Initiative (2020). *SDG16DI 2020 Global Report*. Available at: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TuSISe7KJCMU1UXCTAqfVvgm8Q0hf2BJ/view>  
 168 Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2016). *Goal 16 Advocacy Toolkit: A practical guide for stakeholders for national-level advocacy around Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*, p. 36. Available at: <https://tapnetwork2030.org/goal-16-advocacy-toolkit/>  
 169 Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2015). *Advocacy: Justice and the SDGs: How to Translate International Justice Commitments into National Reform*, p. 51. Available at: [https://tapnetwork2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/TAP\\_Advocacy\\_JusticeandtheSDGs.pdf](https://tapnetwork2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/TAP_Advocacy_JusticeandtheSDGs.pdf)



## CASE STUDY





### Supporting Open and Quality Data for 2030 Agenda Commitments

#### Data Republica

[Data Republica](#), Ceipei, is a digital platform focused on mapping sources related to the SDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean, strengthening capacity development and fostering content dissemination to build up the relationship between data and sustainable development. It was created because open and quality data has become increasingly necessary for the design of public policies oriented to reach 2030 Agenda commitments. The platform aims to be a tool for sustainable development advocates eager to follow-up on the implementation progress of the SDGs. Data Republica works to offer a data lab for sustainable development actors, which allows to consult and analyze associated data sources to the SDGs, outline their relationships, write sustainable development narratives and offer capacity development tools.

To read the full-length version of this case study, visit [www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies](http://www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies).

## Key TAP Network resources:

<p><b>Mainstreaming SDG 16: Using the Voluntary National Review to Advance More Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies</b> (Global Alliance and TAP Network, 2020)</p>	<p>This resource provides policy guidance, case studies and good practices on advancing SDG 16 implementation by more effectively leveraging the Voluntary National Review (VNR) and post-VNR processes. It contains a chapter on ‘Data and Statistics through Official and Unofficial Sources.’</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive">https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive</a></p>	
<p><b>SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society</b> (TAP Network, 2018)</p>	<p>This handbook provides guidance on the different approaches and steps that can be taken by civil society to ensure national government accountability for the SDGs. It includes a chapter on ‘Using and Improving Data.’</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sdgaccountability.org/">https://sdgaccountability.org/</a></p>	
<p><b>Making them Count: Using indicators and data to strengthen accountability for the SDGs</b> (Saferworld, TAP Network, UNDP and the SDG16 Data Initiative, 2016)</p>	<p>This note draws upon a consultation workshop held in December 2016, which focused on whether and how the indicators and data linked to the SDGs could strengthen accountability on issues of peace, justice, governance and human rights.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="http://tapnetwork2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/SDG-16-Making-them-Count-Workshop-Summary.pdf">http://tapnetwork2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/SDG-16-Making-them-Count-Workshop-Summary.pdf</a></p>	
<p><b>SDG (Goal 16) Data Indicators</b> (TAP Network, multiple years)</p>	<p>This section of the TAP Network’s website provides resources on the issue of data and the development of indicators for SDG 16.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="http://tapnetwork2030.org/our-work/sdg-goal-16-indicators/">http://tapnetwork2030.org/our-work/sdg-goal-16-indicators/</a></p>	

## Key resources:

<p><b>Handbook on Governance Statistics</b> (The Praia Group on Governance Statistics, 2020)</p>	<p>This Handbook – primarily targeted towards national statistical agencies – provides a foundation for the development of international statistical guidance and standards for eight dimensions of governance: non-discrimination and equality; participation; openness; access to and quality of justice; responsiveness; absence of corruption; trust; and safety and security. It is intended as a guide for those wishing to understand, produce and analyze governance statistics.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.sdg16hub.org/content/praiia-group-handbook-governance-statistics">https://www.sdg16hub.org/content/praiia-group-handbook-governance-statistics</a></p>
<p><b>Governance Statistics in the COVID-19 era: A Praia City Group Guidance Note</b> (2020)</p>	<p>This guidance note builds on the recommendations of the ‘Handbook on Governance Statistics,’ examining eight dimensions of governance from the perspective of COVID-19. It serves as an executive summary of the previous handbook and provides practical measurement advice and some recommended indicators, including on SDG 16.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.sdg16hub.org/content/governance-statistics-covid-19-era-praiia-city-group-guidance-note">https://www.sdg16hub.org/content/governance-statistics-covid-19-era-praiia-city-group-guidance-note</a></p>
<p><b>The Sustainable Development Goal indicators</b> (United Nations)</p>	<p>The United Nations’ official website for information on the development and implementation of an indicator framework for the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda. There is information on: the Inter-agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs); the High-level Group for Partnership, Coordination and Capacity-Building for statistics for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (HLG-PCCB); the SDG indicators; and the SDG Monitoring and Reporting Toolkit for UN Country Teams.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/">https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/</a></p>
<p><b>The Global SDG Indicators Database</b> (UN DESA)</p>	<p>The dissemination platform of the Statistics Division of UN DESA, which provides access to data compiled through the UN system in preparation for the Secretary-General’s annual report on “Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals.” Users can search for data on the global SDG indicators by geographic area – including global, regional and country levels, specific groupings of countries and developed/developing regions – and years.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/">https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/</a></p>
<p><b>Human Rights Indicators Table, Updated with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Indicators</b> (OHCHR)</p>	<p>This illustrative table of human rights indicators outlines structural, process and outcome indicators for a number of different human rights. It also takes into account the global indicators for the 2030 Agenda by identifying SDGs-related or corresponding indicators. Available in English and Russian.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/SDG_Indicators_Tables.pdf">https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/HRIndicators/SDG_Indicators_Tables.pdf</a></p>

<p><b>The SDG Tracker</b> (University of Oxford and Global Change Data Lab)</p>	<p>An open-access resource that presents data across all available indicators from the <a href="#">Our World in Data</a> database, using official statistics from the UN and other international organizations. It serves as an interactive hub where users can explore and track global, regional and country-level progress towards the SDGs through interactive data visualizations.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sdg-tracker.org/">https://sdg-tracker.org/</a></p>
<p><b>The World Bank: Data Catalog, Sustainable Development Goals</b> (World Bank)</p>	<p>A data catalog of relevant indicators drawn from the World Development Indicators and reorganized according to the goals and targets of the SDGs. There are links to the Databank, the Atlas of Sustainable Development Goals and the SDG Dashboard, the latter of which is searchable by goal, target, indicator and country.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/sustainable-development-goals">http://data.worldbank.org/data-catalog/sustainable-development-goals</a></p>
<p><b>The Global Partnership for Sustainable Development Data</b></p>	<p>A multi-stakeholder global network that helps stakeholders across countries and sectors fully harness the data revolution for sustainable development. There is information on partner initiatives by country/territory, as well as functions to search for partners, resources and initiatives by type, topic, SDG and country/territory.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.data4sdgs.org/">https://www.data4sdgs.org/</a></p>
<p><b>The SDG16 Data Initiative</b></p>	<p>A collective project by a consortium of organizations that compiles existing global data to track progress towards the achievement of SDG 16. Data for the official global indicators along with proposed complementary indicators are provided for each SDG 16 target, with functions to search by country and compare up to three different countries. Available in the six official UN languages.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.sdg16.org/">https://www.sdg16.org/</a></p>
<p><b>SDG16DI 2020 Global Report</b> (SDG16 Data Initiative, 2020)</p>	<p>This annual report – part of a series aimed at evaluating global progress on SDG 16 – seeks to provide a holistic view and understanding of progress on the SDG 16 targets. It provides an evidence base for identifying gaps in the implementation and monitoring of SDG16, and for altering course to accelerate implementation where needed.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TuSISe7KJcMU1UXCTAqfVvg-m8Q0hf2BJ/view">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TuSISe7KJcMU1UXCTAqfVvg-m8Q0hf2BJ/view</a></p>
<p><b>SDG16+ Progress Report 2019: A Comprehensive Global Audit of Progress on Available SDG 16 Indicators</b> (Institute for Economics and Peace, 2019)</p>	<p>This annual report – focused on SDG16+ – discusses what data for SDG16+ indicators is currently available, what sources can be used as proxies, the likely timeline for obtaining missing data and the best mechanisms for collecting data in ten case studies.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.economicsandpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/SDG16Progress-Report-2019-web.pdf">https://www.economicsandpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/SDG16Progress-Report-2019-web.pdf</a></p>

<p><b>Ways Forward on Monitoring SDG16+</b> (Global Alliance for Reporting on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies and the Danish Institute for Human Rights, 2020)</p>	<p>This report – based on a global technical workshop – compiles good practices and resources to help monitor SDG16+. Topics covered include: monitoring thematic issues related to SDG 16 such as corruption, violence, access to information and fundamental freedoms; cross-cutting SDG16+ monitoring issues such as the nationalization of indicators; alignment of human rights and SDG implementation, monitoring and reporting; data collection and disaggregation; alternative data sources; stakeholder engagement; and institutionalization of monitoring mechanisms.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.humanrights.dk/publications/ways-forward-monitoring-sdg-16">https://www.humanrights.dk/publications/ways-forward-monitoring-sdg-16</a></p>
<p><b>Governance Data Alliance</b></p>	<p>A community of governance data producers, users, and funders committed to the production and use of high-quality data to advance democratic governance reforms in countries. It provides aggregated data on governance, with functions to search by country and to compare countries.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="http://www.governancedata.org/">http://www.governancedata.org/</a></p>
<p><b>The Open Government Guide</b> (Open Government Partnership, 2015)</p>	<p>This guide includes a chapter on open government data with useful information and detailed recommendations on the practical steps that governments can take to make data more open.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/open-gov-guide_summary_all-topics1.pdf">https://www.opengovpartnership.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/05/open-gov-guide_summary_all-topics1.pdf</a></p>



# Civil society spotlight reports

*Civil society reports, or spotlight reports, serve as an important mechanism for holding national governments accountable for making progress on their commitments*

## Overview

While the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process is the primary channel for reporting on country-level progress on the SDGs and the 2030 Agenda, civil society reports are vital to ensuring an independent, robust and accurate assessment of progress within countries, and provide a direct means to promote this government accountability to its citizens. They can complement or call into question States’ official reports and also provide an avenue for civil society voices to be heard on national and international stages—thereby showcasing the value of civil society engagement in SDG implementation and monitoring.

Independent, public scrutiny by civil society has the potential to make sure that governments’ reports of national-level implementation of the 2030 Agenda are accurate when they are provided for regional and global monitoring processes. CSOs’ reports also can provide key findings and make recommendations for SDG implementation at the national level.

## Putting into practice

Meaningful civil society participation in encouraging inclusive and open SDG implementation, follow-up and review and accountability is critical to ensuring that governments are responsive to the demonstrated needs of the diverse segments of each society. In many ways, civil society stakeholders serve as the most indispensable part of the measurement, monitoring and accountability framework for the SDGs, as they often provide a critical link between governments and stakeholders. Nationally

and locally-focused civil society stakeholders can therefore play a key role in monitoring and reviewing processes at the national level.<sup>170</sup>

Furthermore, providing civil society reports is just one of the many ways that civil society can continue to build a positive working relationship with governments in support of the SDGs by building trust and rapport so that governments see civil society as partners to be engaged in achieving shared goals.<sup>171</sup>



170 <https://tapnetwork2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/TAPPaperonSDGCivilSocietyReporting.pdf>  
 171 TAP Network 2030 (2021). SDG Accountability Report, 70

## Getting Started

Civil society reporting represents an unofficial mechanism for monitoring and holding governments accountable on SDG implementation. As such, the processes for creating and utilizing these reports are not formalized in the same way as official, government-led reporting. Given this reality, it is critical for CSOs to take care in determining whether civil society reporting is the most effective accountability mechanism to use in monitoring SDG implementation and, if so, to ensure that their reports are properly prepared and disseminated for maximum impact.<sup>172</sup>

### Is the context right for a civil society report?

Prior to beginning the reporting process it is essential to understand the political climate for reporting. CSOs thinking of creating SDG reports should be mindful of the political climate in their respective home countries—specifically taking into account the risks of such monitoring and accountability efforts. Before undertaking reporting efforts, CSOs must consider if the environment is safe by asking questions like, “How does my government respond to criticism?” or “What are the national laws in my country concerning freedom of speech?”

While it is important to hold national governments accountable to international norms, it is also necessary that CSOs pursue such actions in safe spaces, using regional and international forums or partners if independent reporting within a country is too risky. They should also determine whether an enabling environment for drafting an impactful report exists. If the purpose of drafting a SDG civil society report is to encourage a national government in action, then it is key to assess the likelihood that such work will bring about change, before investing in producing a report.<sup>173</sup>

### Reporting Process and Key Steps

#### 1. Preparation: Identifying partners, funding and project plans

- A comprehensive civil society spotlight report that monitors Agenda 2030 implementation at the national level and involves numerous CSOs can take several months to produce. This depends on the number of people and organizations involved and the amount of time they can spend working on the report.
- It is important to secure the necessary finances and other resources early on by, for instance, approaching international or larger NGOs for grant opportunities or partnering with other CSOs who could make a financial contribution to the project. Conducting a joint project involving multiple CSOs can be a challenge, so building out a coherent project management plan and putting together a balanced team of subject matter experts is critical to ensuring timely, effective report production.<sup>174</sup>
- A collective effort to develop a CSO spotlight report will likely require one or a few organizations to form a “core team.” This team should take the lead on drafting the report - at least in the early stages - and do some advance planning, including identifying potential partners with the necessary expertise.
- It is important from early on to identify other organizations or experts who might be interested in collaborating on the spotlight report or in “signing on” to the report once it is completed.

#### 2. Adapting to Context

- **What do you want to achieve? Clarifying goals and scope:** In preparing to draft a civil society report, it is important to be clear about the goals and scope of the report from the outset. Often, many CSOs do not have the capacity to carry out a full assessment of the implementation of all 17 SDGs. National or local civil society coordination platforms can be very important in this regard. One of the best ways to make a civil society report effective with limited time and resources is to decide on a limited number of key messages or priority areas to highlight for the country in question. From this basis it should be possible to build the data and narrative of the report.<sup>175</sup>

<sup>172</sup> <https://sdgaccountability.org/working-with-informal-processes/spotlightreporting/>

<sup>173</sup> <https://sdgaccountability.org/working-with-informal-processes/spotlightreporting/>

<sup>174</sup> Forus International (2018). Guidelines for CSO spotlight Reports: Monitoring the Implementation of Agenda 2030 at the National Level.

<sup>175</sup> Forus International (2018). Guidelines for CSO spotlight Reports: Monitoring the Implementation of Agenda 2030 at the National Level



- **Concrete, realistic and action-oriented recommendations:** General or sweeping statements are difficult for governments to respond to, and easy for them to ignore. The reports should make constructive recommendations about how progress on the national implementation of Agenda 2030 should be achieved. Recommendations should be concrete, realistic and action-oriented. It is useful to suggest practical and realistic solutions and, where appropriate, time frames for their implementation and the specific body responsible.<sup>176</sup>
- CSOs should consider linking SDG commitments to laws in the country. This will help identify gaps in the implementation of SDGs and where the government may be legally bound to take action.<sup>177</sup>
- **Data and information:** It is important to ensure that the report contains data and information that is credible, relevant and up-to-date. Focus on qualitative as well as quantitative data. For example, qualitative data such as interviews with individuals who have expert knowledge in specific areas can be a good way of filling information gaps. It is important to identify experts who both have an in-depth knowledge of the relevant subject areas and also are unlikely to be affected by affiliation with the government or a political party.
  - Also consider other sources of information for the spotlight report including focus groups, thematic discussions with relevant stakeholders, media reports, responses to written questions to authorities, structured surveys and case studies. See the following link for more information on data (<http://civicus.org/thedatashift/>)<sup>178</sup>

### 3. Outreach and Consultations

- **Once key partners are identified, organize consultations with wider group of CSOs and local authorities for a more inclusive process, through the following steps:**<sup>179</sup>
  - Hold consultations with other civil society actors working on SDG16+ issues to encourage their input and contributions;
  - Consult local authorities where appropriate;
  - If resources allow, make sure consultations are held not only in capital cities but also in smaller towns and rural areas;
  - If resources allow, create an online tool to collect further data (online surveys, WhatsApp outreach); and
  - Ensure outreach to minority groups, women, youth and other underrepresented groups.
- Reach out to the government and UN regarding the report process (if feasible): If politically viable, engage government and UN offices to provide information about the forthcoming report. If possible, ask government and UN offices to provide any data or evidence of implementation efforts.<sup>180</sup>
- **Focus on constructive working relationships with governments and public officials if possible:** Civil society reports should avoid focusing exclusively on the shortcomings of governments in their implementation of the 2030 Agenda.<sup>181</sup> Working in constructive ways with governments can be helpful, ideally by building trust and rapport so that governments see civil society as partners to be engaged in achieving shared goals, instead of the government perceiving the report to be confrontational in nature. Thus, providing civil society reports on SDG implementation can serve as a way for civil society to build a positive working relationship with governments in support of the SDGs.<sup>182</sup>

<sup>176</sup> <https://sdgaccountability.org/working-with-informal-processes/spotlightreporting/>

<sup>177</sup> Ibid

<sup>178</sup> Forus International (2018). Guidelines for CSO spotlight Reports: Monitoring the Implementation of Agenda 2030 at the National Level

<sup>179</sup> Saferworld: Practical Guidance on Civil Society Reporting on SDG16, p. 4

<sup>180</sup> Saferworld: Practical Guidance on Civil Society Reporting on SDG16, p. 4

<sup>181</sup> <https://sdgaccountability.org/working-with-informal-processes/spotlightreporting/>

<sup>182</sup> <https://sdgaccountability.org/working-with-informal-processes/spotlightreporting/>

#### 4. Report Development

- **For specific steps on the drafting process, see section below: “Drafting framework and proposed outline”**
- **Be clear and brief:** It is important for CSO spotlight reports to be clear and brief. Instead of including long explanations in the report, references can be made and links provided to reports which provide more detail or evidence, and supplementary information can be provided in annexes to the report.<sup>183</sup>
- **Neutral & balanced style:** The report should try to be balanced – reflecting both positive and negative aspects – and should adopt a practical style using neutral language. The report must not contain unfounded statements that are not supported by facts or documents, especially if statements relate to particular individuals or legal entities. Such statements should be verified by using several sources. The report should contain references to the information sources used.<sup>184</sup>
- **Utilize a rating system:** CSOs could try to find a consistent approach to rating the government’s success in implementing different aspects of the 2030 Agenda. For example, some spotlight reports use the visual aid of a “traffic light system” for evaluating government performance in different areas. A green light indicates positive progress, an orange light indicates intermediate progress and a red light indicates little or no progress at all. Alternatively, the spotlight report might use a simple rating scale such as (i) Substantive action taken, (ii) Initial action taken, and (iii) No action taken.<sup>185</sup>
- CSOs should consider citing examples of the activities they will be undertaking to deliver the 2030 Agenda, either independently, alongside other stakeholders or in partnership with governments.<sup>186</sup>

#### 5. Production and Dissemination

- **Report dissemination** – At this time, there are no formal mechanisms for collecting civil society reports focused on SDG implementation. However, many civil society coalitions, including the TAP Network, are working to formalize collection and dissemination processes for civil society reports in order to increase their reach and impact. It is not enough to just document a government’s successes or challenges in implementing different aspects of the 2030 Agenda. Distribution of these findings is critical, and if done effectively, such reports can have impact at not just the national level, but also regional and global levels, including at the HLPF. At a minimum, CSOs should make sure their final reports can be uploaded and disseminated online. These reports should be published as stand-alone, downloadable documents that can be easily shared and disseminated online.<sup>187</sup>
- Beyond passive publication, CSOs also should make efforts to use their reporting to start dialogues and build relationships with others working on SDG monitoring and implementation. CSOs can do this by developing advocacy strategies around the publicization of their reports and plans for distributing findings to interested actors, including:
  - National-level actors:
    - Governmental officials at all relevant levels and ministries, including in the executive branch, parliamentarians, local authorities and relevant agencies responsible for SDG implementation; and
    - Non-governmental institutions and groups, including SAIs, NHRIs, civil society groups and the media (traditional and social – see chapter on media);
  - Regional and global-level actors:
    - UN agencies, including UNDP country offices;
    - Civil society actors that have created SDG civil society report submission portals and distribution networks, such as the TAP Network; and
    - Other relevant bodies working on SDG monitoring, including IHRIs and the media.

<sup>183</sup> Forus International (2018). Guidelines for CSO spotlight Reports: Monitoring the Implementation of Agenda 2030 at the National Level

<sup>184</sup> Forus International (2018). Guidelines for CSO spotlight Reports: Monitoring the Implementation of Agenda 2030 at the National Level

<sup>185</sup> Ibid

<sup>186</sup> IBID

<sup>187</sup> Forus International (2018). Guidelines for CSO spotlight Reports: Monitoring the Implementation of Agenda 2030 at the National Level

## Drafting Framework and Proposed Outline for SDG16+ Spotlight Reporting<sup>188</sup>

The following section provides an outline for any civil society stakeholder to use when putting together a civil society report on SDG implementation in your country. Additionally, you will find more detailed guidance on how to approach drafting each section of this report, including some key questions to consider answering and other relevant information you might find useful in this drafting process.

<b>INTRODUCTION</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Executive Summary</li> <li>● Background Context</li> <li>● Process: Data &amp; Methodology</li> </ul>
<b>CONTENT</b>
<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Review of Legal and Legislative Framework and Policies             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Brief introduction</li> <li>ii. Assessment of frameworks</li> <li>iii. Challenges and recommendations</li> </ol> </li> <li>b. Review of Country-level Implementation             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Brief introduction</li> <li>ii. Assessment of progress</li> <li>iii. Challenges and recommendations</li> </ol> </li> <li>c. Review of International Commitments (if applicable)             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Assessment of progress</li> <li>ii. Challenges and recommendations</li> </ol> </li> <li>d. Civil Society Participation in SDG Implementation / Follow-up             <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>i. Assessment of civil society space around the SDGs (and in general)</li> <li>ii. Challenges and recommendations</li> </ol> </li> </ol>
<b>CONCLUSION</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● Conclusion</li> <li>● Recommendations</li> </ul>
<b>ANNEXES</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● List of Organizations Consulted</li> <li>● Data Sets</li> <li>● National Development Plans or Frameworks</li> <li>● Other Sources (if applicable)</li> </ul>

### Approaches and Methodologies for Civil Society Reporting on the SDGs and 2030 Agenda (2021)

While there is no one-size-fits all approach to producing Spotlight Reports, this resource from the TAP Network provides practical guidance on methodologies to consider when drafting an SDG Spotlight Report. Additionally, it provides a suggested template that organizations could use for their report, with specific tips for each chapter and approach, as well as key questions to consider when drafting the content of your report.

For more guidance on spotlight reporting, please see TAP's updated Spotlight Reporting Guidelines resource: <https://tapnetwork2030.org/sdg16reporting/>



<sup>188</sup> <https://tapnetwork2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/TAPPaperonSDGCivilSocietyReporting.pdf>



**CASE STUDY: Centre for Law and Democracy**

## *Assessing the Right to Information (SDG Indicator 16.10.2) in Canada*

**Centre for Law and Democracy**

In 2020, the Centre for Law and Democracy in Canada performed an assessment of Canada's implementation of its right to information laws. The assessment was performed across the areas of Proactive Disclosure, Institutional Measures and Responding to Requests. Several weaknesses in applying the letter of law and providing accessible and straightforward services to provide information were identified. The methodology was applied in two other countries in 2020, Pakistan and Ukraine, and can serve as a critical tool in identifying gaps and achieving full implementation of SDG 16.10.2 in countries. You can find the [comprehensive methodology through the FOIANet website here](#).<sup>189</sup>

To read the full-length version of this case study, visit [www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies](http://www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies)



**CASE STUDY:**

## *Spotlight Reporting Methodology for Tracking Progress on Corruption Elimination*

**Transparency International - spotlight reports of governments' progress towards SDG targets 16.4, 16.5, 16.6 and 16.10**



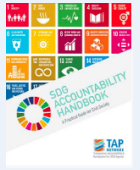


In 2017, Transparency International developed a common methodology to enable civil society organizations to track their countries' progress towards four SDG 16 targets especially relevant for anti-corruption, namely target 16.4 on illicit financial flows, target 16.5 on corruption and bribery, target 16.6 on accountable and transparent institutions, and target 16.10 on access to information and fundamental freedoms. Since then, over 45 of TI's national chapters have used the tool to produce spotlight reports that provide independent appraisals of their governments' anti-corruption efforts, which are essential to improve implementation of the 2030 Agenda across all SDGs. You can find the [comprehensive methodology on the Transparency International website here](#)

To read the full-length version of this case study, visit [www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies](http://www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies)

# SDG 16

<sup>189</sup> More information on the Centre for Law and Democracy's assessment of Canada's right to information practice is available here.

## Key TAP Network resources:

<p><b>Approaches and Methodologies for Civil Society Reporting on the SDGs and 2030 Agenda</b> (TAP Network, updated 2021)</p>	<p>Recently updated guidance by the TAP Network provides an outline template for a civil society report and guiding questions to consider answering during the crafting process.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://tapnetwork2030.org/sdg16reporting/">https://tapnetwork2030.org/sdg16reporting/</a></p>	
<p><b>Empowering Civil Society for National Reporting and Action on SDG16</b> (TAP Network, 2018)</p>	<p>This report features a compilation of national civil society case studies and civil society spotlight reports on SDG 16. It provides analysis of a range of approaches and methodologies utilized by civil society for implementation and monitoring of SDG 16 by civil society, specifically with regards to drafting and disseminating of spotlight reports.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://tapnetwork2030.org/empowermentreport/">https://tapnetwork2030.org/empowermentreport/</a></p>	
<p><b>SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society</b> (TAP Network, 2018)</p>	<p>This handbook provides guidance on the different approaches and steps that can be taken by civil society to ensure national government accountability for the SDGs. It includes a chapter on 'Publishing Civil Society Reports.'</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sdgaccountability.org/working-with-informal-processes/spotlightreporting/">https://sdgaccountability.org/working-with-informal-processes/spotlightreporting/</a></p>	
<p><b>SDG16 in VNRs and Spotlight Reports: Reporting on Progress, Reflecting on Inclusive Accountability Measures and Recommendations for going ahead</b> (GIZ and TAP Network, 2020)</p>	<p>This report evaluates VNR and spotlight reports submitted to the 2019 HLPF for a select group of countries. It examines whether and how spotlight and VNR reports relate to one another and identifies the main commonalities and differences between the perspectives of governments and civil society.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://tapnetwork2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/GIZ_TAP_2020_SDG-16-in-VNRs-and-Spotlight-Reports_Final-Version.pdf">https://tapnetwork2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/GIZ_TAP_2020_SDG-16-in-VNRs-and-Spotlight-Reports_Final-Version.pdf</a></p>	
<p><b>TAP Spotlight Reporting Platform</b></p>	<p>'Share Your Civil Society Spotlight Report,' by the TAP Network, is an online platform to collect and showcase spotlight reports from civil society stakeholders.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://tapnetwork2030.org/sdg16reporting/">https://tapnetwork2030.org/sdg16reporting/</a></p>	

## Key resources

<b>GPPAC SDG16 Toolkit</b>	<p>A flowchart guides peacebuilding actors through a series of key steps. The flowchart points you towards how to develop an advocacy plan on SDGs, where to find the governmental SDG focal point in your country, how to influence key actors on SDG16+ implementation and how to write a “SDG16+ shadow report.”</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://gppac.net/sdg16-toolkit">https://gppac.net/sdg16-toolkit</a></p>
<b>Practical Guidance on Civil Society Sporting on SDG16</b> (Saferworld)	<p>Practical guidance, drafting outline and tips to help craft a spotlight report on SDG 16. Includes a specific step-by-step process.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.saferworld.org.uk/resources/publications/1201-enhancing-accountability-for-peaceful-just-and-inclusive-societies-practical-guidance-for-civil-society-reporting-on-sdg16?utm_source=smartmail&amp;utm_medium=email&amp;utm_campaign=Reporting+on+SDG16%2B%3A+a+practical+guide">https://www.saferworld.org.uk/resources/publications/1201-enhancing-accountability-for-peaceful-just-and-inclusive-societies-practical-guidance-for-civil-society-reporting-on-sdg16?utm_source=smartmail&amp;utm_medium=email&amp;utm_campaign=Reporting+on+SDG16%2B%3A+a+practical+guide</a></p>
<b>A4SD Template</b>	<p>Action for Sustainable Development’s HLPF 2018 Civil Society Report Template helps national CSOs consider how governments are involving civil society in their official implementation and review of the SDGs, and provides questions around the issue of leaving no one behind.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://action4sd.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/HLPF-VNR_CS0-Report-Template_2018.pdf">https://action4sd.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/HLPF-VNR_CS0-Report-Template_2018.pdf</a></p>
<b>Guidelines for CSO Shadow Reports</b> (Forus International, 2018)	<p>Monitoring the Implementation of Agenda 2030 at the National Level (2018), by Forus International, includes examples of civil society reports and key steps to follow when preparing and producing a civil society SDG report.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="http://forus-international.org/en/resources/8">http://forus-international.org/en/resources/8</a></p>
<b>How should civil society stakeholders report their contribution to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</b> (2018), Dr. Graham Long	<p>This is a technical paper written for the Division for Sustainable Development, UN DESA.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/18445CSOreporting_paper_revisions_4May.pdf">https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/18445CSOreporting_paper_revisions_4May.pdf</a></p>
<b>Corruption and the Sustainable Development Goals: Parallel Reporting Tool for 16.4, 16.5, 16.6 AND 16.10</b> (Transparency International, 2018)	<p>The purpose of this research tool is to enable civil society organizations to conduct an independent appraisal of their respective country’s progress in fighting corruption, tackling illicit financial flows and improving transparency and access to information, as national governments implement the Agenda 2030.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://knowledgehub.transparency.org/product/corruption-and-the-sustainable-development-goals-parallel-reporting-tool-for-16-4-16-5-16-6-and-16-10">https://knowledgehub.transparency.org/product/corruption-and-the-sustainable-development-goals-parallel-reporting-tool-for-16-4-16-5-16-6-and-16-10</a></p>
<b>SDG 16 Spotlight Reporting Website</b> (Transparency International, 2021)	<p>Transparency International has launched a platform for CSOs and partners to publish and share their spotlight reports:</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sdg16.transparency.org/">https://sdg16.transparency.org/</a></p>

# Voluntary National Reviews

*Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) can provide insight into SDG16+ implementation, promote inclusive and meaningful multi-stakeholder participation and advance and accelerate implementation of the SDG16+ agenda*

## Overview

Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs) are an essential part of the follow-up and review framework of the 2030 Agenda. Presented annually at the HLPF under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), they review individual progress on a country's implementation of the SDGs. The VNRs are voluntary, State-led, undertaken by both developed and developing countries and often involve a wide range of stakeholders.<sup>190</sup> They aim to facilitate the sharing of experiences, including successes, challenges and lessons learned, with a view to accelerating the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. They also seek to strengthen policies and government institutions and to mobilize multi-stakeholder support and partnerships for the implementation of the SDGs.<sup>191</sup>

Between 40 and 50 countries can sign up to present a VNR each year. A VNR typically consists of the following phases: initial preparation and organization; preparation of the report; presentation at the HLPF, usually involving a 15-minute presentation followed by a 15-minute discussion; and follow-up after the HLPF. Stakeholder engagement may occur throughout any or all of these phases.<sup>192</sup> Ideally, VNRs will build on national review processes, involve all relevant stakeholders and focus on those most at risk of being left behind.<sup>193</sup>

VNRs are a key tool to support accountability for SDG16+ – and the rest of the SDGs – at both national and global levels. They can provide insight into SDG implementation, promote inclusive and meaningful multi-stakeholder participation in reporting on the SDGs and support more effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Rather than being an end in themselves, they are a means to advance and accelerate the implementation of the SDGs including SDG16+. By comprehensively reviewing SDG16+ in a VNR, Member States are reaffirming their commitment to creating peaceful, just and inclusive societies,<sup>194</sup> as well as their commitment to effective, transparent and accountable reporting on SDG implementation.



<sup>190</sup> United Nations (2015). *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. General Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/1, para. 84. Available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

<sup>191</sup> United Nations. 'High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development: Voluntary National Reviews Database'. Available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>

<sup>192</sup> Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2018). *SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society*, p. 35. Available at: <https://sdeaccountability.org/>

<sup>193</sup> The Danish Institute for Human Rights (2019). *Integrated review and reporting on SDGs and Human Rights*, p. 7. Available at: <https://www.humanrights.dk/publications/integrated-review-reporting-sdgs-human-rights>

<sup>194</sup> Global Alliance for Reporting on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (2020). *A Guide to Report on SDG 16 in a Voluntary National Review*, p. 8. Available at: <https://www.sdg16hub.org/content/global-alliance-guide-report-sdg16-voluntary-national-reviews>

## Putting it into practice<sup>195</sup>

Civil society actors can participate in, influence and contribute to VNR-related processes – in order to support SDG16+ implementation and accountability – through the following actions:

- 1. Determine whether your country has volunteered for a VNR** – You should verify whether your country has volunteered to present a VNR and identify the national focal point for the review through the UN's [Voluntary National Reviews Database](#).<sup>196</sup>
- 2. Urge your government to review SDG16+ in its VNR** – You should urge your government to provide a comprehensive review of all SDG16+ targets and indicators, a review of specific SDG16+ targets and indicators that are most relevant to your national context, or a review of priority themes in SDG16+ in which to cluster relevant SDG16+ targets and indicators.<sup>197</sup>
- 3. Determine whether there will be multi-stakeholder participation in preparing the VNR** – You should contact the national focal point for the review, the government entity responsible for coordinating or preparing the VNR,<sup>198</sup> and any other actors that may be involved in facilitating or supporting stakeholder engagement<sup>199</sup> in order to establish whether there will be formal opportunities for civil society actors to participate in preparing the VNR. If no opportunities are planned, you should advocate for a formal mechanism or platform to ensure that civil society can actively and meaningfully contribute to the VNR.<sup>200</sup>

### TIP:

Be proactive in reaching out to governments in relation to multi-stakeholder engagement, as many governments may not yet have a process to engage with civil society.



- 4. Raise awareness of the VNR and build civil society's capacity for engagement** – You can create public awareness of and disseminate information about the VNR process through traditional media, social media and CSO networks in order to promote public interest and engagement in the VNR. You can also help to mobilize and build the capacity of civil society to engage in the VNR process by sharing information, fostering understanding of the VNR and the SDG16+ agenda and identifying opportunities for participation.
- 5. Participate in formal consultations for the VNR and/or hold independent consultations** – You should participate in any in-person or online stakeholder consultations held by the government for the VNR in order to bring attention to SDG16+ progress, as well as gaps and challenges. Where no consultations are planned, you should consider holding independent consultations to gather inputs for the VNR or civil society spotlight reports on SDG16+.<sup>201</sup>

### TIP:

Consider offering advice or practical support to governments well in advance of VNR consultations in order to ensure that the consultation process is conducted in a meaningful, inclusive, participatory, transparent and accessible manner for all.



- 6. Encourage your government to include independent contributions in its VNR report** – Contributions from other stakeholders may be in the form of independently written chapters, comments on specific SDGs or targets, or separate inputs included in the annex of the report. For example, Finland's 2020 VNR report includes an independent assessment from civil society – in addition to the government's assessment – for each SDG reviewed.<sup>202</sup>

<sup>195</sup> Adapted from: Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2018). *SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society*, pp. 36-38. Available at: <https://sdgaccountability.org/>

<sup>196</sup> Focal points for VNRs are identified under a separate tab for each country listed in the Voluntary National Reviews Database. Available at: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/>

<sup>197</sup> Global Alliance for Reporting on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (2020). *A Guide to Report on SDG 16 in a Voluntary National Review*, p. 11. Available at: <https://www.sdg16hub.org/content/global-alliance-guide-report-sdg16-voluntary-national-reviews>

<sup>198</sup> The government entity responsible for the overall coordination of the VNR could be an existing body or institution – such as a specific ministry – or an ad hoc arrangement such as a lead department/agency or an integrated, inter-ministerial group, coordinating office or committee.

<sup>199</sup> Other actors that may be involved in facilitating or supporting stakeholder engagement in the VNR process include UN focal points in the country, National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) or civil society stakeholder platforms or umbrella groups.

<sup>200</sup> A formal mechanism should allow civil society to contribute to the VNR through consultations, online platforms, and written submissions and reporting.

<sup>201</sup> According to one CSO, conducting or supporting VNR consultations can be an effective way to ensure that the voices of marginalized or vulnerable groups are included in the VNR process in a more legitimate and representative manner. Sightsavers (2017). "Civil society engagement in the voluntary national review process: Sightsavers' experience in 2016-17." Reflection paper, p. 2.

<sup>202</sup> *Voluntary National Review 2020 Finland: Report on the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*. Available at: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26261VNR\\_Report\\_Finland\\_2020.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26261VNR_Report_Finland_2020.pdf)



**7. Review the draft VNR report through an SDG16+ lens and provide feedback** – In some cases, you may have the opportunity to provide feedback or comments on the government’s draft report. Where this is the case, you should ensure that the report:

- a. Reviews all relevant SDG16+ targets in a comprehensive and detailed manner;
- b. Refers to recommendations or information from international human rights, labour standards or other mechanisms that overlap with SDG16+ targets;
- c. Addresses vulnerable and marginalized groups and the pledge to “leave no one behind” in a dedicated section or through a cross-cutting approach;<sup>203</sup> and
- d. Discusses the inclusiveness of stakeholder engagement in SDG-related processes.

**8. Produce a civil society spotlight report on SDG16+** – You can also produce a spotlight report to challenge or provide an alternative perspective of SDG16+ implementation in your country.<sup>204</sup>

**9. Participate in the review at the HLPF** – You should encourage your government to include civil society stakeholders within their official delegation to the HLPF, as well as within their official presentation. You may also be able to attend or participate in your country’s VNR at the HLPF in an independent capacity, either in-person or remotely.<sup>205</sup> All civil society representatives attending the HLPF should consider organizing a side event on their country’s implementation of SDG16+, disseminating civil society spotlight reports on SDG16+ and making official statements or asking questions during their country’s review.

**10. Pursue follow-up activities after your country’s VNR** – You should use the VNR as a tool to advance SDG16+ implementation and accountability. In particular, you should:

- a. Disseminate the VNR at national and sub-national levels in local or national languages;
- b. Provide an assessment of your country’s review of SDG16+ implementation by issuing a press release or public statement or holding a press conference;
- c. Meet with other non-governmental stakeholders to reflect on the VNR process and discuss next steps to influence SDG16+ implementation and follow-up and review; and
- d. Urge your government to address the main findings of the VNR and to follow through on any commitments it made during the VNR process in relation to SDG16+.



<sup>203</sup> For example, a cross-cutting approach to leaving no one behind could entail having a subsection on leaving no one behind in reviewing each SDG, including SDG 16.

<sup>204</sup> For more information, see the chapter on ‘Spotlight Reporting.’

<sup>205</sup> Civil society representatives wishing to attend their country’s VNR in an independent capacity must register in advance and will need UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) consultative status or to be on the UN Commission on Sustainable Development (CSD) Roster. Information on registration for the HLPF each year is normally available on the HLPF’s website: <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/>



**CASE STUDY:**

*Bringing Together Civil Society and Government through ‘Ready for Review’ Consultations for the VNRs*

**Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS)**

At the start of 2019, the Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS) began its ‘Ready for Review’ (R4R) project, with the support of France’s Ministry of European and Foreign Affairs (MEAE), EU DEVCO, and the TAP Network. The R4R project ultimately aimed to ensure the meaningful inclusion, participation and contribution of civil society during Voluntary National Review (VNR) processes through nationally-held consultations and capacity-building workshops. The project operated in Côte d’Ivoire, the Central African Republic, Chad, Sierra Leone, Timor-Leste, Nigeria and Rwanda to host capacity building and coordination workshops for civil society to discuss and strategize around their country’s VNR processes, and SDG16+. In follow-up to these activities, both during and after the HLPF, CSPPS organized a peer-to-peer exchange to reflect on the VNR experiences of CSO representatives involved in the project. Overall, this project helped empower civil society in-country to engage in VNR processes, and to help them mobilize around SDG16+.



To read the full-length version of this case study, visit [www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies](http://www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies)

**Key TAP Network resources:**

<p><b>Mainstreaming SDG 16: Using the Voluntary National Review to Advance More Peaceful, Just and Inclusive societies</b> (Global Alliance and TAP Network, 2020)</p>	<p>This resource provides policy guidance, case studies and good practices on advancing SDG 16 implementation by more effectively leveraging the Voluntary National Review (VNR) and post-VNR processes.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive">https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive</a></p>	
<p><b>SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society</b> (TAP Network, 2018)</p>	<p>This handbook provides guidance on the different approaches and steps that can be taken by civil society to ensure national government accountability for the SDGs. It includes a chapter on ‘Contributing to Voluntary National Reviews (VNR)’.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sdgaccountability.org/">https://sdgaccountability.org/</a></p>	
<p><b>SDG16 in VNRs and Spotlight Reports: Reporting on Progress, Reflecting on Inclusive Accountability Measures and Recommendations for going ahead</b> (GIZ and TAP Network, 2020)</p>	<p>This report evaluates VNR and spotlight reports submitted to the 2019 HLPF for a select group of countries. It examines whether and how spotlight and VNR reports relate to one another and identifies the main commonalities and differences between the perspectives of governments and civil society.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://tapnetwork2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/GIZ_TAP_2020_SDG-16-in-VNRs-and-Spotlight-Reports_Final-Version.pdf">https://tapnetwork2030.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/05/GIZ_TAP_2020_SDG-16-in-VNRs-and-Spotlight-Reports_Final-Version.pdf</a></p>	

## Key resources: Preparation for VNRs

<p><b>High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development – ‘Voluntary National Reviews’</b> (UN DESA)</p>	<p>This section of the UN’s HLPF website provides information and resources on VNRs. It includes a database of all countries that have participated or intend to participate in a VNR, with links to documents and reports, statements, partnerships and commitments, and focal points for VNRs.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/">https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/</a></p>
<p><b>Voluntary common reporting guidelines for voluntary national reviews at the High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development</b> (UN Secretary-General, 2021)</p>	<p>These guidelines – prepared by the UN Secretary-General in 2015 and updated in 2017, 2019 and 2021 – seek to support Member States in conducting VNRs. They provide a framework for certain common elements within VNR reports, while allowing for flexibility so countries can adapt reporting to their own circumstances.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/17346Updated_Voluntary_Guidelines.pdf">https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/17346Updated_Voluntary_Guidelines.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Handbook for the Preparation of Voluntary National Reviews – The 2021 Edition</b> (UN DESA, 2020)</p>	<p>This handbook for countries preparing to present VNRs supplements the Secretary-General’s guidelines. It provides elementary building blocks and the basic, practical information on the steps that countries may take when preparing VNRs. Available in the six official UN languages.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/">https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/</a></p>
<p><b>The Guidelines to Support Country Reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals</b> (UNDG, 2017)</p>	<p>This resource contains guidance, tools and suggestions for preparing SDG progress reviews at the national level, which can be used in the preparation of the VNR.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://unsdg.un.org/resources/guidelines-support-country-reporting-sustainable-development-goals">https://unsdg.un.org/resources/guidelines-support-country-reporting-sustainable-development-goals</a></p>
<p><b>A Guide to Report on SDG 16 in a Voluntary National Review</b> (Global Alliance for Reporting on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, 2020)</p>	<p>This resource provides a step-by-step guide for Member States on how to report on SDG 16 through an inclusive and participatory VNR process. It outlines where to include information on SDG 16 in a VNR and provides a compendium of resources and Member State examples.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.sdg16hub.org/content/global-alliance-guide-report-sdg16-voluntary-national-reviews">https://www.sdg16hub.org/content/global-alliance-guide-report-sdg16-voluntary-national-reviews</a></p>

## Key resources: Analysis of VNRs

<p><b>Voluntary National Reviews Synthesis Reports</b> (UN DESA, multiple years)</p>	<p>These annual reports provide an overview of the approaches and actions taken by countries presenting VNRs in a given year. They showcase best practices, lessons learned, gaps and challenges encountered in working towards the achievement of the SDGs.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/">https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/vnrs/</a></p>
<p><b>Progressing National SDG Implementation: An Independent Assessment of the Voluntary National Review Reports Submitted to the UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development</b> (Cooperation Canada, multiple years)</p>	<p>This annual series of reports, commissioned by civil society and published by Co-operation Canada (formally the Canadian Council for International Co-operation), provides an independent analysis of Voluntary National Review (VNR) reports submitted to the HLPF, including outlining the governance and institutional arrangements of countries.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="https://cooperation.ca/2030agenda/">https://cooperation.ca/2030agenda/</a> (2018, 2019 and 2020).</li> <li>● <a href="https://cooperation.ca/progressing-national-sdgs-impementation/">https://cooperation.ca/progressing-national-sdgs-impementation/</a> (2017).</li> </ul>
<p><b>P4R Comparative Analysis of Voluntary National Reviews</b> (Partners for Review (P4R), multiple years)</p>	<p>These annual reports identify similarities, differences, progress and emerging trends in VNRs in a given year. They outline general features of the VNRs and analyze national SDG institutional structures, SDG mainstreaming and policy coherence, stakeholder engagement, statistics and data, repeated VNR countries and, in 2020, the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.partners-for-review.de/resources/">https://www.partners-for-review.de/resources/</a></p>
<p><b>White &amp; Case Review of the Voluntary National Reports (VNRs)</b> (White &amp; Case LLP and Global Alliance, multiple years)</p>	<p>These annual reports provide an analysis of VNR reports to assess whether, and to what extent, countries report on the implementation of SDG 16 or SDG16+.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>● <a href="https://www.sdg16hub.org/content/analysis-2020-voluntary-national-reviews-and-sdg-16">https://www.sdg16hub.org/content/analysis-2020-voluntary-national-reviews-and-sdg-16</a> (2020)</li> <li>● <a href="https://www.sdg16hub.org/content/global-alliance-white-case-review-2019-voluntary-national-reports-vnrs">https://www.sdg16hub.org/content/global-alliance-white-case-review-2019-voluntary-national-reports-vnrs</a> (2019)</li> <li>● <a href="https://www.sdg16hub.org/node/324">https://www.sdg16hub.org/node/324</a> (2018)</li> <li>● <a href="https://www.sdg16hub.org/node/326">https://www.sdg16hub.org/node/326</a> (2017)</li> <li>● <a href="https://www.sdg16hub.org/node/327">https://www.sdg16hub.org/node/327</a> (2016)</li> </ul>

<p><b>Voluntary National Reviews</b> (UN DESA, Economic Analysis)</p>	<p>This section of the website of UN DESA contains work by the Committee for Development Policy (CDP) on the topic of VNRs, including several background papers analyzing the VNRs from 2018, 2019 and 2020.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/voluntary-national-reviews.html">https://www.un.org/development/desa/dpad/voluntary-national-reviews.html</a></p>
<p><b>Multi-stakeholder engagement in 2030 Agenda implementation: A review of Voluntary National Review Reports (2016-2019)</b> (UN DESA, 2020)</p>	<p>This report provides a review of the current status of multi-stakeholder engagement in 2030 Agenda implementation based on an assessment of the 158 VNR reports submitted to the HLPF between 2016-2019.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26012VNRStakeholdersResearch.pdf">https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26012VNRStakeholdersResearch.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Reporting for the Future: Final Report Ready for Review 2019</b> (Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS), 2020)</p>	<p>This report provides an update on the efforts deployed by CSPPS, its members and partners to strengthen the engagement and capacity of CSOs in fragile and conflict-affected countries participating in the VNR process in 2019. Available in English and French.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://cspps.org/publications/reporting-future-final-report-ready-review-2019">https://cspps.org/publications/reporting-future-final-report-ready-review-2019</a></p>



# Using international human rights and labour standards mechanisms

*International monitoring mechanisms play a key role in monitoring, reviewing and making recommendations on the implementation of human rights and labour standards that are essential to achieve peaceful, just and inclusive societies*



## Overview

The international human rights and labour standards monitoring systems can play an important role in ensuring accountability for SDG16+ commitments. International human rights monitoring is undertaken through several mechanisms including:

- **UN Treaty Bodies** – Committees of independent experts that monitor and provide guidance on the implementation of the core human rights treaties – many of which address specific SDG16+ issues – by State parties;<sup>206</sup>
- **Universal Periodic Review (UPR)** – A peer review mechanism under the UN Human Rights Council, which examines the human rights record and performance of all UN Member States in a recurring cycle of four-and-a-half years;<sup>207</sup> and
- **Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council** – Independent experts, special rapporteurs or working groups with a mandate to report and advise on human rights from a thematic or country-specific perspective.<sup>208</sup>

Similar to the human rights system, the International Labour Organization's (ILO) supervisory system also monitors the implementation of ILO Conventions by State parties, many of which address SDG16+ issues (e.g. forced labour, child labour, and equal pay for work of equal value).<sup>209</sup>

<sup>206</sup> There are ten such treaty bodies, including the Human Rights Committee, the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), the Committee on the Elimination of Racial Discrimination (CERD), the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), the Committee against Torture (CAT), the Committee on the Rights of the Child (CRC), the Committee on Migrant Workers (CMW), the Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, the Committee on Enforced Disappearances (CED) and the Subcommittee on prevention of Torture and other Cruel, Inhuman and Degrading Treatment or Punishment (SPT). These bodies review reports submitted periodically by State parties on the steps taken to implement the treaty in question, as well as information submitted by other stakeholders including civil society. Based on the information received and dialogue with the State delegation at a dedicated session, a committee then issues "concluding observations" or recommendations to the relevant State on its implementation of the treaty. Some committees can also receive and consider individual complaints, while others can conduct inquiries. For more information, see: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). 'Human rights treaty bodies'. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/Pages/Overview.aspx>

<sup>207</sup> Under the UPR, reviews are based on three main sources of information: a national report prepared by the State under review; a compilation of UN information prepared by the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR); and a summary of stakeholders' submissions – including from NGOs – prepared by the OHCHR. The review itself is conducted as an interactive dialogue between the State under review and other UN Member States, who can pose questions, make comments and/or offer recommendations, which are either 'accepted' or simply 'noted' by the State under review. There are also opportunities for participation by other stakeholders – including civil society – at the review. Following the review, an outcome document is adopted which provides a summary of the discussion with recommendations to and responses from the State under review. During subsequent reviews, the State is expected to report on the implementation of the recommendations received during earlier reviews. For more information, see: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). 'Universal Periodic Review'. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/UPR/Pages/UPRMain.aspx>

<sup>208</sup> As of September 2020, there were 44 thematic and 11 country mandates, many of which address SDG16+ issues (e.g. arbitrary detention, freedom of opinion and expression, violence against women, torture, human trafficking, etc.). Special procedures undertake a range of activities including: country visits; acting on individual cases of reported violations and concerns of a broader, structural nature by sending communications to States and others; conducting annual thematic studies, seeking information from calls for input and convening expert consultations; contributing to the development of international human rights standards; engaging in advocacy; raising public awareness; and providing advice for technical cooperation. These independent experts report at least once a year to the Human Rights Council on their findings and recommendations, as well as to the UN General Assembly. For more information, see: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). 'Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council'. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/SP/Pages/Welcompage.aspx>

<sup>209</sup> States that have ratified ILO Conventions are required to report on their implementation at intervals of three or six years. ILO supervisory bodies such as the ILO Committee of Experts on the Application of Conventions and Recommendations (CEACR) analyze State reports and present Observations and Direct Requests to States, including recommendations on the implementation of the convention in question. The CEACR will often highlight issues raised previously and identify whether the issue has been addressed or not. For more information, see: International Labour Organization (ILO). 'Applying and promoting International Labour Standards.' Available at: <https://www.ilo.org/global/standards/applying-and-promoting-international-labour-standards/lang--en/index.htm>

Despite having distinct mandates, these mechanisms all play a key role in monitoring, reviewing and making recommendations on the implementation of human rights and/or labour standards that are essential to achieve peaceful, just and inclusive societies. More than 90% of the 169 SDG targets directly reflect elements of international human rights and labour standards,<sup>210</sup> and there are over 36,000 recommendations from international human rights mechanisms linked to SDG 16 alone.<sup>211</sup> Given this significant overlap, as well as the legally binding nature of international human rights and labour standards, international monitoring mechanisms can be a critical tool to advance SDG16+ accountability.

In reviewing the human rights or labour record of countries, international monitoring mechanisms can be used to raise specific SDG16+ issues, resulting in recommendations that further SDG16+ implementation. The wealth of analysis, data, information and recommendations produced by these mechanisms can also be used to report on issues related to peace, justice and inclusion in SDG accountability processes, including VNRs.<sup>212</sup> Furthermore, there is significant potential to align international human rights and labour standards monitoring mechanisms with SDG-related follow-up and review processes, given the strong links between human rights, labour standards and the SDGs. Aligning these mechanisms could help to promote policy coherence, facilitate the sharing of qualitative analysis and data, maximize efficiency and effectiveness, and reduce the overall reporting burden on countries,<sup>213</sup> thereby strengthening accountability for SDG commitments including SDG16+.

## Putting it into practice<sup>214</sup>

There are a number of ways that you can use international human rights and labour standards mechanisms to support SDG16+ accountability, including the following:

1. **Refer to country-specific recommendations from international human rights and labour standards monitoring bodies in engaging in SDG16+ advocacy with your government** – While the SDGs are not legally binding, your government may be obligat-

ed to fulfill specific SDG16+ targets based on their ratification of human rights or ILO conventions.<sup>215</sup> See the key resources in this section for guidance in identifying relevant recommendations.

### TIP:



Confirm that your country has ratified an international convention or agreement and, if so, identify any reservations made in relation to your SDG16+ issue.

2. **Engage with international human rights and labour standards mechanisms to advance your SDG16+ issue(s)** – In particular, you should consider pursuing the following actions:

- a. **Determine which mechanism to engage with** by analyzing the links between SDG16+ targets, human rights and labour standards, and your country's ratification of relevant international agreements. See the key resources in this section for further guidance;
- b. **Familiarize yourself with the specific rules, modalities and timelines for civil society interaction** with the monitoring body or process with which you wish to engage;
- c. **Participate in any consultations held by governments** to prepare their national report on the human rights or labour standards situation in your country, as well as any consultations held under the Special Procedures of the Human Rights Council;
- d. **Prepare written submissions on the human rights or labour standards situation in your country in relation to your SDG16+ issue(s)** for consideration by monitoring bodies. Many of these bodies accept written information, materials and reports from civil society;

<sup>210</sup> The Danish Institute for Human Rights (2019). *Integrated review and reporting on SDGs and Human Rights*, p. 3. Available at: <https://www.humanrights.dk/publications/integrated-review-reporting-sdgs-human-rights>

<sup>211</sup> As of May 14, 2021, there were 36,596 recommendations linked to SDG 16 from the UN treaty bodies, the UPR and the Special Procedures of the UN Human Rights Council. For more information, see: The Danish Institute for Human Rights. 'SDG – Human Rights Data Explorer'. Available at: <https://sdgdata.humanrights.dk/en>

<sup>212</sup> This is in line with the 2030 Agenda, which states: "Data and information from existing reporting mechanisms should be used where possible." United Nations (2015). *Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, para. 48. General Assembly Resolution A/RES/70/1. Available at: <https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda>

<sup>213</sup> The Danish Institute for Human Rights (2019). *Integrated review and reporting on SDGs and Human Rights*, pp. 4-5. Available at: <https://www.humanrights.dk/publications/integrated-review-reporting-sdgs-human-rights>

<sup>214</sup> Adapted from: Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2018). *SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society*, pp. 41-42. Available at: <https://sdgaccountability.org/>

<sup>215</sup> For an overview of your country's status of ratification of international human rights and ILO agreements, see: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). 'Status of Ratification: Interactive Dashboard'. Available at: <https://indicators.ohchr.org/>; and International Labour Organization (ILO). 'Ratifications by country'. Available at: <https://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/f?p=NORMLEXPUB:11001:0::NO::>

- e. **Produce independent civil society shadow reports on the human rights or labour standards situation your country in relation to your SDG16+ issue(s);**
  - f. **Participate in review sessions as observers and/or through oral submissions** at review sessions or pre-sessional working groups held by monitoring bodies; and
  - g. **Follow-up on the outcomes of reviews** by engaging in dialogue with your government to help them meet their joint human rights, labour standards and SDG16+ obligations.
3. **Use information from international monitoring mechanisms in SDG follow-up and review processes** – You can use information, recommendations and reports from international human rights and labour standards mechanisms to inform SDG follow-up and review processes such as VNRs.<sup>216</sup> This information can be used in preparing civil society shadow reports, written or oral statements, and policy or advocacy briefings on SDG16+ implementation for a range of stakeholders including government actors.
  4. **Encourage collaboration between National Mechanisms for Reporting and Follow-up (NMRF) and national SDG coordination bodies responsible for SDG follow-up and review** – A NMRF is a government coordination body or structure that is mandated to coordinate and prepare reports for and engage with international and regional human rights mechanisms.<sup>218</sup> Aligning the work of these bodies with the national bodies responsible for SDG reporting – including for SDG16+ – is essential to increase coherence between human rights, labour standards and sustainable development monitoring processes.<sup>219</sup>

### **TIP: Preparing written submissions to monitoring bodies on SDG16+**



- Familiarize yourself with the technical guidelines to provide written submissions to a particular human rights or ILO body or process.<sup>217</sup>
- Know and adhere to the deadlines for written submissions.
- Work with other civil society actors to prepare joint submissions or reports.
- Review your country's prior reports and recommendations in relation to SDG16+.
- Be explicit in identifying the links between specific SDG16+ targets and human rights or labour standards. Don't assume that monitoring bodies know the SDGs.
- Provide credible and reliable information on your country's situation.
- Highlight problems in SDG16+ implementation that overlap with or impact human rights and offer concrete recommendations to improve the situation.

<sup>216</sup> This is in line with the *Handbook for the Preparation of Voluntary National Reviews*, which encourages countries to draw on existing reports – including reports submitted to human rights mechanisms – when drafting VNR reports. See: UN DESA (2021). *Handbook for the Preparation of Voluntary National Reviews – the 2021 Edition*, p. 10. Available at: [https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/27024Handbook\\_2021\\_EN.pdf](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/27024Handbook_2021_EN.pdf). The Danish Institute for Human Rights has also prepared a helpful step-by-step guide on how to use human rights reporting and monitoring in VNRs. See: The Danish Institute for Human Rights (2018). *Human Rights and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development: Lessons learned and next steps*, pp. 30-31. Available at: [https://www.humanrights.dk/sites/humanrights.dk/files/media/dokumenter/sdg/hr\\_and\\_2030\\_agenda-web\\_2018.pdf](https://www.humanrights.dk/sites/humanrights.dk/files/media/dokumenter/sdg/hr_and_2030_agenda-web_2018.pdf)

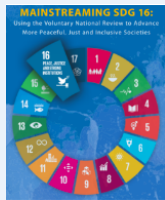
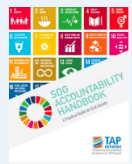
<sup>217</sup> For more information on producing written submissions for human rights-related processes, see: Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). 'Human rights treaty bodies'. Available at: <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/Pages/Overview.aspx>; and Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) (2008). *Working with the United Nations Human Rights Programme: A Handbook for Civil Society*. Available at: <http://www.ohchr.org/civilsocietyhandbook/>

<sup>218</sup> The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies and Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2020). *Mainstreaming SDG 16: Using the Voluntary National Review to Advance More Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*, p. 14. Available at: <https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive>

<sup>219</sup> Feiring, Birgitte and König-Reis, Saionara (2020). *Leveraging Human Rights Mechanisms to Improve SDG Follow-up and Review*, p. 8. Available at: [https://www.daghammarskjold.se/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/hlpf\\_2\\_birgitte\\_saionara.pdf](https://www.daghammarskjold.se/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/hlpf_2_birgitte_saionara.pdf)



## Key TAP Network resource:

<p><b>Mainstreaming SDG 16: Using the Voluntary National Review to Advance More Peaceful, Just and Inclusive societies</b> (Global Alliance and TAP Network, 2020)</p>	<p>This resource provides policy guidance, case studies and good practices on advancing SDG 16 implementation at national and subnational levels by more effectively leveraging the Voluntary National Review (VNR) and post-VNR processes. It contains a chapter on 'Aligning VNRs with other Reporting and Review Mechanisms.'</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive">https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive</a></p>	
<p><b>SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society</b> (TAP Network, 2018)</p>	<p>This handbook provides guidance on the different approaches and steps that can be taken by civil society to ensure national government accountability for the SDGs. It includes a chapter on 'Utilizing International Human Rights Mechanisms.'</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sdgaccountability.org/">https://sdgaccountability.org/</a></p>	

## Key resources:

<p><b>Human Rights Bodies</b> (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR))</p>	<p>This section of OHCHR's website provides information and documentation on the different human rights monitoring mechanisms in the UN system including the treaty-based bodies and charter-based bodies.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/Pages/HumanRightsBodies.aspx">https://www.ohchr.org/EN/HRBodies/Pages/HumanRightsBodies.aspx</a></p>
<p><b>Universal Human Rights Index (UHRI)</b> (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR))</p>	<p>This online database allows users to search the observations and recommendations of the UN treaty bodies, Special Procedures and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), by country, region, mechanism, human rights theme, concerned persons/groups and SDG target. Available in the six official UN languages.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="http://uhri.ohchr.org/en">http://uhri.ohchr.org/en</a></p>
<p><b>UN Treaty Database</b> (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR))</p>	<p>This online database allows users to search all public documents adopted or received by the UN human rights treaty bodies. It is searchable by state/entity or geographic region, committee, document type and symbol/dates.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/TB-Search.aspx">https://tbinternet.ohchr.org/_layouts/15/TreatyBodyExternal/TB-Search.aspx</a></p>
<p><b>Universal Periodic Review</b> (UN Human Rights Council)</p>	<p>This website provides detailed information on the UPR including cycles, sessions, documentation by country and civil society engagement.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/upr/pages/uprmain.aspx">https://www.ohchr.org/en/hrbodies/upr/pages/uprmain.aspx</a></p>
<p><b>NORMLEX</b> (International Labour Organization)</p>	<p>The ILO's information system on International Labour Standards, which brings together information on International Labour Standards (such as ratification information, reporting requirements, and comments of the ILO's supervisory bodies) as well as national labour and social security laws.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="http://www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/">www.ilo.org/dyn/normlex/en/</a></p>

<p><b>The Human Rights Guide to the SDGs</b> (The Danish Institute for Human Rights)</p>	<p>This online database allows users to identify the links between the SDGs or SDG targets and international and regional human rights instruments, labour standards and key environmental instruments (some of which have human rights dimensions). Available in seven languages.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="http://sdg.humanrights.dk">http://sdg.humanrights.dk</a></p>
<p><b>The SDG – Human Rights Data Explorer</b> (The Danish Institute for Human Rights)</p>	<p>This online database links recommendations and observations issued by international human rights monitoring mechanisms with the Goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda. Users can search for data by country, human rights mechanism, SDG or SDG target, and specific rights-holder groups. Available in the six official UN languages.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sdgdata.humanrights.dk/en/">https://sdgdata.humanrights.dk/en/</a></p>
<p><b>Integrated review and reporting on SDGs and Human Rights</b> (The Danish Institute for Human Rights, 2019)</p>	<p>This guidance note explores different ways in which human rights recommendations can be used in different processes and at different levels in order to pursue a human rights-based approach to sustainable development.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.humanrights.dk/publications/integrated-review-reporting-sdgs-human-rights">https://www.humanrights.dk/publications/integrated-review-reporting-sdgs-human-rights</a></p>
<p><b>Leveraging Human Rights Mechanisms to Improve SDG Follow-up and Review</b> (Birgitte Feiring and Saionara König-Reis, 2020)</p>	<p>This paper explains how human rights principles underpin the 2030 Agenda, why a human rights-based approach is necessary in its implementation, and how global and national human rights mechanisms could be leveraged to strengthen SDG monitoring and review at the High-level Political Forum (HLPF).</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.daghammarskjold.se/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/hlpf_2_birgitte_saionara.pdf">https://www.daghammarskjold.se/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/hlpf_2_birgitte_saionara.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Working with the United Nations Human Rights Programme: A Handbook for Civil Society</b> (Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), 2008)</p>	<p>This practical handbook – aimed at civil society actors – is a user-friendly and authoritative resource on the UN human rights bodies and mechanisms. It explains how these bodies and mechanisms work and explores the many important ways that civil society actors can engage with and contribute to their work. Available in Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Georgian, Nepali, Persian, Russian, Spanish and Vietnamese.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="http://www.ohchr.org/civilsocietyhandbook/">http://www.ohchr.org/civilsocietyhandbook/</a></p>

# Working with National Human Rights Institutions

*National Human Rights Institutions can play a key role in advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies through their core functions and other actions that support the SDGs*

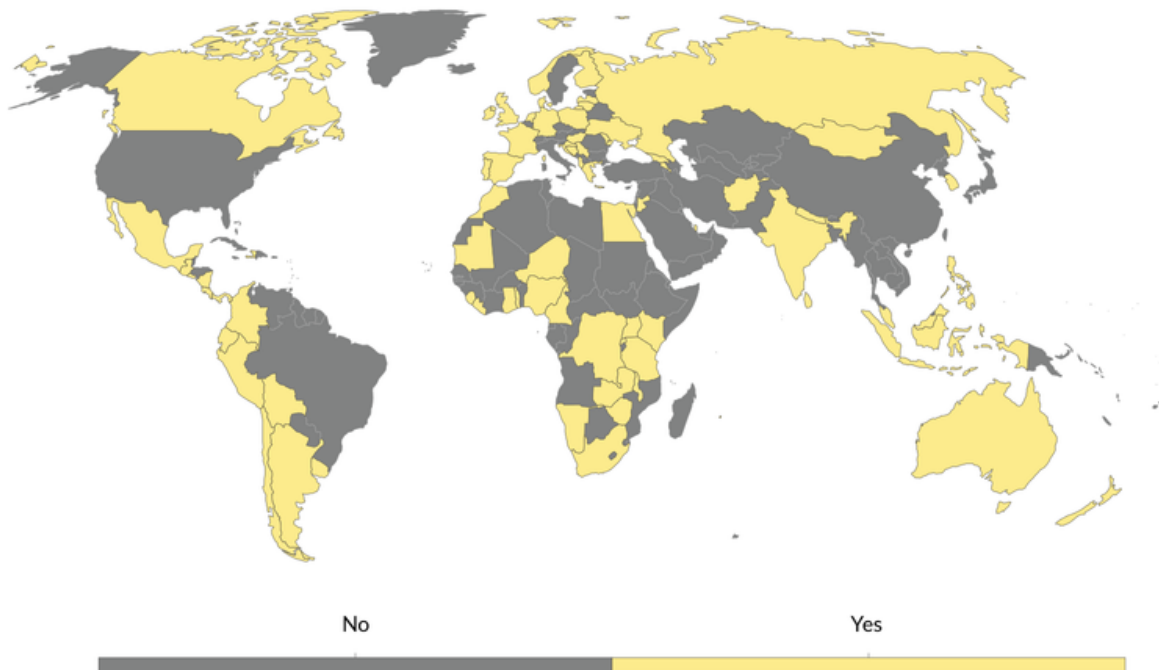
## Overview

National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs)<sup>220</sup> are independent State bodies with a constitutional or legislative mandate to protect and promote human rights. They have a wide range of functions including undertaking systematic analysis of the human rights situation in their respective country, issuing reports and recommendations, advising government and parliament, promoting human rights education and cooperating with national, regional, international and intergovernmental organizations. Some NHRIs also have the authority to handle complaints from citizens, facilitating access to justice, redress and remedy for human rights violations.<sup>221</sup>

## Countries with National Human Rights Institutions in compliance with the Paris Principles, 2018

Our World in Data

Compliance of existing national human rights institutions with the Principles relating to the Status of National Institutions (The Paris Principles) based on the rules of procedure of the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI).



Source: UN Statistics Division

<sup>220</sup> National Human Rights Institutions include human rights commissions, human rights institutes, ombudspersons and *defensorías*.

<sup>221</sup> The Danish Institute for Human Rights (2019). *National Human Rights Institutions as a driving force for sustainable development: Good practices for SDG programing and monitoring*, p. 5. Available at: [https://www.humanrights.dk/sites/humanrights.dk/files/media/migrated/good\\_practices.pdf](https://www.humanrights.dk/sites/humanrights.dk/files/media/migrated/good_practices.pdf)

The global indicator framework for the SDGs recognizes the existence of independent NHRIs in compliance with the Paris Principles<sup>222</sup> as the indicator to measure progress on SDG target 16.a.<sup>223</sup> As of May 2021, 117 NHRIs were accredited by the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI), with 84 in full compliance with the Paris Principles (“A” status) and 33 in partial compliance (“B” status).<sup>224</sup> Through their core functions, NHRIs also directly contribute to the realization of other SDG16+ targets including SDG target 4.7 (human rights education) and SDG targets 5.c, 10.3 and 16.b (elimination of discriminatory legislation).<sup>225</sup>

NHRIs are a critical part of the institutional architecture necessary for the realization of the 2030 Agenda<sup>226</sup> and can play a key role in advancing peaceful, just and inclusive societies. In line with the Mérida Declaration on the Role of National Human Rights Institutions in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,<sup>227</sup> NHRIs can take the following actions in support of SDG16+:<sup>228</sup>

- Provide advice to national and local governments, rights-holders and others to promote a human-rights based approach to implementing and measuring SDG16+;<sup>229</sup>
- Promote transparent and inclusive processes for participation and consultation with rights-holders and civil society in SDG16+ implementation, monitoring and follow-up and review processes, including reaching out to those who are furthest behind;
- Engage with stakeholders to raise awareness, build trust and promote dialogue and efforts for a human rights-based approach to SDG16+ implementation and monitoring, and safeguard space for the engagement of rights-holders and civil society;
- Assist in shaping national indicators and data collection systems for SDG16+;

- Monitor SDG16+ progress at all levels to identify inequality and discrimination, including through innovative and participatory approaches to data-collection and monitoring;
- Engage with governments and hold them to account for poor or uneven progress in SDG16+ implementation, including by reporting on SDG16+ progress and obstacles to parliaments, the general public, and national, regional and international mechanisms;<sup>230</sup>
- Respond to, conduct inquiries into, and investigate allegations of rights violations in the context of development and SDG16+ implementation; and
- Facilitate access to justice, redress and remedy for those who experience abuse and violation of their rights in the process of development, including by receiving and processing complaints, where NHRIs have such functions.



222 The Paris Principles relate to the status and functioning of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs). They set out the following six main criteria that NHRIs are required to meet: 1. Mandate and competence: a broad mandate, based on universal human rights norms and standards; 2. Autonomy from Government; 3. Independence guaranteed by statute or Constitution; 4. Pluralism; 5. Adequate resources; and 6. Adequate powers of investigation. Available at: <https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/files/PRINCI-5.PDF>

223 16.a: Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacity at all levels, in particular in developing countries, to prevent violence and combat terrorism and crime

224 Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). 'Accreditation'. Available at: <https://ganhri.org/accreditation/>

225 Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) (2017). *National Human Rights Institutions engaging with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)*, p. 4. Available at: <https://www.humanrights.dk/publications/national-human-rights-institutions-engaging-sustainable-development-goals>

226 Danish Institute for Human Rights (2019). *National human rights institutions as a driving force for sustainable development: good practices for SDG programing and monitoring*. Available at: <https://www.humanrights.dk/publications/national-human-rights-institutions-driving-force-sustainable-development>

227 The Mérida Declaration – The Role of National Human Rights Institutions in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – was adopted by the International Coordinating Committee of NHRIs, now the Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI) in 2015. It outlines the functions and activities that NHRIs can undertake in order to contribute to a human-rights based approach to the 2030 Agenda. Available at: <https://www.theioi.org/ioi-news/current-news/merida-declaration-on-nhris-role-in-implementing-the-2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development>

228 Adapted from: *The Mérida Declaration – The Role of National Human Rights Institutions in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* (2015), para. 17. Available at: <https://www.theioi.org/ioi-news/current-news/merida-declaration-on-nhris-role-in-implementing-the-2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development>

229 Such advice includes assessing the impact of laws, policies, programmes, national development plans, administrative practices and budgets.

230 Such mechanisms include the Human Rights Council and its mechanisms, including the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), the Special Procedures, treaty bodies, the International Labour Organization’s supervisory bodies, UN regional commissions and the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).

## Putting it into practice<sup>231</sup>

The Paris Principles mandate NHRIs to work closely with civil society, promoting cooperation and coordination to enhance the protection and promotion of human rights. In line with the Mérida Declaration, there are a number of ways that you can engage with NHRIs in order to advance peaceful, just and inclusive societies, including the following:

1. **Determine whether your country has a NHRI** – You should first determine whether there is an accredited NHRI and review its status in terms of compliance with the Paris Principles.<sup>232</sup> Where there is no NHRI or it is not fully compliant with the Paris Principles, you can advocate to your government for an independent NHRI in line with SDG target 16.a.
2. **Work with your NHRI to secure or safeguard space for civil society to advance peaceful, just and inclusive societies** – In addition to supporting SDG target 16.10, civil society space is essential in order to engage in SDG16+ implementation and accountability processes. You can contact your NHRI to determine what kind of support, if any, it can provide.<sup>233</sup>
3. **Consider partnering with your NHRI to raise awareness of SDG16+** – You can investigate what actions your NHRI is taking to raise awareness of SDG16+ and explore potential partnerships to maximize resources, reach and impact to increase SDG16+ awareness.
4. **Encourage your NHRI to facilitate transparent, inclusive and participatory national review processes for SDG16+** – You can encourage your NHRI to act as an advisor and convener of national review processes – including for VNRs – and to ensure that these processes are inclusive, participatory and engage vulnerable and marginalized groups.
5. **Urge your NHRI to provide independent reports on the national human rights situation in relation to SDG16+** – You can urge your NHRI to use its mandate to report on SDG16+ progress both to human rights bodies and to SDG-specific forums such as the HLPF. Reports should include information on the human rights situation in relation to SDG16+ targets, unequal progress and the situation of those furthest behind, and the procedural aspects of national consultations, including transparency and stakeholder participation.<sup>234</sup>
6. **Partner with your NHRI to support participatory approaches to SDG16+ indicator selection, data collection and monitoring** – In addition to being able to collect independent data on SDG16+ targets,<sup>235</sup> NHRIs can be a strategic partner for civil society in supporting people's participation in SDG16+ indicator selection, data collection and monitoring processes.
7. **Encourage NHRIs to conduct independent research and publish reports on SDG16+ implementation** – Research and reports should document and assess the impact of laws, policies, programs, national development plans and budgets in relation to SDG16+ implementation, including for vulnerable and marginalized groups. You can encourage NHRIs to produce reports individually or jointly with your CSO or civil society coalition.
8. **Urge NHRIs to investigate and respond to individual human rights complaints or pursue legal action for human rights violations that occur in the context of SDG implementation** – Where it is within the mandate of your NHRI, you can also bring individual human rights cases to its attention, in order to support access to justice (SDG target 16.3).

<sup>231</sup> Adapted from: Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2018). *SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society*, pp. 55-58. Available at: <https://sdgaccountability.org/>

<sup>232</sup> To determine your country's NHRI's existence or status, see: Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions (GANHRI). 'Members'. Available at: <https://ganhri.org/membership/>

<sup>233</sup> The ability of a NHRI to secure or safeguard space for civil society actors will, of course, depend upon its own independence and autonomy from the government.

<sup>234</sup> Feiring, Birgitte and König-Reis, Saionara (2020). *Leveraging Human Rights Mechanisms to Improve SDG Follow-up and Review*, p. 9. Available at: [https://www.daghammarskjold.se/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/hlpf\\_2\\_birgitte\\_saionara.pdf](https://www.daghammarskjold.se/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/hlpf_2_birgitte_saionara.pdf)

<sup>235</sup> For example, as the national preventative mechanism for the Convention Against Torture, NHRIs have unlimited access to prisons and other places of detention and can help provide a more complete picture of the situation faced by detainees (SDG target 16.3). The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies (2019). *Enabling the implementation of the 2030 Agenda through SDG 16+: Anchoring peace, justice and inclusion*, p. 68. Available at: <https://www.un-globalalliance.org/sdg16-report>



**CASE STUDY:**

***The Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice of Ghana: An Accountability Actor***

**Mainstreaming SDG16**

The Commission on Human Rights and Administrative Justice (CHRAJ or the Commission) is Ghana’s National Human Rights Institution. CHRAJ is a member of the multi-sectoral SDGs Implementation Coordination Committee (ICC) of Ghana, which comprises representatives of key ministries, public agencies and civil society organizations. The mandate of the ICC includes strengthening cross-sectoral coordination and multi-stakeholder partnerships in SDG implementation, monitoring, evaluation and reporting. For the preparation of Ghana’s 2019 VNR, the CHRAJ was formally requested by the SDG coordinating secretariat to provide information on its activities contributing to the SDGs, including on Goal 16. The Commission was also part of Ghana’s official delegation to the HLPF that year. In the follow-up to the VNR, the CHRAJ is playing a central role in improving accountability in the country, particularly in its capacity as the coordinating body for the National Anti-Corruption Plan.

To read the full-length version of this case study, visit [www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies](http://www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies)

**Key TAP Network resources:**

<p><b>Mainstreaming SDG 16: Using the Voluntary National Review to Advance More Peaceful, Just and Inclusive societies</b> (Global Alliance and TAP Network, 2020)</p>	<p>This resource provides policy guidance, case studies and good practices on advancing SDG 16 implementation at national and subnational levels by more effectively leveraging the Voluntary National Review (VNR) and post-VNR processes. It contains a chapter on ‘National Human Rights Institutions in the Implementation of SDG 16.’</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive">https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive</a></p>	
<p><b>SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society</b> (TAP Network, 2018)</p>	<p>This handbook provides guidance on the different approaches and steps that can be taken by civil society to ensure national government accountability for the SDGs. It includes a chapter on ‘Engaging with National Human Rights Institutions (NHRI).’</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sdgaccountability.org/">https://sdgaccountability.org/</a></p>	

**SDG 16** 

## Key resources:

<p><b>Global Alliance of National Human Rights Institutions</b> (GANHRI)</p>	<p>The international association of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) that seeks to promote and strengthen NHRIs and provide leadership in the promotion and protection of human rights.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://ganhri.org/">https://ganhri.org/</a></p>
<p><b>SDGs and Human Rights Toolbox</b> (GANHRI, 2020)</p>	<p>This toolbox seeks to enhance the capacity of NHRIs to contribute to the implementation, monitoring and review of the SDGs. It compiles resources from relevant organizations, covering a wide range of thematic areas and issues pertinent to specific regions and stakeholders.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://ganhri.org/sdgs-toolbox/">https://ganhri.org/sdgs-toolbox/</a></p>
<p><b>National human rights institutions as a driving force for sustainable development: good practices for SDG programming and monitoring</b> (Danish Institute for Human Rights, 2019)</p>	<p>This compilation of good practices for SDG monitoring and programming showcases the contributions from a range of different NHRIs to achieve the SDGs. Good practices are highlighted in relation to the following topics: monitoring and advisory; alliances and participation; data; and the practical application of a human rights-based approach to specific SDGs (including Goals 5 (gender equality), 8 (decent work and economic growth) and 16).</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.humanrights.dk/publications/national-human-rights-institutions-driving-force-sustainable-development">https://www.humanrights.dk/publications/national-human-rights-institutions-driving-force-sustainable-development</a></p>
<p><b>National Human Rights Institutions - Accelerators, Guarantors and Indicators of Sustainable Development</b> (GANHRI and Danish Institute for Human Rights, 2019)</p>	<p>This short paper – prepared in connection with a Human Rights Council session in March 2019 to collect and share NHRI expertise and experiences – discusses the role of NHRIs in the good governance and institutional accountability architecture necessary to achieve the SDGs.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.humanrights.dk/publications/national-human-rights-institutions-accelerators-guarantors-indicators-sustainable">https://www.humanrights.dk/publications/national-human-rights-institutions-accelerators-guarantors-indicators-sustainable</a></p>
<p><b>National Human Rights Institutions engaging with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)</b> (GANHRI, 2017)</p>	<p>This study outlines how NHRIs support the implementation of the SDGs at the country level.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.humanrights.dk/publications/national-human-rights-institutions-engaging-sustainable-development-goals">https://www.humanrights.dk/publications/national-human-rights-institutions-engaging-sustainable-development-goals</a></p>
<p><b>The Mérida Declaration – The Role of National Human Rights Institutions in implementing the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</b> (2015)</p>	<p>This declaration – the outcome of the 12<sup>th</sup> International Conference of the International Coordinating Committee of National Institutions for the Promotion and Protection of Human Rights (ICC) held in 2015 – outlines the role of NHRIs in the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.theioi.org/ioi-news/current-news/merida-declaration-on-nhris-role-in-implementing-the-2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development">https://www.theioi.org/ioi-news/current-news/merida-declaration-on-nhris-role-in-implementing-the-2030-agenda-for-sustainable-development</a></p>

# Working with Supreme Audit Institutions

*Supreme Audit Institutions (SAIs) can play a critical role in advancing several SDG16+ targets and in holding governments accountable for overall SDG16+ implementation*

## Overview

A Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) is an independent, national oversight body whose mandate is to “watch” over government accounts, operations and performance.<sup>236</sup> An important part of the national accountability architecture, SAIs are largely responsible for auditing a government’s revenue and spending, helping to increase transparency and ensure the efficient and effective use of public funds by government bodies. Many SAIs support parliaments in their oversight of government budgets and spending. Some play an even larger role in accountability – including some with judicial authority – by ensuring that government programs are in compliance with laws and regulations, or even undertaking performance assessments to determine the effectiveness of a government’s activities.<sup>237</sup>

While structures, mandates and reporting relationships of different SAIs vary, they all can play a critical role in SDG16+ implementation and accountability. As independent oversight bodies, SAIs are central to strengthening and developing effective, accountable and transparent government institutions (SDG target 16.6). In auditing public expenditure and government accounts, SAIs promote transparency in the use of public funds and can help to combat corruption in the public sector (SDG tar-

get 16.5).<sup>238</sup> SAIs can also act as models of transparency and proper financial management in their own operations, helping to foster good governance and accountability in line with the overarching principles of SDG16+.

In addition to providing oversight of a national government’s budget allocations and expenditures for SDG16+ implementation, SAIs can assess the preparedness of national governments to implement the SDGs and undertake performance audits of progress on SDG implementation.<sup>239</sup> Under the INTOSAI Development Initiative’s work on ‘Auditing the SDGs,’ over 70 SAIs have already conducted performance audits of governments’ preparedness to implement the SDGs.<sup>240</sup>



236 INTOSAI Development Initiative. *Guidance on Supreme Audit Institutions’ Engagement with Stakeholders*, p. 6. Available at: <https://www.idi.no/elibrary/well-governed-sais/sais-engaging-with-stakeholders/697-idi-sais-engaging-with-stakeholders-guide/file>

237 Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2018). *SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society*, pp. 59-60. Available at: <https://sdgaccountability.org/>; The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies and Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2020). *Mainstreaming SDG 16: Using the Voluntary National Review to Advance More Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*, p. 32. Available at: <https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive>

238 The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies and Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2020). *Mainstreaming SDG 16: Using the Voluntary National Review to Advance More Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*, p. 32. Available at: <https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive>

239 Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2018). *SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society*, p. 59. Available at: <https://sdgaccountability.org/>

240 INTOSAI Development Initiative. ‘Auditing the SDGs’. Available at: <https://www.idi.no/work-streams/relevant-sais/auditing-sdgs>



## Putting it into practice

Traditionally, SAIs have had limited interaction with stakeholders such as civil society. However, in recent years, SAIs have started to deepen their engagement with citizens in order to increase the effectiveness and scope of their auditing practices.<sup>241</sup> Given their mandates to “watch” over government accounts, operations and performance, there is considerable potential for SAIs and civil society to work together in order to promote and support accountability for the SDGs, including SDG16+.

Civil society actors can consider engaging with SAIs in the following ways:<sup>242</sup>

### 1. Support and partnership:

- Communicate with SAIs to understand their role, mandate and limitations;
- Identify champions within SAIs who will work closely with you to promote SDG16+ accountability, and invite them to engage;
- Conduct an SDG16+ gap analysis and stakeholder mapping with SAIs in order to be able to understand and act on opportunities for audits related to SDG16+ issues; and
- Offer support to SAIs to further SDG16+ accountability. For example, CSOs can:
  - Suggest topics or issues of concern for SAIs to audit;
  - Report fraud, waste, corruption or abuse via “hot lines”;
  - Engage in the execution of an audit through joint audits or social audits, including verifying data with citizens;
  - Disseminate audit findings and recommendations; and
  - Engage with audited entities to ensure recommendations are acted upon.

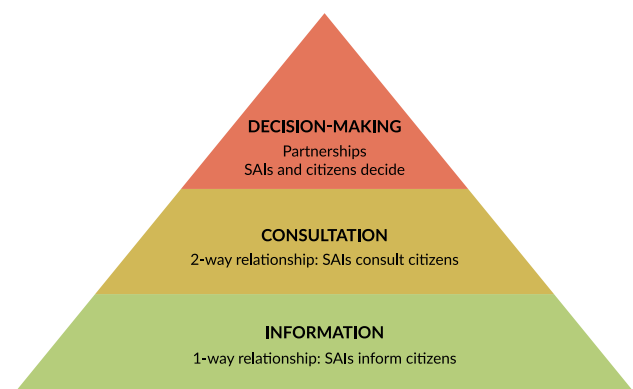
### 2. Advocacy:

- Advocate to ensure SAIs have the mandate, independence and resources to function effectively and to support accountability for the SDGs, including SDG16+;
- Encourage your country’s SAI to conduct an audit to assess the national government’s preparedness to implement the SDGs (if it has not already done so);

- Encourage SAIs to undertake performance audits of government programs – including planning, spending and effectiveness – to implement SDG16+ targets;
- Encourage SAIs to conduct performance audits of government actions to address recommendations and findings from VNRs;<sup>243</sup>
- Advocate to ensure SAIs have the necessary information, from national and sub-national authorities, to publish audit reports in a timely and accessible manner; and
- Use audit reports in your advocacy work, including your engagements with the government, legislature, media and the public, in order to advance SDG16+ implementation.

### 3. Raise awareness:

- Launch public awareness campaigns that raise the profile of audit reports and educate citizens about the role SAIs can play in holding governments accountable for SDG16+ implementation;
- Encourage open debates in parliament on audit reports related to SDG16+ issues and implementation; and
- Work with SAI bodies to establish an annual “Accountability Day” whereby legislators review recent government performance in implementing the SDGs, including SDG16+.



*Stages of Citizen Engagement with SAIs*

<sup>241</sup> World Bank Group and Asociación Civil por la Igualdad y la Justicia (ACIJ). ‘E-guide on Engaging Citizens in the Audit Process’. Available at: <https://www.e-participatoryaudit.org/index.html>  
<sup>242</sup> Adapted from: Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2018). *SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society*, pp. 59-60. Available at: <https://sdgaccountability.org/>  
<sup>243</sup> The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies and Transparency, Accountability and Participation (TAP) Network (2020). *Mainstreaming SDG 16: Using the Voluntary National Review to Advance More Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies*, p. 32. Available at: <https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive>



**CASE STUDY:**

## Citizen Participation to Strengthen Oversight in Colombia and South Korea<sup>244</sup>



### SDG Accountability Handbook

Colombia: The Comptroller General of the Republic of Colombia (CGRC) actively promotes citizen participation in the oversight process. Colombia’s SAI developed a guide on joint audits with CSOs and citizens affected by public interventions. The actors provide input throughout the execution of audits: on-site; at meetings and roundtables; or through reports and any other forms of information that can help the SAI improve the audit process. According to Practical Action, CGRC has “worked to develop a civil and fiscal culture among citizens. From 2006 to 2010, it carried out 2,232 outreach activities, benefiting 281,861 citizens.” It has also: “established accessible channels for receiving citizens’ input and incorporating it in the audit process [and] from 2006-2010, the CGRC implemented 120 coordinated audits and created 763 citizen oversight committees. To ensure these mechanisms’ success, it carried out 4,964 training activities, enabling 177,196 citizens to actively participate in the oversight process.”<sup>245</sup>

South Korea: In South Korea, the Audit Office established a complaint hotline and whistle-blower mechanism through which citizens can report areas of suspected irregularities or corruption and request audits. The hotline collects “reports on unjust handling of petitions by administrative agencies, complaints, and particularly behaviours such as unjustly refusing receipt and handling of petitions on the grounds that they may be later pinpointed by audit and inspection.” The hotlines also receive “reports of corruption and fraud of public officials, including bribery, idleness, embezzlement and the misappropriation of public funds.” This mechanism has been widely disseminated in South Korean society and has a dedicated page on the SAI’s website.<sup>246</sup>

To read the full-length version of this case study, visit [www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies](http://www.sdg16toolkit.org/case-studies)

## Key TAP Network resources:

<p><b>Mainstreaming SDG 16: Using the Voluntary National Review to Advance More Peaceful, Just and Inclusive societies</b> (Global Alliance and TAP Network, 2020)</p>	<p>This resource provides policy guidance, case studies and good practices on advancing SDG 16 implementation at national and subnational levels by more effectively leveraging the Voluntary National Review (VNR) and post-VNR processes. It contains a chapter on ‘The Role of Supreme Audit Institutions and other Oversight Bodies.’</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive">https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/mainstreaming-sdg-16-using-voluntary-national-review-advance-more-peaceful-just-and-inclusive</a></p>	
<p><b>SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society</b> (TAP Network, 2018)</p>	<p>This handbook provides guidance on the different approaches and steps that can be taken by civil society to ensure national government accountability for the SDGs. It includes a chapter on ‘Utilizing Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI).’</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sdgaccountability.org/">https://sdgaccountability.org/</a></p>	

<sup>244</sup> TAP Network (2019). SDG Accountability Handbook. IDI Guidance on Supreme Audit Institutions’ Engagement with Stakeholders.

<sup>245</sup> ELLA: The Latin American Approach to Improving Public Spending Oversight. [http://ella.practicalaction.org/wp-content/uploads/files/110826\\_GOV\\_BudPubPol\\_BRIEF2\\_0.pdf](http://ella.practicalaction.org/wp-content/uploads/files/110826_GOV_BudPubPol_BRIEF2_0.pdf)

<sup>246</sup> IDI Guidance on Supreme Audit Institutions’ Engagement with Stakeholders. <http://iniciativatpa.org/2012/wp-content/uploads/2014/09/Stock-take-report-on-SAIs-and-citizen-engagement2.pdf>

## Key resources:

<p><b>E-guide on Engaging Citizens in the Audit Process</b> (World Bank Group and Asociación Civil por la Igualdad y la Justicia (ACIJ))</p>	<p>This e-guide platform on citizen engagement with SAIs is aimed at public officials from oversight bodies and representatives from civil society. It offers tools and information to guide and inform SAIs, civil society organizations and the public about the challenges and benefits of engagement, as well as on how to engage.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.e-participatoryaudit.org/index.html">https://www.e-participatoryaudit.org/index.html</a></p>
<p><b>Guidance on Supreme Audit Institutions' Engagement with Stakeholders</b> (INTOSAI Development Initiative)</p>	<p>This guidance seeks to help SAIs formulate and implement strategies aimed at enhancing audit impact through stakeholder engagement. It describes a comprehensive set of mechanisms by which SAIs can engage with stakeholders, the different stakeholders a SAI may consider engaging with to achieve greater audit impact and ways for SAIs to develop strategies that can help enhance stakeholder engagement.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.idi.no/elibrary/well-governed-sais/sais-engaging-with-stakeholders/697-idi-sais-engaging-with-stakeholders-guide/file">https://www.idi.no/elibrary/well-governed-sais/sais-engaging-with-stakeholders/697-idi-sais-engaging-with-stakeholders-guide/file</a></p>
<p><b>Citizen Engagement Practices by Supreme Audit Institutions</b> – Compendium of Innovative Practices of Citizen Engagement by Supreme Audit Institutions for Public Accountability (UN DESA, 2013)</p>	<p>This report provides an overview of successful examples and innovations in the engagement of citizens by SAIs. It is based on an analysis of the responses of INTOSAI members to a questionnaire, which formed the technical basis for the 21st UN/INTOSAI Symposium, held in 2011.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://publicadministration.un.org/publications/content/PDFs/Compendium%20of%20Innovative%20Practices%20of%20Citizen%20Engagement%202013.pdf">https://publicadministration.un.org/publications/content/PDFs/Compendium%20of%20Innovative%20Practices%20of%20Citizen%20Engagement%202013.pdf</a></p>
<p>Sustainable Development Goals – SDGs (International Organization of Supreme Audit Institutions (INTOSAI))</p>	<p>This section of the website of INTOSAI provides information on the work of SAIs in relation to the SDGs. There are useful links to: the 'INTOSAI Atlas on SDGs – Audit reports of individual SAIs on the SDGs'; activities of individual SAIs on the SDGs; and audit reports and activities of INTOSAI Regional Organizations on the SDGs.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.intosai.org/focus-areas/intosai-un-sdgs/sais-a-regions">https://www.intosai.org/focus-areas/intosai-un-sdgs/sais-a-regions</a></p>
<p><b>Are Nations Prepared for Implementation of the 2030 Agenda?: Supreme Audit Institutions' Insights and Recommendations</b> (INTOSAI Development Initiative, 2019)</p>	<p>This report provides an overview of insights, recommendations and the impact of SAI performance audits of preparedness for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. It also shares SAI experiences, challenges, lessons learned and future plans for auditing the 2030 Agenda.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.idi.no/work-streams/relevant-sais/auditing-sdgs/sdgs-preparedness-audit/idi-ksc-2030-agenda">https://www.idi.no/work-streams/relevant-sais/auditing-sdgs/sdgs-preparedness-audit/idi-ksc-2030-agenda</a></p>
<p><b>IDI's SDGs Audit Model (ISAM): Pilot Version</b> (INTOSAI Development Initiative, 2020)</p>	<p>This pilot version of ISAM aims to provide practical 'how-to' guidance to SAIs for conducting audits of SDGs implementation. Key features include an illustration on the elimination of intimate partner violence against women, practical tips, interweaving of SDG principles (coherence, integration, leave no one behind and multi-stakeholder engagement) with an ISSAI compliant audit process, ISSAI checklists and a spotlight on audit impact. Available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.idi.no/work-streams/relevant-sais/auditing-sdgs/audit-sdgs-implementation/isam">https://www.idi.no/work-streams/relevant-sais/auditing-sdgs/audit-sdgs-implementation/isam</a></p>



# **V. OTHER OPPORTUNITIES FOR ENGAGEMENT**

## Regional mechanisms and forums

While the primary responsibility for implementing the 2030 Agenda rests with national governments, many countries cooperate via regional mechanisms, bodies and forums. Countries in a given region often share specific concerns and priorities and confront similar challenges, based on comparable geographies, macroeconomic structures, cultures and other shared characteristics. Consequently, countries in the same region may appreciate comparative perspectives and benefit from inter-regional cooperation and mutual exchange in the form of learning, resources and expertise. Regional forums and bodies provide a space for such collaboration and the sharing of best practices, particularly around SDG 16.<sup>247</sup>

Moreover, the results of regional monitoring are more likely to influence policy making, given that national governments are usually eager to compare their performance to that of neighboring peers. For example, many countries become champions of a particular SDG to position themselves as regional leaders, in turn mobilizing necessary political support at the national level.

Regional entities can foster political commitment to and national ownership of commitments by linking the 2030 Agenda to regionally specific agreements. CSOs interested in promoting accountability and advancing SDG16+ through regional approaches should consider engaging with the following regional bodies and forums:

- UN Regional Commissions:** At the regional level, national governments are required to identify the most suitable regional forum for following up and reviewing the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, building on existing mechanisms and successful experiences. The UN Regional Commissions have emerged as one of the most important forums for regional sustainable development processes and provide inclusive platforms for regional reviews. Regional processes facilitated by the UN Regional Commissions provide a forum for peer learning through voluntary reviews, sharing of best practices and discussions on shared targets. These forums are usually held between March and May. They tend to include regional intergovernmental forums focused on specific themes; agreement on region-specific priorities and indicators; and regional thematic and progress reports. Regional processes are also important for ensuring that global and regional agendas—such as the African Union’s Agenda



247 TAP Network (2019), SDG Accountability Handbook, p. 91-93

2063 or the European Union’s Consensus for Development—are aligned with the 2030 Agenda in order to avoid duplication or fragmentation. National accountability can be complemented by regional dialogue and monitoring in coordination with and making use of UN Regional Commissions. Civil society engagement at this level is critical to contribute knowledge-sharing, learning and identification of good practices, and in generating solutions and mutual support.

- **Sustainable Development Forums:** Regional Forums on Sustainable Development (RFSD) have been established in many regions by the UN Regional Commissions and help facilitate follow-up and review of the implementation of the Agenda. RFSDs—such as the African Regional Forum for Sustainable Development (ARFSD), Arab Forum on Sustainable Development, and Asia-Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development (APFSD)—serve as hubs for follow-up and review activities and help to facilitate peer learning and exchange of best practices, which then feed into the HLPF. These Forums serve as important mechanisms for monitoring and tracking progress in implementation at the regional level, as well as for mobilizing and ensuring the participation of stakeholders.
- **Regional human rights bodies and mechanisms:**
  - Inter-American Human Rights System: Being responsible for monitoring and ensuring implementation of human rights in 35 countries of the Americas, the Inter-American system is composed of two entities: a commission and a court. Both bodies can decide individual complaints concerning alleged human rights violations and may issue emergency protective measures when an individual or the subject of a complaint is at immediate risk of irreparable harm.
  - European Human Rights System: In Europe, the principal judicial and quasi-judicial organs responsible for defining and overseeing States’ compliance with their regional human rights obligations are the European Court of Human Rights (ECtHR) and the European Committee of Social Rights, both created under the auspices of the Council of Europe. The ECtHR has jurisdiction to decide complaints submit-

ted by individuals and States concerning violations of the European Convention on Human Rights, which principally concerns civil and political rights, whereas the Committee oversees the protection of most economic and social rights in most of Europe. In addition, the Council of Europe Commissioner for Human Rights serves as an independent monitor, highlighting issues of concern in the region. The Commissioner’s responsibilities include assisting national governments in implementing regional human rights standards, promoting understanding and awareness of human rights in the region, identifying gaps in protection, facilitating the activities of National Human Rights Institutions (NHRIs) and similar actors, and providing advice and information on human rights protection in Europe.

- African Human Rights System: The African human rights system is composed of two entities: a commission and a court. The African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (ACHPR) promotes and protects human rights in the 54 member States of the African Union, which – with the exception of South Sudan – have all ratified the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights. The Commission accepts complaints from individuals, groups of individuals, non-governmental organizations and States concerning alleged violations of the Charter. The second organization guarding human rights in Africa is the African Court on Human and Peoples Rights (AfCHPR). This is a regional human rights tribunal with advisory and contentious jurisdiction concerning the interpretation and application of the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights, which is also referred to as the Banjul Charter.

- Other bodies and forums (including peer review mechanisms):** There are a number of other bodies and forums, including peer review mechanisms, with which CSOs can engage at the regional level for SDG monitoring and accountability. In Asia, for instance, CSOs might seek to collaborate with the Asia-Pacific Regional Civil Society Engagement Mechanism (RCEM) or the Asian Parliamentary Forum. Other relevant peer review mechanisms include the African Peer Review Mechanism, the peer reviews of the Pacific Island Forum and the Organization for Economic Cooperation Development (OECD) initiative, which cover many thematic aspects of the 2030 Agenda. Finally, routine reports on regional support and achievements from both public and private and civil society sources, such as the EU's annual "Accountability Report on Financing for Development" or Concord Europe's annual "Aid Watch Report," are useful accountability tools that employ both learning and peer pressure "naming and shaming" mechanisms. The EU even has a program for peer reviews of national sustainable development policies, though this is rarely used.



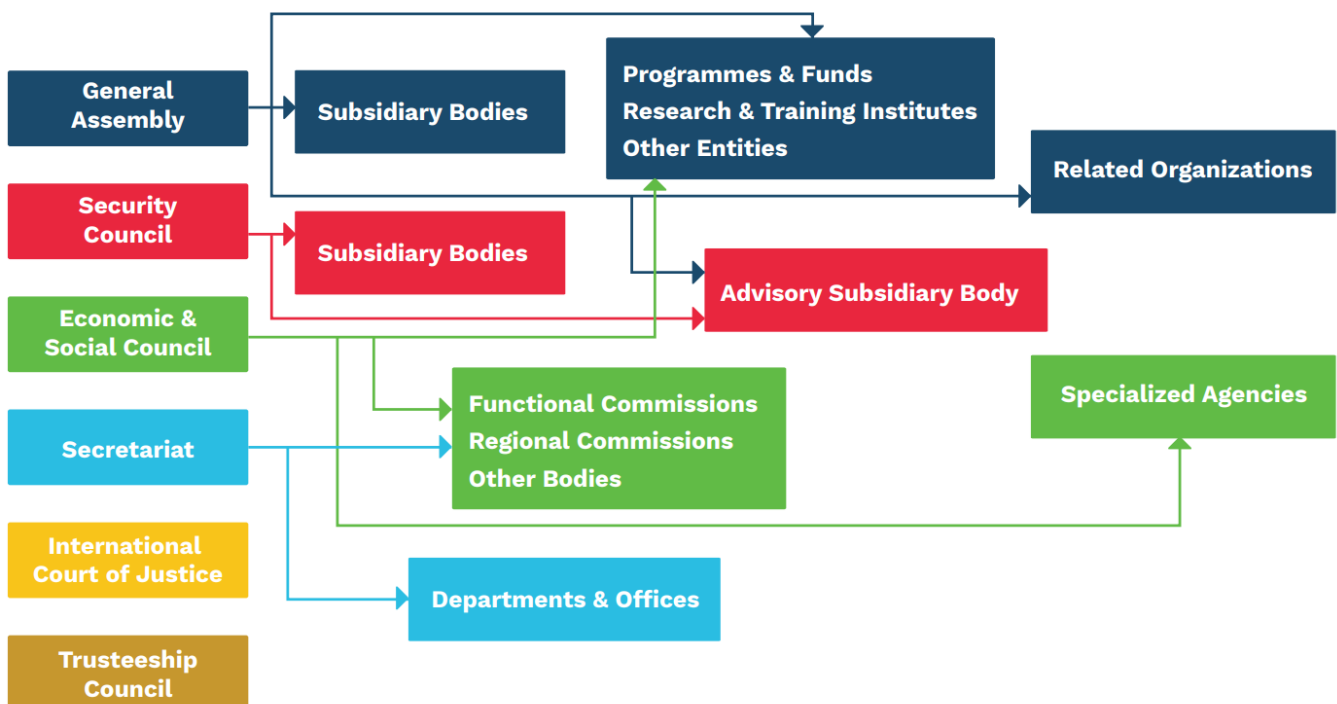
# Global mechanisms and forums

The primary political mandate for oversight, follow up and review of the SDGs rests with the UN High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) held annually in New York under the auspices of the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC). Additionally, the HLPF meets under the auspices of the UN General Assembly (UNGA) every four years, where world leaders, sustainable development experts and civil society will convene to assess progress towards the SDGs at the highest level, and provide political direction and guidance for SDG implementation in the years ahead. The two-week annual

conference is mandated to provide political leadership, guidance and recommendations for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by: tracking progress; encouraging the development of coherent policies informed by evidence, science and country experiences; addressing new and emerging issues; and providing a platform for partnerships.<sup>248</sup>

With the focus around implementation and follow-up and monitoring of the SDGs firmly placed on national governments, the HLPF represents a critical opportunity for countries to collectively discuss progress towards the SDGs and 2030 Agenda. This is particularly important to examine key challenges and emerging issues and to explore partnerships between governments, civil society and the private sector to accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs.<sup>249</sup> Each year, the HLPF reviews global

## The UN System



248 TAP Network (2016), Goal 16 Toolkit, p. 40.

249 Goal 16 Toolkit (2016) p. 40.



progress on five or six SDGs, in addition to the cross-cutting SDG 17 on means of implementation.<sup>250</sup> Since the inaugural HLPF, there have been concerted efforts to re-view SDG 16 on an annual basis given its centrality to the realization of the rest of the Agenda.

The meetings of the HLPF are intended to be open to the participation of civil society and a wide range of other stakeholders, making it a prime target for engagement of civil society at the global level. With the HLPF serving as the main forum for countries to present their Voluntary National Reviews (VNR) (see box below), it is particularly important for civil society organizations that are interested in SDG accountability to keep track of these discussions on a yearly basis. Even for CSOs not able to attend the HLPF in person, meetings will be available via webcast on official UN channels, particularly during the COVID-19 pandemic, and outputs and national progress reports will be posted on the UN Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform.<sup>251</sup>

Currently, the Forum’s provisions for accountability of national governments are considered relatively weak: national reporting is voluntary, the interactive discussion on each VNR is very brief and has not met the substantive standards of other accountability processes in the UN system, and space for civil society participation in many aspects of the Forum is limited and not considered adequate for ensuring meaningful contributions. In addition, the technical preparations for the Forum are not linked to its high-level discussions in a way that ensures their findings and inputs are addressed.

While progress on inclusion and participation at the global level remains slow, there are efforts and initiatives to advance SDG16+ to ensure meaningful participation of civil society at the global level. Civil society can engage in various ways in the Forum:<sup>253</sup>

- Joining their government’s delegation to the HLPF when they present VNRs;
- Issuing their own reports on their government’s experiences with SDG implementation, or a “spotlight” or “shadow” report to be issued alongside the government’s report;
- Providing data or other information to be used in global stocktaking reports of SDG progress, including: the Secretary-General’s report on ‘Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals,’ which provides a global overview of “the current situation of the Goals” each year; and ‘The Sustainable Development Goals Report’ produced by the UN Statistics Division, which reviews the preceding year’s progress towards implementation. Both yearly updates draw on the available official data for the global indicators, which can be found in the Global SDG Indicators Database (<https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/indicators/database/>) and is sourced from the “custodian” UN agencies for each indicator;
- Participating at the global level in ways that domestic processes may not allow, including in the thematic/ SDG reviews held during the HLPF each July; and
- Advocacy with governments to shape the Ministerial Declaration adopted each year through intergovernmental negotiations leading up to the July session of the HLPF.

### What is the Voluntary National Review (VNR) process?

The HLPF provides an important global stage to showcase the work developed at the national level, to exchange experiences and good practices between countries (including on VNR preparations), and to measure overall progress toward the SDGs. As the main mechanism for tracking progress on the SDGs at the national level and reporting on it at the global level, the VNRs are a key moment for countries to be answerable to their citizens. The VNR process can strengthen national ownership of the SDGs, promote transparency, inclusiveness and participation in reporting on the SDGs, and support more effective implementation of the 2030 Agenda.<sup>252</sup> An effective VNR process requires inclusive avenues of engagement from the subnational/national to global level and during all phases of the process: the initial preparation and organization; preparation of the VNR report; presentation at the HLPF; and follow-up after the HLPF. While some governments involve civil society in the VNR process, other countries exclude civil society from official processes—making CSO engagement at HLPF even more relevant and necessary in these contexts.

250 [https://www.humanrights.dk/sites/humanrights.dk/files/media/migrated/integrated\\_review.pdf](https://www.humanrights.dk/sites/humanrights.dk/files/media/migrated/integrated_review.pdf)

251 Goal 16 Toolkit (2016) p. 40.

252 SDG Accountability Handbook, p. 35.

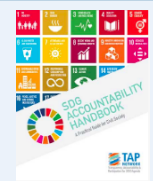
253 SDG Accountability Handbook, p. 93-95

As part of its role as the global hub for review of the SDGs, the HLPF also serves to gather the results of the range of national, regional, international and thematic processes, mechanisms and institutions that have the potential to contribute to the follow-up and review. Thus, civil society actors can influence the Forum’s discussions and, by extension, the accountability of their own government, by contributing to processes that feed into the HLPF, such as:<sup>254</sup>

- Regional commissions’ dialogues that serve as preparation for the HLPF sessions;
- Expert Group Meetings on the specific SDGs under review each year; and
- Contributing to side events on HLPF margins that feed informally into governments’ discussions on SDG progress.

CSOs can also utilize the HLPF for forming partnerships and alliances with the thousands of civil society representatives and other actors gathered at HLPF meetings, to strengthen advocacy and accountability at home. Civil society participation in meetings of the HLPF is facilitated by the Outreach and Partnerships Branch in the Division for Sustainable Development Goals, which is part of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA).

### Key TAP Network resource:

<p><b>SDG Accountability Handbook: A Practical Guide for Civil Society</b> (TAP Network, 2018)</p>	<p>This handbook provides guidance on the different approaches and steps that can be taken by civil society to ensure accountability for the SDGs at every level.</p> <p>Available at: <a href="https://sdgaccountability.org/">https://sdgaccountability.org/</a></p>	
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### Key resources:

<p><b>Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Report of the Secretary General</b> (United Nations, 2020)</p>	<p>This annual report provides a global overview of the current situation of the SDGs, based on the latest available data for indicators in the global indicator framework.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26158Final_SG_SDG_Progress_Report_14052020.pdf">https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26158Final_SG_SDG_Progress_Report_14052020.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>HLPF Partnership Exchange</b></p>	<p>The Exchange provides a forum for national governments and civil society to share experience and expertise in the design and implementation of partnerships that will contribute to achieving the SDGs.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/PartnershipExchange">https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/hlpf/PartnershipExchange</a></p>
<p><b>Partnerships for SDGs</b></p>	<p>This online platform contains the multi-stakeholder partnerships and voluntary commitments being profiled at the HLPF Partnership Exchange. CSOs can sign up for access to the database and use it to submit progress reports to the HLPF.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnerships/">https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/partnerships/</a></p>
<p><b>SDG National Reporting Initiative</b></p>	<p>This initiative facilitates greater information-sharing for reporting on the SDGs between international, regional and local communities.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.sdgreporting.org/">https://www.sdgreporting.org/</a></p>
<p><b>Major Groups and other Stakeholders Coordination Mechanism</b></p>	<p>Major groups and stakeholders interested in engaging in the HLPF can register for the self-organized coordination mechanism and mailing list via <a href="https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/mgos">https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/mgos</a></p>

254 SDG Accountability Handbook, p. 93-95

# Other opportunities

In addition to the aforementioned mechanisms and opportunities, there remain many other opportunities for civil society to engage and work to advance SDG16+. CSOs can consider engaging in thematic forums, mechanisms and opportunities.

## Civil society networks and partnerships

Civil society at all levels, from the global, regional, national to local level, should try to partner with other organizations to amplify reach, exchange best practices, and support one another. For example, CSOs can join civil society partnerships and networks, like the [Transparency, Accountability and Participation \(TAP\) Network](#), to take advantage of their resources, guidance (including national workshops on a variety of themes), networking and engagement opportunities within consequential spaces, like the HLPF, and with experts and organizations worldwide. Other civil society partnerships also may exist around specific SDG 16 targets, or the issues addressed by these targets.



While there may be many more civil society coalitions or networks that work around issues related to SDG16+ issues, the following is a non-exhaustive list of suggested civil society networks working closely around SDG16+:

<b>16.1:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding (CSPPS)</li> <li>Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC)</li> <li>Plus Peace Coalition</li> </ul>
<b>16.2:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global Partnership to End Violence Against Children</li> </ul>
<b>16.3:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global Legal Empowerment Network (Namati)</li> </ul>
<b>16.4:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice</li> <li>The Fiscal Transparency Coalition</li> </ul>
<b>16.5:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UN Convention Against Corruption Civil Society Coalition</li> <li>Transparency International</li> </ul>
<b>16.6:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Campaign for a Decade of Accountability for the SDGs</li> </ul>
<b>16.7:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Community of Democracies</li> <li>Open Government Partnership</li> </ul>
<b>16.9:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ID2020</li> </ul>
<b>16.10:</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Global Forum for Media Development (GFMD)</li> <li>CIVICUS</li> </ul>

TAP and other CSO alliances note that CSO advocacy and monitoring work helps showcase the value of civil society engagement, demonstrate good practice in civil society collaboration and reinforce its commitment to implementation.<sup>255</sup>

255 SDG Accountability Handbook, p. 73

## Global SDG16+ Initiatives and Partnerships

- **Global SDG16+ Community** 

The SDG16+ Community is an informal, voluntary global community of practice made up of SDG16+ initiatives, UN Member States, multi-lateral organizations and civil society representatives, all of whom are driven by a collective ambition to make progress on SDG16+.<sup>256</sup> The SDG16+ Community, guided by a spirit of collaboration and partnership, aspires to i) achieve common goals on SDG16+; ii) mobilize stakeholders at all levels; iii) support the principle of the 2030 Agenda; iv) work collaboratively; and v) partner for shared results. To find out more about SDG16+, the SDG16+ Community or the strategy that will guide its work in the years to come, visit the [SDG16Hub](#). Additional information as well as recommendations for overcoming the challenges of COVID-19 can be found in the “Act Now For SDG16+” [Joint Statement](#).

- **Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies** 

The Pathfinders are a group of 38 UN Member States, international organizations, global partnerships, civil society, and the private sector. The Pathfinders work to accelerate action to implement the SDG targets for peace, justice and inclusion (SDG16+). In September 2017, the Pathfinders launched the Roadmap for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies. The Member State initiative aims to demonstrate measurable change against the SDG16+ targets in Pathfinder countries before the second SDG Summit in 2023 by working on three objectives: national delivery, international delivery and grand challenges.

- **The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies** 

The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies is a coordinating platform for UN Member States, private sector, civil society and UN agencies to promote and strengthen evidence-based reporting, monitoring and measurement of SDG 16. The Global Alliance is operated by eight Member States, three civil society organizations, and three private sector companies that make up the Steering Committee. Its work is further supported and facilitated by a Secretariat co-facilitated by 7 UN agencies.

- **16+ Forum** 

16+ Forum is a platform committed to SDG16+ and to showcasing what it means to advance peaceful, just and inclusive societies in policy and practice at all levels and for a wide community of stakeholders – governments, civil society, the UN, regional and international organizations, academia, private sector and media. Through its gatherings, events and publications, the 16+ Forum facilitates dialogue and exchange, capturing lessons learned while convening a variety of stakeholders to advance meaningful and universal implementation of SDG16+ and our collective efforts to ensure that no one is left behind. The Annual Showcase provides an opportunity to highlight steps taken at national and local levels towards SDG16+ implementation, including challenges, successes and solutions. Through civil society capacity-building sessions, field visits, and panel and breakout discussions, this multi-day conference allows participants to share best practices, challenges, and solutions in SDG16+ implementation, reinforce collective commitment, and strengthen efforts to realize and build a movement for peaceful, just, and inclusive societies.

- **Voices of SDG16+: Local Stories for Global Action Campaign** 

Voices of SDG16+: Stories of Global Action is a collaborative campaign to bring the work of civil society on SDG16+ to the HLPF. Individuals and partners from around the world have the opportunity to submit short videos telling their “stories” of best practices and extraordinary efforts being undertaken towards SDG16+ at the national and local levels. In 2019 and 2020 the Campaign collected almost 200 video submissions of activists and changemakers working to put peace, justice, and inclusion into action. In 2021 the Campaign will host a virtual event of finalists and feature updates and reflections from past finalists and campaign alumni.

- **SDG16+ Localization Consortium** 

This consortium – the [Civil Society Platform for Peacebuilding and Statebuilding](#) (CSPPS), the [Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict](#) (GPPAC), and the [Transparency Accountability and Participation \(TAP\) Network](#) – aims to translate the global commitment

<sup>256</sup> SDG16+ Coalition Summary Strategy 2021-2023 <https://www.sdg16hub.org/topic/sdg16-coalition-summary-strategy-2021-2023>

to peaceful, just and inclusive societies into action in different context across the globe through the following **SDG16+-enabling actions**: capacity-building and awareness; grounding SDG16+ into local contexts; localizing SDG16+ with governments; policy influencing and learning; and accountability.

- **SDG 16 Data Initiative** 

The SDG16 Data Initiative is a collective project by a consortium of 14 partner organizations seeking to support the open and holistic tracking SDG 16. The initiative is an attempt to provide a robust snapshot of global progress towards SDG 16 by utilizing data from “official” and non-official data and indicators. The TAP Network is a founding member of the SDG16 Data Initiative, helping to fund its launch and offering its expertise on SDG 16 and data issues.

- **Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+** 

The Rome Declaration, titled “Amplified Commitments and Partnerships for Accelerated Action: Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+,” outlines key messages, recommendations, and a broad call to action around SDG16+. The Declaration was adopted and presented by civil society in a statement to UN Member States, international organizations, and other SDG16+ stakeholders at the Rome SDG16+ Conference on 28 May 2019. The Declaration was the central focus of advocacy for accelerated action on SDG 16 at the 2019 HLPF and SDGs Summit. The Declaration is being updated with recommendations for the 2021 HLPF, with a particular focus on the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

- **2021 Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+** 

Since the adoption of the Rome Declaration over two years ago, the main issues that it brought to the fore have remained valid, while the same structural injustices and inequalities that impacted the lives of vulnerable people before the COVID-19 crisis now determine who suffers most from it.

This 2021 Addendum to the original Rome Declaration, or the 2021 Rome Declaration, therefore serves as a firm and urgent reminder for the global community that peaceful, just and inclu-

sive societies are at the core of not only sustainable development, but also sustainable recovery, especially at a time like this. In the midst of a protracted global crisis, the Rome Declaration 2.0, presented at the 2021 HLPF, is a renewed call for accelerated action on SDG 16 and the 2030 Agenda.

- **Campaign for a Decade of Accountability for the SDGs** 

The Campaign for a Decade of Accountability for the SDGs is a multi-stakeholder partnership mobilizing accountability actors from a wide range of sectors to support accountability for the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. The Campaign aims to bolster concerted action and amplify efforts to hold duty bearers to account for their commitments to sustainable development in a coordinated manner. To do this, the campaign is engaging a wide range of stakeholder communities – all of whom serve as a critical piece of the accountability puzzle for the SDGs. The Campaign is complementary to the “Decade of Action and Delivery” agreed upon by governments at the 2019 SDGs Summit, and is intended to ensure that governments live up to their commitments to advance the 2030 Agenda at all levels.

- **Partners for Review** 

A transnational, multi-stakeholder network for a robust review process of the 2030 Agenda. The network facilitates dialogue and peer learning on challenges, provides space to explore best practices and lessons learned, mobilizes knowledge and shares expertise on new and emerging issues related to national monitoring and review.



## Other thematic bodies and forums

The UN has bodies and forums that review progress in specific areas addressed by the SDGs, including: The World Education Forum, the World Health Assembly, the International Labour Conference, the Committee on World Food Security and the Human Rights Council (HRC). These bodies and forums can be utilized for Goal-specific approaches to implementation. For example, the NPOA program of action on civil arms, which requires countries to report every two years, can be used by CSOs to raise awareness on arms control. Other mechanisms, such as those that focus on anti-corruption, can be useful in relation to SDG 16.<sup>257</sup>



257 TAP Network (2019). SDG Accountability Handbook, p. 94

# CONCLUSION

The endeavor to achieve peaceful, just and inclusive societies – as envisioned in the SDG16+ agenda – is critical to achieving overall sustainable development and to ensuring that no one is left behind. Peace, justice and inclusion are fundamental to all people’s well-being, dignity, safety, security and empowerment in all countries, both developed and developing alike. While relevant to all people everywhere, these ideals perhaps matter the most to those who experience them the least – the people who live in places, contexts and situations affected by violence, insecurity, conflict, injustice, exclusion, discrimination and inequality.

The information and guidance provided in this toolkit and reference guide has hopefully helped you and your organization to consider the wide range of approaches and practical steps that can be taken to advance the SDG16+ agenda for peaceful, just and inclusive societies. While these approaches can be pursued separately, they will be more effective when undertaken in combination with other approaches.

Similarly, they will have a greater likelihood of success when pursued by multiple civil society organizations working together, with other non-governmental stakeholders and, where feasible, with government actors themselves.

This toolkit and reference guide is intended to be a practical living resource for civil society that will be updated regularly as implementation of the 2030 Agenda progresses. As such, we strongly encourage you to share your experiences, successes, challenges and key resources in relation to SDG16+ planning, implementation and accountability on the TAP Network’s online SDG16+ platform, available at: [insert website](#).

Peace, justice and inclusion are undeniably challenging objectives to achieve by 2030 and to sustain in the decades beyond. Nevertheless, by working with a range of approaches, in partnership with others, and persisting when our collective efforts sometimes fall short, we will slowly but surely make progress towards realizing peaceful, just and inclusive societies for all.





# ANNEXES



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## Online Annexes

### Annex 1 SDG16 Targets & Interlinkages Guide

As this toolkit demonstrates, SDG 16 is a critical enabler to achieve any other SDGs, as they are impossible without a foundation of peace, justice and inclusion. Understanding the interlinkages between SDG 16 and other SDGs and international treaties is critical to accelerating progress on the 2030 Agenda.

Please refer to the Annex of this toolkit for a comprehensive guide to SDG16+ targets and interlinkages, which presents a framework to systematically identify and outline the embedded interlinkages between SDG 16 and the other Goals in order to facilitate a better understanding to support policy coherence and forge a more integrated and strategic approach to the implementation of the SDGs.

Access the SDG16 Targets & Interlinkages Guide on the SDG16+ Toolkit Web Platform at [www.sdg16toolkit.org](http://www.sdg16toolkit.org)

### Annex 2 SDG16+ Official & Complementary Global Indicators

Please refer to the Annex of this toolkit for a comprehensive SDG16+ indicators guide, which presents the official indicators and a set of supplemental indicators proposed by varying sources. The official global indicators for the SDGs are used to measure progress on specific targets. They are not necessarily reflective of or fully encompass the letter or spirit of all SDG16+ targets. Given that the official global indicators are not fully reflective of the entirety of each Goal, this indicator guide lists supplemental alternative indicators that can also be used to measure each target/Goal to provide a more comprehensive understanding.

\*\*\*The listed supplemental indicators are indicative and non-exhaustive and are meant to provide alternative options for civil society partners to use to track progress towards SDG 16 in their own contexts.\*\*\*

Access the SDG16+ Official & Complementary Global Indicators Guide on the SDG16+ Toolkit Web Platform at [www.sdg16toolkit.org](http://www.sdg16toolkit.org)

### Annex 3 TAP Network Spotlight Reporting Guidelines

#### Approaches and Methodologies for Civil Society Reporting on the SDGs and 2030 Agenda (2021)

While there is no one-size-fits all approach to producing Spotlight reports, this resource from the TAP Network provides practical guidance on methodologies to consider when drafting an SDG Spotlight Report. Additionally, it provides a suggested template that organizations could use for their report, with specific tips for each chapter and approach, as well as key questions to consider when drafting the content of your report.

For more guidance on spotlight reporting, please see TAP's updated Spotlight Reporting Guidelines resource: <https://tapnetwork2030.org/sdg16reporting/>

## Annex 4

# Summary of Key Resources on the SDGs

*The following chart provides a list of relevant resources, reports, databases and guidance on SDG16+. Given that the resources listed were collected through submissions from our partners, this list is non-exhaustive and indicative, and other relevant resources not listed should be utilized and explored.*

<p><b>Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development</b> (United Nations, 2015)</p>	<p>The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by the UN General Assembly on 25 September 2015 by Resolution A/RES/70/1. Available in the six official UN languages.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda">https://sdgs.un.org/2030agenda</a></p>
<p><b>Sustainable Development</b> (UN DESA)</p>	<p>The website of UN DESA's Division for Sustainable Development Goals (DSDG), which provides key information on sustainable development. There are links to SDG Knowledge, the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), Intergovernmental Processes, Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Partnerships among others.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sdgs.un.org/">https://sdgs.un.org/</a></p>
<p><b>Decade of Action</b> (United Nations)</p>	<p>The website of the United Nations on the 'Decade of Action' with information on the UN Secretary-General's call to all sectors of society to mobilize for a decade of action on three levels: global action, local action and people action.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/decade-of-action/">https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/decade-of-action/</a></p>
<p><b>Sustainable Development Goals Report</b> (United Nations, 2020)</p>	<p>This annual report provides an overview of the world's efforts to implement the SDGs, highlighting both areas of progress and areas where more action needs to be taken to ensure no one is left behind.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2020/">https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2020/</a></p>
<p><b>Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals: Report of the Secretary General</b> (United Nations, 2020)</p>	<p>This annual report provides a global overview of the current situation of the SDGs, based on the latest available data for indicators in the global indicator framework.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26158Final_SG_SDG_Progress_Report_14052020.pdf">https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/26158Final_SG_SDG_Progress_Report_14052020.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Report of the Secretary-General on SDG Progress 2019 Special Edition</b> (United Nations, 2019)</p>	<p>This report highlights progress for all 17 SDGs based on the latest available data. It discusses the global response to the 2030 Agenda and identifies eight fundamental changes that are required to respond to gaps and accelerate implementation. An annex with snapshots of SDG progress – through infographics – is also provided.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24978Report_of_the_SG_on_SDG_Progress_2019.pdf">https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/24978Report_of_the_SG_on_SDG_Progress_2019.pdf</a></p>



# Annex 5

## Summary of Key Resources on SDG 16+

*The following chart provides a list of relevant resources, reports, databases and guidance on SDG16+. Given that the resources listed were collected through submissions from our partners, this list is non-exhaustive and indicative, and other relevant resources not listed should be utilized and explored.*

<p><b>SDG 16 Hub</b> (Oslo Governance Centre)</p>	<p>Managed by the Oslo Governance Centre, the SDG 16 Hub is designed to be a one-stop shop for knowledge and collaboration on SDG 16. It provides a growing collection of resources on SDG 16 in a searchable database. It also hosts an interactive space to foster sharing and learning on SDG 16.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.sdg16hub.org/">https://www.sdg16hub.org/</a></p>
<p><b>A Peacebuilding Lens on the Sustainable Development Goals</b> (The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC), 2017)</p>	<p>This short background paper provides an overview of the SDGs from a peace-building perspective, including the role of peacebuilding civil society organizations in connecting their work to the SDGs.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.gppac.net/resources/sustainable-development-goals-peacebuilding-perspective">https://www.gppac.net/resources/sustainable-development-goals-peacebuilding-perspective</a></p>
<p><b>Act Now for SDG 16+: Peace, Justice, Inclusion and Strong Institutions in a Pandemic</b> (Global SDG16+ Community, 2020)</p>	<p>A joint statement by the Global SDG16+ Community – a group of countries, civil society organizations, international organizations and global partnerships – calling for a response to the COVID-19 pandemic that is rooted in the SDG16+ framework. Launched during the 2020 High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF), the statement is open for endorsements by organizations or governments.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.sdg16hub.org/system/files/2020-07/statement_14Jul20.pdf">https://www.sdg16hub.org/system/files/2020-07/statement_14Jul20.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>Amplified Commitments and Partnerships for Accelerated Action: Rome Civil Society Declaration on SDG16+</b> (TAP Network et al., 2019)</p>	<p>The ‘Rome Declaration’ outlines key messages, recommendations and a call-to-action on SDG16+. Produced via an online consultations, as well as deliberations during the Rome Conference Civil Society Day, it was adopted and presented by civil society to Members States, international organizations and other stakeholders at the Rome SDG16+ Conference in May 2019. Available in English, French, Spanish and Portuguese.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://tapnetwork2030.org/romedeclaration/">https://tapnetwork2030.org/romedeclaration/</a></p>
<p><b>Enabling the Implementation of the 2030 Agenda Through SDG 16+: Anchoring Peace, Justice and Inclusion</b> (The Global Alliance for Reporting Progress on Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, 2019)</p>	<p>The Global Alliance’s contribution to the 2019 Thematic Review of SDG 16, this report provides an overview of country level actions and progress on SDG16+ across different regions and development contexts and highlights key trends and findings on SDG16+ implementation globally. It is informed by a series of regional multi-stakeholder consultations on SDG16+ and 25 country case studies on SDG16+ (included in the report) and draws from evidence of recent research and analysis across SDG16+ targets.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.un-globalalliance.org/sdg16-report">https://www.un-globalalliance.org/sdg16-report</a></p>

<p><b>SDG 16 Toolkit</b> (The Global Partnership for the Prevention of Armed Conflict (GPPAC))</p>	<p>This SDG toolkit is a flowchart that guides peace-building actors through a series of key steps in order to localize the SDGs. It includes information on how to influence key actors on SDG16+ implementation and how to write a SDG16+ shadow report.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://gppac.net/sdg16-toolkit">https://gppac.net/sdg16-toolkit</a></p>
<p><b>SDG16+ Progress Report 2019: A Comprehensive Global Audit of Progress on Available SDG 16 Indicators</b> (Institute for Economics and Peace, 2019)</p>	<p>This annual report – focused on SDG16+ – discusses what data for SDG16+ indicators is currently available, what sources can be used as proxies, the likely timeline for obtaining missing data and the best mechanisms for collecting data in ten case studies.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.economicsandpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/SDG16Progress-Report-2019-web.pdf">https://www.economicsandpeace.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/08/SDG16Progress-Report-2019-web.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>SDG16DI 2020 Global Report</b> (SDG16 Data Initiative, 2020)</p>	<p>This annual report – part of a series aimed at evaluating global progress on SDG 16 – seeks to provide a holistic view and understanding of progress on the SDG 16 targets. It provides an evidence base for identifying gaps in the implementation and monitoring of SDG 16 and for altering course to accelerate implementation where needed.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TuSISe7KJcMU1UXCTAqfVvg-m8Q0hf2BJ/view">https://drive.google.com/file/d/1TuSISe7KJcMU1UXCTAqfVvg-m8Q0hf2BJ/view</a></p>
<p><b>Sustainable Development Goal 16: Focus on public institutions, World Public Sector Report 2019</b> (UN DESA, 2019)</p>	<p>This report examines national-level developments in relation to several concepts of SDG 16, including access to information, transparency, accountability, anti-corruption, inclusiveness of decision-making processes and non-discrimination. It surveys global trends in these areas, documenting the availability of information and the status of knowledge about the effectiveness of related policies and institutional arrangements in different national contexts. It also demonstrates how the institutional principles of SDG 16 have been informing the development of institutions in various areas, including gender equality and women’s empowerment (SDG 5).</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://publicadministration.un.org/en/Research/World-Public-Sector-Reports">https://publicadministration.un.org/en/Research/World-Public-Sector-Reports</a></p>
<p><b>The Roadmap for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies – A Call to Action to Change our World</b> (The Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, 2019)</p>	<p>The Roadmap provides a shared vision for how to deliver the 2030 Agenda targets for peaceful, just and inclusive societies (SDG16+). It discusses the SDG16+ targets, transformative strategies, catalytic actions and enablers needed to build more peaceful, just and inclusive societies. Examples of the work of pathfinder countries and profiles of some SDG16+ partnerships and platforms are also provided. Available in English, French and Spanish.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.sdg16.plus/roadmap">https://www.sdg16.plus/roadmap</a></p>

<p><b>Time to invest: how to support action on SDG16+</b> (SaferWorld, 2019)</p>	<p>This briefing explores current gaps in support for SDG16+ and proposed ways of stimulating action at all levels in contexts around the world. It discusses the different ways that donors and policymakers can support action on SDG16+, where and how support has been directed, the need for a more balanced and concerted approach to supporting action on SDG16+ and how to enable action on SDG16+ at national and sub-national levels. It includes an infographic on “Putting SDG16+ into practice: 11 steps to promote peace, justice and inclusion” based on efforts to localize SDG16+ in the Horn of Africa, as well as a detailed case study on enabling action in Somaliland.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.saferworld.org.uk/resources/publications/1224-time-to-invest-how-to-support-action-on-sd">https://www.saferworld.org.uk/resources/publications/1224-time-to-invest-how-to-support-action-on-sd</a></p>
<p><b>Voices of SDG16+: Stories for Global Action</b> (International Peace Institute (IPI), Saferworld, TAP Network and partners)</p>	<p>This collaborative campaign seeks to bring the work of civil society on SDG16+ to the global level of discussions at the United Nations. Individuals and partners from around the world have the opportunity to submit short videos telling their stories of best practices and extraordinary efforts being undertaken towards SDG16+ at national and local levels.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://voicesofsdg16plus.org/">https://voicesofsdg16plus.org/</a></p>
<p><b>SDG 16 Spotlight Reporting Website</b> (Transparency International, 2021)</p>	<p>Transparency International has launched a platform for CSOs and partners to publish and share their Spotlight Reports:</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sdg16.transparency.org/">https://sdg16.transparency.org/</a></p>
<p><b>Expanding Civil Society Contributions to the Governance Agendas of Sustainable Development Goals and International Financial Institutions (2019)</b></p>	<p>A resource to understand the potential contribution of civil society and provide recommendations for how it can be realized. The report examines the various roles CSOs play in improving government transparency, accountability and inclusiveness and controlling corruption, reviewing the evidence on what works and what does not. It presents analysis and evidence-driven recommendations to accelerate progress:</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.ptfund.org/publication_page/sdg16/">https://www.ptfund.org/publication_page/sdg16/</a></p>

SDG 16 

# Annex 6

## Summary of Key Resources By SDG16 Target

16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere	
Policy Brief: Peaceful societies - the orphaned SDG target?	<p>Local progress towards SDG 16+ peaceful, just and inclusive societies and what comes next. Five years after the launch of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), civil society engagements, and review of local implementation provide one clear message: There is not enough progress on SDG 16 and all other related SDG targets that drive peace, just and inclusive societies (SDG 16+):</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://gppac.net/publications/peaceful-societies-orphaned-sdg-target">https://gppac.net/publications/peaceful-societies-orphaned-sdg-target</a></p>
Why Integrated Implementation of the SDGs Will Help Build Peaceful Societies	<p>How the SDGs will be realized is of utmost importance. Grounded local experiences of integrated SDG implementation, which link all relevant goals for more peaceful societies in a locally relevant and gender and youth sensitive manner, must guide the way the agenda is taken forward.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://gppac.net/news/why-integrated-implementation-sdgs-will-help-build-peaceful-societies">https://gppac.net/news/why-integrated-implementation-sdgs-will-help-build-peaceful-societies</a></p>
16.2 End abuse, exploitation, trafficking and all forms of violence against and torture of children	
COVID-19 Aftershocks: A Perfect Storm: Millions more Children at Risk of Violence under Lockdown and into the 'New Normal' (World Vision, 2020)	<p>This report illustrates the impact of Violence Against Children during the COVID-19 pandemic</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/2020-05/Aftershocks%20FINAL%20VERSION_0.pdf">https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/2020-05/Aftershocks%20FINAL%20VERSION_0.pdf</a></p>
ACT NOW: Experiences and recommendations of girls and boys on the impact of COVID-19	<p>Child Consultation Report on the impact of covid-19 on their lives along with the recommendations from Children and local communities on staying safe during the pandemic:</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/WV-GLOBAL-ActNowReport-Final_small.pdf">https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/WV-GLOBAL-ActNowReport-Final_small.pdf</a></p>
16.3 Promote the rule of law at the national and international levels and ensure equal access to justice for all	
World Justice Project Rule of Law Index (World Justice Project, 2020)	<p>The World Justice Project Rule of Law Index is the world's leading source for original, independent data on the rule of law. Covering 128 countries and jurisdictions, the Index relies on national surveys of more than 130,000 households and 4,000 legal practitioners and experts to measure how the rule of law is experienced and perceived worldwide.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://worldjusticeproject.org/our-work/research-and-data/wjp-rule-law-index-2020">https://worldjusticeproject.org/our-work/research-and-data/wjp-rule-law-index-2020</a></p>
Justice for All: Report on the Taskforce on Justice (Pathfinders, 2019)	<p>Drawing on research by the world's leading justice organizations and experts, the report of the Task Force on Justice proposes a different approach to justice – putting people at the center of justice systems and justice at the heart of sustainable development.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.justice.sdg16.plus/report">https://www.justice.sdg16.plus/report</a></p>

<b>16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime</b>	
Corruption and the Sustainable Development Goals: Shadow Reporting Questionnaire for SDG 16.4, 16.5, 16.6 AND 16.10 (Transparency International, 2018)	<p>Transparency International has developed a common methodology to enable its national chapters to track their countries' progress towards four SDG 16 targets especially relevant for anti-corruption, namely 16.4 on illicit financial flows, 16.5 on corruption and bribery, 16.6 on accountable and transparent institutions, and 16.10 on access to information and fundamental freedoms. Since then, over 45 national chapters have used the tool to produce spotlight reports that provide independent appraisals of their governments' efforts.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://knowledgehub.transparency.org/assets/uploads/kproducts/SDG_English_Questionnaire_2018.pdf">https://knowledgehub.transparency.org/assets/uploads/kproducts/SDG_English_Questionnaire_2018.pdf</a></p>
Goals not Guns: How the Sustainable Development Goals and the Arms Trade Treaty are Interlinked	<p>This case study explores these interconnections between the ATT and the SDGs. It shows how there are opportunities to address complementary obligations through Official Development Assistance (ODA), and argues that there is a need for more direct and practical engagement between arms experts and the development community:</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://attmonitor.org/en/goals-not-guns/">https://attmonitor.org/en/goals-not-guns/</a></p>
<b>16.5 Substantially reduce corruption and bribery in all their forms</b>	
Corruption and the Sustainable Development Goals: Shadow Reporting Questionnaire for SDG 16.4, 16.5, 16.6 AND 16.10 (Transparency International, 2018)	<p>Transparency International has developed a common methodology to enable its national chapters to track their countries' progress towards four SDG 16 targets especially relevant for anti-corruption, namely 16.4 on illicit financial flows, 16.5 on corruption and bribery, 16.6 on accountable and transparent institutions, and 16.10 on access to information and fundamental freedoms. Since then, over 45 national chapters have used the tool to produce spotlight reports that provide independent appraisals of their governments' efforts.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://knowledgehub.transparency.org/assets/uploads/kproducts/SDG_English_Questionnaire_2018.pdf">https://knowledgehub.transparency.org/assets/uploads/kproducts/SDG_English_Questionnaire_2018.pdf</a></p>
Corruption Perceptions Index (Transparency International, 2020)	<p>The index, which ranks 180 countries and territories by their perceived levels of public sector corruption according to experts and businesspeople, uses a scale of zero to 100, where zero is highly corrupt and 100 is very clean. Like previous years, more than two-thirds of countries score below 50 on this year's CPI, with an average score of just 43. The data shows that despite some progress, most countries still fail to tackle corruption effectively.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2020/index/nzl">https://www.transparency.org/en/cpi/2020/index/nzl</a></p>
SDG 16 Spotlight Reporting Initiative	<p>This interactive platform hosts data from Transparency International's SDG 16 Spotlight Reporting Initiative, which has involved TI national chapters from around the world assessing national progress towards four SDG targets linked to anti-corruption and government transparency:</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://sdg16.transparency.org/">https://sdg16.transparency.org/</a></p>



<p>Corruption, Data and the SDGs: a Transparency International Online Course</p>	<p>Transparency International has created an e-learning course that covers the various stages involved in a governance data project. First, it looks at the value of data for anti-corruption efforts as well as the opportunities provided by the 'data revolution.' Then, it turns to the planning stages of working with data, the process of selecting governance indicators and the identification of suitable data sources, as well as the development of an advocacy strategy to maximise the policy impact of the data generated. Finally, the course demonstrates how to employ governance data to tackle corruption across the Sustainable Development Goals:</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://vimeo.com/channels/corruptionandthesdgs">https://vimeo.com/channels/corruptionandthesdgs</a></p>
<p><b>16.6 Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels</b></p>	
<p>Corruption and the Sustainable Development Goals: Shadow Reporting Questionnaire for SDG 16.4, 16.5, 16.6 AND 16.10 (Transparency International, 2018)</p>	<p>Transparency International has developed a common methodology to enable its national chapters to track their countries' progress towards four SDG 16 targets especially relevant for anti-corruption, namely 16.4 on illicit financial flows, 16.5 on corruption and bribery, 16.6 on accountable and transparent institutions, and 16.10 on access to information and fundamental freedoms. Since then, over 45 national chapters have used the tool to produce spotlight reports that provide independent appraisals of their governments' efforts.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://knowledgehub.transparency.org/assets/uploads/kproducts/SDG_English_Questionnaire_2018.pdf">https://knowledgehub.transparency.org/assets/uploads/kproducts/SDG_English_Questionnaire_2018.pdf</a></p>
<p>Global Corruption Barometer (Transparency International, 2020)</p>	<p>Since its debut in 2003, the Global Corruption Barometer has surveyed the experiences of everyday people confronting corruption around the world. Through our Global Corruption Barometer, tens of thousands of people around the globe are asked about their views and experiences, making it the only worldwide public opinion survey on corruption.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.transparency.org/en/gcb">https://www.transparency.org/en/gcb</a></p>
<p>The Case for Citizen Generated Data for SDG Accountability (World Vision, 2019)</p>	<p>This report explains how citizen generated data can help with SDG progress by filling in data gaps through social accountability.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/2019-08/The%20Case%20for%20Citizen%20Generated%20Data%20for%20SDG%20Accountability%20final.pdf">https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/2019-08/The%20Case%20for%20Citizen%20Generated%20Data%20for%20SDG%20Accountability%20final.pdf</a></p>
<p><b>16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive, participatory and representative decision-making at all levels</b></p>	
<p>Children Front and Center of Climate Action (World Vision, 2020)</p>	<p>This child consultation report highlights children surveyed around the world who express the need to be included and seen as agents of change in climate action</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/Child%20Consultation%20on%20Climate%20Change%20Report_0.pdf">https://www.wvi.org/sites/default/files/2020-12/Child%20Consultation%20on%20Climate%20Change%20Report_0.pdf</a></p>

16.10 Ensure public access to information and protect fundamental freedoms, in accordance with national legislation and international agreements	
<p>Corruption and the Sustainable Development Goals: Shadow Reporting Questionnaire for SDG 16.4, 16.5, 16.6 AND 16.10 (Transparency International, 2018)</p>	<p>Transparency International has developed a common methodology to enable its national chapters to track their countries' progress towards four SDG 16 targets especially relevant for anti-corruption, namely 16.4 on illicit financial flows, 16.5 on corruption and bribery, 16.6 on accountable and transparent institutions, and 16.10 on access to information and fundamental freedoms. Since then, over 45 national chapters have used the tool to produce spotlight reports that provide independent appraisals of their governments' efforts.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://knowledgehub.transparency.org/assets/uploads/kproducts/SDG_English_Questionnaire_2018.pdf">https://knowledgehub.transparency.org/assets/uploads/kproducts/SDG_English_Questionnaire_2018.pdf</a></p>
<p>Road to 2030: Access to Information in the Driver's Seat (DW Akademie, 2019)</p>	<p>This report assesses the implementation of access to information laws from a user perspective in ten countries and provides concrete recommendations for improvement. The results of the assessments were presented to local decisionmakers in multi-stakeholder meetings in order to raise awareness of the importance of access to information for sustainable development and to ensure that the issue was included in the respective VNRs. In two cases, South Africa and Indonesia, the effort was successful.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.dw.com/downloads/49781326/road-to-2030-dw-akademie-2019.pdf">https://www.dw.com/downloads/49781326/road-to-2030-dw-akademie-2019.pdf</a></p>
<p>GFMD Public Access to Information (SDG 16.10) resource centre</p>	<p>Global Forum for Media Development maintains resource page dedicated to SDG 16.10, presenting most relevant resources, work of GFMD members and partners in this field</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://gfmd.info/sdg/">https://gfmd.info/sdg/</a></p>
<p>Global Right to Information Rating Map (Access Info and Centre for Law and Democracy)</p>	<p>Global ratings of access to information</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.rti-rating.org">https://www.rti-rating.org</a></p>
<p>Right to Information Map &amp; Infographic (ARTICLE 19, 2018)</p>	<p>Maps the right to information in countries around the world <a href="http://www.article19.org/right-to-information-around-the-world/">www.article19.org/right-to-information-around-the-world/</a></p> <p>Infographic that illustrates progress on right to information around the world</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.article19.org/resources/infographic-progress-on-the-right-to-information-around-the-world/">https://www.article19.org/resources/infographic-progress-on-the-right-to-information-around-the-world/</a></p>
<p>Right to Information Legal Tracker (Centre for Law and Democracy)</p>	<p>This page contains a compilation of legal measures which temporarily alter or even suspend right to information (RTI) obligations due to COVID-19. The first part contains an alphabetical list of any countries which have adopted formal measures, along with a short description of those measures.</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.rti-rating.org/covid-19-tracker/">https://www.rti-rating.org/covid-19-tracker/</a></p>
<p>Open Development: Access to Information and the Sustainable Development Goals</p>	<p>This report reviews the current state of the right of access to information across the world to provide a baseline for future assessments over the lifetime of the 2030 Agenda. It finds that there has been significant incorporation of the right in well over half of UN Member States. This report aims to provide understanding of RTI and its concrete implications on the daily life of citizens and the application of SDGs. It also aims to inform stakeholders on various experiences developed in this field, and the means at their disposal to exercise this right and advocate for its effective and measurable realization:</p> <p><b>Available at:</b> <a href="https://www.article19.org/resources/open-development-access-to-information-and-the-sustainable-development-goals/">https://www.article19.org/resources/open-development-access-to-information-and-the-sustainable-development-goals/</a></p>



[www.sdg16toolkit.org](http://www.sdg16toolkit.org)



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